

# SOS Signal

- The SOS Signal will be issued three times per year in February, June and October and Bill Critzer is the editor.
- Stamp collectors have Sir Rowland Hill to thank for their raw material. Here's a little bit about him and postal reform.

## Sir Rowland Hill 1795-1879 By Bill Critzer

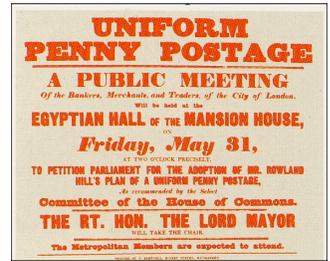
If Sir Rowland Hill had not given the world uniform postage rates and the postage stamp, he would still be remembered for his other achievements. Such was the range of his endeavors and reforming zeal in each, that it is difficult to comprehend how all these could have been encompassed in a lifetime, let alone one dogged by ill-health.

Born in Kidderminster, Hill had shown himself to be an accomplished teacher, artist and architect by his early twenties. Before thirty, he had co-authored proposals which foreshadowed education reforms implemented decades later. In his thirties,

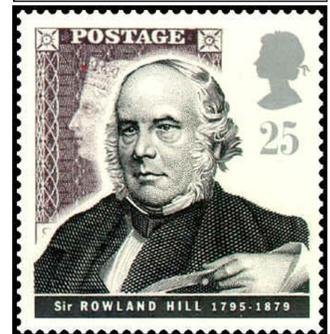
he invented a host of mechanical devices, including a rotary printing press.

As Chairman of the London & Brighton Railway Company in his late forties, he introduced excursion tickets, which were to revolutionize weekly leisure time for millions of people. And, as Secretary to The Post Office in his sixties, he reorganized rural and urban posts and established London's postal districts.

Hill's postal reforms were his greatest achievements. In 1837, he published a pamphlet, *Post Office Reform: its Importance and Practicability*, in which he argued for a postage system based on weight at a uniform, pre-paid levy at a greatly-

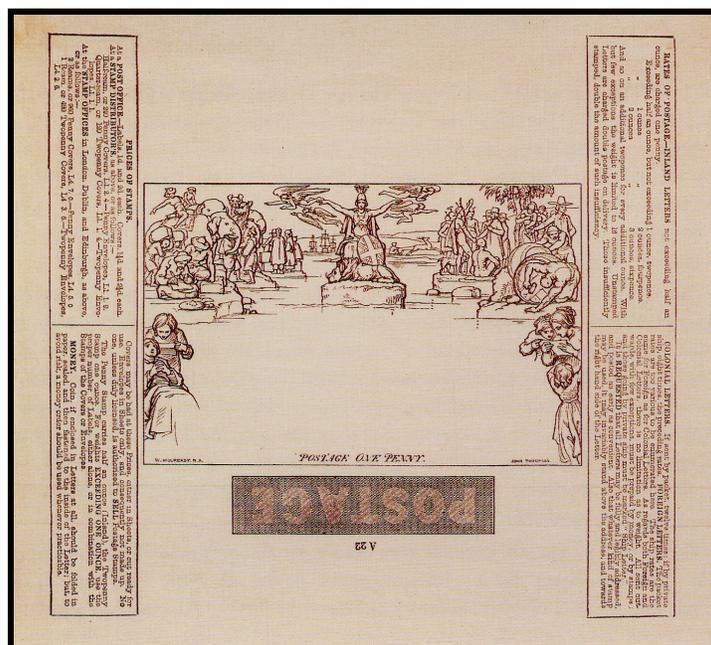


The public meeting notice of May 31, 1837 for the purpose of petitioning Parliament



GB Sc #1626 09.05.1995

The Mulready pre-paid envelope had the instructions around the sides and when folded the illustration surrounded the address. The immediate reaction of the public was dislike and by May 12 Hill wrote in his journal that it would have to be replaced.



### Inside this issue:

- Rowland Hill 2
- Mulready Envelope 2
- Stamp Safes 3
- Collecting Tidbits 4
- New Issues 5
- Swiss Web Stamps 8
- Club Information 8

## SOS Signal

### Sir Rowland Hill 1795-1879



Sc#486 07.20.1979  
Death Centenary of  
Sir Rowland Hill.

“To Hill’s surprise, his secondary idea of a postage stamp was an immediate success.”



A hand-colored Mulready  
with address.

reduced charge to replace the hopelessly complex practice used (and widely abused) then.

He proposed stamped stationery (envelopes and sheets of paper) to achieve this, adding later that any difficulties people unaccustomed to writing letters might have with pre-paid stationery could be overcome by ‘using a bit of paper just large enough to bear the stamp, and covered at the back by a glutinous wash’. Here is his first mention of a postage stamp.

These proposals struck such a cord with the public that a ‘Penny Postage Act’ based on them was enacted after a two-year campaign, and uniform penny postage was implemented on January 10, 1840. Both the pre-paid stationery and the Penny Black postage stamp were officially issued in May that year. To Hill’s surprise, his secondary idea of a postage stamp was an imme-

mediate success, while the stamped stationery bearing a design by William Mulready RA was withdrawn following widespread ridicule.

Hill began the transformation of The Post Office from being primarily a source of government revenue into a public service. More significantly, his reforms provided an incalculable impetus to improvements in literacy, social communications and business enterprise in Britain and, as other countries followed suit, throughout the world. At the same time, they laid the foundations of one of the world’s most popular and enduring pastimes – stamp collecting.

(Please see the cover at the bottom of page 3 for a quick sketch by Hill of his idea for the first adhesive stamp.)

### Demise of the Mulready Envelope

Rowland Hill expected the Mulready stationery to be more popular than the postage stamps, but the postage stamp ultimately prevailed. The Mulready design was so elaborate that it generated widespread ridicule and lampooning, and in addition was perceived in some areas as a covert govern-

ment attempt to control the supply of envelopes, and hence control the flow of information carried by the postal service which had become solely a government monopoly under the postal reforms. Many lampoons were produced by stationery manufacturers whose livelihood was threatened by the



Chile Sc #893 06.12.1990  
Is this the Rowland Hill  
stamp with the worst  
design?



THE QUEEN'S IMAGE  
COMBINED WITH A  
POSTAL PUN

Not listed

new lettersheet.

On May 12, only six days after their introduction, Hill wrote in his journal: “I fear we shall have to substitute some other stamp for the Mulready....the public have shown their disregard and even distaste for beauty.”

# Number 37

## Interesting Diversions By Michael Merritt

While there is clearly nothing more interesting and philatelically rewarding than collecting stamps on stamps, even the most dedicated collector needs to take a break. One of my favorite sidelines is to collect 'Stamps on X', where frankly 'X' is whatever appeals to me.

Well, what could be more natural than 'Stamps on stamp safes?' The original stamp safes were delightful Victorian items which securely stored valuable

pre-paid postal labels in a convenient and attractive container. As the accompanying illustrations demonstrate, the more imaginative designers saw an opportunity to advertise the contents by reproducing envelopes and even postal stationery in miniature. Personalized engraving took this mimicry even further.

The original sterling safes can easily run to hundreds of dollars, but modern reproductions, such as the two larger ster-

ling safes in the upper right and left of the group picture, are equally charming and much more affordable. The celluloid safe dates from 1907--this style seems harder to find, if only because antique dealers are less likely to recognize their value. Unless club submissions on our core interest crowd me out, in coming issues I propose to suggest other collecting diversions that can augment and enrich a stamp-on-stamp collection.



Three different designs of silver "stamps on stamps" safes.

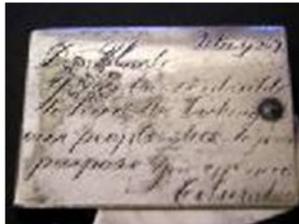


Stamp safes on exhibit at the Musée de La Poste, Paris, France

“Well, what could be more natural than 'Stamps on stamp safes?'”



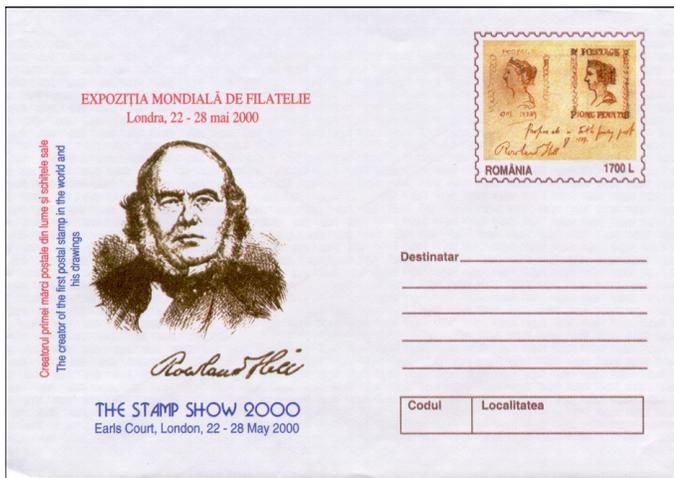
Close up of silver "postal-stationery on stamp safe". Note 5.21.90 postmark and address: PO Stage, Stamps, In



Reverse of stamp safe at left. "Dear Uncle, you are two cents able to heed the licking of your people, stick to your purpose. Yours affectionately, Columbia".



Examples of new, old, silver and celluloid "stamps on stamp safes".



The indicium depicts two of Rowland Hill's essays of GB #1. The cachet is a portrait of Rowland Hill with signature. He is described in Romanian and English as: "The creator of the first postal stamp in the world and his drawings". The actual size of this envelope is 160 x 115 mm. By Gaston Barrette in SOS Signal 18.

## SOS Signal

### Stamp Collecting Historical Tidbits By Bill Critzer



“Would you rather be known as a philatelist or a timbromaniac?”

**T**he first collector of adhesive postage stamps was Dr. John Edward Gray of the British Museum, who purchased a block of Penny Blacks on May 1, 1840 and preserved it as a memento of the introduction of Uniform Penny Postage, a matter in which he had taken a keen interest. Gray added to his collection as other stamps were issued and in 1863 published one of the earliest stamp catalogues.

The term **philately** (*philatélie*) was coined by Georges Herpin of Paris as a more suitable alternative to the original pseudo-scientific word *timbromanie* (stamp madness) used in the 1860s. Herpin eschewed such a derogatory

hybrid, and selected a word that was wholly Greek in derivation. Unfortunately his knowledge of Greek was not as faultless as his logic. He wished to convey a love (*philos*) of things which signified that no (*a*) tax (*telos*) had to be paid, i.e. a stamp denoting prepayment. Strictly speaking, therefore, the word should have been *atelephily*. Significantly, the Greeks, who presumably know their own language best, ignored the negative element altogether and use the word *philoteleia* (a lover of taxation).

*Editor's note* – maybe calling stamp collectors timbromaniacs would be more in keeping with modern day language and cultural habits. Would you rather be

known as a philatelist or a timbromaniac?

The oldest stamp catalogue in continuous publication has been produced by Stanley Gibbons since 1865. The runner-up is the Scott catalogue, which evolved out of J. Walter Scott's monthly price lists (1867) and was first published in book form in 1868.

**Stamp hinges** or mounts were invented in 1869. The January 1, 1869 issue of *The Stamp Collector's Magazine* gave as a useful tip to collectors (who had hitherto glued their stamps to the album page): ‘cut up the margin of a sheet of stamps into little strips’ and gave a diagram of how the hinges should be folded.



New Issues from top:  
Czech Republic  
New Caledonia  
Poland  
Please see pages 5-7.

### Poetry ?

The first **poetic reference** to stamp collecting was published in 1842 by Colonel Sibthorpe in *Punch*:

When as a folly so pestilent hit  
upon,  
As folks running mad to collect every  
spit upon  
Post-office stamp that's been soil'd and  
been writ upon?  
Oh, for Swift! such a subject his spleen  
to emit upon.

The Mulready envelope motif showing Britannia dispatching letters to the far flung outposts of Empire was ridiculed by the public and satirized in verse by Thomas Hood:

Britannia is sending her messengers  
forth  
To the east, to the west, to the south,  
to the north;  
At her feet is a lion wot's taking a  
nap,  
And a dish-cover rests on her legs  
and her lap.

**Bibliography** : Items on this page may be found on pages 208-218 in *The Guinness Book of Stamps –Facts and Feats* by James Mackay 1982.

## Number 37

### New Issues By Gaston Barrette

<u>Year</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>Dy</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Values</u>	<u>Reason for Issue</u>	<u>Stamp Reproduced</u>	<u>Scott #</u>
2008	00	00	Albania	40l	95th Ann. Albania Post	Albania #20	To come
2008	07	26	Argentina	1p	Stories of Songs for Children	Argentina #2216b, 2244-39	To come
2008	09	18	Austria	0.55+.0,20c	WIPA 2008 Stamp Exh.	Austria #5	To come
2008	07	06	Bangladesh	10-25t	(4v - se-tenant - 1 sos	Greece #118, Bangladesh #122	To come
2008	07	29	Bangladesh	50t	Stamp Day (S/S)	Bangladesh #1-8	To come
2008	05	17	Belgium	0.80c	Europa-The Letter	Belgium #2331	To come
2008	10	20	Belgium	"1" non den.	100th Ann. Belgian Congo	Belgian Congo #37	To come
2008	04	23	Bermuda	35c-\$1.25	160th Ann. Perot Stamps	Perot Stamp of 1848	955-58
2008	04	22	Bulgaria	55c, 1euro	Europa-The Letter	Bulgaria C21	4467-68
2008	00	00	Bulgaria	60c	European Phil. Exh.	Bulgaria #336 (margin)	To come
2008	08	08	China (PR)	2x \$1.20	Olympex Olympic Expo	Greece #119, Portugal #RA14	To come
2008	08	08	China (PR)	\$6.00	Olympex Olympic Expo	Greece #119	To come
2008	01	28	Cuba	15c-85c	Jose Marti (8v-1sos)	US Postal Card of 1899	4800-07
2008	04	24	Cuba	1p	130th Ann. Cuban Postal Stationery	Cuba H&G #1	4822
2008	01	20	Czech Rep.	10kc	Tradition Czech Stamp Prod.	Czechoslovakia #770	3369
2008	01	20	Czech Rep.	6x10ck	same as above	Czechoslovakia #770	3369a
2008	06	23	Ecuador	0.56USP	100th Ann. Ecuadorian Railways	Ecuador #174	1932
2008	06	23	Ecuador	5.00USP	same as above (s/s)	Ecuador #174	1933
2008	00	00	Ecuador	4x0.56USP	Ecuadorian Cacao	Portion of Ecuador #306 on each block 4	To come
2008	00	00	France	55c,85c	60th Ann. Friendship with Israel	Israel #3,2x#5 on cover	To come
2008	00	00	France	12x 55c	Marianne of the Vth Republic	France: Marianne designs	To come
2008	00	00	French Poly	65-140 fr	50th Ann. Stamps of French Poly	French Polynesia #185, J23	To come
2008	09	29	Great Britain	9x1st	50th Ann. Country Definitives	1952 Wilding Stamps	2600
2008	07	10	G.B.-Isle of Man	30p,50p	Famous people	Isle of Man #4	1275-76
2008	02	06	Grenada	4x\$3.00	2008 Peking Olympic Games	Greece #123, Germany #B88	3680
2008	00	00	Guinea	30 000FG	Ann. of 1st French Stamp	France #1 (gold)	To come
2008	00	00	Israel	1.60,3.80s	60th Ann. Friendship with France	Israel #3,2x#5 on cover	To come
2008	02	14	Jersey	35-75p	Europa-The Letter	Reproduction of stamp design	1302-05
2008	00	00	Korea (North)	0	EFIRO 2008	Korea(North#1, Romania #1	To come
2008	04	06	Liberia	4x \$30.00	2008 Peking Olympic Games	United States #118	2508
2008	01	08	Maldives Islds	4x7Rf	2008 Peking Olympic Games	Romania #?	2948e
2008	05	23	Moldova	1l,3l	150th Ann. Moldovian Stamps	Romania #1,2,3,4	586-87
2008	05	23	Moldova	2x1l,2x3l	150th Ann. Moldovian Stamps	same as above—booklet	587a

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2008	07	31	Montserrat	6 x \$2.75	Early Postal Stationery	"Lady McLeod" Stamps Montserrat H&G #B1, G.B. U1-2, G.B. #1, Montserrat #1-2	1204
2008	00	00	Netherlands	44c	Personalized Stamps	Netherlands #52,162, Neth Indies #2	1300-02
2008	04	11	Neth. Antilles	75c-500-c	Stamp Passion / 80th Anniv. Netherland Assoc. of Stamp Traders	Neth. Antilles #C14,29,CB19, O32, 134, 187.	1177
2008	07	31	New Caledonia	3x75fr	50th Anniv. Post & Telecom	New Caledonia #311,C106	1050-52
2008	03	10	Peru	3x5.50s	150 Anniv..Peruvian stamps	Peru #3,4,5	1615-17
2008	03	05	Poland	32c	Europa-The Letter	Poland #3893 on cover	3893
2008	06	20	Romania	0.50-5.00l	EFIRO 2008 (6v-6sos)	Romania #5,12,22,101,158, 415	To come
2008	06	20	Romania	0.50-5.00l	as above	as above	To come
2008	01	10	Russia	8r	150th Ann. Russian Stamps	Russia #1	7057
2008	05	05	Russia	8r	Europa -The Letter	Postal Stationery "A" indicium	7067
2008	00	00	St.Thomas & Prince	3xDb5000, 1x Db7000	2008 Peking Olympic Games Shtlt. I 4v—4 sos	Angola #614, St.Thomas #838, Guinea Bissau #369E, 370.	To come
2008	00	00	St.Thomas & Prince	as above	2008 Peking Olympic Games Shtlt. II 4v—4 sos	Cabo Verde #826, Guinea Bissau #776, Mozambique #626, 899	To come
2008	00	00	St.Thomas & Prince	as above	2008 Peking Olympic Games Shtlt. III 4v—4 sos	Mozambique #945,898, St. Thomas #572d, Guinea Bissau #936	To come
2008	00	00	St.Thomas & Prince	as above	2008 Peking Olympic Games Shtlt. IV 4v—4 sos	Guinea-Bissau #812, C20, St. Thomas #1170, 1172b	To come
2008	00	00	St.Thomas & Prince	as above	2008 Peking Olympic Games Shtlt. V 4v—4 sos	St.Thomas #805c,1094, Guinea Bissau #402B, 369D	To come
2008	00	00	St.Thomas & Prince	as above	2008 Peking Olympic Games Shtlt. VI 4v—4 sos	Mozambique #1156,Guinea Bissau #C18, Cabo Verde #828, St, Thomas	To come
2008	00	00	St.Thomas & Prince	as above	2008 Peking Olympic Games Shtlt. VII 4v—4 sos	Cabo Verde #406, Angola #843, 1269, guinea Bissau #775	To come
2008	00	00	Serbia	46,50c	Europa-The Letter	Serbia #6	To come
2008	00	00	Spain	60c	Europa-The Letter	Spain#?, old Chilean stamp	To come
2008	04	09	Suriname	\$1.00-9.00	Stamp Passion / 80th Anniv. Netherlands Association of Stamp Traders	Suriname #120,B10.C7, Netherlands #43, C9, O25, 160, 96, 104, 103, 836, J27	To come
2008	08	01	Thailand	3x5,10,25b	125th Ann. Postal Service	Thailand type A1,#2,1,4,5	To come
2008	08	04	Thailand	5x3b	125th Ann. Postal Service	Thailand #5	To come
2008	10	23	Thailand	5b	King Chulalongkorn Equestrian Statue	Thailand #119	To come
2008	08	01	Tristan da Cunha	15p-£1.20	Allan B. Crawford. Writer	Tristan da Cunha Local Potato Stamp	844-49
2008	07	04	Ukraine	2.47,3.33k	90th Ann. Ukrainian Stamps	Ukraine #62,63	To come
2008	07	04	Ukraine	1.00-3.33k	90th Ann. Ukrainian Stamps	Ukraine #64,65,66	To come
<u>New SOS Issue Revealed in Scott Stamp Monthly Nov. 2008</u>							
1991	11	29	Panama	2x25c	450th Anniv. Society of Jesus	Panama #C119 in black	786B

# Number 37

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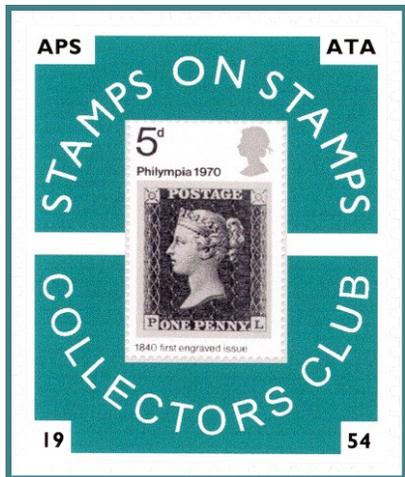


By row from top to bottom  
 Left : Cuba, Moldova, Russia, Thailand  
 Middle: Ecuador, Ecuador, Ukraine  
 Right: French Polynesia, Peru, Portugal, Guinea

**STAMPS ON STAMPS  
COLLECTORS CLUB**

William E. Critzer, Editor  
1360 Trinity Drive  
Menlo Park, CA 94025 USA

Email: [williamcritzer@yahoo.com](mailto:williamcritzer@yahoo.com)



**S**OSCC was founded in 1954. It is a non-profit philatelic organization serving a worldwide membership and is open to persons interested in stamp on stamp designs, stamp anniversaries and related topics. Dues are \$15 per year for members residing in North America and \$18 elsewhere.

Officers serve without compensation and are reimbursed only for expenses incurred on behalf of the Club. You are cordially invited to associate with us. Please contact the Secretary/Treasurer or use our website for more information and to become a member.

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Vice President	Martin Hirschbühl	Gerlisbrunnenstr. 31 CH-8121 Benglen Switzerland
Secretary/Treasurer	Michael Merritt	73 Mountainside Road Mendham, NJ 07945 USA
European Representative	Plinio Richelmi	University of Pavia Via Chiozzo, 48 P.O. Box 293527 27100 Pavia Italy

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**Swiss SOS Web Stamps By Martin Hirschbühl**



Switzerland Sc #B607a issued 05.16.1995 and showing Basel #3L1. The enclosed Web stamp (at right) reproduces the same stamp in its design, resulting in an SOS on Web stamp. Look for more on Web stamps in the next issue.

*Editor's note:* This actual Swiss Web stamp is provided to each SOSCC member by the generosity of the author. Peel from bottom.



The label is attached at the top with removable adhesive.