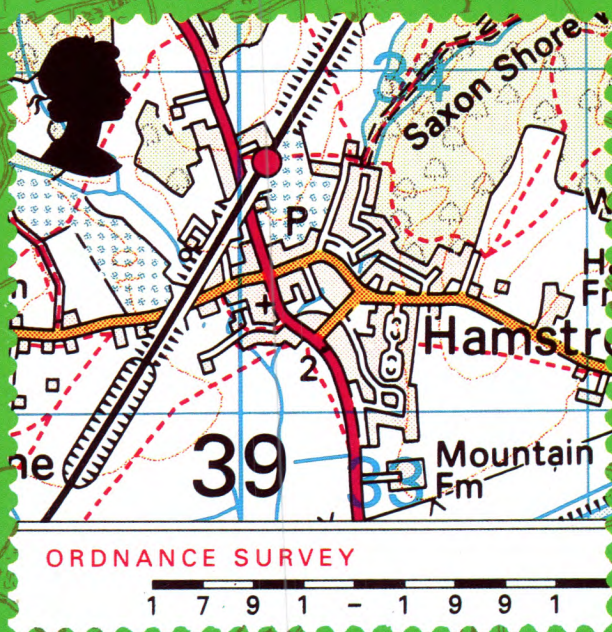


British Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 28

Number 12

August 1991



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Presentation Pack Bonus

The Roses and Dinosaurs presentation packs include promotional tickets. The Roses pack (issued 16 July) contains a free ticket for admission (normally £2.50) to the Royal National Rose Society Gardens in St Albans. The 12-acre Gardens, open from mid-June to October, are the RNRS showgrounds with a collection of 30,000 roses.

The Dinosaurs pack (20 August) includes a free child's ticket (worth £1.75) to the Natural

History Museum in London. An exhibition of the work of Bryan Kneale, designer of the Dinosaur stamps, can be seen at the Museum until the end of August.

Plate & Cylinder Update

Don Staddon reports the following plates in Walsall books with the modified closing tab (clasp): 4 x 1st W3W4W3; 4 x 2nd W3W3W3; 10 x 1st W5W5W4, W5W6W6 and W6W6W7; 10 x 2nd W5W3W5. Ian Hine of Felixstowe reports that the 4 x 31p book with modified tab was on sale by the beginning of June; plate numbers W2W1W1. The 50p and £1 books issued on 25 June are from cylinders B48 and B45 B3 respectively.

The 17p and 22p definitives have recently been printed from cylinders 19 *phosphor* P41 and 11, both dot and no dot.

The Scottish 22p stamp has recently been printed from plates Q9Q9 and Q10Q10.

Numbers so far notified for the 6 August books are as follows: *Harrison* 10 x 1st – B3; *Questa* 10 x 1st and 10 x 2nd – Q1Q1; *Walsall* 10 x 1st – W6W7W8, 10 x 2nd – W6W4.

Collections and Philatelic Counters

The telephone number for the Truro Philatelic Counter is now 0872-223591; this replaces the number given in the May *Bulletin*.

The Brighton Collections closing time (Mon-Fri) is 17.30 *not* 17.40 as stated in the June *Bulletin*.

Dinosaur Stamps Cylinders

The cylinders and colours for the Dinosaur stamps are as follows:

22p – 1A (grey) 1B (pale blue) 1C (magenta) 1D (bright blue) 1E (pale bright blue) 1F (dull violet) 1G (grey black)

26p – 2A (grey) 1B (greenish yellow) 1C (pale emerald) 2D (bright blue green) 2E (pale bright blue) 1F (grey black) 2G (black)

31p – 3A (grey) 1B (light blue) 2C (magenta) 1D (bright blue) 1E (pale blue) 1F (brown) 1G (grey black)

33p – 1A (grey) 1B (dull rose) 1C (pale bright blue) 2D (bright rose red) 1E (yellow orange) 1F (grey black) 1G (black)

37p – 1A (grey) 1B (greenish yellow) 1C (turquoise blue) 1D (dull violet) 1E (yellow brown) 1F (black)

Maps

17 September 1991

Four interesting and unusual stamps will be issued on 17 September 1991 to commemorate the bicentenary of the Ordnance Survey. Reproduced on each of the four stamps is the village of Hamstreet in Kent, six miles south of Ashford, near the Royal Military Canal and Romney Marsh, an area vital to the first cross-Channel survey link completed in 1788. The stamps show how it appeared on maps in 1816, 1906, 1959 and 1991. What is reproduced on the stamps is exactly the same section from each of the three one-inch maps and a slightly smaller section from the 1991 map, (scale 2 centimetres to 1 kilometre).

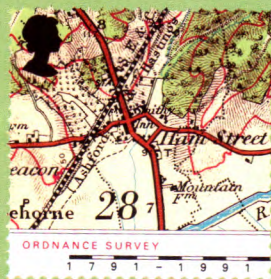
On the **24p** stamp (inland first class and EEC basic rate), from the 1816 edition of the 1801 Kent map, a section of the Royal Military Canal can be seen at the bottom right-hand corner. The 23-mile-long Canal was built as a defensive line during the Napoleonic Wars. The 1816 monochrome engraved map has been reproduced on this stamp through modern intaglio printing, replicating the method used with the original map, which was engraved by hand on copper plates.



The **28p** stamp (basic non-EEC rate), a section from the 1906 map, shows the increasing complexity of the conventional symbols. Printing methods have changed too: lithographic printing was introduced in 1842 and colour printing in 1877. The 1906 map was printed by

colour lithography, using some of the engraved elements from earlier maps. The stamp, like the original map, was printed by colour lithography.

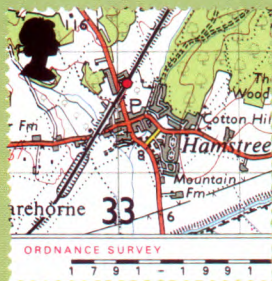
The **33p** stamp (worldwide postcard rate), taken from the 1959 map, illustrates the increasing sophistication of map production, which becomes more detailed and precise with the use of modern technology. Aerial photography was



first used for mapping by Ordnance Survey in 1919. The post office and the church are also indicated for the first time. The stamp, like the original map, was printed by colour lithography.

The **39p** stamp (Airmail Zones 1 and 2 basic rate) shows Hamstreet as it appears on the current OS map (Sheet 189). Additional details are the symbols for orchards, the brown colour for a 'B' road and red and white for a narrow road with passing places, and the indication of a long-distance footpath, the Saxon Shore Way. The stamp, like the original map, was printed by colour lithography.

Ordnance Survey, Britain's national mapmakers, has been involved in the mapmaking business for 200 years. Mapmaking has changed dramatically since the very first map of Kent was published in 1801. The survey was carried out by the Board of Ordnance, based at that time in the Tower of London. The Tower



offset lithography. The 33p and 39p stamps were printed by offset lithography at The House of Questa Limited. All are on phosphor-coated paper, of "almost square" format (35 x 37mm), printed in sheets of 100 with PVA Dextrin gum. Perforation measures 14 x 14½.

Presentation Pack

The pack (No. 221) will cost £1.55. It was designed by Howard Brown with text by Mavis Riley; made and printed by Raithby, Lawrence.

Royal Mail Stamp Cards

Cards, featuring enlargements of the stamp designs, will be available approximately two weeks before the stamp issue, price 19p each. They are numbered 138A-D.

First Day Cover

The Royal Mail first day cover will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, "Collections", philatelic counters and main post offices approximately two weeks before 17 September, price 19p. Two pictorial postmarks will be used for the first day cover service — one for the Bureau, the other for Southampton.

A first day cover service will be provided by the Bureau with the official Royal Mail cover addressed to the destination required with the stamps cancelled with the requested postmark. Application forms, available from the Bureau and main post offices, should be returned not later than 17 September.

Collectors may send their own cards/covers for the pictorial postmarks; these should be sent on the first day of issue in a stamped outer envelope endorsed "Pictorial First Day of Issue Postmark" to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT (Bureau postmark) or South East Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail Windsor, Peascod Street, WINDSOR SL4 1AA (Southampton postmark). Collectors wanting their cards/covers returned under cover should enclose a suitable addressed envelope. This need not bear additional postage stamps, the postage being already paid by the stamps affixed to the covers for postmarking.

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 of Issue" postmarks will be used at City of London EC (shows City coat of arms), and Durham (Cathedral). Reposting addresses: London

remained the home of Ordnance Survey until a fire in 1841 rendered the nation's mapmakers homeless. Fortunately, most of the records and equipment were saved, and the Ordnance Survey relocated to the Military Barracks in Southampton which had formerly housed a Military School. This was possibly the first Government decentralisation and mapmaking flourished during the next century.

The Ordnance Survey's home was again hit by fire in 1940. The headquarters moved to Chessington but the drawing offices continued their work in Southampton. In May 1969, HM The Queen opened the new purpose-built Ordnance Survey Headquarters at Maybush, Southampton. There are over 1,500 staff working in this purpose-built accommodation with almost 1,000 stationed in over 100 field offices located all over the country.

Technical Details

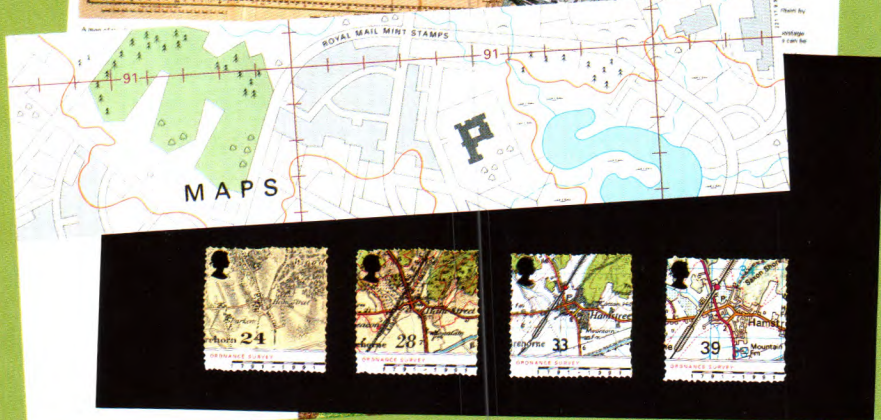
The stamps were designed by Howard Brown. The 24p and 28p values were printed by Harrison and Sons Limited; the 24p by intaglio (recess) and offset lithography, and the 28p by



A number of special handstamps sponsored by stamp dealers and others, will be used on 17

Souvenir Cover

A souvenir cover, of similar design to the first day cover, will be available from Collections and philatelic counters from 18 September, price 21p. This will be on sale for one year.



New Definitive Stamps

September/October 1991

Several new definitive stamps, books and rolls are due for issue during September and early October to cover the increased postal tariffs which are proposed for 16 September.

Sheet Stamps

Seven new sheet stamps will be issued on 10 September to cover new postal rates: 18p light green (2nd class inland basic rate); 24p rust (1st class inland and EEC basic rate); 28p slate blue (Europe, non-EEC countries); 34p purple (aerogramme rate); 35p old gold (1st class second step) and 39p rhododendron (airmail Zones 1 and 2 basic rate). In addition there will be a new 6p stamp in lime green for use as a "make up" between the 2nd and 1st class rates. All stamps are printed on Advanced Coated Paper (ACP) except the 18p which is on fluorescent paper with a centre phosphor band. All have been printed in photogravure by Harrisons, sheets of 200 with PVA Dextrin gum.

Books

Two new machine-vended books will go on philatelic sale on 10 September and on general sale from machines at post offices from 16 September. The new 50p book will contain two 24p and two 1p stamps; the new £1 book four 24p and two 2p stamps and two labels. All on Advanced Coated Paper (ACP). Both these books will be printed by Harrison and will introduce new cover design series. The 50p book will feature the first design in an "Archaeology" series; the £1 book the first in a "Punch" series. The theme Archaeology was chosen by the late L F Newbery; he was invited to select a theme to mark his 80th birthday (see June *Bulletin*, page 222).

On 16 September a new £1.32 book will go on sale containing four 33p stamps for overseas postcards and a new £1.56 book will contain four 39p stamps for the basic airmail rate. Both books will contain four airmail labels (etiquettes). The £1.32 and £1.56 books will be produced by Walsall Security Printers, the stamps being litho-printed on phosphor coated paper. These two books will be available from the

British Philatelic Bureau, Collections and philatelic counters and from post offices and retail outlets with a demand for airmail rate stamps.

Rolls

Two new stamp rolls will be available from the Bureau, Collections and philatelic counters from 16 September: XL500 – 500 x 18p and YL500 – 500 x 24p. Both are endways delivery. The 18p stamps will have centre phosphor band; the 24p stamps are on ACP.

A new mixed value roll containing two 5p and two 4p stamps will go on sale at the Bureau, Collections and philatelic counters on 2 October.

First Day Facilities

The Royal Mail standard first day cover envelope for definitive stamps will be available from the Bureau, Collections and philatelic counters, price 19p. First day posting boxes will be provided on 10 September at most main post offices for the standard, non-pictorial "First Day of Issue" handstamps. Pictorial First Day handstamps will be available for the Bureau and Windsor.

A FDC service will be provided by the Bureau. Application forms, available from the Bureau and main post offices, should be returned by 10 September. Collectors wishing to prepare their own covers may send covers bearing the new stamps to receive the Bureau or Windsor postmarks to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH EH3 5TT or South East Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail Windsor, 38 Peascod Street, WINDSOR SL4 1AA.

First Day facilities will not be provided on 16 September or 2 October.

Presentation Pack

A new pack (No. 25) containing one of each of the new sheet stamps will be available from 10 September, price £2.15.

Withdrawal of Obsolete Stamps

It is intended to withdraw the 17p, 22p, 26p, 27p, 31p, 32p and 37p stamps (including Country versions) from sale at post offices after close of business on 14 September. They will remain on philatelic sale for a further year.

Country Stamps

New 18p, 24p, 28p and 39p Country stamps will go on sale on 3 December – details will be published nearer the time.

Aerogrammes

From 16 September standard aerogrammes will cost 34p; the standard aerogramme issued in April 1990 remains on sale.

Please note that at the time of going to press the Post Office Users' National Council had not given approval for postal tariff increases. Should approval not be forthcoming the stamps, books and rolls may not be issued on the dates stated. Readers are advised to check with their local post office shortly before 10 September. Details of postal rate increases will be displayed in post offices.

NPM Map Postcards

On 17 September the National Postal Museum will issue five postcards to coincide with the issue of the Maps stamps and the opening of the Museum's "Maps and the Post Office" exhibition. Four cards (Nos. 91/9-12) feature maps from John Cary's *Survey of the High Roads from London, 1790*. Card 91/9 shows the first part of the London to Rochester route; 91/10 the second part; 91/11 the first part of the London to East Grinstead route and 91/12 the second part of that route. The fifth card (91/13) reproduces part of



Cary's *New Map of England and Wales with part of Scotland*, second edition, 1816, from information supplied by the Postmasters General. The reproduction shows the location of Hamstreet, Kent (the Maps stamps all feature Ordnance Survey maps showing Hamstreet). The reproductions are taken from Cary's books in Post Office Archives.

The cards cost 20p each and can be ordered from: National Postal Museum (Mail Order), King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP. Minimum order 80p, handling charge 22p on orders up to £22, £1.97 over £22 (sent by registered post).

A special handstamp will be used on 17 September; cards/covers to receive this should be sent to: London North Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail City & International, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1AA requesting NPM Special Handstamp - 17 September.

Postcode Technology Progresses

New machines that will radically change the way mail is codemarked are to be built for Royal Mail. These new machines incorporate three major new features.

They include Optical Character Recognition (OCR) computers that can "read" an entire typewritten address.

They can also "read" the postcode for most handwritten addresses.

And if the OCR cannot "read" the address on one letter it can download an electronic image of the letter to a computer screen. A coding operator can then type in the postcode.

Paul Barton, head of automation development, said: "These new machines will use similar technology to that developed for the American postal service - but they will be tailor-made for Royal Mail's operation."

The first machine is expected to be installed in a sorting office by August 1992.

Dr Barton said: "Over the next few years they will replace all existing coding desks. In future coding operators will be coding letters that they see on computer screens. This means that instead of working in the main part of the sorting office the coding operators will be able to do their work in a special, quiet and well furnished coding room."

Article reproduced from "Courier" - Royal Mail staff newspaper. The Editor of this "Bulletin" would love a "special, quiet and well furnished ... room" in which to do his job!

Mark III and IV Window Books

A Detailed Description of 1989/90 Issues – Part 2

L F NEWBERRY

In Part 1 in the June *Bulletin* I dealt with the first NVI books (August 1989), Penny Black Anniversary books (January/June 1990) and the Worldwide Postcard book containing 29p stamps (1989/90). This second article deals with the second NVI books (August 1990), the March 1991 Walsall printings with modified clasp and adhesive (announced in March 1991 *Bulletin*, page 167), and the book of 31p Worldwide Postcard Stamps issued on 17 September 1990 when the new postal rates came into effect. Details are given of the contents of each book, the perforation characteristics, cylinder or plate numbers and a description of the covers. With the issue of these books the front cover was updated to include the new Royal Mail logo. These are illustrated here, together with illustrations showing the modified closing tab. For illustrations of the adhesive sealings, see my article in the August 1989 *Bulletin*, page 299.

General information about the production of window books by all three manufacturers – Harrison, Questa, and Walsall – was given in the June article to which those interested are referred.

1. Mark IV Books of Ten 1st and 2nd class NVI stamps

7 August 1990 – Printed by Harrison

Contents: 10 x 1st NVI flame, Advanced Coated Paper; 10 x 2nd NVI dark blue, one centre phosphor band.

Perforation: Straight upper and lower edges of pane, except for one extension hole at end of each vertical row.

Cylinders: 1st – B3; 2nd – B1 Phosphor B84.

Front Cover: Type D. The front cover was completely reset. The contents digits – “10” in an inline font – reduced from 20mm to 19mm high. “First/ Class/Stamps” now in upper and lower case type. The imperforate 1st and 2nd “stamps” with their white diagonal security lines were reduced in size to 19 x 16mm from 23 x 19mm. The logo is now the Crown over Royal Mail, new cruciform design.

Back Cover: Type C, similar to Type A but Royal Mail logo above the bar code panel now omitted.

Bar Codes: 1st – 5 014721 100197; 2nd – 5 014721 100210.

Rates Panel: Type D. Similar to Type A but includes warning that NVI stamps should not be used on overseas mail.

Cover Board: Invercote I/S.

Clasp: On the yellow strip containing the cut clasp is now printed, in black reading down, the words “Pull Open”.

7 August 1990 – Printed by Questa

Contents: 10 x 1st NVI flame, Phosphor Coated Paper;

10 x 2nd NVI dark blue, one centre phosphor band.

Perforation: Stamps perforated on all sides; binding margin perforated right across each row.

Plate Numbers: None.

Front & Back Covers: Types D and C, as Harrison printing.

Bar Codes: as Harrison books.

Rates Panel: Type D.

Cover Board: Invercote I/S 240gsm board.

Clasp: similar to Harrison.

7 August 1990 – Printed by Walsall

Contents: 10 x 1st NVI flame, Phosphor Coated Paper; 10 x 2nd NVI dark blue, one centre phosphor band.

Perforation: Straight upper and lower edges of pane, except for one extension hole at end of each vertical row.

Plate Numbers: 1st – W1W1, W1W1W1, W3W3W3, W4W4W4, W5W5W4, W5W6W5, W5W6W6; 2nd – W1W1W1, W2W1W1, W2W1W2, W2W2, W3W3W3, W4W3W3, W4W3W4.

Front & Back Covers: Types D and C, as Harrison and Questa printings.

Bar Codes: as Harrison and Questa printings.

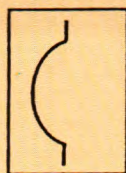
Rates Panel: Type D.



Front Cover D



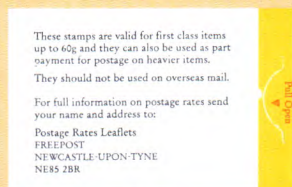
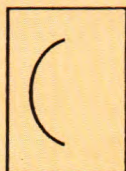
E



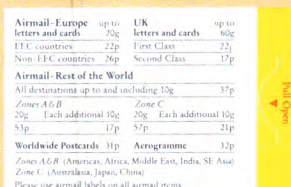
Back Cover C



D



Rates Panel D



E

Walsall original
and modified clasp
(locking tab)
Illus. D.G.A. Myall

Cover Board: Ikonorex.

Clasp: Side cuts to semi-circle cut (see illustration).

March 1991 – Printed by Walsall

Details as above except:

Contents: 10 x 1st NVI only.

Plate Numbers: W5W3W5

Clasp: no side cuts (see illustration) thus making clasp more like those on Harrison, and Questa books.

Cover Board: Stirling artboard

Note: There was no first day of issue of this book; it went into general distribution from March onwards. The modification to Walsall books was announced in the March *Bulletin*.

Editor's Note: Further details of these books, by D G A Myall, will be published here later in the year.

2. Mark IV Books of Four 1st & 2nd Class NVI stamps

7 August 1990 – Printed by Walsall

Contents: 4 x 1st NVI flame, Phosphor Coated Paper; 4 x 2nd NVI dark blue, one centre phosphor band.

Perforation: Panes have upper and lower straight edges with extension holes. Note: 1st class book exists with perf 14 and perf 13 (see February 1991 *Bulletin*, page 140).

Plate Numbers: 1st – W1W1W1 (Perf 14 and Perf 13), W1W2W2, W2W3W3, W2W4W3, W3W4W3; 2nd – W1W1W1, W2W1W2, W2W2W2.

Front Cover: Type D.

Back Cover: Type C.

Bar Code: 1st – 5 014721 100180; 2nd – 5 014721 100203.

Rates Panel: Type D.

Cover Board: Ikonorex.

Clasp: as books of 10 Walsall stamps.

March 1991 – Printed by Walsall

Details as above, except:

Plate Numbers: 1st – W3W4W3; 2nd – W2W2W2

Clasp: no side cuts (see illustration); thus making clasp more like those on Harrison and

Questa books.

Cover Board: Stirling artboard.

Note: There was no first day of issue of these books; they went into general distribution from March onwards. The announcement of the production of these modified books was made in the March *Bulletin*.

Editor's Note: Further details of these books, by D G A Myall, will be published here later in the year.

3. Mark IV Worldwide Postcard Stamps Book

17 September 1990 – Printed by Walsall

Contents: 4 x 31p stamps on phosphor coated paper.

Perforations: as Walsall NVI books of four.

Plate Numbers: W2W1W1.

Front Cover: Type E. Contents caption "Worldwide Postcard Stamps". The crown in the logo was printed in a separate pass in two settings, 1 and 2mm from the bottom. The other Mark IV books have slight variations in the crown position but nowhere as distinct as on this Postcard Stamps book.

Back Cover: Type D. as Type B but without Royal Mail logo above bar code panel. "UK recommended price £1.24" below bar code panel.

Bar Code: 5 014721 100227.

Rates Panel: Type E. Reference to aerogrammes and use of air mail labels now included.

Cover Board: Ikonorex.

Varieties

During the perforation run of the 4 x 1st class Walsall book, work was temporarily carried out on another Bickel perforator. Inadvertently a different gauge comb head was used. The normal gauge (perf 14) gives the stamps 13 holes between the vertical rows of holes and 16 holes between the horizontal rows. The erroneous comb (perf 13) gives 12 holes and 15 holes respectively. The normal panes have the binding margin with an extension hole opposite the centre row and panes from the bottom edge of the sheet have lower edge imperforate whereas in the error books the binding margin of all panes is imperforate and none has the lower edge imperforate. *Editor's note: the error stamp is now listed (but unpriced) as No. 1516c in the 1991 edition of the Stanley Gibbons "Great Britain Concise Stamp Catalogue".*

The brightness of 1st class stamps in Walsall books of 4 and 10 varies considerably under ultra-violet light. The degree of brightness or dullness is not constant but the more extreme states are thought collectable by some. *Editor's note: the variations in the brightness are within acceptable limits agreed between Royal Mail Stamps and the printers.*

Seven new window books will be issued on 6 August 1991 - three will contain 2nd class NVI stamps reverting to the original bright blue colour; four will contain 1st class stamps in flame. All will have a revised inside back cover (rates panel). Details will be given by Douglas Myall in future articles; Mr Myall is taking over from the late Len Newbery as our specialist writer on modern stamp books. Douglas and Len worked closely together and were founder members of the GB Decimal Stamp Book Study Circle in 1971.

Dinosaurs on Stamps Book

A colourful and interesting book – **Dinosaur Stamps of the World**, by Stuart Baldwin and Beverly Halstead, will be published on 26 August. This celebrates the first use of the word dinosaur by Richard Owen at the British Association meeting in 1841 and is linked with the issue of Dinosaur stamps, an exhibition at Plymouth Museum and the dinosaur theme at Autumn Stampex (15–20 October). The book illustrates in full colour the Royal Mail Dinosaur stamps, unadopted designs and all known stamps of the world featuring dinosaurs and other prehistoric reptiles. In all over 280 stamps and miniature sheets are featured – from some 50 countries. The late Dr Beverly Halstead, prime campaigner for the Dinosaur stamps, tells the story of early dinosaur studies. 128 pages, paperback. Available from: Baldwin's Books, Fossil Hall, Boars Tye Road, Silver End, WITHAM, Essex, CM8 3QA. Royalties on the sales of this book will be donated to the Halstead Trust Fund administered by the Geologists's Association to further aspects of geology and palaeontology related to Dr Halstead's interests. Donations to the Fund can be sent to the Geologists's Association, Burlington House, Piccadilly, LONDON W1V 9AG.

Five Royal Mail stamps featuring dinosaurs go on sale at post offices, the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections and philatelic counters on 20 August – see last month's *Bulletin* for details.

Gems from the R M Phillips Collection

188. Rainbow Trials for the Penny Red

Perkins Bacon & Petch produced a special plate to print the trial labels in various colours when it was necessary to change the Penny Black. At first this was of three impressions but this was soon enlarged to 12 (4 x 3) in May 1840. Two proofs exist in black of the impressions complete (if minus the corner letters) but to make the labels doubly safe from illegal usage the corners were "voided". This was done by removing the upper left corner individually from each impression on the plate, thus leaving the upper right corner missing in the printed impressions. These voided corners were re-touched by an engraver in August 1840.



The printing ink trial shown, one of the many "Rainbow Trials" was made in May/June 1840. It is in a dark red brown on thick, white, unwatermarked paper and forms part of the special exhibition mounted in the National Postal Museum to mark the 150th anniversary of the Penny Red.

The Museum, in London's Chief Post Office, King Edward Street, EC1, is open Monday-Thursday 9.30 am to 4.30 pm; Friday 9.30 am to 4 pm. Admission free.

Douglas N Muir, *Curator, Philately, NPM*

Competition



Win £50 worth of British stamps

Enter this month's competition and stand a chance of winning £50 worth of current British philatelic products of your choice — stamps, stamp books, postcards, albums, etc. Answer the questions below, the answers 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 30 September.

The sender of the first all-correct entry drawn will be invited to order £50 of philatelic products; five runners-up will be sent presentation packs of the Maps stamps. Answers and winners' names will be published in the November *Bulletin*.

1. Which canal is shown on the 24p Maps stamp?
2. The present-day Philatelic Traders' Society owes its existence to which energetic figure?
3. Who wrote *United Kingdom Savings Stamps, Labels and Coupons*?
4. An exhibition of the work of Dorothy Wilding is on show at which London gallery?
5. On which date were the Good Luck greetings stamps issued?

The competition is not open to staff (and their families) of Royal Mail Stamps and its agents. No correspondence will be entered into; the Editor's decision will be final.

The winners of the May competition were:

P Kearsley of Cheshire (£50 of Royal Mail products); D Hillier of Kent; P Cross of Suffolk; N Aykroyd of Saudi Arabia; A Kirk of Australia and G Jenkins of Berkshire (Roses presentation packs).

The answers were: 1. Edinburgh; 2. Huntley Muir; 3. Printer's red ink, linseed oil and droppings of sweet oil; 4. David Gentleman; 5. 31p; 6. William Playfair.

Our thanks to all who entered.

British Cattle

British Special Issues No.167

FRANCIS KENNEDY

Scotland, represented by the 16p Highland Cow stamp, is given pride of place in this five-value set because 1984 saw the centenary of the Highland Cattle Society and the bicentenary of the Royal Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland, the latter being the organisers of the first Royal Highland Show held at Edinburgh in 1822. England, Ireland and Wales are each represented on the other stamps by native cattle as described below.

16p Highland Cow: The West Highlander, or Kyloe, cattle are essentially from the north-west of Scotland and the Islands. The long shaggy coat is a natural protection from water and snow while a shorter, but thick, undercoat provides protection from extreme cold. The cow is an especially good mother and is used for cross-breeding on this account.

20½p Chillingham Wild Bull: The wild White Cattle of Chillingham Park in Northumberland can claim a 700-year old history on the site. It is known that this is the only pure-bred herd of these particular cattle (descended from the wild ox) said to have been native to Northern England since before the Roman occupation. The animal came near to extinction in the severe winter of 1947 when only 13 of the herd survived. The Chillingham Wild Cattle Association engineered a recovery and remains responsible for the welfare of these still quite fierce creatures.

26p Hereford Bull: The docile Hereford Bull is a complete contrast and is the outcome of two centuries of selective breeding to produce the ideal beef animal. A Hereford Herd Book of registration for approved herds was established in 1846 but the current records (since 1878) are handled by the Hereford Herd Book Society. Exports from 1817 eventually led to the founding of the World Hereford Council in 1951.

28p Welsh Black Bull: This is another pre-Roman "resident", this time of Wales. Today's animal was developed following the formation of the Welsh Black Cattle Society (in 1873) which organised the cross-breeding of the small North Wales cattle with the larger South Wales (or Castlemartin) breed. The cows are especially

good mothers able to care for their calves in severe weather conditions. Exports to the United States in 1966 began a steady overseas trade now embracing such diverse conditions as those of Canada and Saudi Arabia.

31p Irish Moiled Cow: This long-established breed became the *raison d'être* of the Irish Moiled Cattle Society founded in Belfast in 1926 to encourage the careful breeding of this sturdy animal which can survive on the sparse grazing of Ulster hill farms. Following a Second World War decline in the breed, a revival of interest came in 1982 through the combined efforts of the Belfast Zoo, the National Trust and the Rare Breeds Survival Trust. The standard marking for the "moile" is a white back and red body as seen on the stamp, the animal being set against a background of the Legananny Dolmen, a 5,000-year old stone monument near Ballynahinch, Co. Down. The description "moiled" comes from the old Irish "mael" meaning "hornless".

The designer was Barry Driscoll, ARCA, well-known for his paintings of animals, although this was his first commission from the Post Office. No major constant flaws have been recorded.



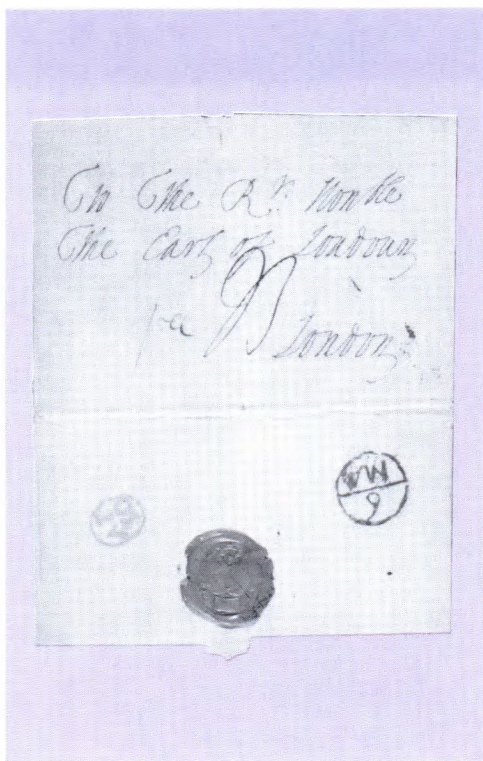
The set was issued on 6 March 1984; the Edinburgh Philatelic Bureau cancellation featured a cattle auction. A pictorial "First Day of Issue" cancellation at Oban, Argyllshire, pictured five Highland cattle grazing. Sales for the year to 6 March 1985 were: 16p – 36,572,900; 20½p – 7,211,300; 26p – 6,729,400; 28p – 6,626,300 and 31p – 6,356,800. The five PHQ postcards were numbered 73a-e; 183,000 sets were produced.

Stamping the Mail

The National Postal Museum's major exhibition for 1991/2 deals with the development of "stamping the mail", i.e. the applying of operational marks by hand and machine. The material has been drawn from the Museum's growing Postal History and Postmark collections. While it has not been possible, in the space available, to show an example of every type of mark, visitors to the exhibition will be able to see some of the major changes that have taken place in marking the mail since the introduction of the Bishop Mark in 1661.

The display begins on the ground floor with pre-1661 material bearing manuscript markings. Included is a letter from Lord Burghley (Elizabeth I's chief minister) to "my Lord Grace of York" carried by royal messenger in 1596, and letters from the Corsini correspondence. This display continues with examples of Bishop Marks including one of 1662 and a fine strike in red of the Edinburgh mark of 30 April 1723. A coloured reproduction of the well-known portrait of Henry Bishop, original at Parham Park, is shown (the portrait featured on a NPM postcard, issued in July 1989). The following frames deal with the development of handstamps from the Bishop Marks up to 1840 for both the General Post and the "Foreign Office", and the London Local Posts. The material shown includes two items carried by William Dockwra's Penny Post; one is on long term loan from the Public Record Office. The ground floor display comprises some 50 carefully-selected covers and a map of London of 1830/7 showing postal routes.

The frames in the Mezzanine Gallery contain approximately 100 covers; the display starts with marks applied by Local Penny and 5th Clause Posts; with maps showing the routes of the Bristol Penny Posts and the Dartford to Sevenoaks 5th Clause Post. The next frame takes the handstamp story from the introduction of Uniform Penny Post in 1840. Initially each letter bearing a postage stamp had to be "stamped" twice, once to obliterate the postage stamp and once, on the reverse of the letter, to indicate the office of despatch. This "double stamping" was obviously inefficient and led to the introduction of "combined" stamps of various types. The display continues with the Post Office's first tentative steps into "mechanisation". A major item is a proof strike from Pearson Hill's first experimental machine with



Letter sent from Edinburgh to London with fine strike of the Edinburgh oval Bishop Mark (AP/30) in red.

an offset on the back. This was caused when a letter was not fed into the correct position and the die inked the machine table, the next cover would then pick up the impression on being stamped. (*A study of Pearson Hill's cancelling machines*, by Jack Peach, was published in the *June and July Bulletins*. Ed.) Also included is a fine example of the scarce Charing Cross Hoster cancellation, examples of Bickerdike machine cancels and an advertising notice for this company.

The last two frames deal with Instructional, Slogan and "Special Event" marks, including early "Post Early for Christmas" and Wembley exhibition slogans, 1911 Aerial post handstamps and a Mobile Post Office handstamp used on cover from the Blackpool & Fylde Show, 1952.

The exhibition has been targeted at the general public rather than the specialist collector and aims to give an overall view of the development of mail marking. The exhibition runs until April 1992. The Museum is open Monday-Thursday 9.30am to 4.30pm; Friday 9.30am to 4pm. Admission is free.

National Philatelic Organisations in Britain

5: The Philatelic Traders' Society

JAMES NEGUS, FRPSL

The first society for stamp dealers in Britain was projected more than a century ago. Meetings in London in May and June 1880 to start an "International Philatelic Association" foundered through lack of support, but a new attempt in June 1881 was more hopeful, even attracting Stanley Gibbons & Co. among its 34 members. Once again it soon failed.

A decade later, the new owner of Gibbons, Charles J. Phillips, set up the Philatelic Protection Association, celebrated in philatelic history as securing the conviction in 1892 of the "London Gang", the forgers Benjamin, Sarpy and Jeffries.

Yet another society, the Stamp Trade Protection Association, after a shaky start in 1900, gradually became active in bringing forgers to justice. The Brighton Forgeries case was one of its notable successes, young Harold Treherne this time being the culprit sent to jail in 1908. Apart from exposing swindlers, the Association was concerned with the recovery of stamps and debts and making enquiries into the standing of dealers' clients. It was finally wound up in September 1927 when the newly founded British Philatelic Association took over.

The present-day Philatelic Traders' Society, however, owes its existence to another energetic figure, Albert H. Harris. Owner of Harris Publications Ltd, based in the Strand, and proprietor of *The Philatelic Trader*, he launched in June 1928 the first International Stamp Dealers' Bourse in London which became a successful annual event. At the same time a "Service Department" of his company was created for the trade and operated as such till February 1945, though formal membership of the Philatelic Traders' Society (PTS) was available from April 1930. On Harris's death in November 1945, Vera Trinder (then a Director of Harris Publications) ran the Society until it acquired a paid Organising Secretary for the first time in 1947 and moved to John Adam Street at Charing Cross, London.

An early PTS project was to inaugurate a stamp exhibition to stimulate interest in the hobby. It called upon H.F. Johnson and the

Junior Philatelic Society to help and 118 frames were filled with (non-competitive) displays. Leading PTS members took 34 trade stands and the result was the first Stampex, held in Central Hall, Westminster, from 10 to 17 January 1953 (for its first three years under the title "National Stamp Exhibition").

Stampex - now twice-yearly - is still a major activity of the PTS, though many organisational details are now different from 1953. Members fill 150 stands at the Spring event and 120 at the Autumn (when space is given over to competitive exhibits). Reorganised policies for tickets and catalogues have led to increased attendance in recent years.

PTS membership is available to dealers both in Britain and overseas. Those with less than two years' trading can be admitted as Provisional Members; after that they are expected to apply for Full Membership. Full Members need to be recommended by two members of either the PTS or another Trade Society affiliated to the International Federation of Stamp Dealers' Associations (IFSDA). All PTS members agree to abide by the Code of Ethics, covering such matters as trade descriptions, advertising claims, refunds, forgeries and repaired stamps. As noted in the previous article in this series, the PTS and the British Philatelic Federation have a joint Philatelic Status Committee enquiring into disputed stamp issues.

Transgressions of the Code of Ethics and complaints about transactions can be referred to a Business Practices Committee of the PTS. In particularly difficult cases Council members may need to arbitrate, but problems can often be resolved directly by the PTS Chief Executive. Liaison with IFSDA, whose Secretariat is also at the John Adam Street HQ, is valuable here.

Members of the PTS are automatically members of IFSDA, gaining entry to most overseas exhibitions. The PTS organises groups of British standholders at these Exhibitions so that, apart from reduced travel and accommodation expenses, the complicated clearance of the dealers' stocks through customs is eased.

The PTS operates a Credit Reference Service

for its members, extensive information on the credit-worthiness of potential clients and records of malefactors. It will also undertake debt collection in the first instance and offers continuing advice and assistance if this proves to be unsuccessful. PTS members qualify for discounts and concessions on a range of services like advertising, insurance and auction charges, helping to cut business costs.



The Society has its own house magazine, the confidential *PTS Journal* published in alternate months. It also produces a detailed *Directory* of all its members and their services which anyone may buy. There are currently about 400 inland and 300 overseas Full Members of the PTS and about 15 in the Provisional category. Perhaps most readers of this *Bulletin* are stamp collectors, rather than dealers. But it is reassuring to know how strong the trade organisation has become since the early days and its insistence on fair play to the mutual benefit of amateurs and professionals alike.

Address for information: Chief Executive, Philatelic Traders' Society, 27 John Adam Street, LONDON WC2N 6HZ. Tel: 071-930 6465/6.

Friends of the NPM

About 40 members of the Association of Friends of the National Postal Museum were entertained to displays of "cinderella" stamps at the Museum on 11 May. The material shown was carefully selected – having a connection with the Post Office. John Armstone and John Holman (*Bulletin* Editor) showed Railway Letter Stamps from 1891 to date – commemorating the centenary of the Railway Letter Agreement between the Post Office and over 70 railway companies. Lionel Jones, the Museum's Philatelic Officer, displayed savings stamps from his extensive collection. Lionel is author of *United Kingdom Savings Stamps, Labels and Coupons* published by the Cinderella Stamp Club in 1979. Included in his display were TV Licence and Telephone savings stamps and the £1 Community Charge (Poll Tax) stamp which is on sale at post offices in certain areas.

Details of the Friends and their activities can be obtained from: Ray Pottle, Hon. Secretary, Friends of the NPM, c/o National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1LP.



Lionel Jones explains part of his Savings Stamps display (Photo: Cyril Macey)

New Edition of Specialised Catalogue

A new (6th) edition of the Stanley Gibbons *Great Britain Specialised Stamp Catalogue* Vol. 4 – Queen Elizabeth II Decimal Definitives was published on 17 July, price £16.95. It is available from the Gibbons shop at 399 Strand, London WC2 or by post from Stanley Gibbons Publications, Parkside, RINGWOOD, BH24 3SH.

Student Shakespeare Stamp Designs

Each year the Royal Society of Arts organises a Design Competition for students at colleges of art. The competition is sponsored by leading companies and organisations; Royal Mail Stamps being one of the main sponsors. Established in 1925, the competition aims to identify young designers of outstanding promise and to bring their talents to the attention of industry. Some 2,321 students from 91 colleges entered the 1990/91 competition. The Postage Stamp section attracted 339 entries; the brief was to design stamps relating to Shakespeare. Students were reminded that 1993 will be an important year for Shakespeare with the opening of the International Shakespeare Globe Centre on London's Bankside and the anniversary of the production of *Titus Andronicus* and *The Taming of the Shrew*.

The entries were judged by Dennis Bailey, RDI, ARCA, Keith Fisher and Barry Robinson (Royal Mail Stamps), Derrick Howlett (Harrison & Sons Ltd), Ronald Maddox, PRI, FCSO, FSAI (stamp designer) and Sam Wanamaker. The Jury drew up a shortlist of eight students who had each tackled the project from a different approach. The Jury were particularly impressed with Philip Ashcroft's "painterly" illustrations of the Globe Theatre – the first time he had worked to such a small scale. Mark Bonner based the designs for his stamps on the circular form of the Globe theatre, depicting a ruff collar, a set of Shakespeare's works, a group of actors and the theatre itself. Christopher Raybould applied a crown, a rose, a dagger and a red nose to a portrait of Shakespeare to describe the themes of history, romance, tragedy and comedy in his plays. Peter Davies took a typographical approach using Shakespeare's signature to link the set of stamps. Deborah Downing chose to illustrate theatrical costumes while Nicholas Hughes portrayed four of the Fools from Shakespeare's plays. Each received a travel award, ranging from £750 to £2,000. The awards for the Postage Stamp section were sponsored by Royal Mail Stamps, Harrison & Sons Ltd and The House of Questa.

As in previous years the designs, in all sections, were on show to the public at the RSA's London headquarters during May. A travelling exhibition will go on tour in the Autumn, and can be seen at the following locations: Coventry Technical College (23 September–4 October); Maidstone Kent Instit-

ute of Art & Design (14–31 October); Intercraft Designs Limited, Berkley Square, London W1 (4–8 November); Intercraft Designs Limited, Prince Street, Bristol (13–15 November); Polytechnic Southwest, Exeter (21 November–10 December); Intercraft Designs Limited, Faulkner Street, Manchester (16–18 December); Samuel Bruce Limited, Dock Place, Edinburgh (6–17 January 1992); Samuel Bruce Limited, Dunsinane Avenue, Dundee (20–24 January); Samuel Bruce Limited, Lynedoch Street, Glasgow (27 January–7 February) and Newcastle College, Newcastle upon Tyne (19 February–11 March).



Shown here are four designs by Mark Bonner, age 20 of Kingston Polytechnic, who received a £1,500 travel award.

Roses Plate Numbers

The plate numbers and colours for the Roses stamps (all values) are: 1A (new blue) 1A (greenish yellow) 1A (magenta) 1A (black) 1A (silver); the 22p stamp was also printed from plates 2A2A2A2A2A, 3A3A3A3A3A and 4A4A4A4A4A and the 33p value from plates 2A2A2A2A2A.

Six Month Digest

Listed below are the issues of the past six months and the proposed dates of issue for stamps until December 1991. Any change in these dates will be notified in the Bulletin. British Philatelic Bureau order codes are quoted where known.

5 Feb	Greetings (Good Luck) stamps (JB002)
19 Feb	Science stamp cards (AQ152)
26 Feb	Spring Stampex exh. card (EQ028)
5 Mar	Science stamps (AS447)
5 Mar	Science pack (AP034)
12 Mar	Scot Aerogramme (Rugby) (QS027)
19 Mar	Prestige stamp book (YB002)
26 Mar	Greetings (Smiles) stamps (JB003)
9 Apr	CEPT/Space stamp cards (AQ157)
23 Apr	CEPT/Space stamps (AS452)
23 Apr	CEPT/Space pack (AP095)
14 May	Definitives Pack No. 24 (DR001)
14 May	NPM Stamping Mail cards (NQ908)
14 May	Scotland 22p CPL paper (SS224)
14 May	Scotland 26p CPL paper (SS263)
14 May	Scotland 37p CPL paper (SS371)
14 May	Wales 22p CPL paper (WS223)
28 May	Sport stamp cards (AQ162)
11 Jun	Sport stamps (AS457)
11 Jun	Sport pack (AP096)
25 Jun	50p book (Aero 4) (TB007)
25 Jun	£1 book (Mills 4) (TB008)
2 Jul	Roses stamp cards
16 Jul	Roses stamps
16 Jul	Roses pack
23 Jul	Scot Aerogramme (Gaidhealach)
30 Jul	DL stamped envelopes
30 Jul	C4 stamped envelopes
30 Jul	C5 stamped envelopes

Forthcoming

6 Aug	Dinosaur stamp cards
6 Aug	4 x 2nd class book/W
6 Aug	4 x 1st class book/W
6 Aug	10 x 2nd class book/Q
6 Aug	10 x 2nd class book/W
6 Aug	10 x 1st class book/H
6 Aug	10 x 2nd class book/Q
6 Aug	10 x 1st class book/W
20 Aug	Dinosaur stamps & pack
3 Sep	Map stamp cards
17 Sep	Map stamps & pack
17 Sep	NPM Map cards (4)
8 Oct	Christmas aerogramme
29 Oct	Christmas stamp cards
12 Nov	Christmas stamps & pack
12 Nov	1991 Year Pack

12 Nov

12 Nov

1991 Yearbook

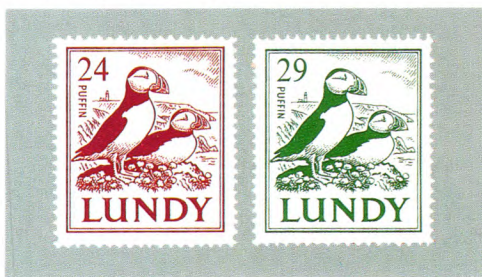
NPM "Old Christmas" cards

Notes:

1. Stamped envelopes available only from British Philatelic Bureau. First and second class versions of each; prices – DL 27p (1st) and 22p (2nd); C5 37p and 31p; C4 38p and 32p.
2. The 2nd class books (6 August) have NVI stamps in bright blue. The 1st class books have NVI stamps in flame (as previous issue) but with new Freepost address printed on book cover. H = Harrison; Q = Questa; W = Walsall.

422 Puffins

The puffin is one of the world's most endearing birds and the British 19p Puffin stamp of 1989 proved highly popular. Puffins are always associated with Lundy in the Bristol Channel which has issued local stamps or "local carriage labels" since 1929. Most of the stamps feature the puffin and are denominated in puffins (pence). New definitives were issued on 2 July 1991 – 14 values with a total face value of 422 puffins (£4.22). The stamps are of a common design, by John Dyke and Lars Liwendahl,



featuring two puffins on the west coast of Lundy as seen from the north end of the island, with the Old Lighthouse in the background. The stamps were printed in sheets of 25 by the House of Questa. Values are: 5p, 10p, 22p, 24p, 25p, 26p, 27p, 28p, 29p, 30p, 31p, 32p, 33p and 100p, designed to cover most postage rates. Lundy stamps prepay only the cost of sending mail from the island to the mainland. British postage needs to be prepaid by Royal Mail stamps or meter franking. The stamps are available at face value from: The Lundy Company, Lundy, BIDEFORD, Devon, EX39 2LY. Postage 75p UK & EEC, £1 non-EEC, £1.50 outside Europe. An article on Lundy and its stamps was published in the *Bulletin* of July 1985.

Post Offices open during 1971 Strike

I am quite amazed at the response to my listing in February of offices that cancelled mail for local delivery during the 1971 strike. Adding to those listed in May and June, Mrs P Lyon reports first day covers cancelled at Nailsea, Bristol. Mrs Lyon added "other villages round about did start to service mail before the strike ended. I have letters from Portishead dated 5 March – I think that was the earliest date from that office." She ended her letter – "I always enjoy reading your 'Postbag'."

W A Mitchell reports that Montrose Post Office was open on 15 February 1971 and that he has a cover with the full set of decimal definitives handstamped at that office and a cover with a 3p stamp machine franked. John Berry, who lived in Northern Ireland, at the time reports cards and covers postmarked at Ballyclare, Co Antrim on Decimal Day. Alex Gray of Aberdeen reports a cover posted and delivered at Cruden Bay, Aberdeenshire on 15 February 1971 and points out that Rothie Norman, listed here in February, should in fact be one word – Rothienorman.

Patrick Awcock of Sussex sent in a list of over 80 offices in Hants, Kent, Surrey and Sussex which operated "a collection and delivery service"; letters could be sent or received between any of these places. For the record, the places involved were (Sx = Sussex; Sy = Surrey): Aldershot, Hants; Alton, Hants; Appledore, Ashford, Kent; Arundel, Sx; Bagshot, Sy; Beckley, Rye, Sx; Bethersden, Ashford, Kent; Bisley, Woking, Sy; Blackboys, Uckfield, Sx; Bodiam, Robertsbridge, Sx; Bognor Regis, Sx; Bordon, Hants; Brabourne, Ashford, Kent; Brede, Rye, Sx; Brightling, Robertsbridge, Sx; Broad Oak, Rye, Sx; Camberley, Sy; Camber, Rye, Sx; Chalton, Portsmouth, Hants; Chichester, Sx; Clanfield, Portsmouth, Hants; Colemans Hatch, Hartfield, Sx; Cowplain, Portsmouth, Hants; Denmead, Portsmouth, Hants; Dymchurch, Romney Marsh, Kent; East Dean, Eastbourne, Sx; East Hoathly, Lewes, Sx; Egerton, Ashford, Kent; Ewhurst Green, Robertsbridge, Sx; Fareham, Hants; Farnham,

Sy; Farnborough, Hants; Firle, Lewes, Sx; Fleet, Aldershot, Hants; Forest Row, Sx; Framfield, Uckfield, Sx; Greywell, Basingstoke, Hants; Hadlow Down, Uckfield, Sx; Hailsham, Sx; Hambledon, Portsmouth, Hants; Ham Street, Ashford, Kent; Hartfield, Sx; Hartley Witney, Basingstoke, Hants; Haslemere, Sy; Heathfield, Sx; Henfield, Sx; High Hurstwood, Uckfield, Sx; Hindhead, Sy; Hook, Basingstoke, Hants; Horley, Sy; Horndean, Portsmouth, Hants; Hythe, Kent; Icklesham, Winchelsea, Sx; Iden, Rye, Sx; Knaphill, Woking, Sy; Loughton, Lewes, Sx; Lees, Ashford, Kent; Lightwater, Sy; Liphook, Hants; Littlehampton, Sx; Lydd, Romney Marsh, Kent; Marsham, Ashford, Kent; Midhurst, Sx; Mountfield, Robertsbridge, Sx; Newick, Lewes, Sx; New Romney, Kent; Northiam, Rye, Sx; North Warnborough, Basingstoke, Hants; Nutley, Uckfield, Sx; Odiham, Basingstoke, Hants; Oxted, Sy; Peacehaven, Newhaven Sx; Peasmarsh, Rye, Sx; Petersfield, Hants; Petworth, Sx; Pevensey, Sx; Pluckley, Ashford, Kent; Polegate, Sx; Purbrook, Portsmouth, Hants; Robertsbridge, Sx; Rotherwick, Basingstoke, Hants; Rye, Sx; Rye Harbour, Rye, Sx; Shoreham, Sx; South Chailey, Lewes, Sx; Staplecross, Robertsbridge, Sx; Steyning, Sx; Uckfield, Sx; Udimore, Rye, Sx; Waterlooville, Portsmouth, Hants; Whitesmith, Lewes, Sx; Winchelsea, Sx; Winchelsea Beach, Winchelsea, Sx; Windlesham, Sy; Withyham, Hartfield, Sx; and Woodchurch, Ashford, Kent.

Foiled Again!

Alda Milner-Barry of London SW15 wrote concerning the 22p Sport stamp: "As a fencer I am delighted to see fencing on a 22p stamp, but less pleased to read, in the May *Bulletin* that women will fence at Sheffield with the foil only. I can easily understand how you could have been misinformed (by officials parroting 10-year old information about the sport in general), but in reality women will be fencing also with the épée."

Mobile Post Offices

Mr H A Rathbone of Worthing is seeking information about the builders of the Mobile Post Offices. He believes that GPO2 was built in 1938 by the firm of Thomas Harrington Ltd, coachbuilders of Hove. Mr Rathbone is "helping to compile a record of the old company which unfortunately closed down in 1965... many records sadly seem to have been lost or destroyed." He would be pleased to hear, via the

Editor, from any reader who can confirm that Harringtons did in fact build GPO2.

Events

until 30 August 1991. "Post Office at Work in Edwardian Times" exhibition at National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, London EC1. Open Mon-Thu 9.30am-4.30pm; Fri 9.30am-4pm. Admission free.

until April 1992. "Stamping the Mail" exhibition at National Postal Museum. Opening times above.

5 July-29 September 1991. "The Pursuit of Perfection: The Photographs of Dorothy Wilding" exhibition at National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, London WC2. Open Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2-6pm. Admission free.

10-11 August 1991. Bristol and District Federation of Philatelic Societies Annual Convention at Somerset Hall, Portishead. 10am to 6pm. 40 stamp and postcard dealers, specialist society meetings, exhibition, junior attractions. Enquiries: John Tovey, 36 Northville Road, BRISTOL BS7 0RG.

23-25 August. Civil Censorship Study Group Annual Conference at Lancaster University. Displays, specialist dealers, conference dinner, etc. Details of programme from: Ian R Little, 29 Dunbar Crescent, SOUTHPORT, Merseyside, PR8 3AA, Tel. 0704-78462.

17 September-31 December 1991. "Maps and the Post Office" exhibition at National Postal Museum. Details above.

19-22 September 1991. British Philatelic Federation Congress at Dyffryn Conference Centre, Cardiff. Details from BPF, 107 Charterhouse Street, LONDON EC1M 6PT.

15-20 October 1991. Autumn Stampex/BPE at Royal Horticultural Halls, London SW1. Details from Stampex, 27 John Adam Street, LONDON WC2N 6HZ.

Postal Memorabilia. David Harrop will provide displays of postal memorabilia at the Cromford Steam Rally, Abbots Farm, Brackenfield, Alfreton, Derbyshire (3 & 4 August); Drifffield Steam & Vintage Rally, Drifffield, Yorks (10 & 11); Stichting Vestingdagen, Hellevoetsluis, Netherlands (16-18), Great Dorset Steam Fair, Tarrant Hinton, Blandford Forum (28 Aug-1 Sep). Further details from Mr Harrop on 061-442 1089.

Posting Boxes

122. George VI Box in USA

Mrs H Rowold of the Netherlands has submitted these photographs of a George VI box outside the post office in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. We should be interested to know how the box came to be there. It is of the standard design but is no longer in use, having



the aperture sealed. The bottom portion, normally mostly sunk below ground level, is visible; the box is mounted on a plate and stands on a stretch of grass in front of the post office.

Crawford Morison, Postmaster on the Scottish Isle of Iona, reports that a replica Penfold posting box has recently been installed on the island. A feature on the Iona Post Office was published in the May *Bulletin*. Mention of the replica boxes has been made here on several occasions, most recently in the April issue.

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 office.

Battle of the Somme. The Merseyside Branch of the Western Front Association has launched an appeal to raise funds to restore and conserve the colours of the four battalions of the Liverpool Pals. (The Pals were originally raised in Liverpool by Lord Derby and wore his crest as their cap badge.) A special cover has been produced; this bears the 20p Victoria Cross stamp cancelled with a special 1 July 1991 handstamp marking the 75th anniversary of the first day of the Battle of the Somme and the part played by the Liverpool Pals Battalions at Montauban. Price £3.50 plus 35p postage. Remittances payable to "Liverpool Pals Appeal Fund". Orders/enquiries: D W Sheard, Western Front Association Merseyside Branch, 47 Venables Drive, Spital, Bebington, WIRRAL L63 9LY.

Great Western Railway. 150 years ago in 1841 the GWR finally reached Swindon, Cirencester and Gloucester. Benham produced a cover in their GWR 150 series and sponsored a special handstamp at Gloucester on 31 May 1991. The cover bears a "railway Post Office stamp" and a cinderella GWR 150 railway stamp with pictorial cachet. Price £2.90 postpaid. Orders and enquiries about Benham railway covers to: Benham (A Buckingham) Ltd, Railway Section, Benham House, The Bayle, FOLKESTONE, Kent, CT20 1SD.

Royal 70th Birthday. To commemorate HRH The Duke of Edinburgh's 70th birthday on 10 June, Benham produced a rather unusual birthday cover which was flown to the Falkland Islands on the Royal Flight; each cover has the flight details printed on the reverse with the Falkland Islands backstamp to prove it has been there. The cover has a superb full-colour silk picture of Prince Philip and is cancelled with at special 70th birthday handstamp at Edinburgh. Price £5, including donation to charity, plus postage. Limited edition of 500. Orders/enquiries: Benham, address above.

Victorian Print Series. A G Bradbury began a series of covers depicting Victorian prints in 1985; the cover produced for the Sport stamps being the 59th in the series. The covers are limited editions, no more than 250 being produced. With effect from the Sports stamps he

has sponsored special handstamps for these covers; the handstamp includes reference to the Victorian Print Series. Covers 56, 57 and 58 for the Dogs, Science and Space stamps cost £9.75 each, covers for the Sports, Roses, Dinosaurs and forthcoming Maps and Christmas are all £6 each. Overseas orders add £1. Orders/enquiries: A G Bradbury, 3 Link Road, LEICESTER LE2 3RA.

World Rugby Football Cup. A Forces cover (ref. RFDC 94) was produced on 11 June 1991 in connection with the Sports stamps. The cover illustration celebrates England's Grand Slam with badges of the five nations involved. The cover bears the four stamps cancelled with a special handstamp and is autographed by Rory Underwood, wing for England 1984-91, who flew the covers in a Canberra. Price £4.75, remittances payable to "Joint Services Philatelic Charities Fund"; all proceeds to the RAFA Eagle Lodge Sheltered Housing Appeal. Orders/enquiries: Grp Capt W S O Randle, 60 Shelveys Way, TADWORTH, Surrey, KT20 8QF.

First Class Cricket. Somerset County Cricket Club produced a commemorative cover on 27 July 1991 to mark 100 years of first class cricket in Somerset. The cover shows a photograph of the County Cricket ground at Taunton with St James and St Mary church featured in the background. This limited edition of 3,500 covers will be cancelled with a special postmark, price £4. A small number of signed covers will be available. Orders/enquiries: Somerset 100, c/o Mr E H Lawrence, Coneybeare, Langford Budville, Milverton, TAUNTON, Somerset.

Roses. To commemorate the centenary of the Bromley NSPCC, a Forces cover (ref. RFDC 95) was produced for the Roses stamps. The cover design features the RAF Memorial Chapel surrounded by Rosa Baby Masquerade and Rosa Schoolgirl and the Children of the NSPCC logo. Covers bear the five Roses stamps cancelled by a first day handstamp, and the signatures of the Mayor of Bromley and Prof Terry Flanagan, Chairman of the Bromley Centenary Appeal. Price £5.25, remittances payable to "Joint Services Philatelic Charities Fund"; all proceeds to the NSPCC. Orders/enquiries: Grp Capt W S O Randle, address above.

Battle of the Somme. A special cover has been produced to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme and in particular the role of the 36th Ulster Division on 1 July 1916. The cover bears a 22p Northern Ireland Country stamp cancelled by a special five-pointed star handstamp of 1 July 1991. Price £2 plus 50p

postage UK, £1 overseas. Orders/enquiries: Phil Atellic, c/o 65 Dublin Road, BELFAST BT2 7HE.

Prince & Princess of Wales. Benhams have produced covers to commemorate the Princess of Wales's 30th birthday on 1 July and the 10th anniversary of the marriage of the Prince & Princess on 29 July. The 30th birthday cover bears an attractive "silk" illustration of the Princess. Price £2.90 per cover. Orders/enquiries: Benham, address above.

Dinosaurs. Benham has linked up with the Dinosaur Museum in Dorchester to produce commemorative covers. A special set of Dinosaur paintings has been commissioned from Gordon Davies for these covers. The main "BLCS cover" will cost £4.99 or £5.99 signed by the Director of the Museum. A cover featuring the Loch Ness Monster with Loch Ness Monster Inverness special handstamp will cost £4.99. The set of five Benham small "silk" covers will cost £12.50 and feature the Tyrannosaurus Rex; Pterodactyl, Triceratops, Diplodocus with baby, and Allosaurus. A set of five luxury "silk" postcards will also cost £12.50.

A limited edition (1,000) cover will be produced in connection with the Maidstone Museum; the cover features the Iguanodon mantelli. An almost complete skeleton of this creature was found in a quarry in Maidstone in 1834. Price £4.99. Orders/enquiries: Benham, address above.

Dinosaurs. Sir Richard Owen, first director of the Natural History Museum, first used the word *dinosaur* in 1841. A special first day cover (250 numbered copies) has been produced by A G Bradbury showing a cartoon of Owen sitting astride a giant ground sloth – a fossil mammal that was found in South America. A special Plymouth postmark will be applied. Price £9.75 (overseas add £1 postage) with a free set of 20 colourful Dinosaur stamps from around the world.

Mr Bradbury has also produced a cover on behalf of the Natural History Museum. The cover features the Iguanodon which was the first ever major dinosaur discovery. The cover bears the Dinosaur stamps cancelled by a special Natural History Museum London SW7 handstamp. Price £5.50 or £9.75 signed by the Director of the Natural History Museum. Orders/enquiries: A G Bradbury, address above.

Dundee Octocentenary. A cover has been produced by the Dundee & District Philatelic Society to mark the 800th anniversary of the

granting of a royal charter to Dundee. The cover design, by Owain Kirby, final year student at the Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art, Dundee, shows the granting of the charter. A seal appears on the special handstamp (1 June 1991) also designed by Mr Kirby. Covers bearing a 22p Scottish Country stamp are available price £1.50 or £5 signed by the Lord Provost of Dundee (limited to 100); overseas add 50p postage. Orders/enquiries: Colin G Campbell, 11 Denoon Terrace, DUNDEE DD2 2EL, Tel. 0382-67901. Remittances payable to "Dundee & District Philatelic Society".

Gulf Parade. A special cover was produced to mark the Gulf Parade in the City of London on 21 June. Some 200 covers were flown in a special fly-past and signed by members of the crew. Part of the proceeds from the sale of these covers will go to an RAF charity. Price £6.95 unsigned, £10 signed. Orders/enquiries: Arlington Supplies (Stamps and Coins) Ltd, PO Box 1102, BARNET, Herts, EN5 5AF.



Left to right, Owain Kirby, cover and handstamp designer, Thomas Mitchell, JP, Lord Provost, and Colin G Campbell of the Dundee & District PS. Photo by kind permission of D C Thomson & Co Ltd.

August Digest

Issued in August

6 August: Stamp books containing non-value indicator (NVI) stamps in flame (1st class) and bright blue (2nd):

4 x 1st class, printed by Walsall†

4 x 2nd class, printed by Walsall

10 x 1st class, printed by Walsall†

10 x 2nd class, printed by Walsall

10 x 1st class, printed by Harrison†

10 x 1st class, printed by Questa†

10 x 2nd class, printed by Questa

† = stamps as in previous books; book cover includes a new Freepost address to which to write for postal rate information.

Note: These books will be available from the British Philatelic Bureau, Collections and philatelic counters from 6 August; they will go on sale at post offices and retail outlets as stocks of old books are used up.

6 August: Dinosaur stamp cards (Nos. 137A-D), price 19p each.

20 August: Dinosaur stamps – 22p, 26p, 31p, 33p, 37p.

Designer: Bryan Kneale.

Printing: Harrison and Sons Limited, photogravure, 37 x 35mm, perforated 14½ x 14, phosphor coated paper, sheets of 100. PVA Dextrin gum.

Pictorial First Day of Issue postmarks: British Philatelic Bureau and Plymouth.

Presentation Pack: No. 220, price £1.80.

21 August: Dinosaurs souvenir cover, price 19p (available from Collections and philatelic counters).

Withdrawn in August

1 August: Queen Mother stamps, presentation pack, stamp cards and souvenir cover.

6 August: Mark IV stamp books issued 7 August 1990 – 4 x 1st and 2nd and 10 x 1st and 2nd Walsall; 10 x 1st and 2nd Harrison; and 10 x 1st & 2nd Questa. *Note:* The Walsall books have original closing tab; books with modified tab remain on sale.

31 August: Aerogramme Pack – 5 x standard aerogrammes & 1 x pictorial (issued 25 Aug 1990).

Railway Letter Stamps

Shown here are new stamps from the Mid-Hants Railway (29 March) and the North Yorkshire Moors Railway (16 July). Details were published in the *Bulletin* for May (page 219) and July (p.257).



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DR JEAN ALEXANDER

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 (c) = Correction
 (I) = Letter to the Editor
 Author's name in parentheses