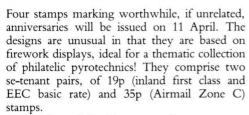
# Anniversaries

### 11 April 1989



The first of the **19p** stamps shows a mortar board and marks the 150th anniversary of public education in England and Wales; the second stamp depicts a cross on a ballot paper and marks the 3rd Direct Elections to the European Parliament (stamps commemorated both previous elections, in 1979 and 1984). The first **35p** stamp shows a posthorn, marking the Postal Telegraph & Telephone International World Congress in Brighton in September; the second stamp depicts a globe and commemorates the centenary conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in London, also in September.



Today we tend to take education for granted, forgetting that only 150 years ago it was mostly only the more wealthy members of society in England & Wales who received any more than the most basic of education. The fee-paying public schools were well-established but for the children of the working class schooling was largely confined to "Dame Schools" or Sunday Schools established by the British & Foreign Schools Society and the National Society for the Education of the Poor.



During the Industrial Revolution, it became clear that basic literacy was essential for sustained economic growth, quite apart from social development, and Parliament took an interest. A select committee investigated in 1837 and in 1839 official inspectors of schools were appointed to supervise standards and a committee of the Privy Council was established to administer the grant voted by the Commons for the building of schools. By 1850 two-thirds of the population could read and write their name and count their pay; further improvements in basic standards of education resulted from the 1870 Education Act.

As long ago as 1951 the Treaty of Paris declared that the assembly of the European Coal & Steel Community (forerunner of the EEC), should consist of delegates either proposed by members of the respective parliaments or "elected by direct universal suffrage". A similar provision was embodied in the Treaties of Rome in 1957. The European Parliament meets in the Palais de L'Europe in Strasbourg; its 518 members represent some 320 million people. Britain sends 81 elected members to the Parliament. The 1989 elections will be the last before the remaining vestiges of trade barriers between member countries are removed in 1992. Although political differences remain between the member countries, the recent enlargement of the Community and the regular summit meetings have made Sir Winston Churchill's dream of a "United States of Europe" less remote.

All the various trade unions in the British Post Office are affiliated to the Postal, Telegraph & Telephone International – an organisation which acts as a forum for similar bodies from throughout the world. The International was founded in Vienna in 1920 and a World Congress is held every four years. The 26th Congress will be held in Brighton from 18-23 September; about 800 delegates are expected to attend. In recent times the PTTI has played an active role in developing trade union activities in Third World countries and in instigating practical training courses for trade union organisers.

The Inter-Parliamentary Union was founded

as a private venture by William Randal Cremer, MP and French deputy Frédéric Passy, both of whom received the Nobel Prize for Peace. They felt that international peace could only be achieved through arbitration and that the bringing together of individual MPs would promote international understanding and collaboration.



The British Group of the IPU is active in promoting such understanding, for example in re-establishing contact with Argentina after the Falklands conflict and in inviting Mr Gorbachev to London as head of a IPU delegation in 1984. The first IPU conference took place in Paris in 1889 and the centenary conference will be held in London this September, attended by representatives of 110 countries.

#### **Technical Details**

The stamps were designed by Lewis Moberly based on photographs taken of special firework displays on Dartford Marshes, Kent by David Amaballino. They were printed in offset-lithography by The House of Questa in sheets of 100. They measure 30 x 41mm, are perforated 14 x 14½, have PVA Dextrin gum and were printed on phosphor coated paper supplied by Henry & Leigh Slater Ltd, the first time paper supplied by this company has been used for special issues.

Royal Mail Stamp Cards

Royal Mail Stamp Cards (formerly referred to as PHQ cards) featuring each of the four stamps will be available from 28 March, price 16p each. They are numbered 117A-D.

### **Presentation Pack**

The presentation pack (No. 198) will cost  $\pounds 1.35$ . It was designed by Lewis Moberly, text by Tim

Shackleton and photography by Richard Foster and printed by Litho-Tech Colour Printers. The pack will be available from main post offices until 2 June (unless previously sold out) and from the Bureau and philatelic counters for one year from 11 April.

The pack will contain four postcards (not sold separately), reproducing paintings submitted in a Royal Mail "My School" national painting competition for primary schools to mark the 150th anniversary of public education in England & Wales. The paintings are by Matthew Clarke, age 5, of Burley-in-Wharfedale; Samuel Gough, 5, of Bristol; Raymond Mo, 7, of Portsmouth and Ben McBride, 7, of Saltdean. Further details of the competition can be found in the November 1987 and August 1988 issues of the *Bulletin*, pages 53 and 277 respectively.

### First Day Cover

The Royal Mail first day cover will be available from the Bureau, philatelic counters, the National Postal Museum and main post offices from 28 March, price 17p. Two pictorial postmarks will be used for the first day cover service, one at the Bureau and one at London SW.

A first day cover service will be provided by the Bureau with the official Royal Mail cover addressed to the destination required with the four stamps cancelled with either postmark. Application forms, available from the Bureau and main post offices, should be returned not later than 11 April.

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

British Philatelic Bureau 20 Brandon Street EDINBURGH EH3 5TT

London SW Philatelic Duty
SWDO
53 Nine Elms Lane
LONDON SW8 5BB

First Day Posting Boxes will be provided at most main offices for those collectors who wish to post covers to receive the standard, nonpictorial "First Day of Issue" handstamps. In addition pictorial First Day handstamps will be available at the London Chief Office (arms of the City of London) and Durham (Cathedral). Covers to receive these handstamps should be sent to: Special Postmark Duty, City of London LDO, King Edward Street, LONDON EC1A 1AA (marking outer envelope "City of London Pictorial Handstamp") and Pictorial First Day of Issue Postmark Duty, 33 Silver Street, DURHAM DH1 3RE.

A number of special handstamps, sponsored by stamp dealers and others, will be used on 11 April – full details of these will be found in the *British Postmark Bulletin*.

Royal Mail Stamp Cards may be given any of the First Day of Issue and sponsored special handstamps. Collectors wishing to have their first day covers/stamp cards returned under cover should enclose a large self-addressed envelope when sending covers/cards in to the relevant Special Postmark Duty for handstamping.

#### Souvenir Cover

A souvenir cover, of similar design to the first day cover, will be available from all philatelic counters from 12 April, price 17p. This can be used to obtain relevant Anniversary postmarks after the first day of issue and will be on sale for one year.

#### Earlier Related Issues

Perhaps surprisingly this set includes the first British stamp to directly commemorate education. The Modern University Buildings set of September 1971 was issued to reflect British architectural rather than educational achievements.

There have been sets for both the 1979 and 1984 European Parliament elections and a set of three in January 1983 marked Britain's entry to the EEC. "Europa" (CEPT) stamps were issued in 1960, 1961 and 1969 and each year from 1980. The 1989 set, featuring Games & Toys, will be issued on 16 May.

There have been several issues connected with postal conferences and organisations – 1929 Postal Union Congress, 1949 Universal Postal Union 75th anniversary, 1963 Paris Postal Conference centenary, 1965 International Telecommunications Union centenary and 1974 UPU centenary. The posthorn emblem has appeared on most of the Europa/CEPT issues mentioned above. The only previous trade union related stamp was issued in 1968 to commemorate the

centenary of the Trades Union Congress.

Issues were made for the 46th and 62nd conferences of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in 1957 and 1975 respectively. A commemorative aerogramme was also issued for the 1957 meeting. Stamps marked the 7th, 19th and 32nd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conferences in 1961, 1973 and 1986.

This is the fifth set of British stamps commemorating mixed anniversaries, previous sets were issued annually from 1968 to 1971.

## First Day Facilities in Northern Ireland

In response to many customer queries, the Northern Ireland Letter District Office wish to inform collectors in the province that First Day of Issue cancellation facilities are available at the following offices:

Special Services Customer Care Unit Northern Ireland LDO 20-22 Donegall Quay BELFAST BT1 1AA

Area Mails Manager Special Postmark Duty 51-53 Wellington Street BALLYMENA Co Antrim BT43 6AA

Area Mails Manager Special Postmark Duty Mill Avenue Portadown CRAIGAVON Co Armagh BT62 1AA

Area Mails Manager Special Postmark Duty 3 Custom House Street LONDONDERRY BT48 6AA

The Coleraine and Newry "First Day" handstamps are no longer in use; first day covers posted at these two offices are forwarded to Ballymena and Portadown respectively.

### Correction

The British Special Issues article in the December *Bulletin* should have been numbered 150, *not* 151. Article No. 151, on the Darwin stamps, was published last month.