

STAMPING AROUND WITH NICK

Cross Country Postmarks?

Suspicious teachers at Malmesbury Comprehensive School in Wiltshire caught students in the school cross country skipping home for coffee during their run when they were out of sight of school. Afterwards they splashed mud on their shorts and finished the run back at school all puffing.

Postmistress Olive Talbot of nearby Brokenborough was asked to help and as her shop is half-way round the course, pupils have to call in to be date-stamped on their hands as proof that they have stuck to the route.

Counterfeit Stamps

A counterfeit block of the 3 cents United Nations Day issue of 25 October 1954 has been revealed in New York. The official stamps were printed by Thomas De La Rue by steel-engraving whereas the counterfeit stamps were produced by photo-offset, thus text and design are heavier and less clearly defined. Be on your guard.

Discount Stamps

In May, every household in Sweden received two coupons each entitling the recipient to the purchase of a booklet of 20 special discount undesignated stamps costing 20Skr. The stamps, with unlimited period of validity, prepay the postage on internal postcards and letters weighing less than 100 grams. Use of these discount stamps enables Swedish indivi-

duals to offset any increase of postage rates in the coming months or even next year.

"EUROPA" Stamps

The Conference of European Posts and Telecommunications meeting in Bruxelles between 10-21 March, adopted further measures to protect the stamps denominated "EUROPA". The emblem, motif and denomination become the sole property of the member postal administrations of the CEPT and are further protected by International Copyright.

The CEPT reunion also agreed on the subjects for the "EUROPA" stamps for the years 1982 to 1984. The schedule of subjects for the next four years will be:

1981 — "Folklore".

1982 — "Historical Events".

1983 — "Great Works of Man".

1984 — for the 25th Anniversary of the CEPT, the subject will be common to all nations and a competition will be launched in 1982 to select the design.

Flag Stamps

The first 16 stamps in the UN Flag series will be issued on 26 September 1980. The flags of Bangladesh, El Salvador, Fiji, France, Guinea, Hungary, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mali, Rwanda, Suriname, Turkey, Cameroon, Venezuela, Viet Nam and Yugoslavia will be reproduced on the stamps. Seven million copies of each flag will be printed.

(Continued on page 32)

(Continued from page 29)

British Monopoly Axed?

The British Post Office mail handling monopoly will end soon, if plans to create private-run "document bureaux" obtain the necessary licence from the Corporation.

Reporting in "The Sunday Telegraph", industrial correspondent Desmond Harding states that "changes in the way the Post Office operates will be recommended in a report prepared by civil servants at the Department of Industry" and that a ministerial statement in the Commons will be followed by a white paper and legislation later this year. The "bureaux" will be established in every important commercial city and it is thought that the organizations involved would guarantee delivery of a letter from one business town to another within 24 hours. However the Post Office's monopoly in handling private mail will remain intact.

Import Control

As a result of new regulations regarding the importation of various

items, collectors who receive their approval selections properly declared through the post will be required to fill an import licence. One collector who frequently receives approval material through the post says that he has filled about 6 import licences to obtain the release of the packet. Without doubt such practices irritate stamp collectors.

Reply Coupons

The first study of this matter was made way back in 1976 by Herr Eric Prier who prepared a Study Paper (No. 40) for the Gibraltar-Malta-Cyprus Study Circle (both German and English versions are available from the writer for inspection). The Malta Study Circle has recently produced a revised paper on the same subject coupled with fresh information and additional notes using a useful classification based on that employed by specialist societies in the field. Seven illustrations are not enough to treat this difficult subject.