

# THE GBPS NEWSLETTER

BI-MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE GREAT BRITAIN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Editor:

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THE SOCIETY DOES NOT NECESSARILY AGREE WITH THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY CONTRIBUTORS

## EDITORIAL

Ideally the *Newsletter* is produced in multiples of four A4 sides to avoid blank pages. We hit twenty sides at Christmas, and I hope you all enjoyed a relaxed read. There has been some discussion about what material should appear respectively in the GBJ and *Newsletter*. Harry Dagnall reminds us that the GBJ was to deal with philatelic matters and the *Newsletter* with society and members' matters, but the interface has become somewhat blurred.

The recent exchanges in the *Newsletter* about Black Plate 8 repairs is a case in point. The initial discussion was sparked off by a letter from Martin Jenkinson, to which several members responded in subsequent *Newsletters*. Mike Jackson would not have had the space to reproduce these letters, but perhaps a summary of the outcome of the discussion could appear in the GBJ?

Several members have told me they have enjoyed the longer articles which have appeared in recent issues. It is a feature I would like to sustain, but it relies upon members contributing in this vein. If you are able to write a piece along these lines, please do not be modest, they are ideal for the *Newsletter*, providing readers with something to get their teeth into, and the Editor with an article that can be used flexibly in any *Newsletter* to give the right balance. Hence I have had to hold over the second part of Phil Kenton's article on philatelic research until next issue, to cope with a larger than normal number of news items and illustrations.

I am pleased the competitor/judge articles last time have prompted some responses, all of which make interesting reading, particularly as they coincide with a report on our own Society competitions by **Allan Jones**, and comments on them by **Austin Davis**. One spin-off from entering a competition is 16 or more sheets neatly written up and readily available to fill in at

## FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

### **Saturday 3 March 2001 – Stampex Meeting**

*at the Business Design Centre, Upper Street, Islington*

2:30 p.m. Scottish Postal History –

**Scotia Philately Collection**

### **Saturday 17 March 2001**

*at the British Philatelic Centre*

11:00 a.m. Norfolk Postal History –

**Patrick Pearson RDP**

12:45 p.m. Mini Auction

2:30 p.m. Booklet Production & Distribution –

**Ian Harvey**

Dealers: Candlish McCleery, Peter Mollett

### **Saturday 21 April 2001**

*at the British Philatelic Centre*

11:00 a.m. Members' Workshop – bring something to enlighten others or bring your queries

2:30 p.m. **President's Display** – College Stamps etc.

Dealers: Bill Barrell, Tony Bellew

### **Saturday 19 May 2001**

*at the British Philatelic Centre*

11:00 a.m. President's Guest – **Robert I. Johnson**

2:30 p.m. 2000 Annual General Meeting

3:00 p.m. Great Britain Telegraphs – **Iain Stevenson**

Dealers: Stephen Sayer, Robert Danzig

### **Society weekend at York**

**26–29 July 2001**

**SEE PAGE 17 FOR FULL DETAILS OF THE YORK WEEKEND AND A BOOKING/RESERVATION FORM: DON'T WAIT!**

short notice at your local society. Three or four entries and you have an evening's display. As Austin Davis observes, the satisfaction is in participating, not necessarily in winning.

The record number of entries to the competitions this year is very encouraging, why not resolve to contribute next year. Meanwhile I am sure Council would welcome views from members about the Macpherson Cup, and how it might be revitalised.

In my first Editorial I related the experiences of one of my friends (pen friend) who lives in Russia, and the difficulties he experienced in collecting GB. Spare a thought therefore for our three Czech members (see inside) who are embarking on plating studies. Lastly thanks to **Peter Sargent** for his complimentary comments on the *Newsletter*, and his undertaking to contribute to it, when time permits . . .

**Tony Walker**

## DIVISIONS IN THE GBPS

**Charles Reid** responds to Robin Tibbenham's article last month about the Society, specialist interests within it, and other matters.

AS A COLLECTOR Mr Tibbenham obviously feels lonely and I am not surprised since he specialises in pre-decimal Machins. If ever there was a neglected period, it is these 2½ years and anybody glancing at a GB catalogue could be forgiven for thinking that these definitives could be dealt with in two album pages, whilst special issues might need 4 or 5. In truth, you can fill one or more 4-ring binders. It was only when I came back to the hobby in the early 1980s, after a complete break of 30 years, that I started to collect GB and made the mistake of asking a question about a Machin pane from a 10s booklet at a Decimal Booklet Study Circle meeting. I was nearly drummed out of the brownies, 'THIS Society is concerned with DECIMAL MACHIN booklets', so I recognise Mr Tibbenham's lonely feeling but I agree with very few of his later comments.

I disagree with the use of the term 'Divisions'. 'Areas of Interest' would be so much better and as for the statement that Philately has nothing to do with Postal History — well!

Many people inside and outside

the hobby look upon the term Postal History as referring only to letters sent prior to the introduction of the adhesives in 1840 but this is incorrect as every envelope delivered by the 'Postie' today could be looked on in, say, 50 years time as part of the 'Postal History of 2001'. Hopefully, at least some items will show correct use of our current range of adhesive postage stamps and there might even be one with a decent cancellation.

Some readers may wonder what I collect. The answer is GB only and Victorian Registered Mail takes first place, followed by 1841 and later 1d and 2d stamps, on or off cover, their plates, states and varieties. Add to that, Booklets from 1904 to 1985, and I have recently started to collect early Scottish Postal History, from 1700. Oh, when I have some spare time, I may take out my bundle of 3d panes from 10s Livingstone booklets to try to plate a few more of them.

Towards the end of his article, Robin Tibbenham bemoaned the fact that only one person made any remarks to him about his exhibit at Autumn Stampex. I was that person, which is why I have been prompted to respond and I must remind him that the vast majority of visitors to Stampex merely look on it

## NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to the following new members. I hope there are some aspiring contributors to the *Newsletter* amongst your ranks, **Martin Jenkinson** has set an example already.

|                            |            |
|----------------------------|------------|
| <b>R. Kirk</b>             | Lancashire |
| <b>R. Mattock</b>          | Plymouth   |
| <b>P. Radcliffe</b>        | Surrey     |
| <b>M. N. Jenkinson</b>     | Dorset     |
| <b>D. J. Milsted</b>       | Surrey     |
| <b>G. Maloney</b>          | Bradford   |
| <b>D. Johnson</b>          | Argyll     |
| <b>G. Tobutt</b>           | Middlesex  |
| <b>O. Sundstrom</b>        | Sweden     |
| <b>J. Dixon</b>            | Canada     |
| <b>M. Bloxham</b>          | Newcastle  |
| <b>Margaretha Raab</b>     | Sweden     |
| <b>Miss Hilary Warrell</b> | Middlesex  |

I regret to have to report the death of **Lord Spens** of Frittenden, Kent.

as being the biggest and best Stamp Fair in the London area, and they go to look for bargains. Sadly, the number who look at the competitive displays is minimal. Having gazed down from the balcony for a while, I should think that Mr Tibbenham's display near the entrance was looked at by more people than was the case for competitive entries, so he should not be too downhearted. As for lack of contact, I had to seek out several dealers in modern GB to find out if they knew him. None could say if he was at the Exhibition that day, but I said where I might be found. That is how we met. I have exhibited at Stampex for about 17 years now and have yet to be told that a visitor wanted to talk to me about something in my exhibit, so he has done much better than I have!

# SOCIETY'S ANNUAL COMPETITIONS 2001

**Allan Jones**, Our competition organiser, reports on the very successful annual competitions which took place during the well attended meeting on 20 January. Both the number of entries (18) and the number of participating members (13) was the highest he had experienced in the four years he has been running them. Further, the entries covered all periods from pre-stamp to QEII. so there was something on display for every interest group.

The panel of judges was chaired by **Jane Moubray**, and included our president **Chris Harman** and past president **Leslie Wilkinson**. Over two hours intensive and careful deliberation produced the following winners:

## The R. A. G. LEE CUP (7 entrants):

Winner: **Tony Walker** for the 4d value of the pre-decimal Machin definitives.

Other entries:

*Books of stamps*: I. Harvey

*1d Die II transitional shades*: A. Davis

*£1 machin head*: D. Evans

*1934 photogravure issues*: P. Turner

*Making collections more interesting to others*

(*Machins*): R. Tibbenham

*Britannia (Minerva) heads*: P. Tanner

(The judges transferred the last two entries from the Theo Jones to the Lee competition).

Sadly, there were no entries this year for the **Macpherson Cup**, which is for those persons who have been a Society member for less than five years, and who have not won a competition previously or an award above diploma level in a national competition. It is hoped that this can be put right next year. Allan expressed his thanks at the meeting to the judges and to all those who had attended and made the day such a success.

## REFLECTIONS ON THE SOCIETY'S COMPETITIONS

**Austin Davis** has written with a succinct appraisal of the rules of the Society's competitions, and concludes with some observations and suggestions which competitors, judges and members of Council may wish to ponder upon. With this subject also mentioned in 'The President Writes' as well as Allan Jones' report, it is very pertinent.

THE COMPETITION is very well organised and the rules are well defined and logical in each of the four awards. The competition promotes philatelic and postal history study and gives the competitor the opportunity to arrange his or her material to the best advantage within the relatively small number of sheets made available.

The team of judges then have the task of deciding how the marks are to be allocated in each of the

## THE MARTIN WILLCOCKS AWARD (9 entrants):

Winner: **Michael Brooks** for KEVII late fees.

Other entries:

*Sheffield sideways duplexes*: R. Barton

*KGV high values – early postal usage*: G. Webster

*Official franking*: R. Galland

*The early mails of the Shetland & Orkney Isles*

1665–1850: J. Grimwood-Taylor

*Circles and stamps*: T. Hediard

*KGVI airmails 1939–46*: G. Jessop

*The sr/cds of fleet post office A Scapa Flow*:

A. Walker

*Paid handstamps of the uniform penny postage*

1840–51: G. Jessop.

## THE THEO JONES SALVER (2 entrants):

Winner: **Michael Brooks** for novelty postcards

Other entry:

*Naval shore bases around Scapa Flow in WWI*:

A. Walker

## THE SECRETARIES' CUP

(which may be awarded by the judges for an entry that showed particular promise) was given to

**R. Galland**.

sub-divisions of each of the awards. This must be a very difficult task calling for all-round knowledge and skill, all exercised within a very limited time. This task made doubly difficult if a more than average number of entries is submitted.

The R.A.G. Lee award has 30% of marks for philatelic knowledge and 30% for importance. A further 20% is given for presentation and the remaining 20% for condition of the material.

The distribution of marks is understood, but how does a judge compare classics with more modern issues in the same competition. Once judged the entries are exhibited with only the briefest of judges comments. This is obviously due to the very limited amount of time left at the end of the session. However, what would be useful is to have informal comments from any of the judges on an individual

basis, if the opportunity arises. [For members who mail their entries because they are unable to attend the meeting, presumably there is no feed back at all — editor].

Entering a competition is a learning experience, where the competitor, to gain the maximum benefit, needs to gain all the information from the judges about the weak points and how higher marks may have been gained, as well as learning from other entries and from experienced collectors in general.

What would be very useful, would be a very brief written critique with the actual marks obtained in each of the categories. We were told the overall percentage mark of our entry, but I consider that a break down of

marks is a vital piece of information. We all enter with a positive and mature mind having carried out the task of entering a competition to the best of our understanding and ability. We know that the satisfaction is in entering and not necessarily in winning and that the judges decision is well considered and final. To this end it is a joy to see one's material under the bright lights and to say 'I did my best and I wish to learn all I can, and do better next time'.

If the above observations and comments promote some discussion amongst members, it will be for the good of the Society and to the furtherance of competitive philately and postal history.

## THE PERILS OF COMPETITION JUDGING

**Fred Taylor** writes:

THE RECENT CORRESPONDENCE regarding judging of competition entries produces different reactions in philatelists/postal historians depending on whether they are, or were, judges or competitors. Having judged at local competition level and been a competitor at various levels I can see the faults and problems from both sides of the fence. I am generally of the opinion that the judges' decisions have to be accepted whether you like them or not, even when they are wrong.

The only advice I would give to a judge is: don't try to give reasons for your decisions unless you are absolutely sure of your statements, as they may well show you to be totally wrong and you wouldn't want to have to re-adjust your results would you, perish the thought.

My reason for this advice to judges is based on what happened to a book I was encouraged to compile and publish in 1995 entitled *Colliery Postmarks 1854–1995*. I was persuaded to enter it into Lorca '98, a World Philatelic Literature Exhibition held in Grenada, Spain with over 400 competitive entries. I was surprised and pleased to be awarded a silver award. For a book dealing with a very narrow specialised topic I considered the award to be an achievement in a world class event. Out of the 358 entries in the main area of the event 163 were higher awards than mine but 180 were lower!

A short while later the ABPS event took place in Brighton & Hove and I submitted my book in the literature class. I was surprised to find my book was marked lower in this event than it had been in Lorca '98 although it still was given a silver bronze award. I have to admit my disappointment was replaced by annoyance after I received the 'judges' comments which were: *'It was considered that the title of this book is misleading as the subject is North East Collieries*

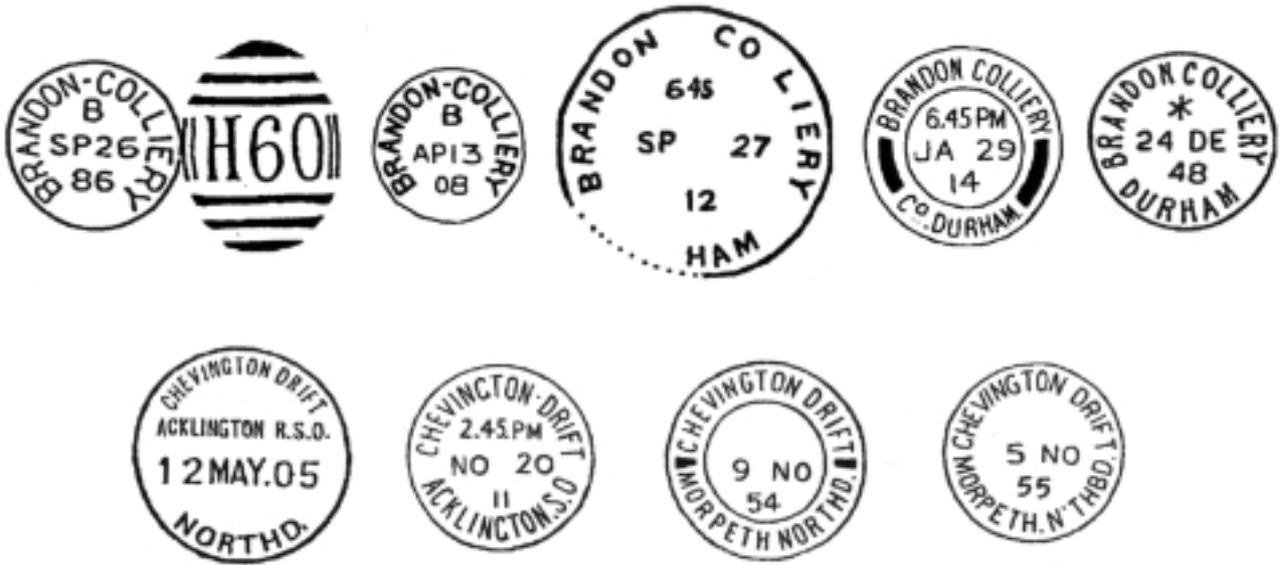
*only, i.e. no Wales or Derby etc.'*

Quite frankly the comments showed the 'judges' neither knew anything about the subject content of my book, nor had they even read the *first lines* of the *first page* which began:

*'This book was originally compiled as an aid to collectors of village postmarks of County Durham and Northumberland which contained the word 'colliery' in their inscriptions. However it was soon discovered during compilation of this book that the number of 'colliery' postmarks from other coalfields in England was so small that they could be easily listed on a single page and they are also included'.*

Prior to publication of the book I had consulted many other sources for possible material, e.g. Nigel Davidson, the North Wales specialist dealer of postmarks, in all his years of handling Welsh village postmarks had never seen one containing 'colliery'. Similarly, Harold Wilson, whose many philatelic roles include that of Editor of the Derbyshire Postal History Society journal, had never seen a 'colliery' postmark for that county.





That is why there are no colliery postmarks from Wales or Derbyshire in my book. However if the 'judges' can supply me with even one example I would be delighted to include it in the 4-page Addenda which I have compiled as a result of additional information supplied by eager readers.

I fail to see how the 'judges' could state that the title *Colliery Postmarks 1854-1995* was anything other than correct. Every postmark in the book, except one (Chevington Drift), contained the word 'colliery' and

they were all dated between 1854 and 1995. The 'Chevington Drift' postmarks were included, as 'drift' is a term describing a particular type of mine and was therefore a valid inclusion in the book.

I still have the 'judges' letter should you wish to verify any of the statements given above. I can also loan you a copy of the book if you are interested.

Editor: Fred gave me sight of the book from which I have selected some illustrations. If you would like a copy (£10 + p&p) please contact Fred or myself.

## COMPETITIONS AND JUDGING

**Philip Robinson** reflects on the complementary articles which followed the Editorial in the last Newsletter, on the disenchantment of a competitor and the views of a one-time juror:

I was very interested to read Stephen Holder's 'Judging Philatelic Exhibitions' and Trevor Pickering's 'Disenchanted Exhibitor' in *Newsletter* 267. I have not exhibited competitively in the UK since I surprised the Stampex judges in the 1980s with my postal history of Siberia (they were apparently so surprised that they gave me a vermeil medal). It follows that I can regard the recent controversy over judging at The Stamp Show 2000 as a

'disinterested observer'. One question that arises in my mind is this — are competitive exhibitions necessary?

I suppose that we live in a competitive world, and it is perhaps understandable that collectors might wish to achieve some recognition of their efforts, but it seems to me that only a minority of collectors are actively involved in this aspect of philately. I could name some superb exhibits that I have seen at national and international shows around the world, but I doubt if I could say which awards they received. The average collector can learn a great deal from viewing fine collections, presented in a logical and

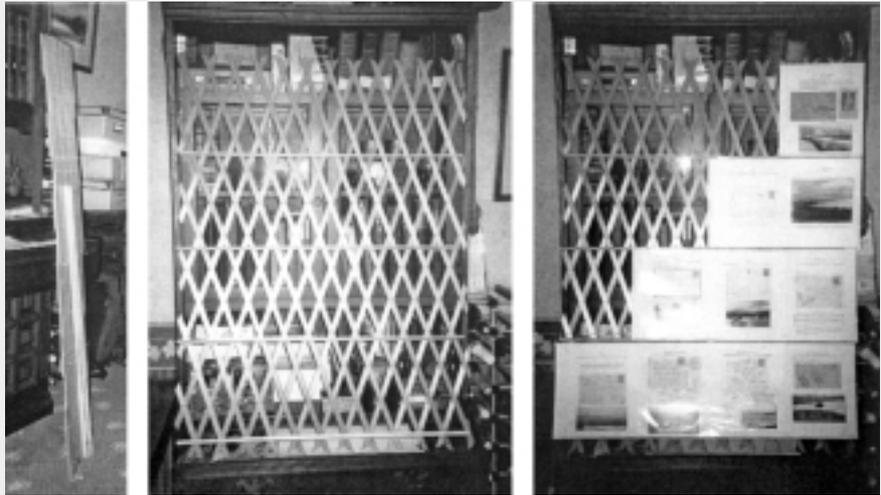
attractive way, and can enjoy viewing the material, without the knowledge that this or that person's exhibit got a medal of a certain colour. Non-competitive exhibitions fulfil the same role of presenting high-quality philatelic material to the public — without the danger of disgruntled exhibitors looking daggers at the jury.

I have a thematic collection, but some years ago I was told firmly by an experienced judge that it would have to be completely re-arranged, and 'irrelevant' material removed if I wanted to enter it in a competitive exhibition. Well, I am happy to collect the way I want to collect, without worrying about what judges think.

## DIY DISPLAY FRAME

IT IS IMPORTANT we are told, to ensure your pages 'balance' when mounted 4 x 4 in an exhibition or competition frame. Having struggled with cumbersome and somewhat unsatisfactory sheets of cardboard to create a frame at home, members might be interested in a much neater solution I now use.

It consists of a standard piece of expanding trellis from a local DIY store measuring about 1270 x 260mm when closed up. Four horizontal rows of four hooks are screwed in which each take an 'L' section of beading 865mm long.



The DIY display frame: (left) frame closed up for storage; (centre) frame and beading rails; (right) pages being mounted.

The great advantage of this frame is that it can be closed up and easily stored with the rails in a

wardrobe or on top of a cupboard. Maybe I should take out a patent?

**Tony Walker**

## PHILATELIC GROOMING AND FINE TUNING

**B**y one of those pleasant coincidences for the *Newsletter*, bearing in mind the ongoing debate on competitions and judging, I received information about a philatelic service that Gavin Littaur is establishing for the more serious collector/exhibitor.

As a collector for more than 40 years and a highly successful exhibitor for over 25 years with Large Golds at the London 1980 and 2000 Internationals together

with Special Prizes, and in addition Silver Mailcoach Trophies at Stampex, Gavin intends to put this experience to good use. He is offering an advisory service to those collectors looking to improve their collections in order to excel in competitive philately. With a number of outstanding GB collections due for auction this year (starting in March), he considers it is an ideal time to compose an exemplary GB exhibit, although his service will be

restricted to a limited number of clients.

The musical innuendoes of his advertisements in GSM and the forthcoming *London Philatelist* may not have escaped you: he is also an accomplished musician and composer and his grand piano logo is not an accidental choice.

Gavin Littaur can be contacted at 12 Rundell Crescent, London NW4 3BP, tel 020 8202 7200 or fax 020 8202 7202.



## BISHOP MARKS

**Martin Willcock** has the bit between his teeth:

First I would like to thank the 'Gallant Few' who responded to my request for information on Bishop Marks, originally published in the GBPS *Newsletter* for Sept/Oct 2000. They really were few! Please, if you have Bishop Marks in your collection, do let me

have details. What I have so far is probably not 'statistically significant'.

Second, to Fred Taylor. I believe it was you with whom I had a lengthy conversation on the phone and I thought that you were going to send me the information we discussed by post. Or was I mistaken? Anyway, I still need it

and would be grateful if you could send it to me.

I would remind you all of my new address details:  
42 Pearson Road, Cleethorpes,  
NE Lincolnshire DN35 0DT.  
Tel: 01472 691447;  
e-mail:  
captain@mwillcock.freemove.co.uk  
Many thanks.

## SOCIETY MINI-AUCTION 17 MARCH 2001 : URGENT

Information on this mini-auction at the meeting on 17 March just missed the deadline for the last Newsletter, **Bill Bird** writes:

The mini-auction starts at 12:45 p.m. and I am still able to accept lots, which you can bring to the meeting, however if time permits I would prefer you to send them to me, but this may not be possible. It is essential however that I receive brief details of each lot and a reserve price (or a 'no reserve' tag), please telephone, fax, e-mail or write, details below.

This is a fun event, but the Society benefits by charging vendors 10% of successful bids, bidding can be quite competitive at times, which is part of the fun. It is unlikely I will be inundated with material and have to ration contributions, more likely I will have to call on dealer friends if past experience applies. Having retired, I am no longer able to raid my own stocks, they are non-existent. **So, members, please send me something to auction.** Bill Bird, The Old Wier House, St Peter Street, Marlow, Bucks SL7 1NQ. Tel: 01628 486321, Fax: 01628 488859  
e-mail: william.bird@virgin.net

## SHREVES AUCTION GALLERY

MEMBERS may well have received an auction catalogue from this US Auction House. At their request the Society agreed to make a special posting to members, paid for by Shreves, of this important GB auction catalogue.

The auction contains the magnificent collection of line-engraved GB stamps formed by Dr Pichai Buranasombati and one of the Grand Prix nominations at The Stamp Show 2000 last year.

## MILLENNIUM ISSUES : A RESIGNATION MATTER

THE MILLENNIUM ISSUES generated much adverse criticism both for their design and quantity, some people perhaps jumping on the bandwagon, However **Leslie Wilkinson** the Subscription Treasurer has told me at least two members have left the Society because they have given up collecting GB, and have moved on to other countries. It is always sad to lose members, but one has to admire their strength of feeling about the issue. I hope in due course we can entice them back to the fold, or maybe that is up to the post office and their stamp design and issuing programme.

## DEALERS' DIRECTORY

*Geoffrey and Andrew Chappell of [www.qvpennies.com](http://www.qvpennies.com) have pointed out that in the last Newsletter we referred to their Web site (which offers 1d blacks, 1d reds and 2d blues including specialist material) as 'qvpennies'. Perhaps a Freudian slip as they are based in Leeds, just to the east of the Pennines! Their Web site offers hundreds of items for sale, all with images.*

### GB POSTAL HISTORY

Extensive stock of county and subject material for all collectors to advanced level – specialist Scottish section. Established 1981.

**David Shaw (GBPS), PO Box 27, Malton, N.Yorkshire YO17 7GJ. Tel/Fax 01653 694953**  
**E-mail: [david@davidshawpostalhistory.com](mailto:david@davidshawpostalhistory.com)**

### CORBITTS

Regular auction with large GB section. Leading buyers of general, country or specialist collections. Contact us for auction catalogues and visit our Web site:

**[www.corbitts.com](http://www.corbitts.com)**  
**5 Mosley Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 1YE. Tel. 0191 2327268; Fax: 0191 2614130.**  
**E-mail: [info@corbitts.co.uk](mailto:info@corbitts.co.uk)**

### GB POSTAL STATIONERY

The most comprehensive stock anywhere. Free price list for s.a.e. 9"x6½" stamped for 250 grammes. Keen buyer of clean mint pre-1967 including overprints for overseas use, and clean used pre-1927. Send any quantity well packed for my offer, but phone first for later issues.

**Andrew Whitworth, Prizet House, Kendal, Cumbria, LA8 8AB, UK. Tel: 015395 60848.**

### GB LINE-ENGRAVED ON THE INTERNET

A large selection of 1d blacks, 2d blues and 1d reds — on and off cover with many varieties and interesting items, plus a selection of rarities. Visit our web-site —

**[www.qvpennies.com](http://www.qvpennies.com)**  
**Geoffrey Chappell, Leeds. Tel: 0113 2656211 or E-mail: [g.chappell@virgin.net](mailto:g.chappell@virgin.net)**

### MAINLY SPECIALISED KGV CONTROLS

Fine postage stamps of GB, particularly 1911–1936. Please contact us at:

**Stephen W. Bainbridge, PO Box 46, North Walsham, Norfolk, NR28 0GY, UK. Tel/Fax: 01692 500525**  
**E-mail: [stephen.bainbridge@btinternet.com](mailto:stephen.bainbridge@btinternet.com) or visit [www.swbstamps.co.uk](http://www.swbstamps.co.uk)**

### GB POSTAL HISTORY PRE-STAMP AND STAMP ISSUES QV 1840–GEO VI 1952

Specialist in the QV Line-Engraved issues. Wants lists welcome.

**Peter J. Markham, 61 Lindsay Park, Burnley, Lancashire, BB10 3SQ**  
**Tel: 01282 420127, Fax: 01282 425850**  
**Email: [mail@peterjmarkham.fsbusiness.co.uk](mailto:mail@peterjmarkham.fsbusiness.co.uk)**  
**Or visit our website: [www.QV-line-engraved.co.uk](http://www.QV-line-engraved.co.uk)**

## THE PRESIDENT WRITES . . .

**A**ny winter meeting with the trains not running well has the potential of a very low turnout. However, if our meeting on 20 January was anything to judge by, the GBPS is in very good shape as a society. The mezzanine room at 107 Charterhouse Street was full to the brim, with upwards of 40 people attending during the day.

This excellent attendance no doubt had a great deal to do with the quality of the displays. Both Alan Huggins and Tony Wiseman

can always be counted on not only to show very fine and interesting material but also to entertain and instruct their audience. We were not disappointed in either of these. We also had a very high number of entries to the competitions, including two very fine entries in the Theo Jones open class competition, and Allan Jones has reported on the results elsewhere in the *Newsletter*. Once again the Macpherson competition, for recently joined members, was a disappointment with no entries. The Council will be debating whether this competition should be changed to cover a different subject.

Is it just in my own collecting field or is the GB stamp market very healthy at present? There seems to be considerable competition for material at auction and major collections seem to be absorbed with ease. The Wilding era has been particularly interesting over the last year. Firstly, Grosvenor had a very fine collection from, I believe, an Australian collector where competition was very fierce. This was followed late in the year by Spink, with some of the rarest Wilding items seen for a very long time, including material from the NPM sales. Once again, this seems to have been absorbed with ease. As programme secretary I

would love to organise a display of Wildings. If a member reading this is the owner of such a collection and would be willing to give a display, please contact me. On other areas of GB, Cavendish get some excellent prices for postal history and it will be interesting to see how the Pichai line-engraved, one of the grand prix nominations at London 2000, sells when it comes up in New York later this year. All GBPS members will have the chance to receive a free catalogue courtesy of the auctioneers, Shreve.

The GBPS was most fortunate to receive an offering of a substantial addition to the society library, originally owned by its founder Ronald A. G. Lee. The Lee library had been kept by his wife Alma after his death and, when she died last year, it was divided between the Royal Philatelic Society, the GBPS for the Great Britain section, and the National Philatelic Society. All this was organised by Past President Alan Huggins, to whom I have written expressing our thanks. The books involved include some of the greats of philatelic literature. A more detailed list will appear in a later *Newsletter*.

**Chris Harman**

### FOR THE POETICALLY MINDED . . .

**Frank Allan** was mortified (without cause) at what he deemed to be a feeble gag in his article last *Newsletter* about antiseptic properties etc. To atone for this he presents the following English version of a haiku

**Antiseptic  
Occidental oxidant  
Chloramine-T  
Unfoxes**

*(For the less literary inclined a haiku is a Japanese 3-line poem of 17 syllables).*

## POSTING THE GBJ/NEWSLETTER

**Leslie Wilkinson** writes:

EACH YEAR with subscriptions I always get a few moans or suggestions from overseas members, especially those in North America, about having stamps on the Journal mailings. I normally write back saying that all

correspondence from officers etc. should have stamps, but as the Journals are despatched direct from the printers it is not possible or economically viable to arrange for individual items to be taken out and individually stamped, bearing in mind our total membership.

I know Council have looked at

this on several occasions in the past but the bottom line is that if you want an individual service it would have to be paid for, even if the printers were willing!

This note will I hope indicate to members that we are aware of their wishes, but that it is not practical to realise them.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS: FINAL REMINDER

NO SELF-RESPECTING PHILATELIST should miss out on receiving *The GB Journal* or the *Society Newsletter*. Subscriptions for 2001 were due on 1 January — if you have not yet paid this could be the last mailing you receive unless payment is made without delay. The necessary forms, with

subscription rates, were included with the November/December *Newsletter* and a reminder included in the January/February one. **Please send your subscription as soon as possible direct to our Subscription Treasurer, Leslie Wilkinson, Flat 6, 68 Warminster Road, London**

SE25 4DQ. Thank you.

The usual crop of December/January last minute payers has not materialised says Leslie. Perhaps you were all soporific over the long Christmas break, but it's March now so there's no excuse. Cheque books out please.

## BLACK PLATE 8 REPAIRS

**Dave Leivers** wrote in with some observations on the Plate 8 debate, but as **Bill Bird** observed, this particular enquiry has been put to rest. However Dave does recommend *Repairs of the 1841 One Penny Plates 1–40 (1973)* by **J. W. M. Stone** as a good reference.

Finally **Martin Jenkinson** has this to say:

For me as a relative beginner in this fascinating area of specialisation (although I have been collecting for some forty years, it is

only relatively recently that I have delved so deeply into the arcane field of Black Plate repairs), this has been a most educational process. Above all, I have been overwhelmed by the extent of expertise available, and the enthusiastic willingness of those experts to share their knowledge unstintingly. I am grateful for their support and encouragement.

Whilst I appreciate that your *GBPS Newsletter* probably does not have sufficient available space for publication in full of this rambling

and involved epistle, I should be most grateful if you would consider publication of some sort of edited version of it, so that at least your readers know the final result of this little conundrum, and also expressing my gratitude to your readers for their assistance.

*I have suggested to Bill Bird and Mike Jackson that just such a summary might appear in the GBJ, but as a Machin specialist myself, it will have to be by the pen of someone else — Editor.*

## CAN YOU HELP: PLATING THE LINE-ENGRAVED

WE HAVE RECEIVED a request from **František Neuzil** who wrote in on behalf of our Czech members, comprising **Miroslav Št'otka, Pavel Pašćák** and himself, when they jointly paid their annual subscriptions. I have passed a copy of their letter to **Bill Bird**, the Society's Line-Engraved consultant. However I am sure **František** would be pleased to hear from others. This is his request:

We are sending member fees for the next year. Could you help us with some tips? Do you know somebody who could help us with Plating of Line-Engraved? We make an effort to plate all our Penny Blacks, and Penny Reds using *The essential guide to the Great Britain line engraved 1d and 2d stars 1840–1864*, Volumes 1–10. As you can imagine, many stamps are very difficult to plate,

so we are searching for somebody with more experience, of course not too expensive.

Thank you very much in advance.

*František can be contacted at 30 Dubna 1, 710 00 Ostrava 1, Czech Republic or e-mail stotka@msa.cz*

*Bill tells me he has responded to František, offering a specialist plating service at £1.00 per stamp.*

## GB DECIMAL STAMP BOOK STUDY CIRCLE

**Roger Knights** the PR officer for the Study Circle extends a warm invitation to any GBPS members to attend their 30th anniversary meeting at Langley in Birmingham on 8 April this year. Details are available on their Web site at [www.gbdsbsc.kabsi.at](http://www.gbdsbsc.kabsi.at) which Roger modestly points out was stated as '... one of the most impressive specialist sites. . . ' *Stamp Magazine* June 2000. Alternatively he can be contacted on 01480 468622.

# A VIEW OF WILDINGS

**R**ob Tibbenham explains this issue is so called because the photograph used to produce the definitive series, was taken by the Wilding Studio. Dorothy Wilding was a leading portrait photographer in the 1930s and had certainly retired if not died by 1952. However her studio was in full swing and they produced a series of photos, from which the final choice was made. There was additional work by various artists to produce the frames which surround the portrait and to my eye they are extremely fussy but not unattractive as suggested by our Editor.

This series of definitive stamps is extremely complex and there is still a large amount to find out about many aspects of their production. Those who wish to specialise in their collection will find it hard going, many items are no longer available and few dealers understand them properly. Those who wish to make a representative collection will also find that some items are now expensive. Thus it is with all forms of collecting that many of us have gaps which we cannot fill. *Ce la vie!*

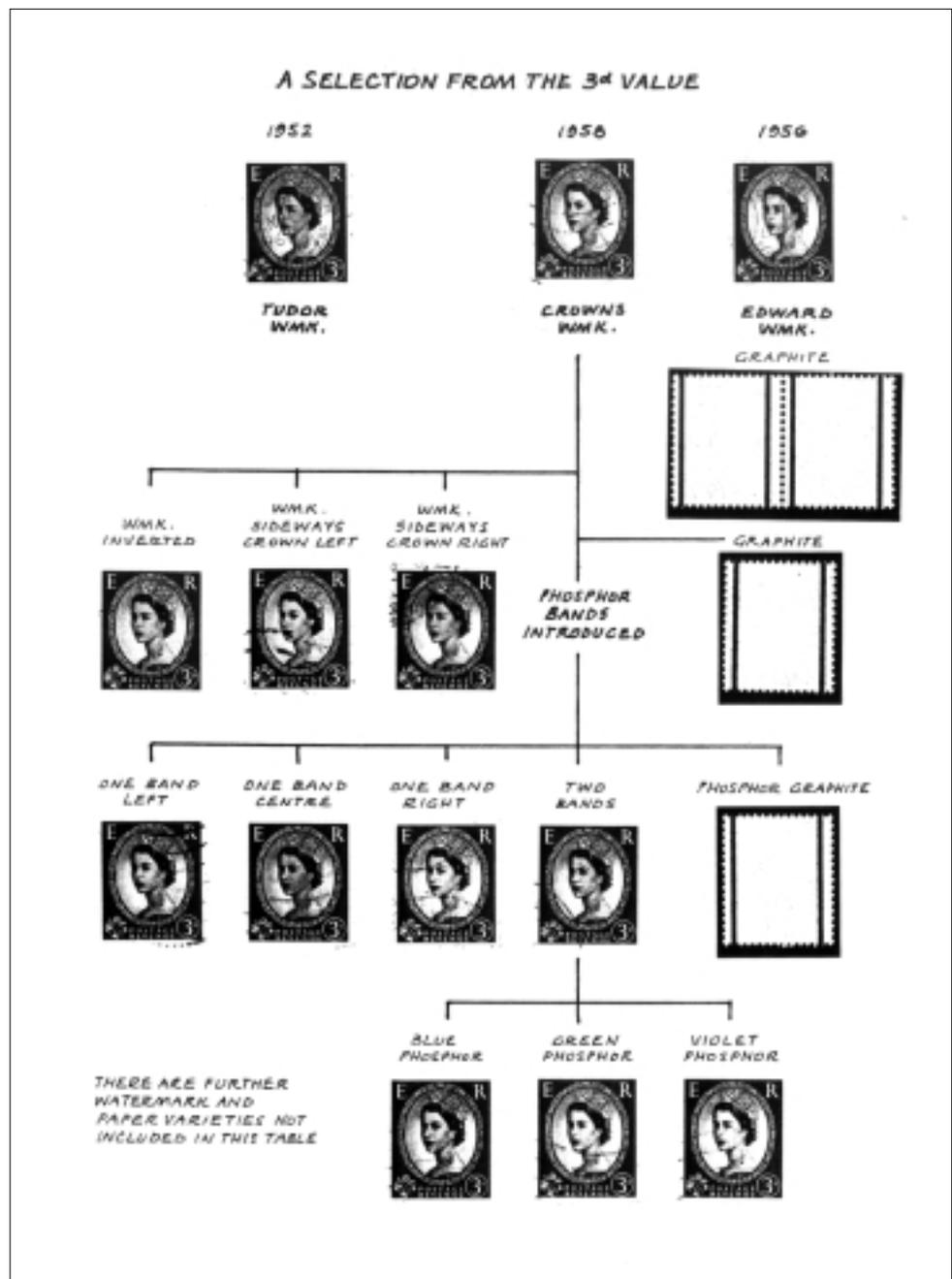
Watermarked paper was still the order of the day and the series was printed on three different watermarked papers, a) Tudor Crown, a QE2 cypher plus a flat crown, b) St Edward's Crown, a QE2 cypher plus a much taller crown surmounted by a cross (very different and cannot be confused with the first, always assuming you can see the watermark!), and c) finally a multiplicity of St Edward's crowns with no cypher and the least easy to distinguish.

To add to the problems with watermarks, there were two differing types of paper used by the printers, Harrison & Sons,

during this period. The first was described as cream coloured, and mostly appears so. The second was named whiter and has a large range of whiteness. My advice is to utilise a short wave Ultra Violet (UV) source to determine these with certainty. Cream paper does not fluoresce but whiter paper does.

In the middle of the Wilding era, certain experiments were carried out, in connection with the automated letter sorting system the Post Office wanted to set up. Coated paper was used for some booklet production, known to most as chalky, but this is a misnomer and the argument over this has only just begun.

Graphite lines were also printed on the backs of stamps to enable (so the PO hoped) the machinery to





COURTESY SPINK — DECEMBER 2000 AUCTION, EX LOT 182

recognise first and second class mail. Although these appeared in three differing guises they were not a success due to interference from pins, paper clips, etc., in the letters themselves. The last production of graphite lined stamps was a dual experiment, phosphor lines were printed on the front of the stamps, mainly being placed centrally over the perforations.

A pause here to get technical unfortunately, but you have to get some technical knowledge to go anywhere in modern stamps. Phosphors and Fluors are two sides of the same coin — they accept light from a (mainly invisible to us) source and then emit light that is visible to us. Fluors emit light whilst the UV source is still on and although Phosphors also (sometimes) emit light at this time it is never strong enough to be seen against the fluorescent light. Phosphors do emit light after the source is switched off. Some chemicals have both properties. These can be organic or inorganic.

Organic chemicals were chosen by our postal authorities because it had been found, elsewhere, that the inorganic materials being very hard, caused problems with the perforating machinery.

Three differing phosphor inks were tried, these are known to philatelists as Green, Blue and Violet. The first, Green, was not particularly bright and was soon replaced with the Blue version. This was much more successful, unfortunately it had been chosen for the machinery to utilise for the address coding. Thus we ended up with the third variety, Violet. This has been described as 'black' phosphor because it does not fluoresce — whereas the first two did.

Having considered the material used, it is necessary now to be more technical. How the phosphor ink was applied. A photogravure cylinder could be made to utilise any 'ink' and providing there were more than two cylinders available on the machine, (one to print the stamps and the other to print the bands), this was the chosen method of production. However as the volumes of stamps required was forever rising, the numbers produced

could not keep up with demand. Many supplementary printings had to be made and most of these had to be done on printing machines that only had a single cylinder. The phosphor bands were then applied by a number of differing ways. These are recognisable and form yet more branches of specialisation. It is here that much uncertainty still exists. One prime example is that of a photogravure cylinder produced for use at the end of the Wilding period, which in error contained mixed screens (all photogravure production is based on so many lines to the inch, for the angled lines which give the cells for printing). The point is that many Wilding collectors do not appreciate this cylinder was made for 'their' stamps.

The differing forms of production, i.e. sheets, coils and booklets, completes the complications. Here it needs to be understood that booklet and coil

production was, at least in the first part of the era, experimental.

Finally can you consult an all embracing catalogue or guide of any sort? Regrettably the answer is no! SG's *Specialised Part 3*, is as good as you will get unless you buy very specialised books on various aspects of Wilding collection. You should bear in mind that not every

one agrees with everything in SG either!

One last aspect of Wilding collection needs to be mentioned, the Wilding Regional stamps. These appeared at the end of the era and went on until decimalisation. They form a bridge between Wildings and Machins for specialists to study and others to think about. Again there is not the interest there should be in these issues. You may, of course, take an interest, at some level, in the higher value stamps, which were produced during the era. However they were not Wildings and represent a separate area of collection and study.

So collect your Wildings, study them closely, consider their origins and manufacture and you will never want for something to do when the computer and the television break down. Enjoy Wildings then come and join me in the collection of Machins!!



COURTESY SPINK — DECEMBER 2000 AUCTION, LOT 196

# INITIAL PROBLEMS

**T.M.B or not T.M.B**

**Sam Lawrence** wrote further on the matter of what TMB stands for, and he was not convinced by Harry Dagnall's suggestion in the last Newsletter, who he feels might be confusing MONEY ORDER, the item to be sent, with MONEY BRANCH, the method by which the money was transferred:

The joining of all the post offices to the Telegraph system was not achieved overnight, and as I stated previously, the ready made railway telegraph system was at hand. Consequently, and it is a matter of record, the first post offices to be joined to the system were those offices close to the nearest rail head or station.

The inference therefore is that not every branch could transmit money via the post office system. Only those connected up to the telegraph system could do this.

It further follows that the post office had to inform the public which offices had this facility. (Similarly, notices eventually appeared outside some post offices saying 'You may telephone

from here' for the same reason) and I have such a notice gracing the door to my study.

I would be interested to know how it is that 17 years after the Nationalisation of the telegraph system, there appears on Harry's abbreviations list of 1887, at least five independent telegraph companies who had long since shut up shop when they were incorporated into the GPO in 1870.

Until you get further communications with regard to my original enquiry I shall have to assume that the situation was as stated above.

**Martin Evans** perhaps, provides the answer:

I think I may be able to answer Sam Lawrence's query, since in June 1971 a letter of mine to the editor of *The Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* (p. 36) was published in which I enquired 'Can anyone tell me what the boxed initial cancellations often seen on Victorian high value stamps stands for? I have noted C.M.B/G.P.O, T.M.B/G.P.O and O.P.T.B/G.P.O'.

In the September 1971 issue of the PJGB (pp. 74 & 75) a two page article appeared entitled 'Boxed Initials Cancellations on Victorian High Value Stamps' by A. J. Lowe, to this was added a note by the editor Marcus Samuel who had visited Post Office Records and he had been advised by them that T.M.B signifies Telegraph Message Branch.

This confirms the doubts of Harry Dagnall that M.B. does not stand for Money Branch.

**Max Melrose** was prompted to write in following the T.M.B. items, and makes this contribution:

Anyone collecting used material will have experienced the frustrations of not being able to find any references to a 'set of initials'. I have also had this problem with both T.M.B./G.P.O and T.A.B./G.P.O. However I feel sure T.A.B. stands for Telegraph Accounts Branch as I have seen a c.d.s. with Accounts Branch and office name on high values, and initials A.B or Accounts Branch on office of works official envelopes.

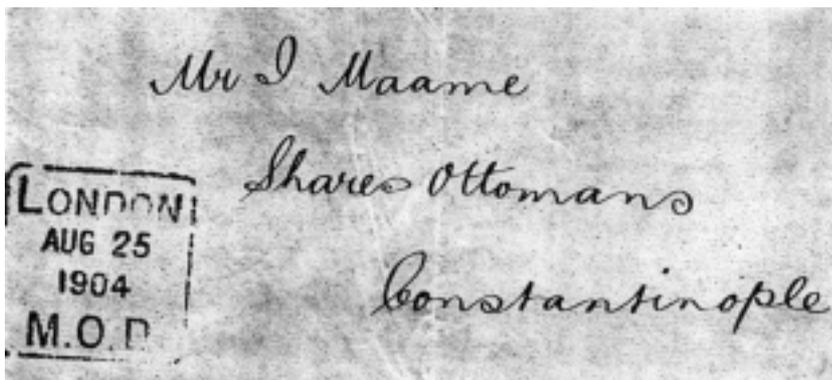
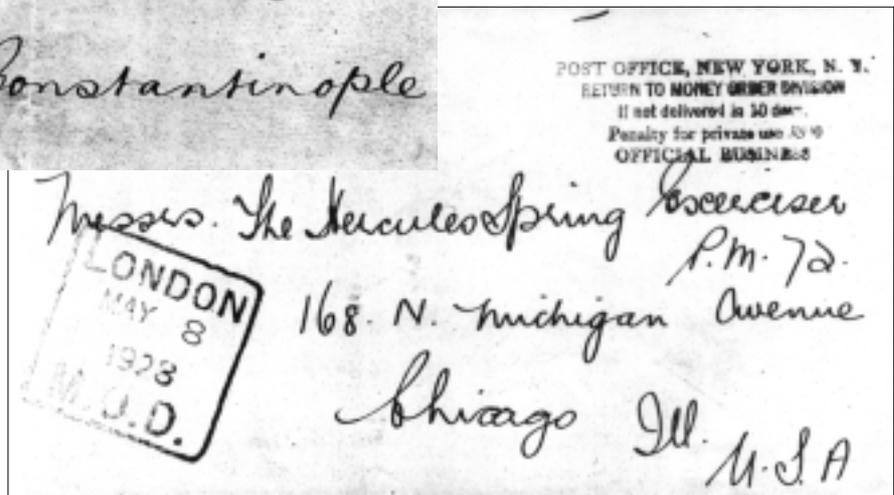


Fig. 1



**M.O, S.B and M.O.D**

Max continued with the initials search:

The M.O. & S.B. are missing from the 1887 list, and M.O.D. has intrigued me for some time since I first found a cover dated 25 August 1904 and described as Ministry of Defence, but at that time 'war' was the name of the game. It was not until a second superb parcel post item came my way in a lot of transatlantic covers was the mystery solved. You can take your pick as the illustrations show, Money Order Division from the Post Office in New York (Fig. 1) or Money Order Department on form T.M.O. – No.1 (Fig. 2).

T.M.O.—No. 1.  
 This Form is of no pecuniary value. It should be retained by the Remitter, and should accompany any enquiry respecting the order to which it relates.

**Certificate of Issue of a Money Order.**

To be used for {  
 1. Telegraph Money Orders (Inland and Foreign).  
 2. Ordinary Money Orders, payable in the Countries named below.\*  
 3. Ordinary Money Orders, payable abroad, advised to the Money Order Department, London, by telegraph.

|                          |                  |      |    |
|--------------------------|------------------|------|----|
| Stamp of Issuing Office. | No. of Order     | 282  |    |
|                          | Payable at       | Hull |    |
|                          | Amount of Order  | 10   | 0  |
|                          | Poundage         |      | 6  |
|                          | Telegraph Charge |      | 7  |
| Supplementary Fee        |                  |      |    |
|                          | Total            | 10   | 11 |

*Em. Stubbings*

In the case of a remittance to any of the undermentioned places no Order is handed to the remitter for transmission to the post. The remittance is advised through the Money Order Department, London, to the proper Post Office abroad, and that Office arranges payment in accordance with its own regulations.

Fig. 2 — Form T.M.O. – No.1



Fig. 3

**C.H.C./E**

Max Melrose is obviously on a roll here, and asks if anyone can identify this triangular mark (Fig. 3), enclosing the initials C.H.C. above the letter E, which he has on piece with a 1s brown Plate 13 postmarked Portaskaig.

**H.M.S./CENSORED**

Fred Taylor has sent in a copy of a circular handstamp 'H.M.S./CENSORED' with a thistle in the centre (Fig. 4) and asks if it can be identified. I do not have it in my collection and I cannot find it in Michael Gould's WWI British Naval Censor Marks — any offers? It is on piece with a KGV 1d adhesive with London c.d.s.



Fig. 4

**RUMBLINGS AT THE ROYAL**

I HAVE JUST received the January/February 2001 edition of *The London Philatelist*, the journal of the Royal Philatelic Society of London. Much of the contents are devoted to a detailed record of the Extraordinary General Meeting called by members to discuss the refurbishment of 41 Devonshire Place. The original proposals by the Society's Council had not been well received by the members. Chris Harman, a Vice President of the Royal was tasked with summing up the debate and said it was not the case that Council was trying to force a scheme on the membership. He went on to say the Society cannot

have a closed mind and that we need to learn about this unfriendly atmosphere, and how we welcome people to this Society. Chris said he was not personally aware of this unfriendliness.

Many of our own Society Officers (and no doubt members) are also members of the Royal. The RPSL is certainly an important Society, perhaps also somewhat self-important. We must ensure the GBPS is never unfriendly, particularly to newcomers or people outside the central core. We should always welcome people to our ranks. By the way I am also a member of the Royal of many years standing — *Editor*.

# SELF-ADHESIVES

**Edgar Smith** writes:

PVA is not a gum. The technical term is water-soluble adhesive.

Self-adhesives are pressure-sensitive adhesives. The USA Collectors Club of Chicago (CCC) Report No. 5, mentioned under 'Philatelic Reports' in the January 2001 *Newsletter*, is appropriate. Note that CCC has not examined UK stamps.

The British philatelic press has rubbished Royal Mail for a slowness in introducing self-adhesives. After reading the CCC report, and noting problems abroad, collectors may congratulate Royal Mail for its conservative approach. Servicing first day covers with self-adhesives is more difficult than with normal stamps. First day cover collectors and dealers may consider that Royal Mail's rubbishers have done their hobby a disservice.

A UK self-adhesive stamp is a sandwich comprising:

Phosphor bands, Printing ink, Coated paper, PVA water-soluble adhesive, Acrylic polymer, pressure sensitive not water soluble, Backing foil.

The purpose of the PVA water-soluble adhesive, apparently, is to avoid the acrylic polymer contaminating the stamp. For collectors this PVA adhesive allows used stamps to be removed from envelopes. The CCC report discusses various problems with

self-adhesives. These problems are summarised below, but obtaining and reading the original reports is recommended.

1. Cold flow. The acrylic polymer oozes around the edge of stamps, and stamps then stick to mounts.
2. Adhesive hardening. Over time the adhesion increases, making removal of stamps more difficult.
3. Long term stability. Some USA conservationists consider that the product is not 'archivally' safe.

The first UK self-adhesive stamps were issued on 19 October 1993 in books of 20. The stamps are now difficult to remove from backing foil. There is no visual evidence of cold flow. The question arises: does adhesive hardening prevent cold-flow? Clearly the UK needs an organisation, similar to CCC, to determine the condition of these stamp books scientifically.

Pressure-sensitive stamps are produced in sheets of 100 stamps, in miniature sheets, booklets and coils. Multiples can be housed just like water-soluble adhesive stamps. Mint singles can be collected complete with backing foil, or soaked off like used stamps. Some conservationists do favour removal of the adhesive. We can't predict if a future problem will, for certain, occur in say 30 years. But it if does

occur, then it will be too late to take action. Used stamps and 'de-adhesived' mint stamps must be separated from envelopes or backing foil at an early stage, before adhesive hardening occurs. As an insurance policy it's sensible to collect singles used and/or as mint 'de-adhesived'.

Soaking stamps off paper may affect the phosphor bands. As an additional insurance policy collect singles on first day covers.

*This should give Toby Messenger something to think about, as it was he who raised the question of collecting self-adhesive in the last Newsletter.*

## FURTHER ARCHIVING AND READING

**Edgar Smith** has e-mailed with a good list of organisations and publications in the archive field, and also some 'essential reading for philatelists'. This will appear in the May/June edition.

## PHILATELY ON THE RADIO

It's a few weeks back now, but did anyone else hear John Humphries interviewing two stamp collectors on the Today programme, around 8:15 a.m. on 4 January?

Unfortunately I missed most of the discussion, and who participated although I probably would have learned very little as both people spoke at once. Humphries concluded the piece by saying, no doubt tongue in cheek 'If you want an animated discussion, go for stamp collecting'. Further information awaited with interest — *Editor*.

## FORGED KING GEORGE VI FIRST DAY COVERS

**Edgar Smith** alerted us to the following warning, reproduced from the February 2001 issue of First Day Coverage:

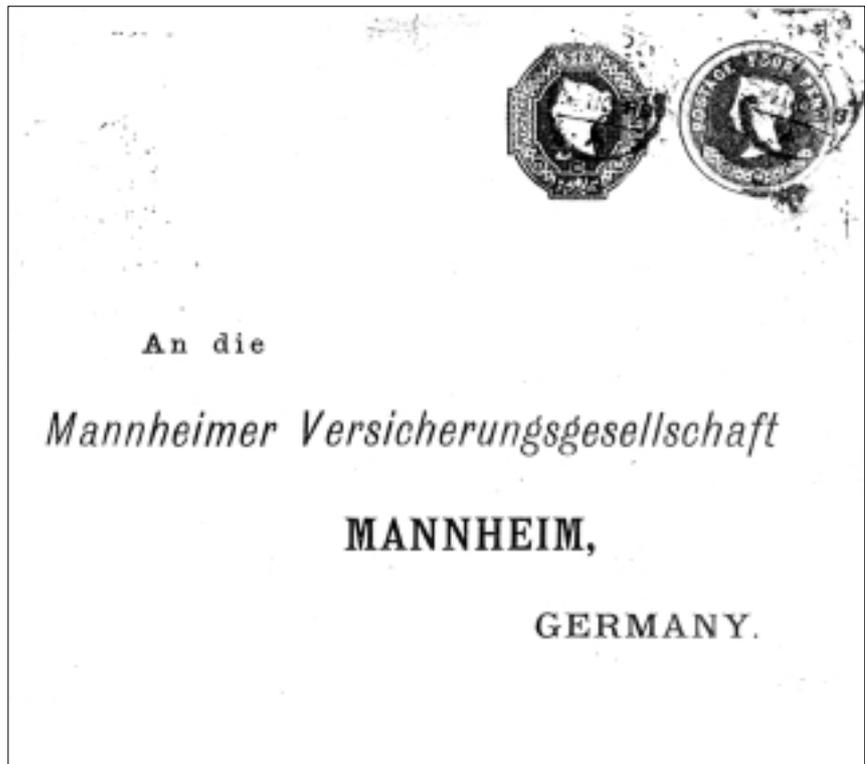
'Certain covers such as the 1951 Festival of Britain with Battersea cancel are being offered for sale via eBay. Please be aware that some of the covers offered have been discovered to be forgeries. One of the ways to tell is whether there is any indentation of the c.d.s. on the stamps or the cover itself. It is unknown how many covers are being offered in this way, but please be on your guard when purchasing covers.'

## CAN YOU HELP: POSTAL STATIONERY

*Burkhart Beer, one of our more active members from Germany, has asked:*

Can anyone help me with pre-addressed postal stationery items from the German Mannheimer Insurance Co., who had seven agencies in Britain in the 19th century. The pre-addressed envelopes had various compound stampings and I am seeking to discover how many combinations exist, how many stationery envelope types and sizes exist, and any other information. Illustrated is a typical example.

I can be contacted at:  
Dachsbau 12, 40789 Monheim  
am Rhein, Germany.



## CAN YOU HELP: BOOKLET ADVERTISING

*The indefatigable Robin Tibbenham is starting out on another sideline study, that of advertisements in stamp booklets, and makes the following request:*

I am attempting to get skeletons (i.e. booklets without stamp panes) for the whole of the period. In fact I would actually like to obtain two of each to display front and rear of each interleaf. Obviously as soon as dealers know you are interested, the price goes up. It is difficult enough finding these items, but at a reasonable cost! Would it be possible to advertise the fact that I would like to obtain skeletons for all the issues from 1904 until 1967.

I would appreciate any offers of materials from Members who have these surplus to their requirements. I can be contacted at 87 Manton Drive, Luton LU2 7DL.

## FREE PHILATELIC 'WANT LIST' WEB SITE SERVICE

<http://www.AskPhil.org>

The non-commercial philatelic reference Web site sponsored by the Collectors Club of Chicago (CCC), has now incorporated a unique and useful 'Want List Service' as part of the Web site upgrade.

This free want list service allows worldwide collectors and dealers to enter their specific requirements for any country and/or topic using an appropriate heading. The 'AskPhil' Web site then makes the wanted notice available to the worldwide collector and dealer fraternity, who may have the Item(s) to sell, and who can establish direct e-mail contact with the requester.

The requesters note only their e-mail address, and as an agreement for sale is finalised, a mailing address must be provided to the seller. This new service has

been field tested and has been proven to be of value, with one major dealer stating that he has assigned a staff member to review the site each morning to determine whether there are any wants that could be filled from their stock.

The 'AskPhil' Web site has been in operation for 15 months, and has developed into a major reference site for both stamp collectors and dealers. It is also well known for its 'Question & Answer' service, which responds to a complete spectrum of philatelic related questions.

The 'Want List' service has proven to be valuable not only to those seeking general material, but to the specialist, particularly for postal history items. You are invited to visit the Web site, and take advantage of this service.

## MACHINS

**C**harles Reid sent in some excellent colour photocopies of Machin items which display unusual features. Unfortunately several of them will not reproduce well enough to be illustrated, but nevertheless they are certainly worth mentioning:

When I was walking around Mr Tibbenham's frames at Stampex I mentioned how the upper and lower rows of stamps in the 3d booklet panes of six showed differing intensities of colour on a few panes. In a study of the



individual stamps under high-powered magnification it shows there has been a minute variation in depth of the engraving between the top and bottom rows of the 21-row cylinder, which only becomes obvious when they appear together on a single pane. Coincidentally I noticed the presence of 'ghost' marginal arrows.

On the large Cook Book se-tenant pane, the phosphor bands slope away from the vertical, and over the years I have yet to be given a plausible explanation as to how this may have occurred.

### SPINK

Two GB auctions are scheduled in the next few months:

**29 March:** GB stamps and postal history (sale No. 1270)

**26 April:** GB and British Empire stamps and postal history (sale No. 1272)

For details phone Mark Stephenson on 020 7563 4074.

Lastly, on the 50p 'Mow Cop' booklet two features appeared; a 'printed' column of perforations on one pane (*illustrated*) which I purchased from a booklet machine at Tipton, and secondly substantial spillage drops on a series of panes (col. 2) from the Leek Road machine in Stoke on Trent.

I initially thought the 'printed' column of perforations might have been oil, but over the years the colour was changed to a dark purple which probably puts paid to that theory. I wonder if any members have encountered similar freaks?

### WHOLE NUMBERS and the NEWSLETTER

*Harry Dagnall explains from where the 'whole number' originated.*

When the *Newsletter* was founded its purpose was to take out from the GBJ matters relating purely to the Society (e.g. meetings, subscriptions) and members (e.g. new members, awards at Stampex), leaving more room in the GBJ for philatelic matters.

The editor of the new *Newsletter* (Alf Kirk) decided not to follow the numbering of the GBJ, which returned to One every January, but to adopt consecutive numbering for each issue. He wanted a word to describe this and chose 'whole', implying I think that the number was not part of a volume. In this he was following the example of Marcus Samuel in the PJGB (which I know Alf subscribed to) which used 'whole numbers' for the entire editorship of Marcus, and probably longer. It is therefore a synonym for 'consecutive', but quite unnecessary, and I am glad it has been dropped.

### MEETING AND DRINKS AT STANLEY GIBBONS: 7 DECEMBER 2000

This meeting has become an annual event at the invitation of Stanley Gibbons. It is not a meeting of the GBPS but is hosted by the SG Great Britain department and, naturally, many of the guests are members of the Society.

This year the GBPS was asked to put up some standing displays in the old auction room above the shop. In a series of one frame displays a wide range of subjects was covered; from the issues of Perkins Bacon, the Almanac stamps, the illustrations of Willie Sloper, Downey Head issues and internal airways labels.

We also had the impression that SG were doing some good trade over the counter, which bodes well for the future of these invitations. Your President said a thank-you on behalf of the guests and wished Stanley Gibbons and all guests a happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

# GREAT BRITAIN PHILATELIC SOCIETY: YORK WEEKEND MEETING 27–28 July 2001

## Arrangements

This event is a continuation of the successful weekends previously organised by the Society in Worcester (1999) and Bournemouth (1998). We are slowly working northwards, and York is a fine venue for a short break, steeped in history with a compact city centre for leisurely shopping and browsing.

The GBPS meetings will be in the York Racecourse grandstand exhibition centre. This is a superb venue, a bright airy location on the outskirts of the city overlooking the racecourse with exclusive free parking alongside, or a short taxi ride from York station. A detailed location plan will be circulated in due course.

Coincidentally the York stamp and coin fair will be staged on 27 and 28 July at the exhibition centre. This is generally reckoned by collectors and dealers alike to be the best outside London.

The arrangements are still being fine tuned, but the general programme is indicated below, and will be further detailed in

subsequent *Newsletters*. However, hotel accommodation around York is in strong demand in midsummer season, so don't miss out by delaying your reservation.

## Non-philatelic activities

York City Council and the Tourist Information Office have kindly provided us with excellent details of what there is to see in York. With such a variety, organising a coach trip for non-philatelic partners seems inappropriate, and on the Friday evening people might wish to discuss shared plans for the Saturday. A list of the main attractions will be included in a future mailing.

## Hotel and Accommodation 26 to 29 July 2001

The popularity of York in midsummer has prompted us to make provisional reservations at the Swallow Hotel (to be known as the Marriott Hotel after 17 March). These provisional reservations will be held without charge until mid-March, after which we will lose them. We have negotiated a highly

competitive rate at this four star hotel of £50 per night bed and breakfast, or £60 dinner, bed and breakfast per person for double/twins, and singles £80 and £90 respectively. Unfortunately the Marriott Hotels have no single rooms, hence the rather hefty supplement.

At present we have 10 single rooms, 10 double and 10 twin rooms on hold, so if you want to be certain of a place, please reserve now. The hotel is a pleasant 5 minutes walk across the grass of the racecourse, to the Society displays venue, and the York Stamp Fair which has extensive free parking. The hotel itself, on the perimeter of York, is very well appointed, and a short 10 minute taxi ride from the Central Railway Station. It has a substantial heated swimming pool, health and beauty centre and other facilities, the use of which are included within the cost, although pre-booking of some services may be necessary. Full details will be sent to everyone making a reservation.

## York Weekend PROGRAMME (may change in detail)

### Friday 27 July

11.00 a.m. York Stamp Fair opens  
12:00–1:30 p.m. GBPS auction lots on view (postal auction – August 2001)  
2:15 p.m. President opens the meeting  
2:30 p.m. Display  
3:30 p.m. Second half  
4:30 p.m. Vote of thanks  
6:00 p.m. York Stamp Fair closed for the day. GBPS display venue closed  
7:45 p.m. Sherry reception at the Swallow (Marriott) Hotel  
8:15 p.m. Presidents dinner  
11:00 p.m. approx. close of play

### Saturday 28 July

10:00 a.m. York Fair opens  
10:45 a.m. President opens meeting  
11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Three 48-sheet displays by invited collectors  
12:00–1:00 p.m. Three further 48-sheet displays by invited collectors  
1:00 p.m. Vote of thanks  
2:00–3:00 p.m. GBPS auction lots on view (postal auction – August 2001)  
5:00 p.m. York Stamp Fair closes. GBPS display venue closes  
7:00 p.m. Pre-dinner drinks at hotel bar  
7:45 p.m. Table d'hôte dinner

### Sunday 29 July

8:00–10:00 a.m. Breakfast at the hotel  
12:00 Check out  
2:00 p.m. Check out for those taking Sunday lunch.

Adjusted details will appear in the *Newsletter*, but will also be sent independently to people who book the hotel accommodation. In addition to these pre-arranged displays we are hoping to have members' displays between times (or as a 'standing display'), sheets of their own choice (12 to a frame). **If you wish to bring some sheets, please write or telephone Tony Walker with your Name, the Subject, and No. of sheets.**

# Great Britain Philatelic Society: York Weekend Meeting

## ACCOMMODATION BOOKING FORM

Note: Tick appropriate box(es). You may choose any one or two nights, or all three nights to make it a real break. The prices compare favourably with those of 1998 and 1999.

|  | <i>Single</i>                 | <i>Double</i>                      | <i>Twin</i>                        |
|--|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Thursday 26 July 2001</b>                   |                               |                                    |                                    |
| Bed and Breakfast                              | £80 <input type="checkbox"/>  | £100 <input type="checkbox"/>      | £100 <input type="checkbox"/>      |
| or   |                               |                                    |                                    |
| Dinner, Bed and Breakfast                      | £100 <input type="checkbox"/> | £120 <input type="checkbox"/>      | £120 <input type="checkbox"/>      |
| <b>Friday 27 July 2001</b>                     |                               |                                    |                                    |
| Bed and Breakfast                              | £80 <input type="checkbox"/>  | £100 <input type="checkbox"/>      | £100 <input type="checkbox"/>      |
| or   |                               |                                    |                                    |
| Presidents Reception Dinner, Bed and Breakfast | £95 <input type="checkbox"/>  | £130 <input type="checkbox"/>      | £130 <input type="checkbox"/>      |
| or   |                               |                                    |                                    |
| Presidents Reception and Dinner only           | £25 <input type="checkbox"/>  | £50 (two) <input type="checkbox"/> | £50 (two) <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>Saturday 28 July 2001</b>                   |                               |                                    |                                    |
| Bed and Breakfast                              | £80 <input type="checkbox"/>  | £100 <input type="checkbox"/>      | £100 <input type="checkbox"/>      |
| or   |                               |                                    |                                    |
| Dinner, Bed and Breakfast                      | £90 <input type="checkbox"/>  | £120 <input type="checkbox"/>      | £120 <input type="checkbox"/>      |
| TOTALS:  | £                             | £                                  | £                                  |
| AGGREGATED TOTAL: £                            |                               |                                    |                                    |

Please indicate any special requirements:

Vegetarian.....Non-smoking bedroom .....Dietary requirements .....

Children .....Other .....

**Surname**.....**First Name**.....

**Surname**.....**First Name**.....

Home address.....

.....

.....Post code.....

Contact Telephone number .....

### Payment

Please enclose 10% of your aggregated total cost to ensure your accommodation is reserved, cheque made out to GBPS. Ideally a post dated cheque for the remainder (25 June) would be welcome, otherwise we will invoice you towards the end of June.

Cheque enclosed for £.....

Note: Rooms will be allocated strictly on a first come first served basis.

Please return this form and cheque to:

**Tony Walker (GBPS), 3 Nazareth Mews, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 1EW (Tel: 0191 2817520)**

## BINDERS FOR THE GB JOURNAL

A reminder that binders for the safe keeping of your *GB Journal* are available from the Society. They are bound in blue, with the title and society logo blocked in gold on the spine: 12 loose issues of the GBJ are kept in place by cords. We are pleased to have kept the prices the same. The prices per binder, including postage and packing, are £4 (UK), £5 (Europe) and £6.50/US\$10.00 (America, Asia and Australia). If payment is in US dollars, cash is preferred to avoid bank charges.

Please return the order form below to:

**Mr A. N. Moorcroft, Eastwood House, Myland Hall Chase, Colchester, Essex CO4 4EU, England.**

### BINDERS — ORDER FORM

Please send me .....binder(s). I enclose payment of .....

All cheques payable to the Great Britain Philatelic Society

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

.....

.....

.....

## SOCIETY TIE

A new Society tie is now available. It bears our logo of 'GBPS' woven in gold and comes in navy with a thin red diagonal stripe. The price of the tie including postage is £7.

Please return the order form to:

**Mr A. N. Moorcroft, Eastwood House, Myland Hall Chase, Colchester, Essex CO4 4EU, England.**

### TIES — ORDER FORM

Please send me .....tie(s). I enclose payment of £ .....

All cheques payable to the Great Britain Philatelic Society.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

.....

.....

.....

## GLASGOW 2000 — ITEMS FROM CHARLES REID'S DISPLAY

### Glasgow Crowned Oval RLB datestamp

Hoboken, N.J. to Glasgow, 1 June 1897.

Hoboken Postmaster's official card complaining that mail is being incorrectly addressed, but he uses an incomplete address himself! Glasgow applies 'NO SUCH STREET IN GLASGOW' h.s. though no street has been named by sender, so they then apply the 'INSUFFICIENT ADDRESS' h.s., finally adding RL datestamp and a crowned oval.



### London to Whitchurch, 26 October 1849 — a much travelled envelope

Post offices frequently used their datestamp alongside MS endorsements 'not known' etc., but very few removed the date slugs as Whitchurch, Bucks, has done to allow insertion of 'Not Bucks'.

At least nine towns/villages are named 'Whitchurch' and the PO tried three of these. Prior to returning the envelope, the DLO applied one of the new crowned handstamps.

The cover bears the mark 'The Party to whom this letter is addressed cannot be FOUND'.

