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THE VOICE OF AMATEUR RADIO FOR 82 YEARS

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Amateur Radio on Stamps

THIS MONTH'S LEADING FEATURE

Amateur Radio on Postage Stamps

By Taizo Arakawa, GW0RTA / N2ATT / JA3AER*

I AM A PHILATELIST as well as a radio amateur, so naturally I collect stamps with telecommunications or radio as their theme. When I started my collection of 'ham stamps', only a few existed. This was just before the issue of a stamp: '50th anniversary of amateur radio in Japan - 1977'.

Amateur radio stamps can be divided into two categories: 'Ham Stamp' and 'Quasi-Ham Stamp'. One of the American ham stamp collectors suggested these definitions to me, and I have circulated them to over 100 collectors with my Ham Stamp List (reproduced as Table 1). So far I have not received any objection from them, though of course the definition can vary from collector to collector.

Ham-Stamp: A commemorative postage stamp which features amateur radio. The face of a Ham Stamp must contain specific wording which honours an amateur radio organisation or group, amateur radio activities or events, individuals identified as radio amateurs, technical aspects clearly belonging to amateur radio, or amateur radio itself.

Quasi-Ham Stamp: A postage stamp which does not meet the definition of a Ham Stamp but which relates indirectly to amateur radio; the Quasi-Ham Stamp might illustrate amateur equipment or operators, individuals known to hold an amateur radio



licence, or individuals who have made a significant contribution to amateur radio.

If you count stamps with radio or telecommunications as their theme, this multiplies the number of stamps a hundredfold. Therefore, this article deals only with amateur radio related stamps, postcards and envelopes.

My list of Ham Stamps is shown in Table 1. If you are interested in receiving an updated list, which also includes Quasi-Ham Stamps, please write to me at the address below, enclosing an SASE. If anyone has corrections and / or updates to the list, I would very much appreciate hearing from them.

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COMMUNICATION STAMPS ARE OUT THIS MONTH

THE ROYAL MAIL are issuing four special stamps on 5 September featuring two pioneers of modern communications. Two feature Sir Rowland Hill, the father of the postal system and two - the 41 pence and 60 pence stamps - show Guglielmo Marconi, who developed the first effective radio transmissions in 1895. The issue marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Rowland Hill as well as the 100th anniversary of radio.

Rosena Robson, Royal Mail's special stamp manager said: "It is no exaggeration to say that Hill and Marconi between them helped to revolutionise communications. This issue is especially appropriate because the Post Office played a pivotal role in the legacies both men left the World . . .

"The British Post Office was the first organisation in the World to champion Marconi's work at a crucial point in the development of radio."

The story of Marconi's early work and the Post Office's involvement is told on pages 16-17 of the April 1995 *RadCom*.

Technical Details

The portraits have been hand engraved by Czeslaw Slania, one of the World's foremost engravers. These features have been printed by essentially the same method used 155 years ago for the printing of the Penny Black. The stamps are printed in Intaglio and Litho by Harrisons and Sons Ltd. They are vertical in format and measure 35mm x 37mm with a perforation of 15 x 14.5. The paper is phosphor coated except the 19p which has one phosphor bar and PVA Dextrin gum.

Cylinder numbers and colours: 41p - 1A Silver, 1B Grey-Green, 1D Black; 60p - 1A Silver, 1B Deep Ultramarine, 1D Black.



The two Marconi stamps, issued by the Royal Mail on 5 September: The 41 pence stamp shows a picture which will be familiar to *RadCom* readers, against a background of a map of the North Atlantic, and the 60p shows Marconi later in life against a background depicting the importance of his work for marine safety and navigation.

TABLE 1: HAM STAMP LIST

NO	ISSUE	COUNTRY	FACE VALUE	GIBBONS	SCOTT	REMARKS
1	1961.06.26	Poland	2.50 zlotys	1239	993	Conference of Communication Ministers of Communist Countries (Emblem of PZK).
2	1961.06.26	Poland	3.50 zlotys		993a	S/S of Conference of Communication Ministers of Communist Countries (Emblem of PZK).
3	1964.12.15	USA	5 cents	1242	1260	50th Anniversary of ARRL.
4	1966.05.22	Yugoslavia	85 paras	1205	809	20th Anniversary of SRJ.
5	1972.08.08	German Dem Rep.	25 pfennigs	E1494	1391	Society for Sports & Technology.
6	1973.05.10	Colombia	60 centavos	1333	813	40th Anniversary of LCRA.
7	1975.04.15	Poland	1.50 zlotys	2356	2088	IARU Reg I Conference.
8	1975.04.16	Costa Rica	1.00 colones	998	C633	16th Convention of Fed de Radio Clubs de Centro America.
9	1975.04.16	Costa Rica	1.10 colones	999	C634	16th Convention of Fed de Radio clubs de Centro America.
10	1975.04.16	Costa Rica	2.00 colones	1000	C635	16th Convention of Fed de Radio Clubs de Centro America.
11	1976.10.08	Dominican Rep.	6 centavos	1271	773	50th Anniversary of RCD.
12	1976.10.08	Dominican Rep.	10 centavos	1272	C246	50th Anniversary of RCD.
13	1977.09.24	Japan	50 yen	1476	1312	50th Anniversary of Amateur Radio in Japan.
14	1977.11.05	Brazil	1.30 cruz	1686	1533	Amateur Radio Day in Brazil.
15	1979.01.25	Dominican Rep.	10 centavos	1348	C286	Beata Island DXpedition.
16	1979.02.23	USSR	4 kopecks	4860	4733	RS-1 and RS-2 Amateur Satellites.
17	1979.03.26	Bolivia	3 pesos	1032	638	38th Anniversary of RCB.
18	1979.09.06	Switzerland	70 centimes	983	679	50th Anniversary of USKA.
19	1980.10.03	Dominican Rep.	7 centavos	1418	C320	Catalina Island DXpedition.
20	1980.11.01	Argentina	700 pesos	1689	1287	59th Anniversary of RCA.
21	1981.03.12	USSR	4 kopecks	5089	4917	30th All Union Amateur Radio Exhibition.
22	1981.06.25	Djibouti	250 franc	815	528	Radio Club of Djibouti.
23	1982.02.22	Ascension	25 pence	311	303	Boy Scout Jamboree (Amateur Radio Station ZD8JAM).
24	1982.02.22	Ascension	90 pence	MS313	304a	S/S of Boy Scouts Jamboree (ZD8JAM).
25	1982.12.29	Chile	7 pesos	934	631D	60th Anniversary of RCC.
26	1983.01.17	Sri Lanka	2.50 rupee	785	655	55th Anniversary of Amateur Radio in Sri Lanka.
27	1983.04.28	San Marino	400 lira	1206	1051	World Communications Year (Ham Radio Operator).
28	1983.06.11	Colombia	12 pesos	1684	C735	50th Anniversary of LCRA.
29	1983.08.11	Jordan	10 fils	1375	1156	The Royal Jordanian Radio Amateur Society.
30	1983.08.11	Jordan	25 fils	1376	1157	The Royal Jordanian Radio Amateur Society.
31	1983.08.11	Jordan	40 fils	1377	1158	The Royal Jordanian Radio Amateur Society.
32	1983.08.11	Jordan	50 fils	1378	1159	The Royal Jordanian Radio Amateur Society.
33	1983.08.11	Jordan	100 fils	1379	1160	The Royal Jordanian Radio Amateur Society.
68	1983.09.01	USSR	6 kopecks	5357	5174	Radiotelegraph Championship.
34	1983.10.07	Nicaragua	1 cordoba	2534	1296	FRACAP '83.
35	1983.10.07	Nicaragua	4 cordoba	2535	1297	FRACAP '83.
36	1983.12.19	Solomon Islands	18 cents	509	512	Solomon Islands Radio Society, H44SI.
37	1984.01.30	Venezuela	2.70 bolivars	2524	1323	50th Anniversary of RCV.
38	1984.04.11	Uruguay	7 pesos	1835	1157	50th Anniversary of RCU.
39	1985.07.24	Peru	1300 sol	1615	860	In Honor of the RCP for Service to the Nation of Peru (55th Anniversary of the Amateur Radio Service).
40	1986.12.10	Bulgaria	13 ct	3383	3207	60th Anniversary of Amateur Radio in Bulgaria.
41	1987.01.07	New Caledonia	64 franc	801	C211	25th Anniversary of ARANC.
42	1987.03.09	Luxembourg	12 franc	1201	767	50th Anniversary of RL.
43	1987.06.14	Israel	2.50 pounds	1027	964	40th Anniversary of IARC.
44	1987.11.23	Liberia	10 cents	1650	1061	25th Anniversary of LRAA (Jubilee Emblem).
45	1987.11.23	Liberia	10 cents	1651	1062	25th Anniversary of LRAA (Radio Amateur).
46	1987.11.23	Liberia	35 cents	1652	1063	25th Anniversary of LRAA (Jubilee Award).
47	1987.11.23	Liberia	35 cents	1653	1064	25th Anniversary of LRAA (Flag and Globe).
48	1987.12.23	Oman	130 baisa	347	306	15th Anniversary of Royal Omani ARS.
75	1991.03.01	Bolivia	2.40 Bs		819	50th Anniversary of RCB.
72	1991.04.09	Norfolk Island	43 c	509	501	Ham Radio.
73	1991.04.09	Norfolk Island	1 \$	510	502	Ham Radio.
74	1991.04.09	Norfolk Island	1.20 \$	511	503	Ham Radio.
76	1991.10.06	Indonesia	300 Rp		1477	The IARU Region III Conference in Bandung.
77	1991	Argentina	4000 Austral			LUSAT-OSCAR19 Amateur Satellite (Flying Mailbox).
78	1993	French Southern and Antarctic Territories	2.00 fr	307	C124	Radio Amateurs.
79	1993.06.15	DPR Korea	50 ch			Kim Young Ok, World Champion on Radio Finding (ARDF)'90.
Post Cards						
84	1970.10.09	Poland	40 Gr			40th Anniversary of PZK.
85	1979.07.25	USSR	4 kop			Amateur Radio Station U0K Reaching the North Pole.
86	1980.02.24	Poland	2 Zloty			50th Anniversary of PZK.
87	1995.04.20	Korea	100 won			40th Anniversary of KARL.
Envelope						
88	1985.05.22	Australia	33 cents			75th Anniversary of Amateur Radio in Australia.



COLLECTORS WORLDWIDE

I BELIEVE THERE ARE several hundred collectors of amateur radio stamps in the World. During my stay in the USA from 1978 to 1988, I found many more Ham Stamp collectors than in Japan. Many replies were forthcoming when I mentioned a new Ham Stamp in QST, while only a couple were received following my article in Japanese magazines. Letters came not only from USA but from all over the World, perhaps because English is well accepted as an international language. The late Vic Clark, W4KFC, Past-President of the ARRL and Dr Max de Henseler, HB9RS, former President of the United Nations Staff Recreation Council Amateur Radio Club (4U1UN) were very helpful to me for my research and collection.

I am a member of the Ham Stamp Club which issues a newsletter via enthusiastic Ham Stamp collector DL4UE. If you are interested in this club, write to: Mr Manfred G Bussemer, DL4UE, Eckstr 1, D-66877 Ramstein-Miesenbach, Germany.

NO UK STAMP

The USA issued a stamp in 1964 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the

ARRL. This pre-dated the Japanese Ham Stamp by 13 years. The question remains: why is there no Ham Stamp in the UK where the world's first postage stamp, the Penny Black, was issued? I have urged key persons in the RSGB to promote this matter to the Royal Mail when they have the opportunity. [The Post Office were approached in 1988 when the RSGB held its 75th Anniversary, but they felt that this was not a significant enough event. They would consider a centenary so collectors will have to wait until the year 2013 - Ed].

When I became aware that the Marconi stamps were to be issued to commemorate 100 years of radio on 5 September this year (see page 17), I was hoping that this stamp had some relation to amateur radio (it can be counted as a Quasi-Ham Stamp, at least). If so, I will buy large quantities of this stamp and use them to promote amateur radio. I am sure you can get a high return from DX QSL cards if you use this stamp when posting the card.

FURTHER READING

- [1] 'The Story of Radio Communication Stamps' by Taizo Arakawa, JA3AER, *JARL News* (in Japanese) Sep 77.



PITCAIRN ISLANDS LATEST ISSUE

ON THE SAME DATE as the UK Communications stamps are issued, 5 September, Pitcairn is introducing four stamps commemorating 'Marconi 100th Anniversary of First Radio Transmission'. Depicting the history of radio from Marconi to satellites, the stamps are designed by Nick Shewring, printed by Lithography at Cartor SA, France, and measure 38 x 30.5mm.

The Pitcairn Islands, a UK Crown Colony, are located in the S E Pacific Ocean and feature high volcanic lava cliffs and rugged hills. With a population of only 61 (1983) the chief source of income is from postage stamps. Pitcairn's most famous amateur is Tom Christian, VR6TC, who is a direct descendent of the *Bounty* mutineer Fletcher Christian.

The stamps can be obtained from any established dealer, or from Sovereign Stamps, P O Box 123, Sutton, Surrey SM1 4WH; tel 0181 770 1373. A series of stamps featuring amateur radio on the Pitcairn Islands are at the research stage.



The four Pitcairn Islands stamps being issued on 5 September.



- [2] 'Antique QSL Department' in 'DX World' by John Minke III, N6JM, *Worldradio* Jun 79.
- [3] 'Telegraphers' stamp collection' by Max de Henseler, HB9RS/W2, *Worldradio* Oct 70
- [4] *cq-DL* Jan 80 front cover.
- [5] *Radio (REF)* Feb 81 front cover.
- [6] 'Amateur Radio Postage Stamps' by Vic Clark, W4KFC, *Old Timer's Bulletin*, Antique Wireless Association, pp 10 - 12.
- [7] 'Amateur Radio Stamps' by Williams S Kelly, *Topical Time* Jul / Aug 82.
- [8] *Ham Stamps* Nos. 1 - 24 (1982 - 95), Ham Stamp Club.
- [9] 'Museum on Book' (Nos 54, 55 & 61) by Miyao Kan, JA1CO, *JARL News* (in Japanese) Aug & Sep 82 and March 83.
- [10] 'Amateur Radio Stamps' by Taizo Arakawa, N2ATT, *CQ Ham Radio* (Japanese) Feb 83, Mar 84, Sep 87, Oct 87 and Nov 87.
- [11] 'EE Heroes and Happenings: a Philatelic Review' by Donald K deNeuf, WA1SPM, *IEEE Spectrum*, Aug 83.
- [12] Part of 'Up Front in QST' by Taizo Arakawa, N2ATT, *QST* Oct 85.
- [13] 'Postage Due', *QST* Apr 88.
- [14] 'Stamps & Radio' by Raymond Schuessler, *Short Wave Magazine*, Nov 88.
- [15] 'Amateur Radio Stamps' by Bill Welsh, W6DDB, *CQ (USA)* Nov and Dec 88.
- [16] 'Norfolk Island Stamps', *D-i-Y Radio* Jul-Aug 91.
- [17] 'Amateur Radio Postage Stamps' by Bill Welsh, W6DDB, *QST* Jan 94.
- [18] *Radio Rivista (ARI)*, Apr 95 front cover.
- [19] 'Ici Radiophilatélie', *Radio (REF)* Jun 95.

CHARITY BID

BY A REMARKABLE coincidence, whilst we were preparing this article John Hughes, G4KGT, sent in three envelopes bearing radio stamps: Nos:3 and 27 from the Ham Stamp List plus one from Germany with the familiar Marconi picture on it. This latter is one of five, almost identical, stamps issued jointly by Germany, Italy, The Vatican, San Marino and Ireland - the Irish one is shown in the inset mounted on a Centenary of Radio cover.

John has generously offered to donate the envelopes to us so that we can raise a little money for charity. So if you would like the three from G4KGT, plus the Irish cover, make a bid in a sealed envelope and send it to 'Charity Stamp Bid', RSGB, Lambda House, Cranborne Road, Potters Bar EN6 3JE, to arrive before the end of September. Please don't send any money until you are asked for it. The person donating the highest amount will receive the envelopes, and the money will go to the Radio Amateur Invalid and Blind Club (registered charity no.802348).



LIMITED EDITION RSGB OVERSTAMPED MARCONI FIRST DAY COVER

AS PART OF THE Marconi Centenary celebrations, and with the permission of GEC-Marconi, Adrian Bradbury has designed the First Day Cover illustrated here. These are available from A G Bradbury, 3 Link Road, Stoneygate, Leicester LE2 3RA, stamped and cancelled in a number of ways, including a limited edition of 1,000 with all four stamps cancelled at Chelmsford, where GEC-Marconi's headquarters are located.

By special arrangement with A G Bradbury, the Society is offering collectors of Ham Stamps the chance to buy from a limited edition of only 500 of the First Day Cover, featuring the two Marconi stamps and cancelled with a unique RSGB mark. The cost is just £7.50 and it is available only direct from RSGB HQ. If you are interested, please contact Marcia Brimson in the RSGB Sales office.



A limited edition of this Adrian Bradbury First day Cover, with the Marconi stamps and an RSGB cancellation mark, is available only from RSGB HQ.