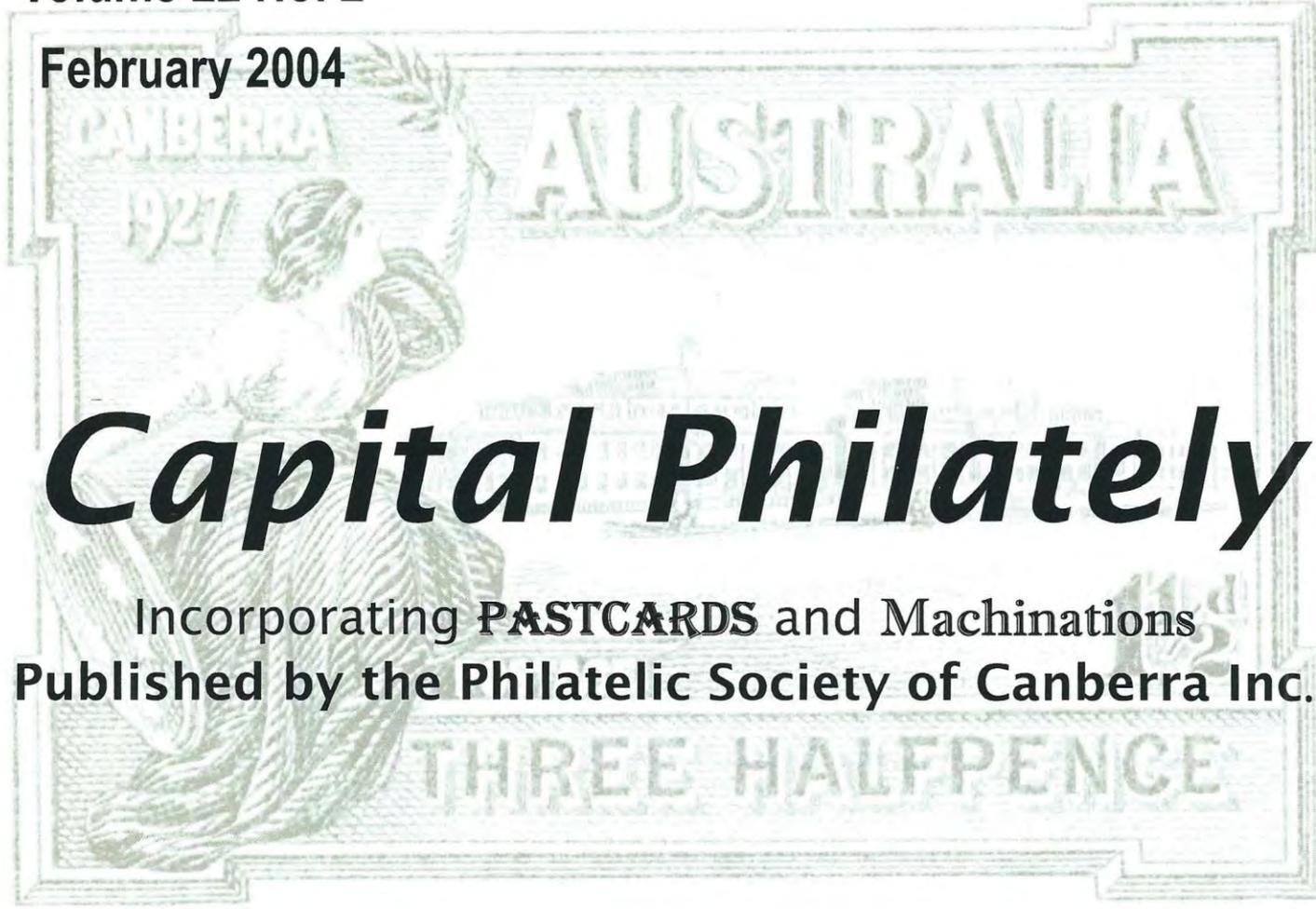


Volume 22 No. 2

February 2004



Capital Philately

Incorporating **PASTCARDS** and Machinations
Published by the Philatelic Society of Canberra Inc.

Inside this Issue:

Cruising to Svalbard

Königsberg and the Ostropa
Exhibition

Thematic Postcards (5)

Dinosaur (2) Reconstructing
Life from Old Bones

War Cartoon Cards of Charles
Bairnsfather

Finding Machins on the
Internet

26p Red, Stone, Gold & Rust
Machin



Special Colour Plate Insert



The Philatelic Society of Canberra Inc.

(Founded 1932)

GPO BOX 1840

CANBERRA ACT 2601

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EDITORIAL

This issue celebrates our next Stamp Show, and our President has given us a fine description of the rich and diverse features it will present to visiting philatelists. Many of our readers will recall the Hellenic Club and the congenial environment it provided for us last time, two years ago.

As an experiment, in this issue we are going into colour in a small way to explore problems and solutions of content, production, and costs. Not all articles in a philatelic journal need colour, and reference to the many catalogues, including those now on CDs, and to the Society's own web page, will give colour information about regular postage stamps. Supplementary information about varieties, about other sorts of stamps, and postal history can be harder to find. This year's general meetings, as listed in our Program, do include aerophilately and also revenues as two meetings of interest. So, of the four colour plates in this issue we have chosen one for two airmail covers from the 1930's, one for NSW Revenues in use over a century ago, and one each for Machinations and for Pastcards. We hope this might make these various meetings even more worth a visit from our ACT members and interstate visitors.

Articles in recent issues of Capital Philately continue to provide news of related items of interest. Charles Lawlor has unearthed yet another card from Gus on the Goldfields, this time providing evidence, from what is written on it, that Gus did send picture postcards from Broad Arrow back to

Sweden in exchange. More rare material on POW, or rather political prisoner cards, is being prepared for an article in our next issue. If I may make an editorial comment; if you are writing for *Capital Philately*, it is helpful to give the catalogue numbers of stamps mentioned, if you know them, and it is not indelicate sometimes to mention what things are fetching at auction on or the web pages. Readers who are moved to want to collect some of the things mentioned in articles are entitled to know if they are within or outside their budget limits.

In the Australia Day honours list we were gratified to see that the late H. N. Eustis had been honoured, albeit posthumously, with an OAM for his services to philately, aerophilately and aviation history. Tom Frommer has kindly provided us with an obituary notice of a man whom he knew personally for many years.

OBITUARY - Nelson Eustis died on 3 November 2003 at the age of 88 years.

Nelson was a legend in his lifetime. He was involved in many activities, including running a retail hobby shop, which dealt with models, stamps and coins. He was a Philatelic Adviser for many years to the Postal Administrations of Western Samoa, Fiji, Pitcairn Island, Bangladesh and Burma. For nearly 20 years he represented Borek/MDM of Germany, the largest stamp and coin dealer in Europe. While working for the company he travelled internationally extensively, visiting 95 countries, some on more than 50 occasions.



He was a prolific philatelic writer of articles and the author of many books.

I first met Nelson at the ANPEX Stamp Exhibition in 1982 and wrote to him at the end of 1983 with a great deal of information for the 4th edition of his "Air Mail Catalogue". He said it was too late to include it in the catalogue as it was already at the printers. Nelson assured me that the material would go into the next edition. So began our long and excellent collaboration with my contributions to the 5th, 6th and 7th editions (the last being published in 2002). Nelson was the greatest inspiration and mentor to me in the 20 years I knew him. He was always prepared to help, encourage, correct, listen and inspire me, always well meaning and with a great sense of humour. I miss him greatly.

His achievements were numerous, amongst them:

Being a stamp exhibitor since 1936 and subsequently forming several distinguished philatelic collections including his "Australian Air Mails" which won International Gold Medals in Canada 1996 and Norway 1997. He was a National Aerophilatelic Judge for decades and in 1984 became an International Judge at World Exhibitions. He designed and produced philatelic items including numerous flight re-enactments and first flight covers which required great organisation skills.

Nelson wrote his first article for the Australian Stamp Monthly (ASM) in October 1930 at the age of 15. He wrote a regular Aerophilately column in the ASM under various nom-de plumes such as "Par Avion" and "Aerogram".

He published numerous books on Aerophilately and Pacific history. Amongst the best-known books are "The Greatest Air Race", "The Ross Smith Stamp" and the famous "Australian Air Mail Catalogue", the standard reference in its field, which was first published in 1937. Sixty-five years later the current 7th edition was published.

Many honours have been bestowed on Nelson nationally and internationally. The outstanding ones include:

A Gold Medal of FISA (Federation Internationale des Societies Aerophilateliqes) for services to aerophilately. In 1991 he was inducted into the Aerophilatelic Hall of Fame in the U.S.A.

In 1994 he received the FIP (Federation Internationale de Philatelie) Medal for Research.

In 1995 he became an inaugural Fellow of the Australian Philatelic Order, the highest award in Australian Philately. Nelson was awarded the John Gartner medal in 2001 for Philatelic Literature by the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria. Now posthumously on Australia Day 2004 he was awarded the O.A.M. for services to philately, aerophilately and aviation history.

His family, hundreds of his friends and Aerophilatelists worldwide will greatly miss Nelson Eustis, but his legacy will live on.

Tom Frommer

CANBERRA STAMPSHOW 2004

The Exhibition Committee is now in the home straight in its organisation of Canberra Stampshow 2004, the Society's thirteenth biennial National Philatelic Convention, which will be held 13-15 March 2004 in the Hellenic Club of Canberra, Matilda Street, Woden. The Stampshow will be open between 10 am and 6 pm on Saturday and Sunday and between 10 am and 4 pm on Monday. The Club itself does not open until 10 am and so only people with passes will be able to access the Club before the opening time. The entry fee for Stampshow is \$3 a day or \$5 for the three days.

By being a paying entrant to the Stampshow, one has an opportunity to win a fine used two-pound kangaroo stamp valued at \$600. The draw for this great door prize will take place at 3 pm on Monday, 15 March 2004. Other door prizes will also be offered daily. We are thankful to Richard Juzwin for offering us the stamp at a greatly reduced rate.

Children may enter the Stampshow free of charge and receive a show bag. The main event for children will be an auction held in the children's area at 11 am on the Monday. However, there will be a range of other children's activities on offer.

Those among you, who have not seen the Hellenic Club since Canberra Stampshow '02, are in for a pleasant surprise. You will recall that the Club was undergoing major renovations and extensions at the time of the last Stampshow. That work was finished long ago and the Club must now be ranked among the best in Canberra. More importantly, the Olympus Room, where the main part of the Stampshow was located, has been refurbished and extended over the last seven months. The ceiling has been lowered and new lighting installed, resulting in greatly improved illumination. Youth activities will be conducted in a new enclosure, which is part of the extension to the room.

The following is the programme of activities for the Stampshow. The official opening will be held in the Aegean room and the meetings in the Orpheus Room. Both rooms will be used for the dinner.

Saturday, 13 March

- 10.00 am - Exhibition opens
- 10.30 am - Official Opening
- 12.30pm - Society for Polar Philately
- 1.30 pm - Perfin Club of New Zealand and Australia
- 2.45 pm - Traditional Philately Exhibitors
- 3.45 pm - The Australian States Study Circle of The Royal Sydney Philatelic Club
- 6.00 pm - Exhibition closes
- 7.00 for 7.30 pm - Awards Dinner.

Sunday, 14 March

- 10.00 am - Exhibition opens
- 10.15 am - Excursion departs Hellenic Club
- 10.15 am - Judges Critique

- 11.30 am - Cinderella Stamp Club of Australasia
- 1.00 pm - Maximaphily: a new collecting interest – Barbara Bartsch
- 2.00 pm - NAPE (interNational Association of Philatelic Exhibitors)
- 3.30 pm - Postal Stationery Society of Australia
- 6.00 pm - Exhibition closes.

Monday, 15 March

Children's Day (free show bags at door for children 12 and under)

- 9.00 am - Inspection of stamp collections at the Australian War Memorial (if there is sufficient interest)
- 10.00 am - Exhibition opens
- 10.00 am - Children's Corner and activities
- 11.00 am - Children's auction
- 4.00 pm - Exhibition closes
- 6.00 pm - Collection of exhibits.

Sponsors are an important element of all exhibitions. Several sponsors are contributing to this show, including:

Australia Post
Charles Leski Auctions
Richard Juzwin
Ex-Government Furniture Pty Ltd

A total of 335 frames of competitive exhibits will be shown at the Stampshow. That is a small increase over the number shown in 2002. The extension of the room has allowed an increase in the space between rows of exhibits, thus making viewing of them more comfortable.

A major part of the exhibition comprises the Australasian Challenge 2, with teams of six exhibitors from all States and both islands of New Zealand. The A.C.T. will be competing for the first time. In the inaugural Challenge, the A.C.T. provided most of the national judges but, this time, the judges will be drawn from each State, Territory and Island. The national judges will also judge the other two national stamp classes: first day covers and polar philately.

The national judges are:

Michael Blake (Chairman) (S.A.), Ian McMahon (A.C.T.), David Collyer (N.S.W.), Bernie Beston (Qld), John Sinfield (Vic), Ray Kelly (Qld), John DiBiase (W.A.), Bruce Marshall (N.I. NZ) and David Smitham (S.I. NZ).

The State classes will be judged by:

Paul Barsdell, Andrew Alwast, Peter Kunz (all from the A.C.T.) and Erica Genge (Tas).

The national postcards class will be judged by:

Elsbeth Bodley and Graeme Broxham.

The Awards Dinner for Canberra Stampshow 2004 will be held at the Hellenic Club on Saturday, 16 March. Guests are asked to begin assembling at 7.00 pm for a 7.30 pm start. It will be a sit down three-course meal with tea and coffee to follow. Two bottles of wine and fruit juice will be supplied per table. Other drinks will be at guests' expense. Bar services will be available with a full range of wines, spirits and soft drinks – all very reasonably priced. Cost is \$40.00 per head, with a \$5 discount for Supporters Club members. The Ed Druce Memorial Trophy and other awards and medals will be presented at the Awards Dinner.

Dealers

The enlarged room has also allowed the inclusion of seven additional dealer tables. Australia Post, which was placed on the stage in 2002, will now be on the floor with the dealers. This year, the stage will not be used. The following dealers have confirmed their presence at the show:

United Kingdom

Ritchie Bodily, Argyll Etkin, Chris Rainey, Euro-Yu, Phil Newby, and Mike White.

USA

Peter Singer

Australia

Aero Collectables, Andex Stamps, Charles Leski Auctions, Cover Connection, Edlins of Canberra, Empire Stamps, Tasmanian Stamp Auctions, Fiveways Philatelics, Hamiltons for Stamps, John Collette, KJB Stamp Sales, Pittwater Philatelic Service, Sapphire Coast Philatelic Supplies, John Burn-Bailey, MPN Stamps, Philatel Online Auctions, Prestige Philately and Shields Stamps and Coins.

New Zealand

John Fitzpatrick

For only \$60, you can become a Supporters' Club member and, by doing so, you will not only help to fund the show but also receive a range of benefits, including:

- free entry to the exhibition;
- \$5 discount on one Awards Dinner ticket;
- limited issue philatelic souvenir (numbered) – overprinted High Court miniature sheet;
- exhibition envelope; and
- access to the Supporters' Club Lounge (in the Adelphi Room) with free tea and coffee.

Supporters' Club memberships will be limited to 100 plus one for each dealer at the show, as part of the dealer's package. At recent Canberra shows, some dealers were buying the philatelic souvenir for the cost of Club membership.

It is normal practice for philatelic souvenirs to be produced for exhibitions as a fund-raising means as well as to provide participants with mementoes of the exhibition. As already mentioned above, one such souvenir is restricted to Supporters' Club memberships. Others include:

P-stamp sheets and booklets

A limited number of P-stamp sheets of 20 stamps are being produced with the exhibition logo on the tabs or the Ed Druce Memorial Trophy. Each sheet will cost \$35. Special booklets containing four of the P- stamps will also be produced in each design. These will be \$7.50 for each type. For each order, please add \$2 for postage and packing. The number of sheets will be limited to 200 of each maximum with a number of these split into the booklets.

Exhibition Envelope

Exhibition High Court Centenary FDI envelopes, with an extra stamp cancelled by an exhibition postmark will be sold for \$2.00. A set of 3 serviced with the 3 Exhibition postmarks can be ordered for \$6 (Aust.) or \$7 (overseas).

Mystery Envelopes

Mystery Envelopes will be on sale at \$5.00. Many contain high value cto \$20, \$10 or \$5 Australian international stamps in addition to other desirable items.

Everything is starting to come together and augurs well for a great weekend. There will be excellent exhibits to view, a wide range of local, national overseas dealers from which to buy, sell or seek valuations and many talks and meetings to attend. The Club also has three cafes and a bar area in which to obtain refreshments or meals. And we look forward to meeting philatelic friends from interstate and overseas.

- Paul Barsdell, Chairman, Canberra Stampshow 2004.

CRUISING TO SVALBARD

Robert A. M. Gregson

The archipelago of Svalbard lies within the Arctic Circle, around 76° to 78° N, and today is under Norwegian sovereignty, yet until the 1920s it was a virtual no-man's land. Its visitors and residents have made various curious and interesting contributions to postal history, some of which are illustrated here.

Many of the place names have been changed, or have had alternative versions, until a standardisation in 1942 of over 3500 place and feature names was made by the Norwegian survey authorities. A Norwegian stamp of 1957 (SG 468) depicts a small map of Svalbard.

Svalbard means 'cold coast' and was mentioned in the Icelandic sagas in 1194. The islands were discovered again by the Dutch captain Barents in 1596. He named the islands Spitsbergen, which means 'sharp mountain peaks' though today this name is only used for the west coast area of the main island. In the nineteenth century explorers and others started mining activities, for gypsum and marble, and later coal. Unsuccessful industrial attempts were begun by the Swedish explorer Nordensjöld, eventually the American John Longyear was the first to operate a profitable coalmine at Advent Bay in 1906. In 1916 a Norwegian company took over the American operation. In 1917 the Swedes were back with a mine at what is now Sveagruva, the Dutch started a mine at Barentsburg and sold it to the Russians in 1932. That mine closed around 1946, though coal miners are shown on a Norwegian stamp of 1975 (Facit 743), but today Svalbard has become instead a base site for international scientific expeditions, including not only Norwegian led but also British teams from Cambridge University, and Germans at a base at Koldeway.

Early visitors, mainly fur trappers, relied on ships' captains for mail to Norway and beyond. The first post office, open only in the summer months, was set up in a tourist chalet, in 1897, by the Vestraalen Steamship Company at Advent Bay, who sailed their ships to and from Hammerfest. Norway then opened a government post office in the same chalet on 1st June 1897. This office later moved to the mining town of Longyearbyen, which remains the most important settlement. The Vestraalen company ran cruises along the Norwegian coast and extended some north to Svalbard. This cruise ship activity continued with German ships as well, certainly into the 1920s.

This evolution of postal services and settlements means that from 1897 we get local stamps, Norwegian stamps, and picture postcards from cruise ships. The local stamps are listed in Billig's handbook, the listing includes 18 types with vagueness about dates and usage, I have thus preferred the more recent Norwegian sources. The Norwegian post office, run by an agent, appears to have lapsed and then re-started in 1909 as an extra-territorial office. When Norwegian sovereignty was confirmed in 1925 one issue of stamps inscribed Svalbard was made (SG 183-186 of Norway, stubbornly described in the catalogue as for the 'Annexation of Spitzbergen'), these were not for use in Svalbard exclusively but throughout Norway. The immediately preceding issue, for Amundsen's polar flight, with a polar bear design, (SG 167-173) would have been a much better image than the stodgy heraldic lion. Clearly from 1925 onwards the post offices on Svalbard were no longer extra-territorial, and some exist today.

The local stamps from 1897 to around 1914.

Examples of the local stamps, that in some few cases paid postage to Hammerfors in northern Norway, are found on postcards, usually in conjunction with a Norwegian stamp of the usual posthorn design. Actually the very first of these locals was issued by a German Sea Captain W. Bade in 1897, and inscribed 'Arctische Post' and 'Cap. W. Bade'. It was lithographed and shows a skier with his dog running alongside. No polar bear on that one! It was printed, in violet, yellow and black, at Wismar in Pommerania, and around 1000 copies produced. The local issues seem only to have served as

souvenirs in many cases, although postmarks of Advent Bay, and some other lesser bays, were used on the first issue of the local post. Later each company running cruise liners seems to have produced its own issue.

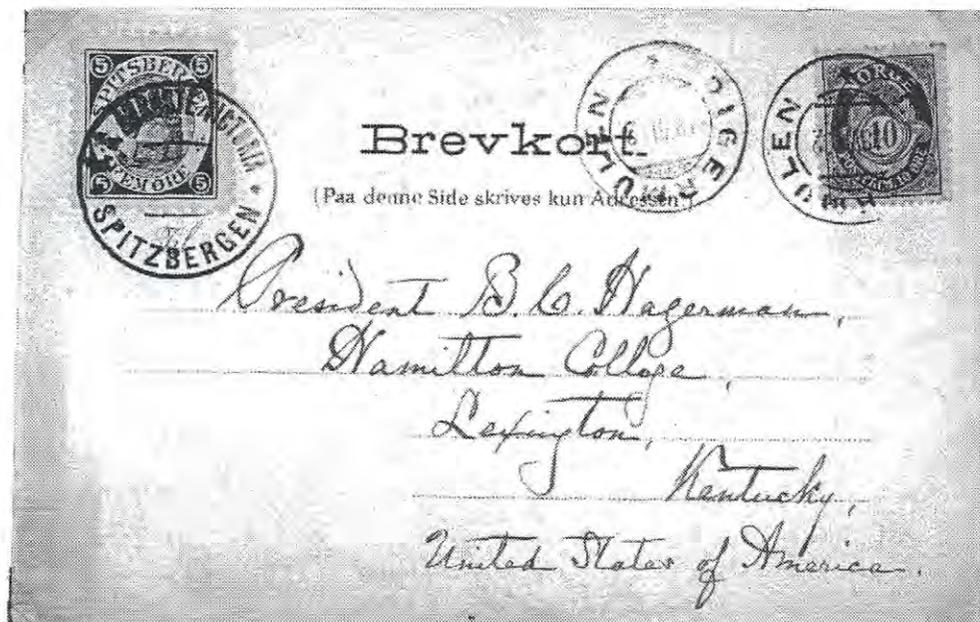


The first (actually second) issue given by Billig as issued on 7 May 1896, and depicts a man shooting an attacking polar bear. Such sentiments are now not in good taste, we are more concerned with the effects on wildlife of greenhouse warming, and the DDT in the food chain increasing infertility in mammals. There are two denominations, 10 and 20 øre, inscribed SPIDSBERGEN.



A card produced at Hammerfest in Norway, No. 14 of a series of views, is inscribed Hilsen fra Spitsbergen and shows a view of a mountain, the Smeerenburg, seen from Danskoerne (the Danish isles). It was posted on a ship, S. S. Auguste Victoria at Spitzbergen and later on land at Digermulen in Norway on 3 7 1902. Digermulen is on the Lofoten Islands, and became famous as

a stopping place for cruise ships after Kaiser Wilhelm II visited it for the first time in 1889. This card to the USA was sent by a scholarly person, who impressed by the bleak landscape quoted the Odes of Horace, book 1, ode XXII, lines 17-20. The 5 øre blue stamp is the second issue of 1898, now inscribed SPITSBERGEN. Again the long-suffering bear is being shot by the hunter.





The next card was posted at Spitzbergen on 15 July 1904, bearing both a 20 øre blue local (more shooting of an enraged bear, with three seals witnessing in the background for good measure) and a Norwegian 5 øre definitive. The local stamp, of a fourth issue, is listed by Billig as issued in 1911, that is obviously wrong. The card is addressed to Austria. It was printed in colour in Munich, and inscribed in German. It was issued for the Nordlandfahrt of the Hamburg-Amerika-Linie, and reproduces a painting of the midnight sun from the south coast of Spitzbergen.

The last issue is undated in Billig's handbook, but appears to be from around 1897-1911. There were seven stamps, lithographed and perf 11½. They were issued by the consul Joh. Giæve at Tromsø on behalf of the Norddeutscher Lloyd company, and exist from three different plates, all printed in Germany. This time we have a full-masted ship in the background with furled sails, and two polar bears having a quarrel. The top two denominations do not have the currency on øre on the side panels, as used on the picture postcard shown. The card depicts a terminal glacier on the beach at Magdalena,



a place that is not recorded as ever having had a post office. Addressed to South America, with no evidence that it ever got there, it was probably cancelled on board the Norddeutscher Lloyd cruise liner, which sailed into the bay but presumably did not try to land tourists there.



After the First World War cruises began again, and are identifiable by a special cachet printed on the card, but only postmarked on landing in Norway at Nordkap (North Cape). An example from 1928 is addressed to Argentina. It was used on cruise polarfahrt D by the liner "Berlin", and depicts Möllerhafen, during the summer when the sea was ice-free. The card was printed in Bremen.

One can get philatelic covers from Svalbard today, and order them on the World Wide Web, but they do not reflect the luxurious lifestyle of those summer cruise liners that has now changed. Ny Ålesund now has an airstrip where supplies for scientific expeditions are landed. Longyearbyen has an hotel, a post office and a bank with a 24-hour ATM, and even web pages which backpackers can access.

Philatelists who are interested in the local stamps, which are called 'oblater' in Norwegian sources, can find a very comprehensive illustrated listing, of over 40 varieties, at www.mamut.com/polarpost. There were also some postal stationary items issued around 1895-1907. This renders the Billig's handbook listing incomplete and obsolete, but it is in Norwegian. Any reader who wants help with translation should contact the editor, who can help. It is pleasing to report that the more modern





stamps featuring Svalbard and polar bears show the bears in contented mode and not being shot at. A Norwegian 20 Kr stamp issued in February 1996 (SG 1227), also inscribed Svalbard, with an adult bear, is worth seeking out.

Modern Post Offices of Svalbard: postcodes, names and postmark symbols.

The modern postmarks each include in their design one arctic animal, such as a polar bear.

9170	Longyearbyen	reindeer	
9172	Isfjord på Svalbard	polar bear	(closed 2002)
9173	Ny-Ålesund	seal	
9174	Hopen	walrus	(closed 2002)
9175	Sveagrauva	musk ox	(closed 2002)
9176	Bjørnøya	murre	(closed 2002)
9177	Hornsund	arctic raven	(closed 2002)
9178	Barentsburg	ptarmigan	
9179	Pyramiden	whale	(closed 2002)

(There are no penguins in the Arctic, a black and white bird, the murre, a type of guillemot, resembles a penguin unless well-drawn.)

References:

Billig's Philatelic Handbook, Volume 23. Spitzbergen, pp. 201-202

Summer in Svalbard. Nature, vol. 424, 28 August 2003, pp. 992-994.

Webpage: www.home.online.no/~polar-ps

Skrifter om Svalbard og Ishavet, No. 80. Norges Svalbard og Ishavsundersøkelser, Oslo, 1942.

KÖNIGSBERG AND THE OSTROPA EXHIBITION

Christel Larko

In June 1935 Germany issued a miniature sheet of four stamps to celebrate a philatelic exhibition held in Königsberg, the capital city of what was then East Prussia. The exhibition was called Ostropa, and was held from the 23rd of June to the 3rd of July. The miniature sheet was issued in a print run of 162,700 but despite that relatively large number is now quite scarce. As East Prussia was a focus of fierce battles during the Second World War, when the armies of the Soviet Union swept across it on their way to Berlin, many fragile items would have easily been destroyed, so the surviving copies today must include predominantly those that went to collectors further south and west.

The sheet was designed by Prof Marten, and the four se-tenant designs are: 3pf, Allenstein castle and a map of East Prussia, in orangebrown, 6 pf, Tannenberg monument and an heraldic eagle, in dark blue-green, 12 pf Königsberg castle and an East Prussian shield, in red, and 25 Pf Hellsberg castle and an oakleaf, in dark blue. Each stamp design has in it both the Knights' cross and the Nazi swastika. The Nazis saw themselves, perhaps presumptuously, as the cultural heirs of the Knights. Three special commemorative cancels were used at the exhibition, one which reads Königsberg (PR) Ostropa has a standing figure of a Teutonic knight in the centre. Figure 1 shows the sheet with this cancel. One of the most curious features of this sheet is the elaborate watermark, with OSTROPA 1935, and an equal-armed cross under each of the four stamps. These crosses are the same design as were featured on the surcoats of the Teutonic Knights, who effectively ran both East Prussia and parts of the Baltic States in the Middle Ages as their suzerainty.



Issues of this sort are intended to make a political statement, as well as pay postage, and the socio-economic structures of both East Prussia and Pomerania were in some ways similar, with large landowners (Junkers) and peasant small farmers in the countryside. For example, when the few issues of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern were issued under Soviet occupation in 1945 (not listed in Gibbons Simplified Catalogue) some stamps have the inscription 'Junkerland in Bauernhand', indicating an

intended reversal of political power. The large land-owning families such as the Hindenburgs, who provided Germany's president during the rise of Hitler (a man portrayed on the definitives of the 1930s), were the iconic basis of the stamp designs in the miniature sheet. During the rule of the Teutonic Knights and the trading power of the Hanseatic League, the cities of Riga, Memel (now Klaipeda in Lithuania) Königsberg, Danzig, Stralsund and Lübeck prospered with trade links on the south and east Baltic coasts. Battles between the Knights and the 13th century Tsar Alexander Nevsky's armies (see SG 6569 of Russia, 1995) are depicted in the cinematographic work of Sergei Eisenstein.

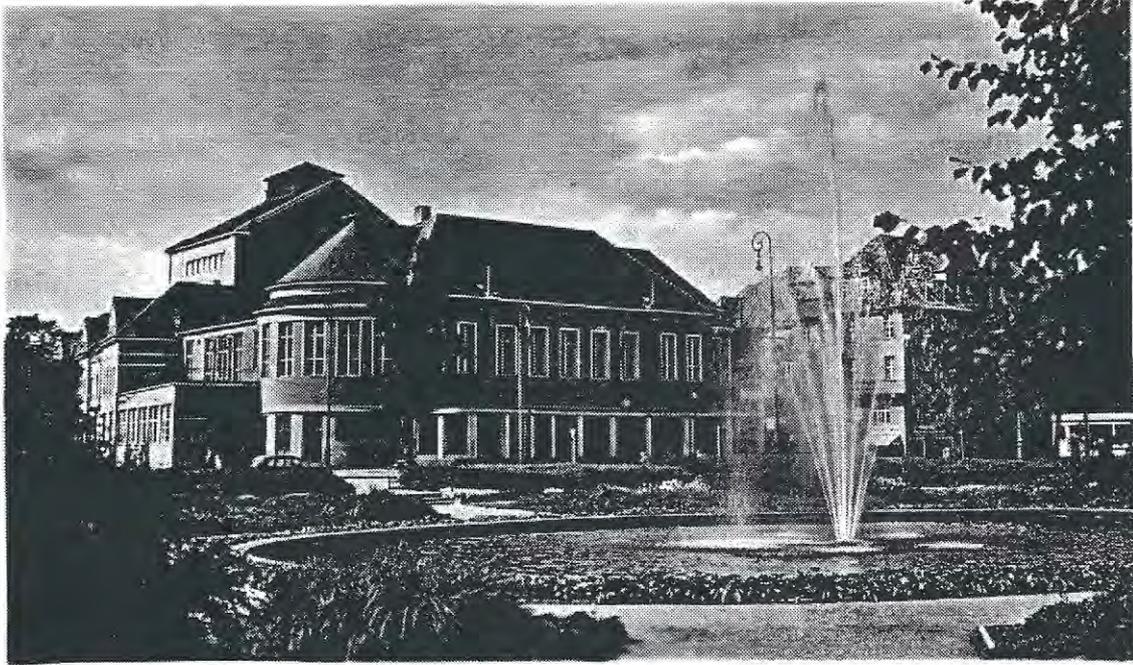
All these places and events have a fascinating and complex philatelic history and can be found in specialist catalogues for both their stamps and postmarks, they are or were also architecturally interesting, as surviving picture postcards can show.

Königsberg became a town in 1286, and its political significance over the centuries, even still in the 1930s, was critical. Ottokar II, King of Bohemia and Moravia from 1253, in a crusade against the heathens of the east, laid the basis for the Teutonic Knights to build a fortress with a castle on a hill in 1255, hence the name of the city. Königsberg is situated near the sea, separated from it by a freshwater lagoon called the Frisches Haff, and by sandspits. The river Pregel flows through the city, extended by a 32 km long sea-channel; the actual harbour is at Pillau. The Hanseatic League established its presence there in 1340, and from 1457-1525 it was the residence of the grandmaster of the Teutonic Knights. The Dukes of Prussia resided there from 1525-1618. The Collegium Albertinum, founded in 1544, became the university at which the philosopher Kant (see SG 406 of 1926) was professor until 1812, and was succeeded by the educationalist Herbart; 1812 was the year that some of the remnants of the French armies retreated through Königsberg and were briefly quartered in the university. The works of both scholars are still studied today, even in Australia. Frederick I was crowned in the cathedral there in 1701 and William I in 1861, both as Kings of Prussia.

East Prussia came into existence as geographically separated from Prussia proper as a consequence of the Treaty of Versailles and the creation of the Polish Corridor, that in turn became a pretext for World War II. As part of the settlements after World War II, East Prussia became partitioned and reallocated between Poland and the Soviet Union, and the enclave around Königsberg then became part of the USSR. After 1991 it became an isolated outlier of the Russian Federation, separated by now independent Lithuania so the only land link is via a railway that crosses Lithuania. It is now a home port for the Russian Baltic Fleet.

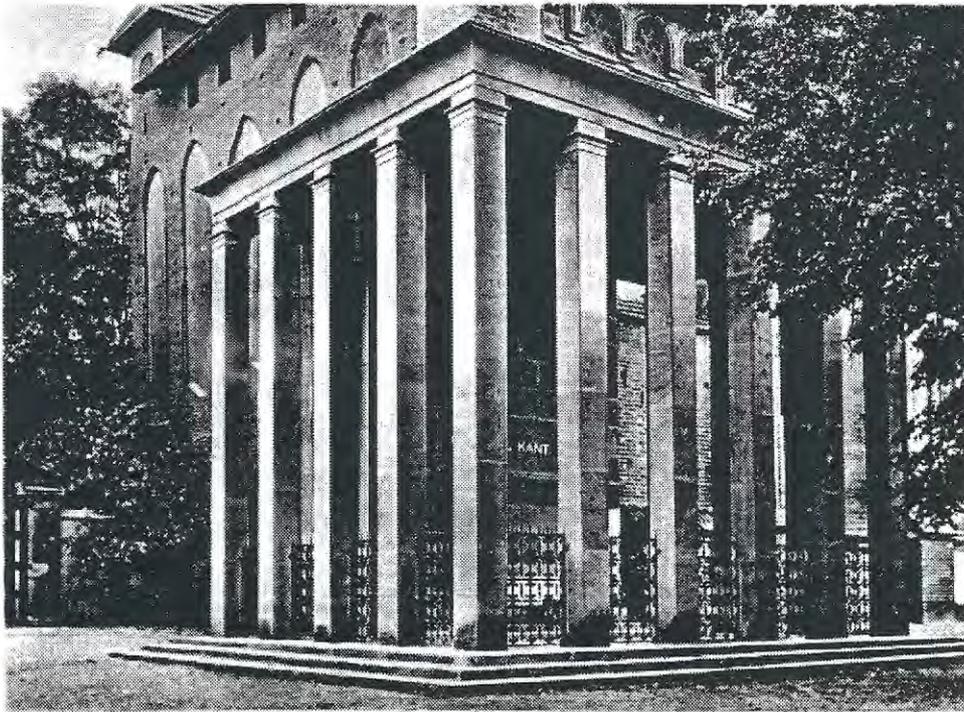
The city is now called Kaliningrad, named after a president of the USSR who can be found depicted on various USSR issues (SG 711-714, 1651-1653, 1702-1704, 3209, 4449). It was largely ruined in the war, and partly rebuilt in modern tower-block styles. As an obscure





Königsberg i. Pr. - Anlagen am Schauspielhaus

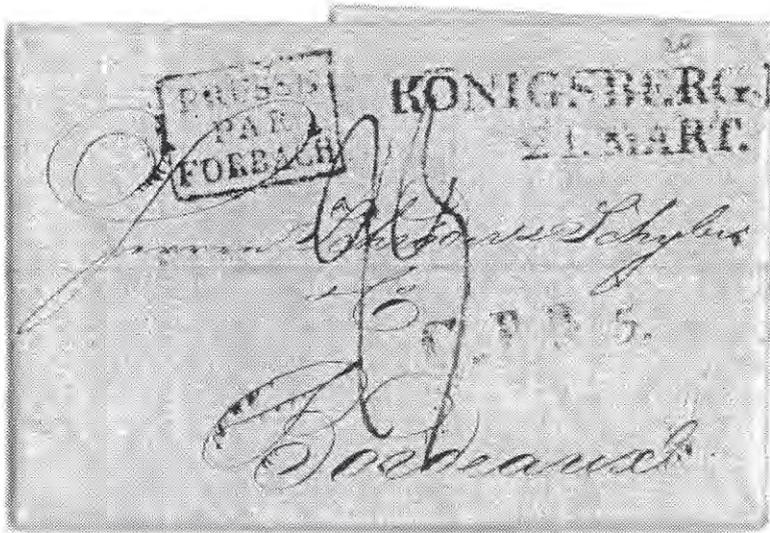
Stempel



*Königsberg
i. Pr.
Immanuel
Kant-
Grabstätte
am Dom*

Stempel

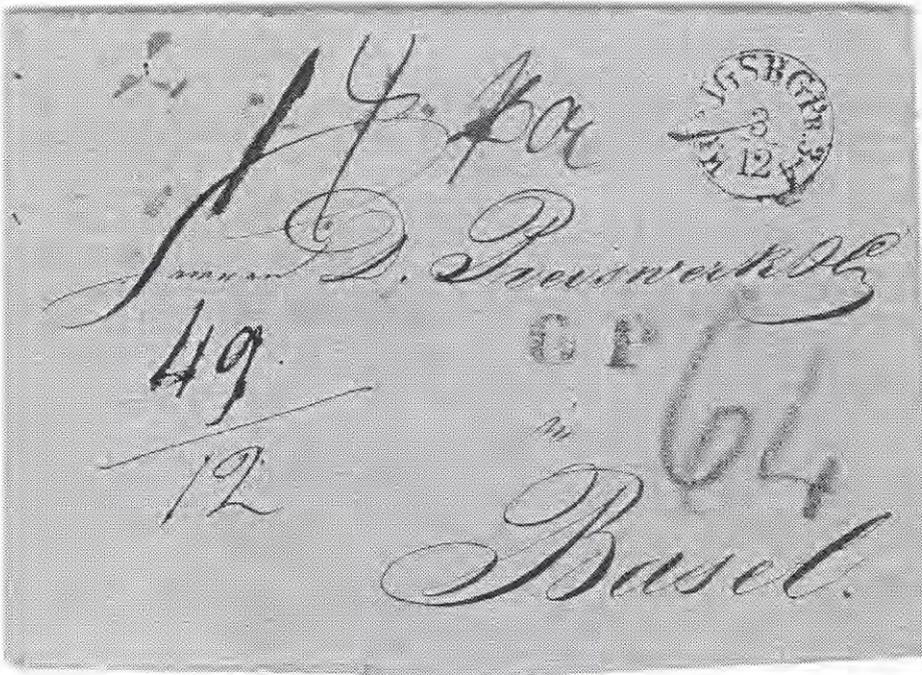
consequence of improving German-Russian relations, some of the churches have been repaired with donations from Lutherans in Germany, but the city mainly serves now as a military base. The three picture postcards here date from the 1930s, and show (1) warehouses at the river Pregel, that flows through the old town, with the castle in the background at the right. (2) The park in front of the theatre, and (3) The tomb of Immanuel Kant at the Cathedral.



The postal history of Königsberg is naturally complicated as a consequence of the many political changes that took place in the region. Starting with the end of the Napoleonic Wars, around 1814, the one-line town postmarks of Prussia were widely used, as shown (left), an example from 1820. Later there followed marks of a number within four concentric rings, struck on the stamps, and used up to 1859. Königsberg had a railway station with its own postmark from the 1860s, that typically read 'Königsberg Pr. Eisenb. Post-Bureau XI'. Today that railway

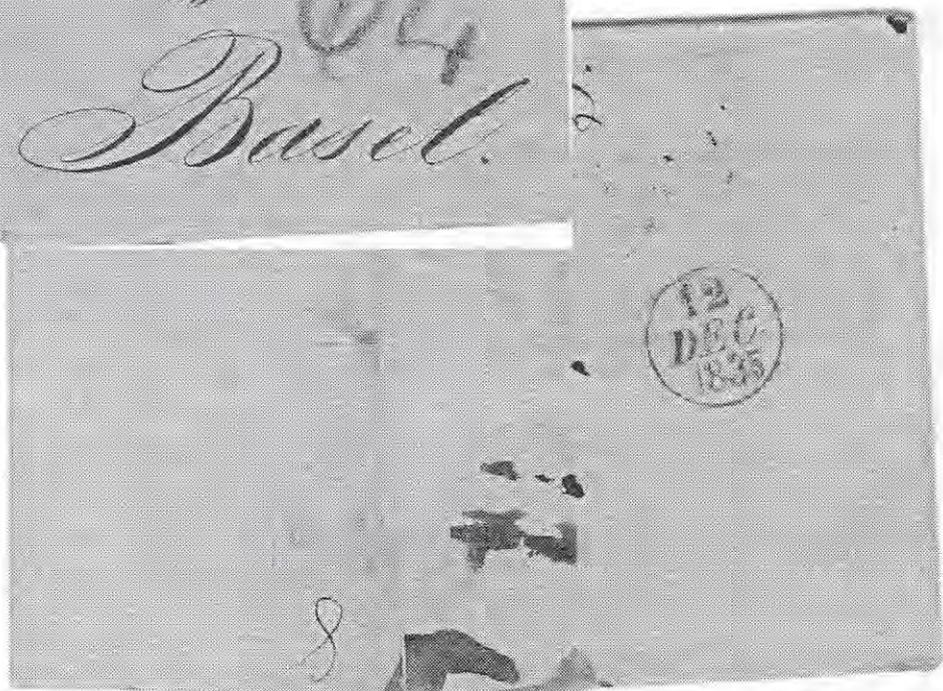
station has an impressive double-span arched roof over multiple platforms, with the letters КАЛИНИНГРАД across its front.

From 1922 the airmail service between Moscow to Germany landed (presumably for refuelling) at Königsberg, where mail received a red cancellation reading, with slight variations, "Mit Luftpost befördert Königsbrg Pr. 1", so this can also be found on letters bearing Russian stamps.



The folded letter sent from Königsberg to Basel in 1835, (shown left) was first cancelled by a postmark of the former Thurn and Taxis private post, reading 'KÖNIGSBERG Pr. 3-4 3/12' and bears handwritten marks of the various charges it incurred on its transit across frontiers to get to Switzerland.

It is backstamped on receipt at Basel on 12 Dec 1835. The letter is a commercial one, enclosing a piece of pink woven silk ribbon as a sample.





The period of the German private posts, which this author has described in a previous article in Capital Philately, gave rise to some issues by the private company Hansa in 1894/95. Two examples are shown here; left and below.

The small brown 10 pf stamp shows Königsberg's coat of arms: the Prussian crown is set above the arms for each of the three sectors of the old town, Kneiphof, Altstadt, and Löbenicht in the middle, encircled by the words PRIVATSTADTBR.- BEFORDERUNG, HANSA., meaning 'private town letter forwarding service of Hansa'.

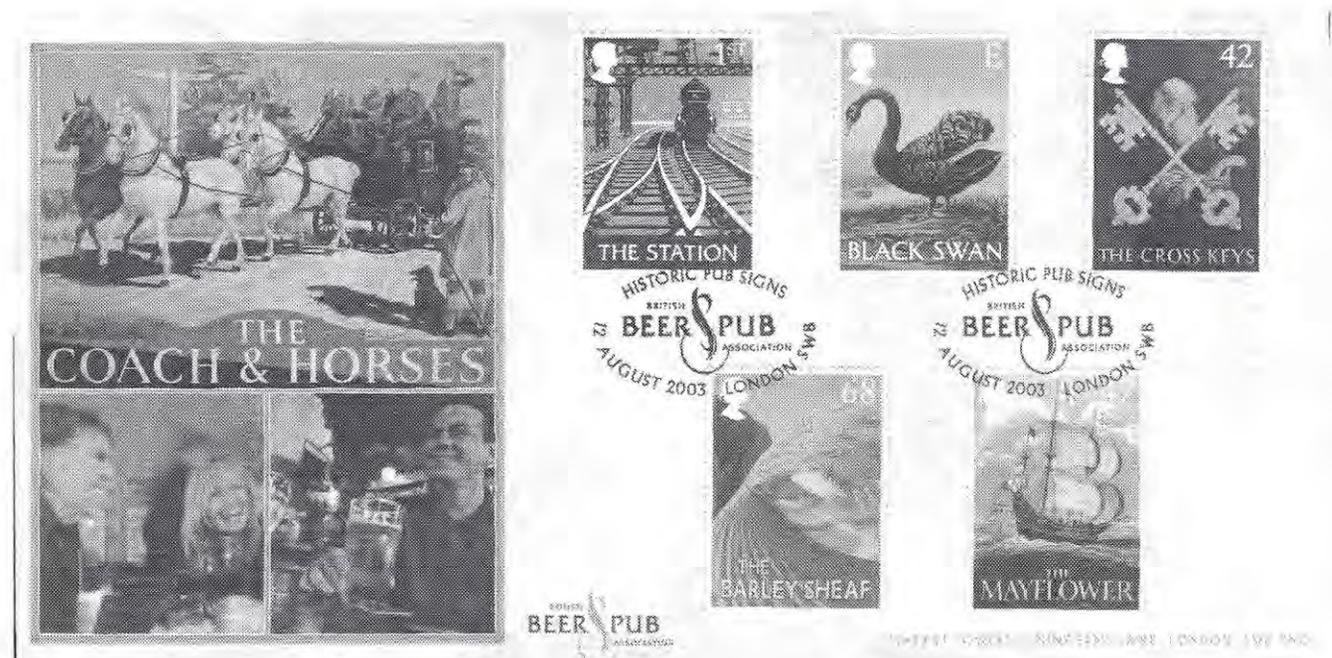
The second larger stamp, is multicoloured with a gold background, valued at 3pf, was issued by Hansa in Königsberg in 1897 to celebrate the centenary of the birth of Kaiser William I.

[The Editor has added a number of stamp catalogue references to the themes and persons of this article. It is planned that an article about the interesting 1820 correspondence shown by one cover here will appear in a later edition of Capital Philately.]



References:

- Knaurs Lexicon. Drömersche Verlagsanstalt Th. Knaur Nachf., München-Zürich, 1956.
- Michel Deutschland-Spezialkatalog 1988.



“I quote from the latest issue of the Railway Magazine. “The Royal Mail is thought to be about to score another own goal by issuing one of the most seriously flawed stamps in philatelic history. The First Class Stamp shows tracks that are in danger of causing a train to derail – the artist has confused his rails meaning that the points in the foreground do not make sense.”

- From 'At the Sign Of', the journal of the Inn Sign Society, no. 57, Autumn 2003

PASTCARDS

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a branch of the Philatelic Society of Canberra, Inc.

No. 54

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EDITORIAL

This issue contains the Fifth Part of Hans Karman's display on windmills. We continue to be stimulated by Hans' detailed discussions on the mechanisms of windmills and their uses as well as his breadth of historical research. This frame looks in depth at the wings or sails that catch the wind and provide the power for the mill.

Graeme Broxam continues his “prehistoric” series on dinosaurs with a look at reconstruction. Graeme is a person of many pursuits – as well as his philatelic and postcard interests, he writes and publishes books, principally with an Australian maritime theme. His latest effort, of particular interest to your editor’s Sydney Harbour postcards, is to publish Steve Brew’s new book on the sinking of the Watsons Bay Ferry *Greycliffe* by the steamer *Tahiti* on 3rd November 1927. The book brings together for the first time all the reports and summaries of the relevant enquiries into this tragic accident. As well as many illustrations of *Greycliffe & Tahiti* and the consequences of the accident, the book contains a number of photographs of Sydney Harbour and other ferries at that time. I suspect that at that time there was less technical examination of accidents than at present, but, to me, and following reported comments in the book about slackness in *Greycliffe’s* steering, no examination was reported to have been made of this aspect. The author is to be commended for his efforts in combining what must have been very long-winded court proceedings together with all the press reports in to a very readable book. (*Greycliffe – Stolen Lives*, by Steve Brew, published by Navarine Publishing, 2003).

Our third contribution comes with thanks to Ruth Millican, and looks briefly at the grim humour of Charles Bairnsfather through his cartoons of trench life during World War I. Many of his cartoons were published in *The Bystander* and later printed on to postcards.

More outdated (but not to collectors) Avant cards are continuing to come to Jenni Creagh at the Dinosaur Museum – by the boxful! Sets are being distributed to members at the monthly meetings of the group. If you want any of these cards, please contact me. Recently seen, but not available in any quantity, was a card for Piazza D’Oro coffee with an attached 30gram packet of coffee “*makes 4 cups*” – I suspect this has been a very popular card! - Bruce Parker

Colour Supplement Postcards

The cards illustrated in the colour pages are intended to give an introduction to some of the Postcard Group’s displays during the remainder of this year. The challenge to your editor was to find coloured cards illustrating more than one topic – I could find a card with both Sydney Botanical Gardens and Sydney Harbour – **Botanical Gardens** display by Greg Smith in October, and the Harbour – to let one “cat out of the bag” – part of my **Surprise** in November; but I could not find a coloured card with these two and any sailing boats/ships – Graeme Broxam’s **The Age of Sail** in August.

I was also unable to connect any of **Ancient Britain** (Elspeth Bodley, May), **Channel Islands** (Bernard van der Meer, April) and **The Age of Sail** in a single card so felt Elspeth’s card with four ancient monuments the most appropriate.

Our other displays during the year include **Horses for Courses** (L.Menz, June), **But Wait, There’s More!** (J.Creagh, September) and **Malta** (A. Farrugia, March).

Figure 1: Sydney Harbour. N.S.W. Postcard showing the southern side of the Harbour, East of Circular Quay, and the Botanical Gardens around Farm Cove. Card Produced by Swain & Co and used from Sydney to Auckland, New Zealand in 1908.

Figure 2: Ancient Monuments. The monuments (from top left, clockwise): *Stonehenge* – Standing on Salisbury Plain for over 4,000 yeas, *Avebury Henge* – These standing stones are another testament to early human knowledge and social organization, *The Cerne Abbas Giant* (Dorset) – Britains most famous chalk figure and *Men-an-tol* (Cornwall) – Reminder of megalithic rituals. Card Produced by Atmosphere Postcards.

A THEMATIC EXHIBIT OF POSTCARDS - WINDMILLS (PART 5)

Hans Karman

Windmill Wings

Although most people think of windmills as having 4 wings, each with a canvas sail to catch the wind, thus turning the mill's mechanisms, the reality is much more varied. There are basically 3 types: wings based on the lateen sail (fig 1), wings with arms with a rigid lattice backing covered with canvas sails (fig 2), and rigid wings requiring no canvas (fig 3). Each of these comes in a number of variants.



Figure 1

Lateen sails on a Portuguese windmill. Note the counterweights on the spars without sails.

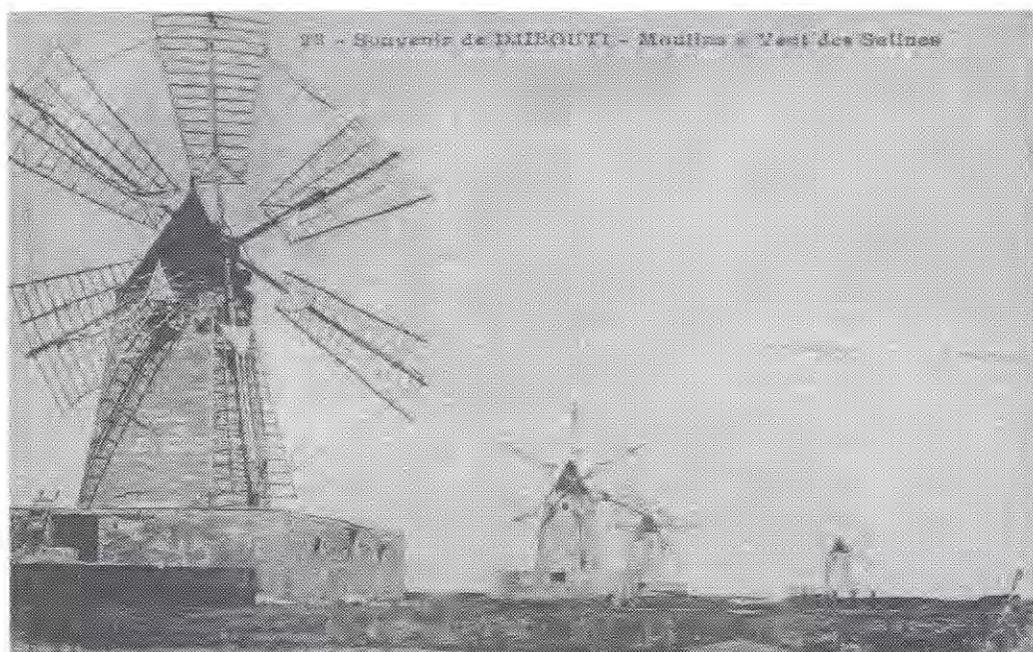


Figure 2

Djibouti Salt Pan mills with lattices to support the sails.



Figure 3

Bilau design rigid wings are almost like propellers.

Since the wings are entirely on the outside of the mill, it is easy to illustrate the development and the general shape of the wings. One merely has to have

a large collection of windmill postcards from which to select the various designs. It is a bit more difficult to show some of the operational details of wing designs. A key development was the angle of the axis around which the wings turn. The older post mills use the easiest to construct: the axle is placed horizontal within the body, parallel to the floor of the mill and parallel to the ground (fig 4). This placed the wings in a vertical plane, parallel to the body of the post mill. When mills became conical in shape, the natural thing was to tilt the axle, so that the wings would turn in a plane parallel to the body of the mill (fig 5).



Figure 4

Post Mill at Williamsburg VA, showing the split sails for the lattice centred on the spar. Note how in fig 2 a single sail is mounted in the same type of centred lattice.



Figure 5

You can clearly see the angle of the wings: initially done to clear the conical structure, but later found to be more efficient.

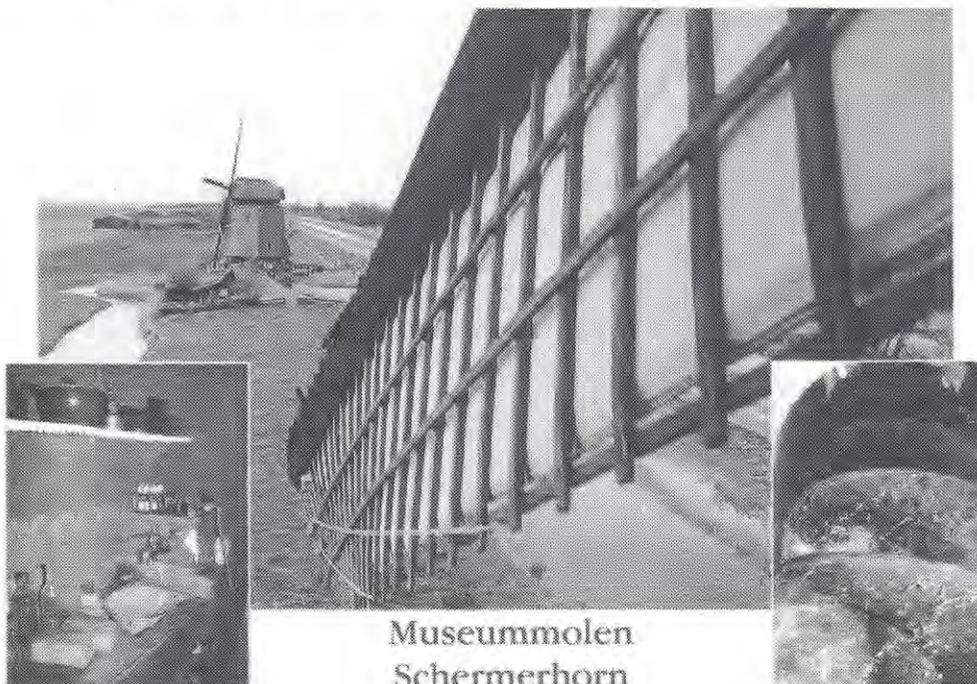
This in fact proved to be far more efficient than the original design, but it wasn't understood until the laws of aerodynamics started to be defined. Friction of the air stream close to the ground produces slower wind velocities closer to the ground. Thus the wind pressure increases with height from the ground and the resulting direction of the wind force needed to turn the wings is downwards (fig 6). The angle depends on the type of terrain over which the wind passes, but in general a 10° to 15° angle seems to be right for most situations.



Figure 6

To show the details of wing design is very difficult: picture postcards that show such details are all but non-existent. They are usually the result of an artistic attempt

Diagram showing the effect of drag on the wind closer to the ground.



Museummolen Schermerhorn

to show a windmill (fig 7), not because the wing design was the subject of the postcard. This one clearly shows the twist introduced into wing designs from the early 17th century, older windmills have a flat lattice to support the sails.

Figure 7

A rare close-up of a wing, in which the curve towards the tip is clearly visible.

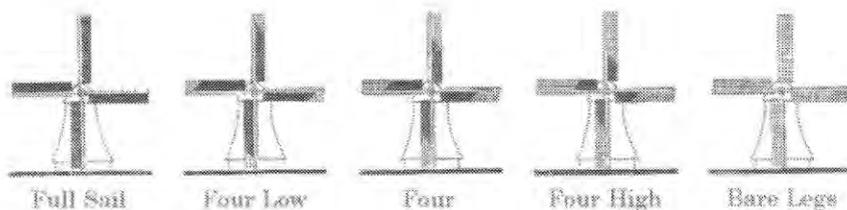


Figure 8 Diagram of windmill sails and their reefing positions.

I have never yet seen any picture postcards that show actual operational details of the miller at work on the sails. In fig 8 you can see how the amount of sail is varied: the sails are reefed as the wind

becomes stronger to avoid the mill from running too fast to

control. I have had to resort to the use of an illustration from a book to show the miller tying off a sail in the "low" position (fig 9).

Figure 9

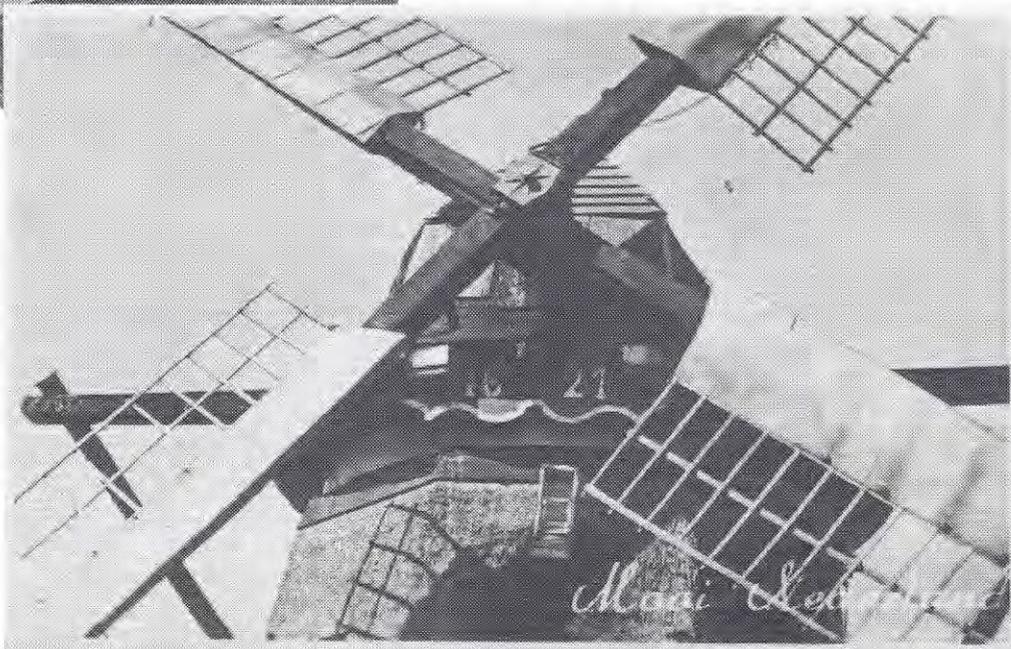
The miller tying off the reefed end of a sail in the "low" position of fig 8.



The main spars of the wings cross over in the centre, each spar stretching the full length from tip to opposite tip. Postcards showing the actual wing cross can be found occasionally, because that part of a windmill can be very picturesque (fig 10). How are these very long spars actually put in place? In the old days it used to be done from the bottom up, the wing cross was placed at an angle so one end of the spar could be inserted into the centre cradle, then the wings would be turned slowly as the spar was inserted ever deeper (using block and tackle) until it was almost vertical: at that point the wingtip would be close to the ground and the last bit could then be pushed up into its final position using a jack.

Figure 10

The wing cross, where the wing spars are fixed to the wind axle, these days using a steel fixture. Modern wind axles are often made of steel rather than the wood.



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That ancient method has not been shown on picture postcards as far as I can find. The modern method of using a crane to lift the spar and let it slide into position using its own weight I have found on a card (fig 11), but it is quite rare to find such construction details.

Figure 11

Dropping in a new spar by crane. The old spar lies in the foreground, its centre section rather worn, thus requiring replacement.

As progress was made in the science of aerodynamics, new wing designs emerged. Diligent searching will eventually turn up most of these modern designs, although some of the more esoteric ones are hard to locate (fig 12).



One difficulty is to actually identify the designer and the method of operation. One thing these modern designs have in common: enable the wing surface to be adjusted as the wind increases *without* having to stop the windmill.

Figure 12

Jalousie wings on a French windmill in the Vendée, in a folded position. The rods that manipulate the spreading of the slats can be seen; they are operated by a centrifugal governor driven by the wind axle.



In Eastern Europe, where timber is plentiful, many windmills can be found that have wings with permanent timber cladding. These can look quite odd (fig 13), and since there are fewer surviving windmills the further East one goes, they can be quite difficult to find.



Figure 13

A wooden post mill in Finland. This type of wing requires fairly high wind velocities because of the weight of the wings. Yet they cannot operate in very high winds because there is no way of reducing the sail area – the mill has to be stopped for fear of turning too fast and catching fire because of overheating of wooden bearings by friction.

DINOSAUR!
OR, FIVE HUNDRED MILLION YEARS OF PREHISTORY IN PICTURE POSTCARDS

Graeme Broxam

Part 2: Reconstructing Life from Old Bones

Taking a break from the scheduled program, now is the time to take a brief look at the fundamental questions of what dinosaurs looked like and how they lived.

The first dinosaur remains to be identified were disarticulated bones, often from one or more types, found in the same area. It was not until around the 1840s that sufficient skeletal remains from individuals were found to gain some idea of just how dinosaurs looked.

It being agreed that vertebrate animals were either fish, amphibians, reptiles, mammals or birds (itself a dangerous assumption) it was soon decided that because known dinosaurs had more skeletal features in common with reptiles than other vertebrates, that's what they were. By the time picture postcards had become popular the resulting misconceptions had been corrected, but even as late as the 1880s reconstructions like the following were common. I will use the well-known *Iguanodon* as my example, but similar problems once existed for most other dinosaurs, too.

"The Great Iguanodon from Bernissart in Belgium"

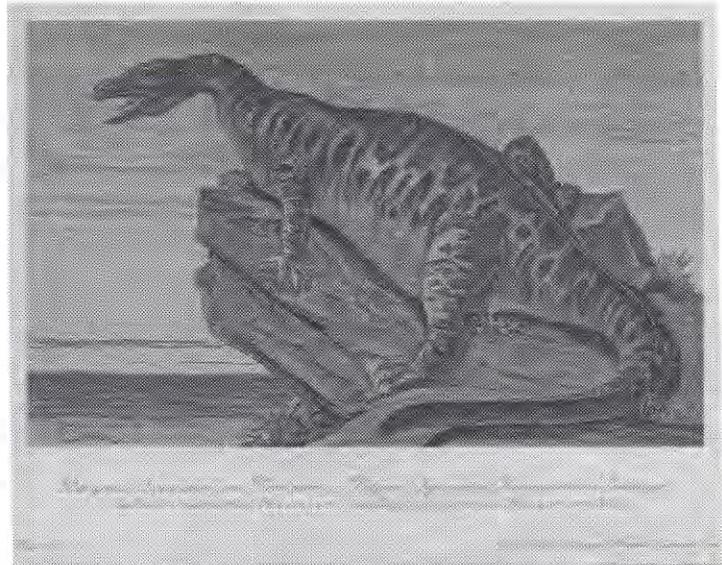
Coloured Lithographic Print (27 x 19 cm)

Artist F. John, Litho by C. Adler, Hamburg

*Published for the Kakao-Compagnie
Theodor Reichardt GmbH, Wansbeck,
Germany, c1880s*

Iguanodon as an overgrown monitor lizard, legs splayed outwards. *Iguanodon* was named from its Iguana-like teeth. Like the modern lizard, it was clearly a herbivore.

Or:



"Fight Between Megalosaurus and Iguanodon"

Coloured Lithographic Print (27 x 19 cm)

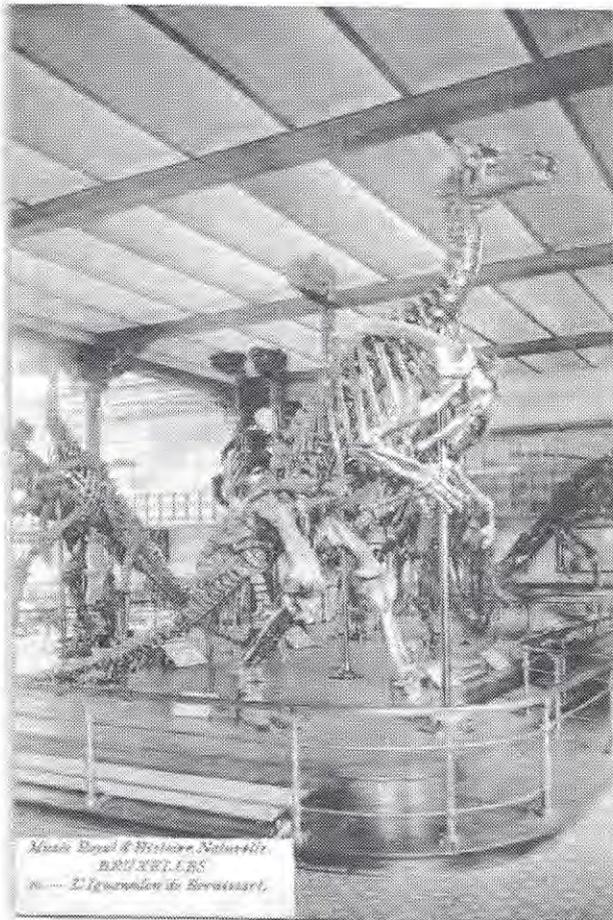
Artist F. John, Litho by C. Adler, Hamburg

*Published for the Kakao-Compagnie Theodor
Reichardt GmbH,*

Wansbeck, Germany, c1880s

"Bears with long tails." The earliest large-scale models of *Iguanodon*, for the 1851 London Exhibition, were constructed on similar lines.

From the first discoveries, however it was realised from the shape of their teeth that despite probably being of similar overall shape and size, while *Iguanodon* was an herbivore, *Megalosaurus* was a carnivore.

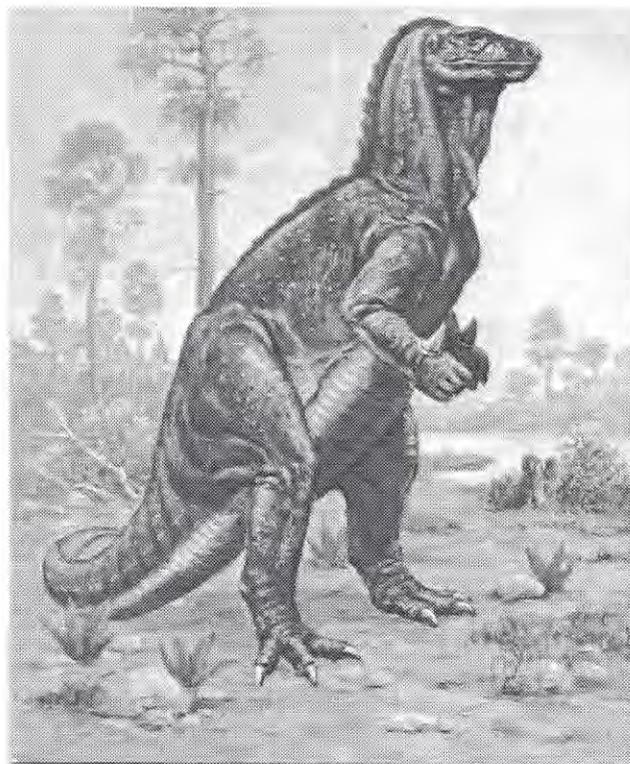


Of course, once the incredible Bernissart *Iguanodons* were excavated in Belgium during the 1870s and 1880s, there was no excuse for not knowing the overall shape. However, because the lifestyle of the animal was unknown, scientists still tried to reconstruct them like something they knew. *Iguanodon*, it was decided, was like a big kangaroo. Therefore the Bernissart *Iguanodons* were reconstructed standing upright. To do this the tail had to be broken in two or three places!

The Bernissart Iguanodons

Sepia Collotype (140 x 91 mm)

From a set published for the Royal Museum of Natural History, Brussels, c1908.



Even as late as the 1980s, *Iguanodon* was still being considered to look like a kangaroo, albeit a slow, lumbering, reptilian one.

Iguanodon (Cretaceous Period)

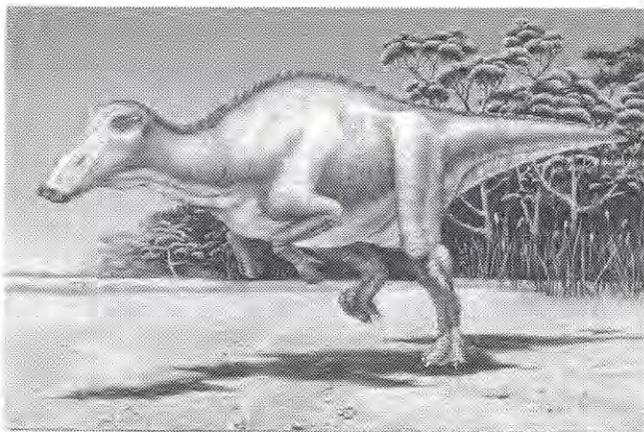
Multicolour Photolithograph (152 x 108 mm)

Painting by Matthew Kalmennoff, © 1985

Published by Dover Publications Inc, 31 East 2nd St., Mineola, New York.

In recent years, with more study of large numbers of skeletons, it has been realised that most bipedal dinosaurs had rigid tails, stiffened by numerous small cross-bones. They must have walked with bodies more or less parallel to the ground, balanced by their tails. The hoofs on both front and hind legs of the *Iguanodontids* suggest they normally traveled slowly on all fours, but reverted to hind legs only for speed.

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"Shantungosaurus. China. 65 Million Years Ago."

Multicolour Photolithograph (152 x 101mm)

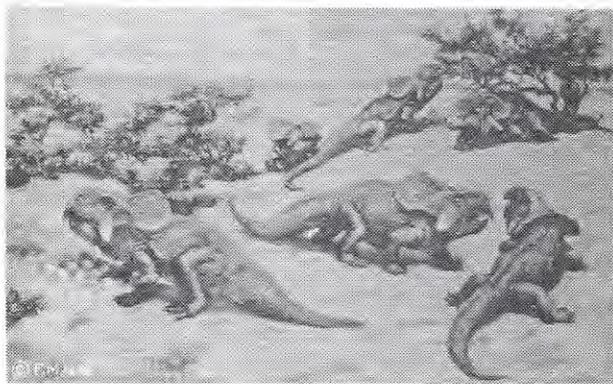
Artists: Dave Marrs and Lynette Cook, published 1991 by DinoCardz Co.

Shantungosaurus, a "duck-billed dinosaur" or *Hadrosaur*, was a later descendent of *Iguanodon*.

Although study of a dinosaur's bones can reveal much about its overall shape, conclusions about

its lifestyle can be quite risky without plenty of evidence.

In the 1920s, scientists discovered several nests of eggs in Mongolia clearly belonging to the small herbivore *Protoceratops*. Some of the eggs contained identifiable skeletal remains of the adults, that were also found nearby. Perhaps they had been buried in mud-slides or under collapsing sand dunes.



RESTORATION OF PROTOCERATOPS

Restoration of Protoceratops

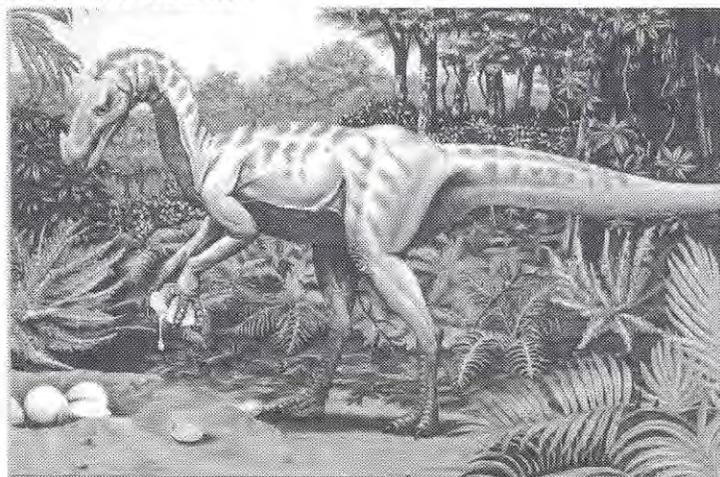
B/W lithograph (139 x 89 mm)

Drawing by Charles R. Knight from a reconstruction by palaeontologist Ernest R. Graham Hall. Published by the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, US, c1940

In 1924 the bones of a small, apparently carnivorous, dinosaur were found near similar nests. It was assumed that it was trying to steal *Protoceratops'* eggs, so it was promptly named *Oviraptor Philaceratops* ("Egg Thief fond of Horned Dinosaurs").

It was not until as late as 1995 that it was realised that the eggs were of *Oviraptor* itself, and the skeletal remains were of a mother protecting her nest! Amongst recent spectacular discoveries in Mongolia were a complete nest with *Oviraptor* perfectly preserved over the top - wings outspread to protect the nest as whatever calamity buried it took place.

Yes, wings, because like many of the small carnivores of the late Cretaceous, *Oviraptor*, too, had a full suit of feathers!



Oviraptor. Mongolia . 65 million years ago

Multicolour Photolithograph (152 x 101mm)

Artists: Dave Marrs and Lynette Cook, published 1991 by DinoCardz Co.

The out-of-date view in every respect. No feathers, no head-crest, and definitely no egg-eating! *Oviraptor* probably lived like today's ostriches and emus.

WAR CARTOON CARDS OF CHARLES BAIRNSFATHER

With thanks to Ruth Millican

Bruce (Charles) Bairnsfather was born in India July 9, 1888 and died in England (Worcestershire) on September 29, 1959. Bruce was the son of a soldier and attended the United Services College at Westward Ho, North Devon, but after a short term in the army decided on an art career instead. He studied art briefly, but (as often happens) was unable to find work in his chosen field, instead joining a firm of electrical engineers, eventually becoming a company representative.

In August 1914 he joined with his regiment, travelling to France later that year. His artistic talent soon found an outlet as he began sketching in the trenches; in 1915 his first cartoons appeared in *The Bystander* depicting the grisly humour for which he became popular. Further opportunity to sketch presented itself during the recovery from wounds suffered during action. His drawings were widely popular with his most famous character "Old Bill" – a middle aged cockney soldier with a walrus moustache.

In December 1916 this popularity brought Bairnsfather to the intelligence department of the War Office as an officer cartoonist; and duty took him and his sketchbook to various fronts. After the war he continued to draw for publications in England and the United States, but did not maintain his wartime popularity during the peace. At the advent of World War II Bairnsfather was again ready with pen and ink, this time serving with the American Forces in Europe.

The following cards are on loan from Ruth Millican, and we thank her for sharing them with us. They are Postcards from Charles to his sister Mrs Millican and aunt Miss Watson. The first two cards are simply sent to Newton Reigny; the third includes the house name "Springfort".

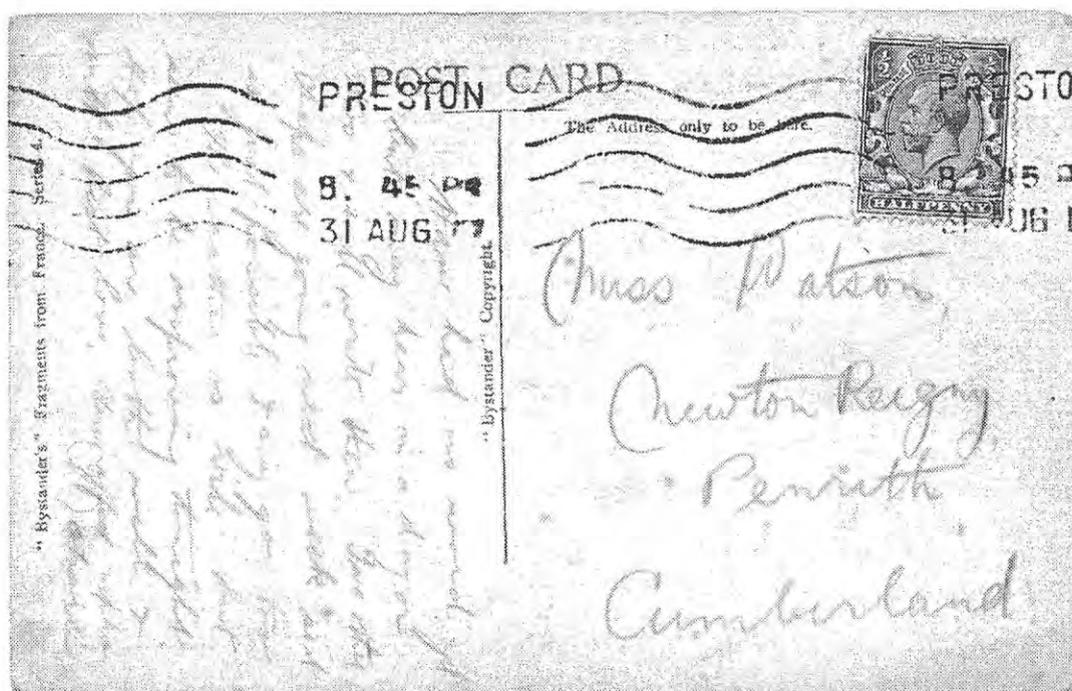
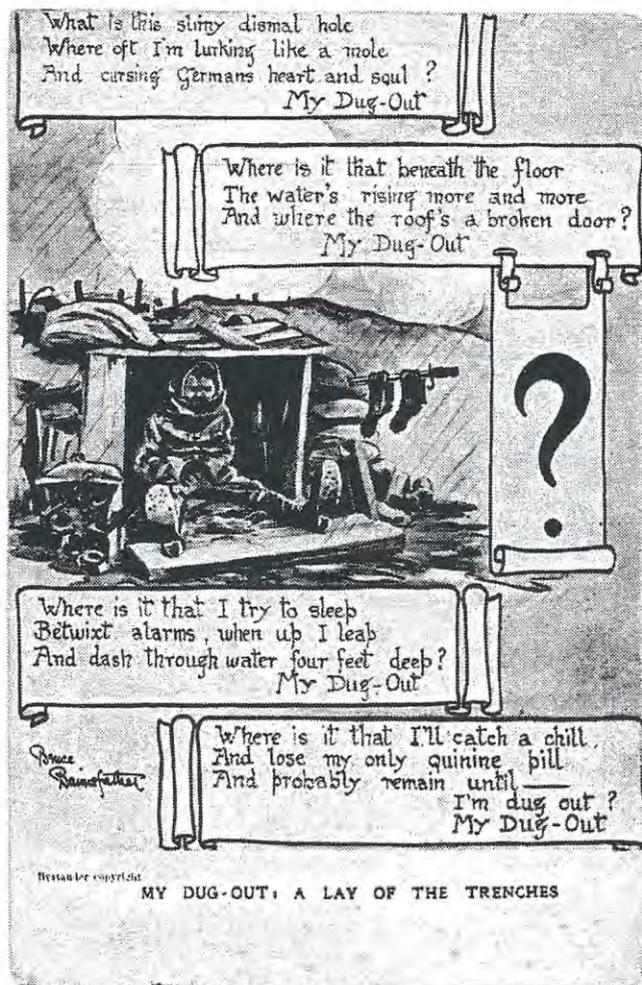


Figure 1 (Above & Top Opposite)
 Card August 1917 – *My Dug Out: A Lay of the Trenches.*
 "Bystanders" Fragments from France Series 4

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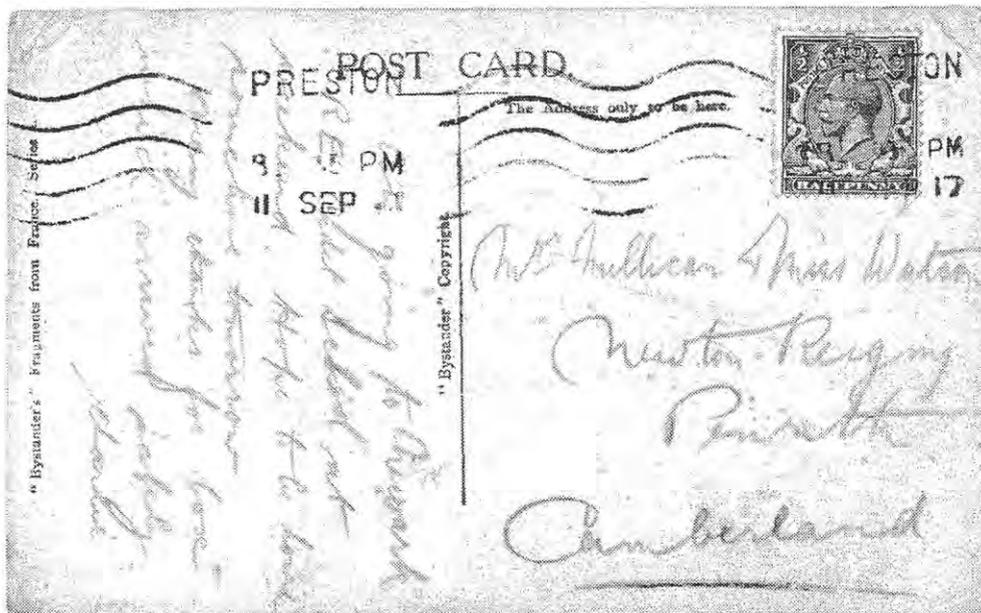


8.45pm 31 Aug 17, Preston, to Miss Watson

"Have had no word yet but may hear in a day or two & will write then. Two other chaps are going next week so it is just possible I may go too. The weather is vile but seems to be improving tonight. Hope you are both well and with best love. Your affect. Nephew Charlie."



Figure 2 (Right & Below)
Card September 1917 – Gott Strafe This Barbed Wire.
"Bystanders" Fragments from France Series 4



8.45pm 11 Sept 17, Preston, to Mrs Millican and Miss Watson

"Am going to Newark R.E. cadet school at weekend. Hope to be home sometime tomorrow. Many thanks for box which arrived safely. Charlie."

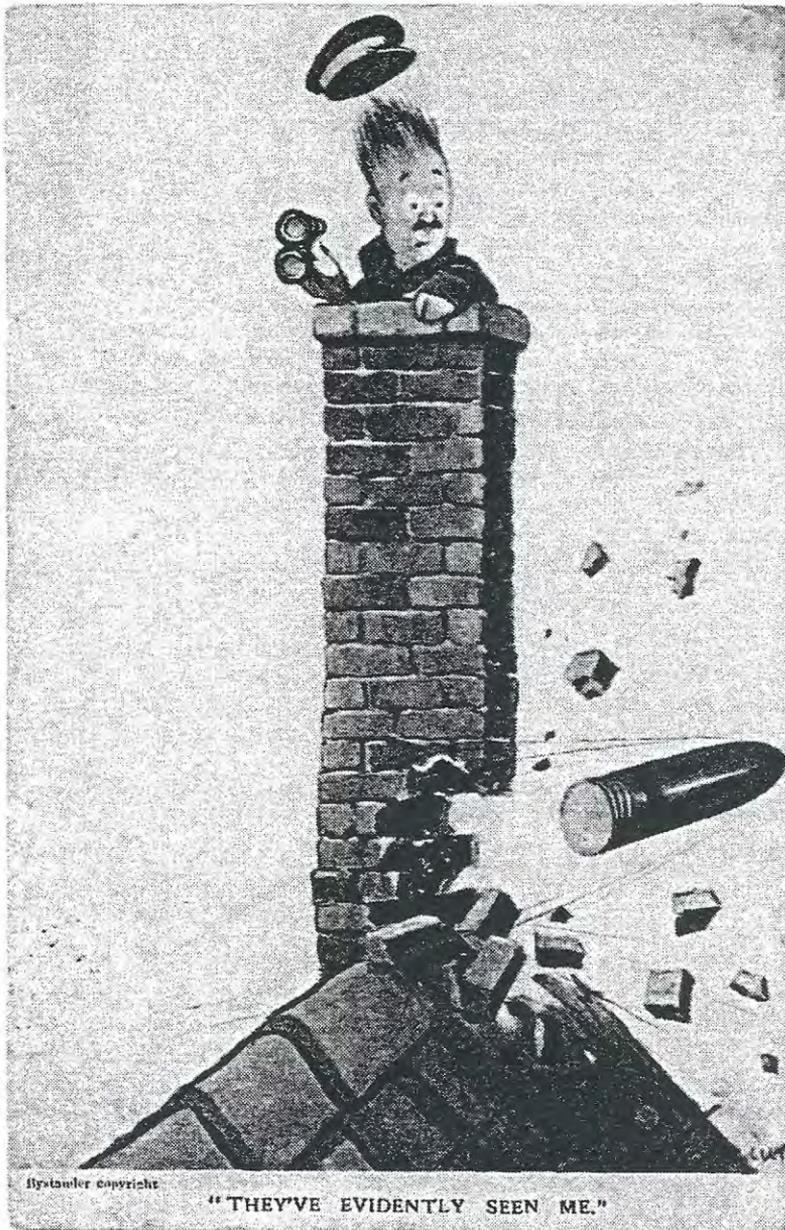
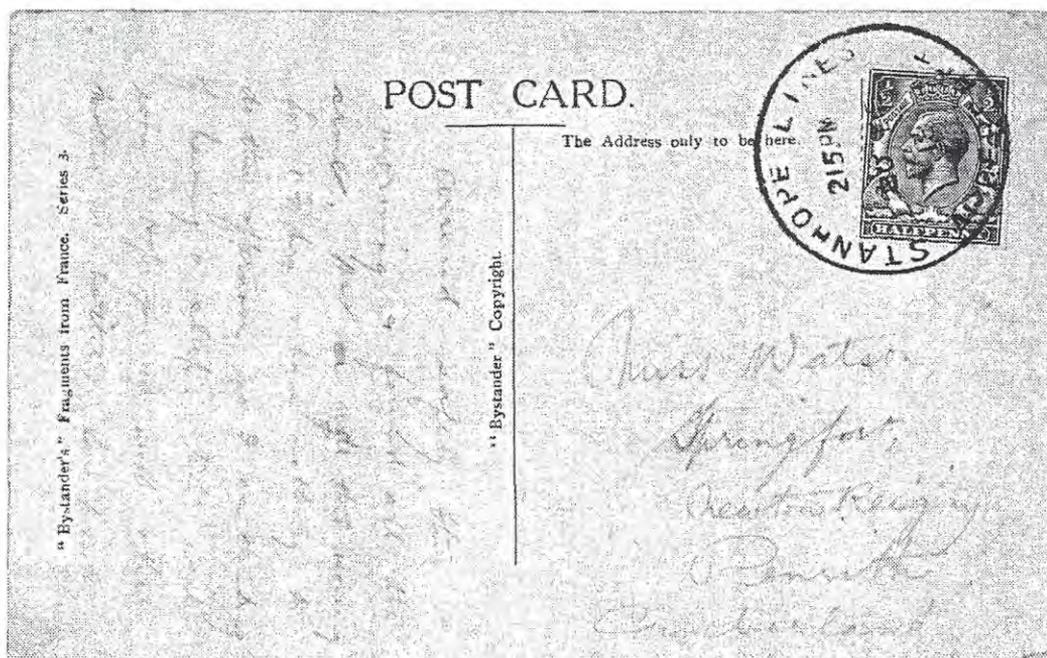


Figure 3 (Left & Below)
 Card February 1918 – They've
 Evidently Seen Me.
 "Bystanders" Fragments from France
 Series 3

2.15pm 20 Fe 19, Stanhope Lines
 Aldershot, to Miss Watson

"Arrived safely this morning and found
 all the same. Had a ride this morning
 for 1¼ hours & have nothing to do this
 afternoon, so I am thinking of having a
 sleep. Will write soon. Hope you are
 well & that mother is better, Love to
 both. Charlie."



MACHINATIONS

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EDITORIAL

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Another New Year and the Machin series continues to draw interest from around the world. Clearly Queen Elizabeth II (long may she reign) obviously has no intention of approving any design change to the Queen's head, so there will be more of the same. Changes in some values, in line with CPI movements, will result in some new Machin stamps, but how many I don't know. Not many, I suspect. What we can expect are more booklets. Overall they appear to be very popular, and certainly are a good collecting field in their own right. For cylinder block collectors all the low value definitives now show the new D1D1 cylinders (which indicates they have been printed at Harrison & Sons new premises at Byfleet). Quality control by Harrison will almost certainly have improved following the debacle of the recent £2 issue. So don't expect to find too many errors. Locally the Machin Study Group continues to meet every month. Newcomers to this fascinating part of the hobby of Kings (and Queens) are more than welcome to visit our meetings (7.45pm in the Griffin Centre on the Monday following the Club's exchange evening). We can (almost) guarantee you a very interesting meeting. To the aficionado, have another wonderful year with your hobby, and Good Hunting.

Peter Oldham

FINDING MACHINS ON THE INTERNET

Tony Luckhurst

There are many interesting sites concerned with British Stamps on the Internet. It depends whether you require information on types of stamps issued, new issues or technical aspects of collecting British stamps. The sites and email addresses which are mentioned in this article are by no means exhaustive. If readers are aware of any others I would like to hear about those not mentioned here which could be useful in the study of the Machin definitive. I have also included some email addresses of dealers who specialise in Machin issues. The Machin Interest Group of the Philatelic Society of Canberra has a web page (it's still there!) which urgently needs updating. This may be a project for us in the not too distant future. The Society's web page also contains contact information for our group.

www.gbstamps.com

This is probably the best place to start. It is the major site for collecting and study of stamps of Great Britain and related material and is maintained by our good friend Larry Rosenblum. It also gives links to all the Machin collectors clubs and dealers in Machin stamps.

It is divided into 3 sections:

1. gbstamps.com *section for all collectors*
2. machinmania.com *study of the Machin definitive*
3. GB Collectors' Club of North America

This article will concentrate on the Machin section of this site, but before I begin describing this section there is an interesting listing British postal rates since 1965. This will assist the collector to gain an understanding of the Machin values that were produced (and those that were not!) for each change in postal rates.

The Machin Mania section is also divided into nine sub-sections:

***The Virtual Machin Album:**

1. "Profile in Print": This gives a brief history of the Machin design followed by illustrations of the Machin types from the "Profile in Print" Prestige Booklet
2. "Designer Machins": These are described as what keeps Machin collecting interesting. Subtle differences to the standard design. These can be collected as sub-groups in the Machin collection. Again there are illustrations of each type: 1840 Anniversary or "Double Heads"; Stamp World 1990 Mini sheet; 1997 gold Machins (this colour has been revived in 2002 and is now the current colour for 1st class definitives) and the "Millennium Machin"

***Report on the Machin Exhibits at Stamp Show 2000 (self explanatory)**

***Machin-Related news stories (from 1998-2003)**

***The Machin Quiz** Two different quizzes to test your knowledge about our favourite definitive series.

***Machin FAQ (Common questions concerning Machins are answered)**

***Retrospective Exhibition of Arnold Machin's work**

***Machin Editorials** includes two editorials from Albert Farrugia of the Philatelic Society of Canberra.

***Machin Clubs**

Machin Collectors Club (UK)

Machinations

Machin Interest Group (Australia)

British Decimal Stamps Study Circle (UK)

GB Decimal Stamp Book Study Circle (UK)

GB Collector's Club (USA)

*Machin Links

Let's examine some of these links:

www.machins.org

Machin Collector's Club

Some sections of this site are restricted to members of the MCC while some are accessible to non-members. The Club Newsletter can be read and printed, there is an advertisement for the MCC Catalogue, you can join the club, participate in its auctions, read the classifieds or chat in the chat room.

www.gbdsbsc.kabsi.at

Great Britain Decimal Stamp Book Study Circle

The GBDSBSC produces the Bookmark Catalogue and the Bookmark Journal. You can view the index of the Bookmark Journal (which is published 6 times a year) and view sample pages online. The Bookmark Catalogue of British Decimal Postage Stamp Books, may be purchased for £59.95. It is also possible to view lists of all the booklets and panes produced by Royal Mail (not priced). It also gives you a list of booklet dealers and other clubs.

Booklet Dealers *Those with web sites and/or email addresses*

- John Deering machins@johndeering.demon.co.uk

- Mike Holt sales@mikeholt-britishstamps.com

www.mikeholt-britishstamps.com

Mike also produces price lists of Machin stamps and errors

- James Skinner (B.Alan Ltd) info@balanstamps.co.uk

- Alec Withell alecwithell@awstamps.freerve.co.uk

- County Philatelic Auctions (John Horsey)

county@stampauctions.co.uk

www.stampauctions.co.uk

www.adminware.ca/machin.htm

Robin Harris-Adminware Philatelic Links

This is another very good and thorough site giving you information on all areas of Machin collecting. It illustrates all values in any given year as well as the different colours and value types. It is divided into categories such as Scottish Regionals, self adhesives, high values etc, so that you can jump to the section you require. There is a timeline of Machin issues which lists the history of Machin releases. The introduction states that 200 web pages make up this site. It is being developed further and will eventually contain booklet singles and varieties on mint stamps. It was originally developed for collectors of used examples of Machin stamps. I believe this is the second best web site for the Machin collector.

www.bdssc.co.uk

British Decimal Stamps Study Circle (BDSSC)

Visitors can access limited information relating to British new issues. The site sets out a list of all the issues for the current year and often illustrates them. To access more information and the members' enclosure you have to join the club.

www.gbstamps.co.uk

Arthur Ryan

Arthur is a dealer who specialises in British stamps. On his site he has price lists for Machin stamps and other British issues. It also has a buying list (eg. ½p left band Machin is being purchased for £15.00)

www.royalmail.com

This is probably only good for purchasing new issues and Machins still on sale at the post office. You can purchase packs of low value, high value or all values with the pictorial regionals for £5.45, £11.50 and £29.95 respectively.

www.machinbase.freemove.co.uk

Ron Jackson produces the Machinbase CD-ROM. It lists all the issues and allows you to make a list of your collection. The site shows you how to purchase this disk and its updates. You can access a price list of Machin issues from this site.

Deegam@btopenworld.com

I must not forget Douglas Myall's email address. If you need to purchase his Deegam Catalogue here is the starting place.

Anyway, if any surfers know of a good Machin site which has not been covered here please contact me at tony_luckhurst@bigpond.com

The DG numbering system, PIP and S I N systems for identifying perforation and inset and notched band types used throughout this journal are used with the kind permission of Mr DGA Myall, the author of those systems. Similarly the DB and DP numbering systems for booklets and panes are used with kind permission of the Great Britain Decimal Stamp Book Study Circle.

Resources for Machin Collectors from B.Alan :

- **Regular Price lists of Machin and related material – all offers numbered according to the Connoisseur Catalogue issued by the same company . A wealth of material for all levels of Machin collectors. The Specialised List for 1997/98 covers issues from the inception of elliptical perforations, and includes useful annotations describing features such as phosphors, coil leaders etc. Not just a price list – more like a mini-catalogue.**
- ◆ **The *Variety Club News* containing a wealth of articles on many aspects of modern GB philately, including Machins. Questa gravure machine books**
- ◆ **The Speed Prestige booklet**

Machinations thoroughly recommends these publications – get your material from an expert in the field

B.Alan Ltd : 2, Pinewood Avenue, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN14 5 AF, UK Tel : 44 1732 743387; Fax : 44 1732 454442; e-mail : pinewoods@compuserve.com

INTERESTING ITEMS

Danny Howard

Readers may have noticed already noticed that the Philatelic Society of Canberra has splashed out with this Canberra Stampshow 2004 special edition of *Capital Philately* and included a number of colour plates. The Machin Interest Group thought it might be a good idea to show a few items which would benefit from being in colour because it would assist readers to identify the particular differences for which those items were being included – see Plate 4. The avid Machinite might want to keep their eyes peeled for some of these in their travels.

Figure 1 shows a pair of 20p Welsh Regional Definitives showing the 15 pin error at the top and bottom right of the stamp on the left (DG W200.3.1a & DG W200.3.1). This error occurred in column 1 of a number of sheets due to a problem with the tension control on the roll of paper from which they were being printed. The problem occurred due to unusual humidity which caused the web to be loose at the edges. The result is a stamp which is slightly oversized and shows either a full or partial extra perforation.

Figure 3 shows an imperforate block of 4 of the 12 ½p on FCP/Dex (DG 125.1), while **Figure 2** shows an imperforate pair of the 6 ½p on FCP/Dex (DG 65.2). Imperforate stamps are not unusual, but most would be picked up by quality assurance at the printers. There is often conjecture about whether stamps such as these were issued through the Post Office, or whether they should be merely considered as printers' waste. The fact that most fetch prices in excess of £100 shows that collectors are willing to pay good money to include examples in their collections.

Figure 4 shows an example of the 24p on ACP/Dex (DG 240.3) at the right and the now famous 1993 forgery of that stamp on the left. The forgery is easily distinguished both by its close but different shade, greyer shade of the head and the fact it is line perf 11 instead of the usual perf 14-15 of most of the Machin issues. No legitimate Machins have ever been produced using a line perforator.

Figure 5 shows two examples of the 18p on FCP/Dex with two bands from decimal pane DP107, the multi-value pane from the £5 *The Story of the Financial Times* Prestige Booklet. The right hand stamp is the normal colour (DG 180.7.1), while the stamp on the right hand side is described as 'blackish olive' and is an error of colour (DG 180.7.2). The printer, The House of Questa, has confirmed that the error came as a result of an error in the colour mix for part of the printing.

Figure 6 shows an undenominated proof. It is believed these were printed during testing and trialing of the Jumelle press when newly installed by Harrison & Sons in 1973. There are four types, deep lilac and deep turquoise which utilise head type B2 and pale lilac and pale turquoise (the latter of which is illustrated) which feature head type C1.

Figure 7 shows a 24p Welsh Regional Definitive on ACP/PVA1, perf 14 ¾ x 14 with type 2 symbol (DG W240.2). It has been misperforated so that the Dragon's ears have been lopped and appear at the bottom of the stamp. This example clear shows the margin between the two stamps along which the perforations should have run. These types of misperf are relatively common, although the prices can vary from dealer to dealer and issue to issue.

Figure 8 shows an example of decimal pane DP160B from decimal booklet DB20(20) showing plate number W16 W11 W14. It comprises 10 x 1st ACP/Dex showing perforation type E3a (blind hole at base along the bottom row of stamps) (DG N1.10.2a). This collectable variety results from the perforator not perforating the stamp pane right through the bottom row of stamps on the primary sheet for booklets with imperforate top and bottom rows. It occurs in those booklets containing the stamps from the bottom row of the primary sheet.

Figure 9 shows a plate block of the elusive 31p Scottish Regional Definitive printed by Waddington showing the type 2 heraldic symbol. The dot block currently catalogues at £525 and the no dot at £650 (don't ask me why this difference). This block is shown simply because it is one of the gems of the Machin Definitive series and is probably the scarcest of the Scottish Regionals. This particular example was purchased through a new issue service for £3.50 when it was issued. If only we'd all known back then!!!

Figure 10 shows a block of 6 of the 3p Rose Red on PCP/Dex (DG 30.12) with 17 pin error between stamps 3 & 4. This error arose because of an additional pin being inserted in a perforation drum on an APS perforator being used by Harrison & Sons. It results in 17 perforation holes between the stamps in columns 1 and 2 instead of the usual 16. It only occurs on dot sheets, but can occur between any two stamps in columns 1 and 2 up the sheet. Cylinder blocks showing the 17 pin error command a premium as they only occur three times in every twenty sheets.

Figure 11 shows a 26p on OFNP/Dex (DG 260.5.1) showing a multipositive flaw which has resulted in the bottom of the 'p' in the value being omitted.

Figure 12 shows an example of a miscut decimal pane DP206/M from decimal booklet DB15(27)/1. The miscut pane can be identified by both the cut bar appearing in the centre of the margin at the top of the pane and the cylinder number appearing above stamp 2 instead of as normal above stamp 1.

It can be seen from much of this material that the Royal Mail (or more correctly its suppliers) is far from perfect and can, from time to time, produce some interesting material. The variety of perforation (or lack of perforations) errors represents an interesting area around which a more specialised collection can be built, along with booklets which abound with all sorts of interesting varieties. Proof material is quite scarce and when it does come onto the market is beyond the reach of most collectors, while cylinder and plate blocks and the odd flaw like that shown in figure 7 or error of colour shown in figure 11 can also add an interesting aspect to a collection, often for quite a reasonable price.

I trust readers have found the Machin colour panel and this article an interesting read and might perhaps cause some to take a closer look at some of the bulk stamps they may have purchased in the past, just to make sure there are no hidden little treasures amongst them.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE 26P IN RED, STONE AND RUST AND GOLD.

John Oliver

The 26p red value was issued on 27 January 1982 in time for the tariff increase on 1 February 1982. It was the basic rate for airmail letters to zone B and a stage rate for 2nd class inland letters until 4 April 1983. From 5 April 1983 until 2 September 1984 it was the basic airmail letter rate to zone A and until 4 September 1988 was also the world wide post card rate. It was the second weight step for 1st class letters from 20 October 1986 until 4 September 1988. This issue was withdrawn on 9 September 1988

1. The 26p issue in red was printed by Harrison in photogravure
 - (a) On Phosphor Coated paper (PCP) with Dextrin gum:
 - i. in sheets from cyl 2, found as PCP1 perforated either Kampf or APS and PCP2 perforated Kampf.
 - (b) On Advanced Coated paper (ACP) with Dextrin gum:
 - i. in sheets from cyls 1 and 2; and
 - ii. in pane **DP104** which comprised 4 x 26p stamps with surrounding selvedge from the Worldwide Postcards window booklet issued in August 1987. It is known with screened values. The value tablet on this and subsequent issues use the redrawn Jeffrey Matthews font, which is narrower than the font used for the previous issues from sheets.
 - (c) On Fluorescent Coated paper (FCP) with Dextrin gum and two 'A' phosphor bands:
 - i. in pane **DP98** from the £5 Prestige booklet "The Story of P & O" issued in March 1987. This pane comprises nine stamps in three columns, the left hand column 1 x 13p, 1 x 1p, 1 x 13p each with 1 left phosphor band; the centre column 3 x 18p with two phosphor bands; and the right hand column 1 x 18p, 1 x 26p, 1 x 18p each with 2 phosphor bands. This stamp was issued before the change to the Jeffrey Matthews font and shows the wider and thicker Type 1 value tablet.

The 26p in stone was issued on 4 September 1990. It prepaid the European rate and the basic surface rate beyond Europe. The value was withdrawn on 14 September 1991.

2. The 26p issue in stone was again printed by Harrison in photogravure
 - (a) On Advanced Coated paper (ACP) with Dextrin gum:
 - i. in sheets from cyl 4

The 26p rust was issued on 25 June 1996 to prepay the basic 1st class inland letter rate from 8 July 1996 until 26 April 2000. It was withdrawn on 3 July 2000.

The 26p issue in rust was printed by:

3.1 Harrison in photogravure

- (a) on OBA-Free Non-phosphorised paper (OFNP) with Dextrin gum and two AB phosphor bands:

- i. in sheets from cyl 6. It is known with screened values. This is the first issue of the 26p with elliptical perforations.

3.2 Questa in lithography

(a) on OFNP with PVAI gum and two AB phosphor bands:

- i. in pane **DP243** comprising six stamps and two labels in two columns. The left hand column with 1 x label, 1 x 1p with 2 phosphor bands, 1 x 20p with one centre phosphor band and 1 x 26p with 2 phosphor bands. The right hand column with 1 x label, 1 x 1p and 2 x 26p all with 2 phosphor bands.
- ii. in pane **DP244** comprising eight stamps in two columns. The left hand column with 1 x 20p with one centre phosphor band and 3 x 26p with 2 phosphor bands. The right hand column with 4 x 26p all with 2 phosphor bands.

(b) on OFNP with PVAI gum and two A2B phosphor bands:

- i. in pane **DP243A** which has the same layout as DP243, but with A2B phosphor.
- ii. in pane **DP244A** which has the same layout as DP244, but with A2B phosphor.

3.3 Harrison in gravure

(a) on OFNP with PVAI gum with two AB phosphor bands:

- i. in sheets from cylinders 6 and 11 which are acid etched and cylinder 13, which is electro-mechanically engraved (EME).
- ii. in pane **DP257** from the £6.15 Prestige booklet "BBC 75 – Celebrating 75 years of the BBC" comprising six stamps in two columns. The left hand column with 3 x 20p with one phosphor band at right and right hand column with 3 x 26p all with 2 phosphor bands.

3.4 Questa in gravure

(a) on OFNP with PVAI gum with two A2B phosphor bands:

- i. in pane **DP277** which has the same layout as DP243 and DP 243A, but produced using EME.
- ii. in pane **DP278** which has the same layout as DP244 and DP244A, but produced using EME.
- iii. in pane **DP287** comprising six stamps and two labels in two columns. The left hand column with 1 x label, 1 x 1p with 2 phosphor bands, 1 x 19p with one centre phosphor band and 1 x 26p with 2 phosphor bands. The right hand column with 1 x label, 1 x 2p and 2 x 26p all with 2 phosphor bands
- iv. in pane **DP288** comprising eight stamps two columns. The left hand column with 1 x 19p with one centre phosphor band and 3 x 26p with 2 phosphor bands. The right hand column with 4 x 26p all with 2 phosphor bands.
- v. in pane **DP287A** which has the same layout as DP287, but on a fluorescent paper.
- vi. in pane **DP288A** which has the same layout as DP288 but on a fluorescent paper.
- vii. in pane **DP296** from the £6.99 Prestige booklet "World Changers" comprising eight stamps and one label in three columns. The left hand column with 1 x 1p, 1 x 26p and 1 x 1p all with 2 phosphor bands. The centre column with 1 x 19p, 1 x label and 1 x 19p, both stamps with 1 centre phosphor band. The right hand column with 1 x 1p

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with 2 phosphor bands, 1 x 19p stamps with 1 centre phosphor band and 1 x 1p1p with 2 phosphor bands.

The 26p gold was issued on 21 April 1997 to commemorate the golden anniversary of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. It prepaid the basic 1st class inland letter rate in conjunction with the rust coloured stamps of this issue that also continued on sale. It was withdrawn from general sale after November 1997.

The 26p issue printed in Gold by Harrison in gravure

(a) on OFNP with PVA1 and 2 AB phosphor bands:

i. in sheets from cyl 13 using EME.

ii. in pane **DP256** from the £6.15 Prestige booklet "BBC 75 – Celebrating 75 years of the BBC" comprising eight stamps and one label in three columns. The left hand column with 1 x 1st class, 1 x 26p, 1 x 1st class. The centre column with 1 x 26p, 1 label, and 1 x 26p. The right hand column with 1 x 1st class, 1 x 26p and 1 x 1st class. All stamps in this pane have 2 phosphor bands.

There are a number of shifts, misplaced, inset or notched bands as well as missing phosphors and short bands to be collected of this value. These are particularly evident on the multivalued panes from Prestige booklets where minor phosphor shifts can produce nice insets. The multivalued panes (DP243, DP244 and similar layouts) from the £1 and £2 Machine Vended booklets are notorious for the variety of misplaced phosphors they produced. The depth of your study depends entirely on your enthusiasm and the depth of your pocket, so good hunting.

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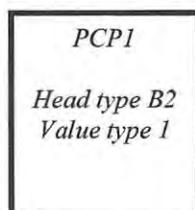
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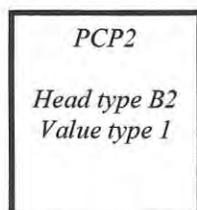
Face Value 26p

Printed by Harrison in Photogravure

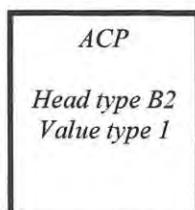
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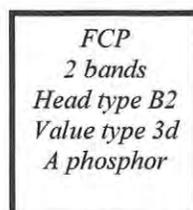
Issued 27.1.82



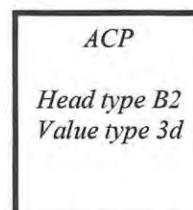
Issued March 1982



Issued 8.4.84

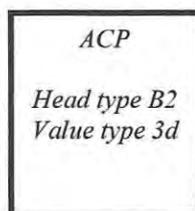


Issued 3.3.87



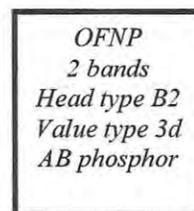
Issued 4.8.87

Colour Stone



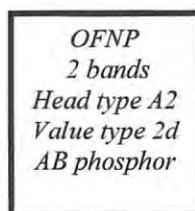
Issued 4.9.90

Colour Rust



Issued 25.6.96

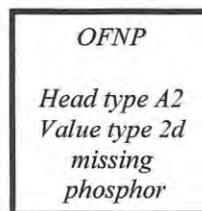
*Printed by Questa in
Lithography*



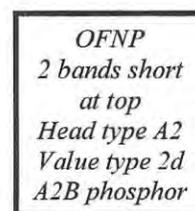
Issued 8.7.96



Issued 24.1.97



Issued 20.7.97

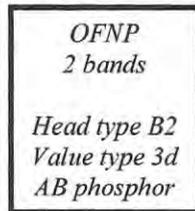


Issued 26.4.98

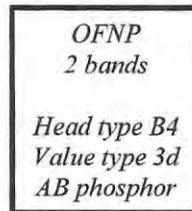
Face Value 26p

Printed by Harrison in Gravure

Colour Rust



Issued 27.2.97

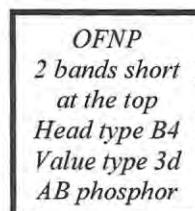


Issued 23.9.97

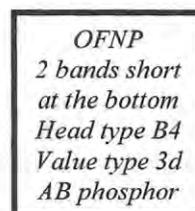
Colour gold



Issued 21.4.97

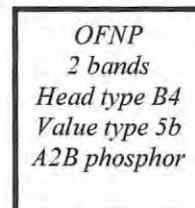


Issued 23.9.97

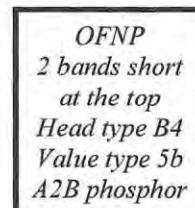


Issued 23.9.97

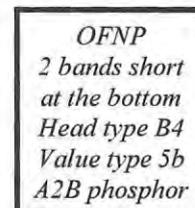
*Printed by Questa in
Gravure*



Issued 1.12.98



Issued December 98



Issued April 1999

The 26p red was issued on 27 January 1982, when it was a stage rate for second class inland letters and for airmail letters to zone B until 4 April 1983. From 5 April 1983 until 2 September 1984 it prepaid the basic airmail rate to zone A.. It then prepaid the worldwide postal rate from 5 September 1983 until 4 September 1988. Finally from 20 October 1986 to 4 September 1988 it prepaid the second weight step for first class letters before it was withdrawn on 9 September 1988, after a long and varied career.

The European rate and the basic surface rate for countries outside Europe was increased to 26p on 17 September 1990, so the value was reissued in a new colour, Stone. This in turn was withdrawn when increases in costs made it redundant on 14 September 1991. The value was reissued yet again to on 8 July 1996 to meet increased charges for the basic 1st class inland letter rate. The colour was changed to Rust. The value was withdrawn on 3 July 2000.

This value was issued temporarily printed gold metallic ink during the period 21 April to November 1997 to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Queen's wedding.