BRITISH PHILATELIC

Bulletin

The Royal Mail magazine for stamp collectors

Volume 49 Number 2 | October 2011 £1.20

A is for Angel • GPO and the Blitz • Christmas preview



Two highlights from October's new issue: UK A-Z Part 1

MUIR ON MACKENNAL • MAIL ON MAIL • WIN NEW ISSUES

Issues and withdrawals



Cover The Angel of the North: this steel scultpure, designed by Antony Gormley, overlooks the A1 and A167 at Gateshead and features on the first of the UK A-Z stamp series, released this month. Image ©Antony Gormley, photography ©Chris Addis

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6 October	**Issue** Mary Rose Coin Cover
11 October	**Withdrawal** Winnie-the-Pooh: Stamps, Miniature Sheet, Presentation Pack and Stamp Cards
13 October	**Issue** UK A-Z Part 1: Stamps, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards
25 October	**Issue** Stamp Books with FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) logo
31 October	**Redistribution** Lest We Forget poppy stamps, 3 x 1st **Redistribution** Madonna and Child Stamps
8 November	**Issue** Christmas 2011: Stamps, Miniature Sheet, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards, 12 x 1st Stamp Book 12 x 2nd Stamp Book, Generic Sheet, Coin Cover, Smilers®. **Issue** Annual Collection: Year Book Standard, Year Book Leather-bound, Year Pack, Year of Miniature Sheets, Year of Presentation Packs
30 November	**Issue** Olympic and Paralympic Sports Cover Collection: Canoeing Coin Cover, Archery Coin Cover **Issue** City of Edinburgh Coin Cover
31 December	**Withdrawal** Christmas 2010 Stamps, Miniature Sheet, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards, Stamp Books, Generic Sheet

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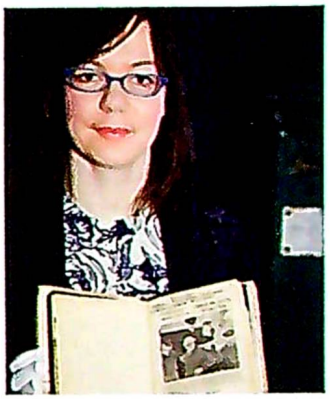
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A stamp tour of the UK Fascinating locations featured on this month's issue of the UK A-Z Part 1 **47**

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Postbox and inbox



Colourful beginnings

In 1934, at the age of six, I spent weeks in bed with pneumonia – and that's when it all began. An aunt and uncle sent postcards from the balearics, with spanish republican stamps – an over-printed Alfonso 25c red and a 40c blue with a portrait of Emilio Cantelar – among my favourites every since.

It was a great time to start stamp collecting, as George V definitives had been in circulation since 1912 and were soon to be replaced by the photogravure set. While on holiday in St Annes in August 1934, I remember seeing in a daily newspaper an illustration of the 1½d brown value (shown above) – and colour printing was very rare in newspapers then! This set was never completed. The older sixpenny stamp remained on sale. I bought a mint 3d value at a local post Office, which my parents considered extravagant.

The next year saw the Silver Jubilee issue of May 1935 – lovely stamps, the first we had of that size. A year later came four stamps of Edward VIII and eight months after that the Definitives and Coronation Issue of George VI. We can't beat that today!

My first album in 1934 was a two-shilling Stanley Gibbons 'improved' album which I soon replaced with a better-bound version bought from Thomas Cliffe's XLCR factory in Colwyn Bay. That pre-war firm produced albums, packets of stamps and the very useful sixpenny 'Stamp Finder', an alphabetical identification booklet. By 1937 I had graduated to a 'Strand' album, then later to a luxurious 'Centurion Gibbons', and in 1942 I bargained with my local stamp shop to exchange my Foreign Collection for a wonderful old 'Imperial' album. two years later I bought a 'Windsor' with money appropriately earned from sixth-form Christmas parcel-sorting, a lucrative extra in the closing months of World War II.

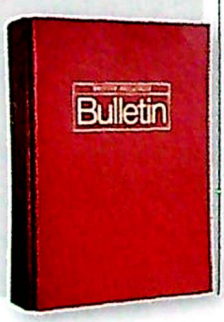
There were more small stamp shops in those days. in my home town of Newcastle-Under-Lyme in Staffordshire – only about three miles from Arnold Machin's birthplace. A photographer's, a newsagent's and a toyshop, among others, sold stamps as a sideline. The most expensive stamp I bought with pocket money was a Victorian Bechuanaland item for 1s 3d (roughly 6½p).

It is easy to be wise after the event, but why oh why did I not buy some Seahorses at face value when they were current? ***P H Mountford, Royston***

Thank you PHM, for your happy reminder of how stamps and albums can help recall personal memories of moments to treasure.

Keep the mail coming...

The Editor of the *British Philatelic Bulletin* welcomes your letters and the senders of those published will receive philatelic delights as a thank-you. The sender of the 'First Class letter' award will also receive the *Bulletin* binder. Please note that Royal Mail cannot reply to all correspondence and reserves the right to edit for length. Send your letters to: The Editor, *British Philatelic Bulletin*, Royal Mail Stamps & Collectibles, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ. Remember you can drop us an email too, to bulletin.enquiries@royalmail.com.



Extra info please

***Bulletin* fails to inform collectors of the format of the new stamp issues. Having read the July issue, I was left wondering in which format the Crown Jewel stamps were to be issued on 27th July. Are both the 1st class stamps being printed on the same or separate sheets and how are the other double values printed as well?**

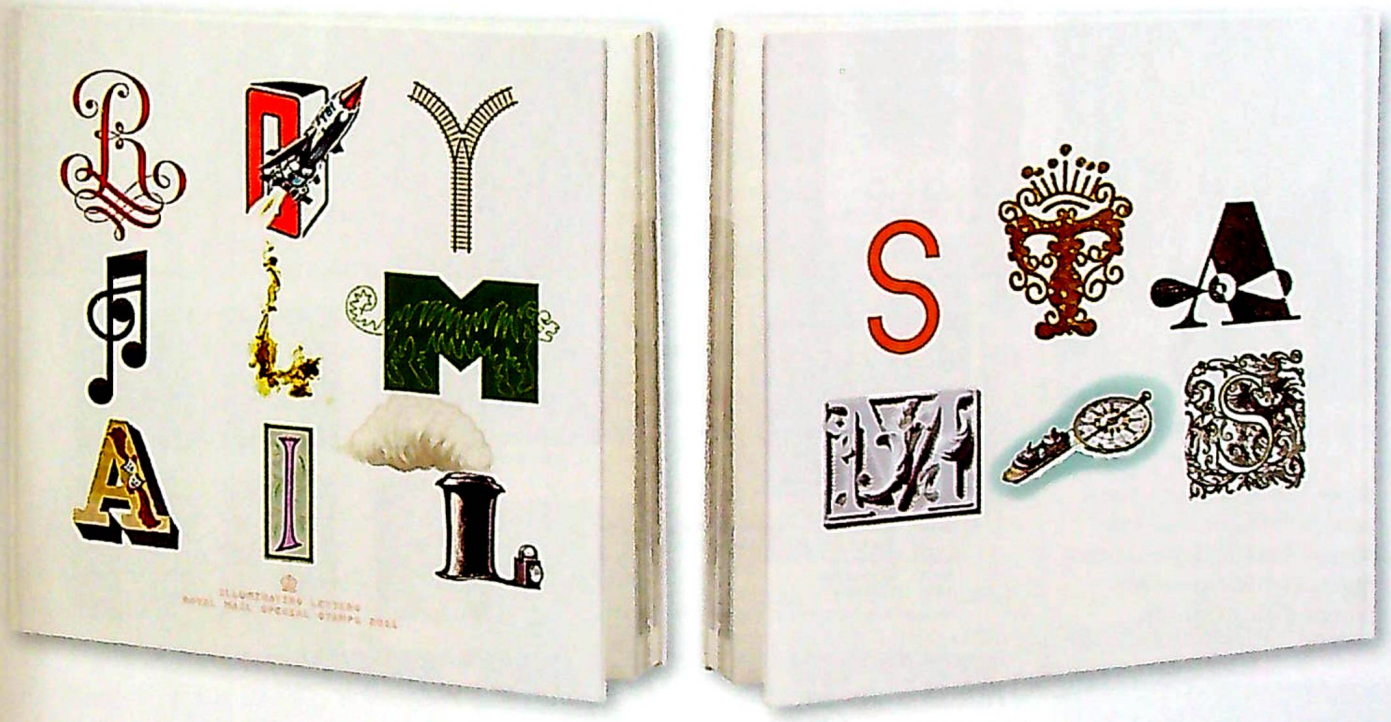
You give 'Specifications' but the printing format of the sheets is always missing.

K L E Beaney, Colne Engaine

When describing new stamp issues we include the name of the printers, print process, stamp size and stamp format.

As we appreciate your interest in advance details about the precise sheet format, we will endeavour to include this information in future – starting on page 41.

What's new? World-firsts and old favourites



Above: designed by Magpie Studios, the Royal Mail 2011 Year Book contains a special section on the Royal Wedding

2011 Year Books The popular Royal Mail Year Books contain a whole year's special issue stamps and the stories behind them. And the 2011 range, offering great value for all budgets, will go on sale next month.

Each chapter is written by an expert on the subject of the special issues, which this year include the Olympic and Paralympic Games, with an exclusive interview with Seb Coe; a travelogue from TV historian Michael Wood related to the first of the UK A-Z issue; and an item from Melvyn Bragg on the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible, as celebrated in this year's Christmas stamps. Other richly illustrated topics covered this year include Steam Locomotives of England, the Crown Jewels and Musicals.

The Year Book has been designed by Magpie Studios and comes in an attractive presentation box, complete with an extra Royal Wedding supplement. It costs £95 and there is a limited-edition leather-bound version, price £135. The whole year's special stamps are also available in an attractive presentation folder, complete with information about each issue – the 2011 Year Pack has been designed by Why Not Associates and written by Jim Davies, price, £85. The Year of Miniature Sheets costs £30.75 and the Year of Presentation Packs, £91.50 •

New stamp books with FSC logo and 2012 stamp calendar On 25 October a stamp book is to be issued, of 6 x 1st Class stamps with a 2012 stamp calendar on inside cover and the FSC logo on the back of the book. In accordance with the new Royal Mail policy of including the FSC logo on all stamp books, also available with the FSC logo are books of 12 x 1st, 12 x 2nd, 4x 1st and 4 x 2nd class stamps.

Forests cover more than 31 per cent of the earth's surface and some 1.6 billion people depend on them for their livelihoods. In recognition of this ▸



Right: the new Stamp Book with 2012 stamp calendar. Above: the FSC logo. Royal Mail hold FSC trademark licence FSC-N001608

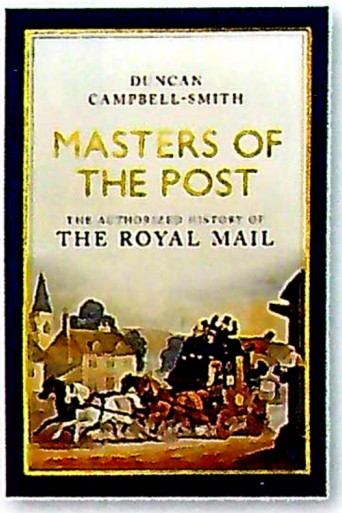


critical role in the achievement of sustainable development and the eradication of poverty, the United Nations General Assembly designated 2011 as the International Year of Forests. Royal Mail has worked closely with the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) to become the first postal administration in the world to have converted all of its stamps and philatelic products to FSC certification standards. Now all Royal Mail stamps are printed on FSC-certified paper, all special stamp sheets carry the FSC label and a special set of stamps to commemorate the London 2012 Olympics will also carry the FSC label, helping to ensure that the event is truly sustainable.

The Forest Stewardship Council has worked for many years to promoted a system of sustainable sourcing that is now recognised all over the world. The Council supports stakeholder engagement in the forests management process and promotes responsible forest management in countries worldwide. Although the logo of a green tick joined to the shape of a tree (as shown on the new stamp book and above left) is a familiar sight in most UK magazines and on some paper-based packaging, many people are unaware of the great scope of work behind this symbol.

Says Charles Thwaites, Executive Director of FSC UK: 'We are delighted that Royal Mail has taken this momentous step to print all their stamps on FSC certified paper. This is a very welcome commitment to sustainable forestry. The change will also give great exposure to the FSC label as it will appear on the stamp booklets. There are many occasions when we all use paper without even thinking about it. Stamps are just one example and we hope that other companies will be encouraged to follow Royal Mail's lead.'

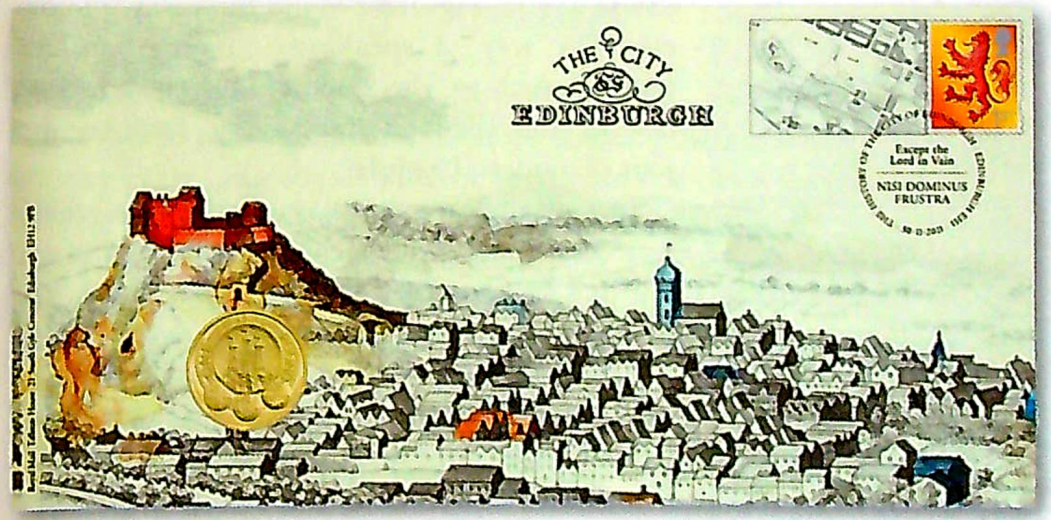
Events concerning the International Year of the Forests are outlined at www.un.org. And to find out more about the work of the FSC, and how you and your company can help, visit www.fsc-uk.org •



The Authorized History of the Royal Mail Out next month, on 3 November, is a new book entitled *Masters of the Post*, published by Allen Lane and packed with intriguing details that will appeal to philatelists from all walks of life. It tells the story of Britain's mail service from its beginning to the 21st century – how it was built, how it led the world for 200 years and how it has adapted in the face of the explosion in internet communications.

The author, Duncan Campbell-Smith brings a fresh angle to many of the most famous episodes in postal history, from the origins of the royal monopoly to the Great Train Robbery, and has uncovered details of several little-known stories – for example, how letters and parcels reached the Western Front in 1914-18, and why it took the experts 30 years to build sorting machines that could read hand-written envelopes. At the book's heart is a well-balanced account of the long-running debate in British labour politics between the principles of trade unionism and privatisation – and the resulting feuds between generations of political and labour leaders.

Masters of the Post costs £30 (rrp), from all major booksellers. Available to purchase at a special price from Royal Mail on 08457 641 641 •



Celebrating the City of Edinburgh A coin cover with a fact-filled insert is to be issued on 30 November. It features a beautiful label alongside the 1st Class Country definitive stamp with the Lion of Scotland, and holds a brilliant, uncirculated City of Edinburgh £1 coin. There is a unique cancellation mark and each envelope is individually numbered, according to the strictly limited edition of 10,000. The illustrated insert card describes key events that have shaped Edinburgh into the cultural epicentre it is today.

Price £15.95; order by phone, as above, or online at www.royalmail.com •





By popular demand Five of the nation's favourite stamps are re-distributed at the end of this month. The poppy triptych of the Lest We Forget issue will again be available in advance of Remembrance Day. And the two Madonna and Child stamps, originally issued in 2007, are also back on sale at the end of October, featuring two classic paintings, as shown right: the Madonna and Child painted by William Dyce on the 2nd class stamp and The Madonna of Humility by Lippo di Dalmasio on the 1st Class stamp •



Christmas 2011 400 years after its publication, the King James Bible inspires the new issue



The 400th anniversary of the publication of the King James Bible is the inspiration behind this year's Christmas stamps. Having been commissioned by James I in 1604, the King James Bible was first published in 1611, following the work of six 'companies of translators'.

James I hoped that the new translation would secure peace and stability in religious matters, following growing tensions between Anglicans and Puritans. But it was not until the late 17th century that this Bible was generally recognised and became very popular. Since then many of its distinctive sayings have found their way into our everyday way of speaking – more than 200 phrases, such as 'the apple of my eye', a 'den of thieves' and 'the land of the living', have become part of modern English.

Seven stamps, as shown on these pages, will be issued on 8 November, each carrying an image inspired by the accounts of the Nativity in the Gospels of Luke and Matthew.

Additional information inside the Cover and Pack, outlining the history and influence of the King James Bible, is written by Revd Professor Alistair McGrath, Chair in Theology, Ministry, and Education at King's College London •

Christmas 2011 Stamp Specifications	
Number of stamps	Seven
Design	Together Design
Illustration	Peter Malone/The Artworks
Stamp Format	Standard: portrait. Large: landscape
Stamp Size	Standard: 20mm x 24mm.
	Large: 30mm x 24mm
Printer	De la Rue Security Print
Print Process	Gravure
Number per Sheet	50
Perforations	Kiss die-cut simulated perforations
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	Self-adhesive

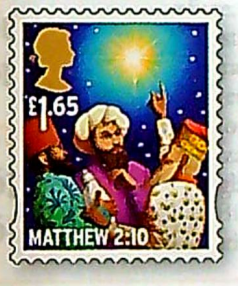


Above: Tallents House postmark and alternative BETHLEHEM, LLANDEILO. Right: First Day Cover (mail orders for Serviced (stamped and postmarked) First Day Covers have to reach Royal Mail by 8 November)

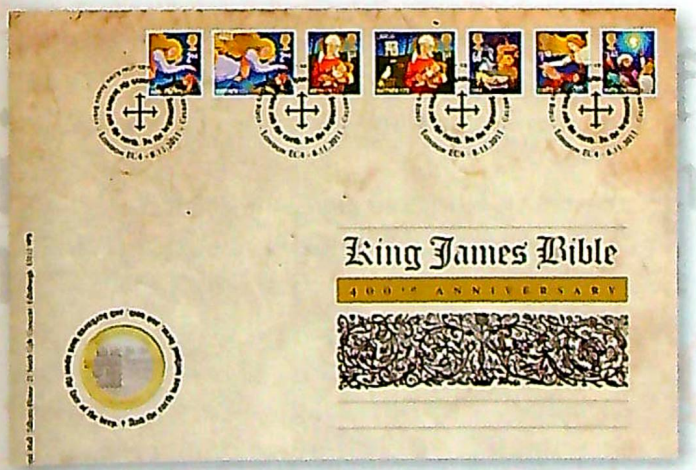














From top: Generic Sheet, Coin Cover and Miniature Sheet

Christmas 2011 Prices

Stamp Set	£5.58
Miniature Sheet	£5.58
Presentation Pack	£6.10
First Day Envelope	30p
First Day Cover, Stamps	£7.17
First Day Cover, Miniature Sheet	£7.17
Stamp Cards (8 in set)	£3.60
12 x 1st Class Stamp Book	£5.52
12 x 2nd Class Stamp Book	£4.32
Coin Cover	£15.95
Generic Sheet, comprising 8 x 1st, 8 x 2nd, 2 x 68p, 2 x £1.10	£10.45
Christmas Smilers® Personalised Sheets	
20 x 1st	£14.95 for one sheet
10 x 1st	£8.30 for one sheet
20 x 2nd	£10.95 for one sheet
Stamp sheet format	Sheets of 50, per stamp value

Stamp Scene from John Holman

Forthcoming exhibitons and fairs We are now into the philatelic events season with stamp exhibitions and fairs coming thick and fast and there is likely to be at least one event in your area.

Scotex, the popular stamp fair in Scotland, takes place at the Dewar Centre, Perth on 14-15 October, and Stampa, the Irish national stamp exhibition, will be held at the RDS in Dublin, 21-23 October – e-mail stampa@ireland.com for details. This will be the 40th Stampa and, as always, a range of exhibition souvenirs will be available.

A major philatelic event, organised by the new North of Ireland Philatelic Federation, under the auspices of the ABPS, takes place at Bangor Museum, Bangor, Co Down from 25 October to 4 November. The exhibition will be open daily 10am to 4pm, admission free. In the first week the displays will be on the subject 'Aspects of Philately', covering different ways of collecting such as thematics, postcards and social philately, providing an introduction to the hobby. From 1 November the displays will be of 'Philately of Northern Ireland' – more specialised studies of postal history with studies of local post offices and their postmarks, and also commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Bangor Post Office which has one of two surviving Edward VIII wall boxes. Displays are provided by members of the local societies in the new North of Ireland Federation.



Above: Bangor, where the North of Ireland Philatelic Federation have organised a two-week event this month

Further events during the fortnight will include a Stamp Active event (29-30 October), a regional meeting of the Royal Philatelic Society London at Mount Stewart on 5 November, and talks by An Post (Irish Post Office) about its archives, Christine Earle, and David Beech of the British Library Philatelic Collections. It promises to be a comprehensive and enjoyable fortnight – the first major philatelic event in Northern Ireland for some years. For further information contact John Proctor on 028 38 334964 or jjproctor@gmail.com, or Jon Perrott on 028 9146 2429.

The South of England Stamp Fair & Sussex Convention, organised by the Association of Sussex Philatelic Societies, takes place at the Norfolk Pavilion, South of England Centre, Ardingly Showground, near Haywards Heath, on 8 October (10am to 4.30pm). There will be free admission and parking, 33 stamp and postcard dealers, competition entries and displays, and hot lunches will be available. For more details contact J Wright on 01323 438964.

The Kettering Stamp & Philatelic Society will hold its annual stamp fair on 8 October (10am to 4pm) at the Ise Lodge Community Centre, St Vincents Avenue, Kettering NN15 5DR. Free entry and car parking. For further details phone 01536 746800.

The next Strand Stamp Fairs at the Royal National Hotel, Russell Square, London WC1 are on 12 October and 16 November. Some 20-30 dealers attend this long-established fair. Enquiries 020 8946 4480 or see www.stampshows.net

The next Philatex stamp fair, with 100 dealers, will take place at the

Lawrence Hall of the Royal Horticultural Halls, Greycoat Street, London SW1 (near Victoria and St James Park underground stations) on 3-5 November. Opening hours are: Thursday 11am-7pm, Friday 10am-6pm, Saturday 10am-5pm, admission free. Enquiries as for Strand Stamp Fair, see above.

The Leeds Philatelic Society's Annual Stamp Fair will be held at Pudsey Civic Centre, Leeds LS28 5TA on 18-19 November •

Aerial Post display A display of the GB 1911 Coronation Aerial Post by Peter Lister, who wrote the recent Aerial Post prestige stamp book, will be on show at the Royal Philatelic Society London on 13 October. The display will be on show from 1pm with a talk by Mr Lister at 5pm. Non-members wishing to attend as visitors should contact the Administration Office at the Society on 020 7486 1044, email secretary@rpsl.org.uk The Society is located at 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY. The nearest underground stations are Baker Street, Regent's Park, and Great Portland Street •

Annual Lecture The Stuart Rossiter Memorial Lecture for 2011 will be given by Colin Tabeart, entitled 'The More the Rail the Faster the Mail'. It takes place on 4 November at 5pm, at the Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY. For a free ticket apply to Rex Dixon on rexdixon@btinternet.com. Early application is advised •

Diary dates

October

5 British Postal Museum and Archive (BPMA*) tour of the Museum Store at Debden, Essex, 1-3pm.

14-15 Scotex, Dewar Centre, Perth.

6-5 November, 'The Post Office in Pictures, The Post Modern, Theatre Square, Swindon SN1 1QN, Monday to Saturday, 11am-5pm, admission free and donations welcome. A Family Fun day takes place on 26 and 27 October, 11am-4pm.

Until 19 'The Post Office in Chesham', Chesham Museum, 15 Market Square, Chesham HP5 1HG. Tel 01494 792549.

21-23 Stampa, Royal Dublin Society, Dublin. E-mail Stampa@ireland.com for details.

22-29 Norfolk & Norwich Philatelic Society Centenary Exhibition at The Forum, Norwich. Admission free, 9am-5pm. See www.norphil.co.uk/nnpswebsite.htm

25-4 November – Northern Ireland Philatelic Societies Exhibition, Bangor Museum, Castle Park, BT20 4BT. Admission free. Contact J Proctor, tel 028 38 334964.

November

2 British Postal Museum and Archive tour of the Museum Store at Debden, Essex, 1-3pm.

6 A talk by Auden scholar and author David Collard to celebrate the popular 1936 film *Night Mail* – at the Phoenix Centre, next to the BPMA, 6.30-8.30pm.

* The BPMA is at Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL. For a list of events, phone 0207239 2570 or email info@postalheritage.org.uk

Auction news Corbitts auction on 21 July included some fine GB stamps and postal history lots. The sale was very well attended and there were not enough paddles to go round, so the auctioneers had to cut out some makeshift ones from card. A collection of George V and George VI booklet panes made £360 (estimate £200-250). A rare 1924 10d turquoise blue, with watermark inverted sold for £1,950 (£1,250-£1,500). An amazing and highly colourful telegram form sent in 1900 from Ireland to the Transvaal bearing 93 Jubilee issue stamps achieved £1,150 (£650-850). A collection of 1911-12 George V Downey heads, catalogued at £18,000 went for £4,000 (£4,000-6,000), and a written-up collection of 343 decimal booklet panes made £190 (£50-60). An imperf horizontal pair of the 1992 18p Christmas stamp (only 50 pairs known) realised £260 (£250-300). Corbitts next auction will be held at the Swallow Hotel, Gateshead on 10 November. Contact Corbitts on 0191 232 7268 or visit www.corbitts.com •



Above: this rare 1924 stamp with inverted watermark sold well above estimate at Corbitts

Spink auctioned the first part of the GB Line-Engraved collection of businessman Sir Humphrey Cripps (1915-2000) on 29 June (see September Bulletin, page 12). Sir Humphrey's impressive GB and British Empire collection is expected to realize about £20 million after seven more auctions, to follow until December 2012. For further information on future auctions contact Spink on 020 7563 4000 or visit www.spink.com

Grosvenor's next specialised GB auction on 16 November will include material from the Wheldon family collection, specialised line-engraved, the Ronnie Shiers collection of the 1929 Postal Union Congress issue, and the Kurt Freyner collection of Machin booklets and cylinder blocks.

For further information contact Grosvenor on 020 7379 8789 or visit www.grosvenorauctions.com

Harmers auction on 10 August included some interesting GB material. A fine collection from 1840 to 1951 housed in a Lighthouse album went for £42,000 (est £45,000). A block of three horizontal tete-beche pairs of the 1958 1½d Wilding (Multiple Crown watermark) realised £10,000 (£7,500), and a similar block of five pairs of the 2½d value went for £13,000 (£10,000). For details of future auctions contact Harmers on 020 8747 6100 or see www.harmers.com •

Below: a display about Sub Post Offices in the Chesham district, on show at the Chesham Museum



Chesham on display A bijoux display of the late collector Ian Wilkinson entitled 'The Post Office in Chesham' is at the Chesham Museum until 19 October. The items are on loan from the BPMA and are chosen to demonstrate the local history angle of the collection (of which there were over 3,000 pieces when it was donated in 1989). The display conveys the importance of the Post Office in the local community in the late 19th and early 20th century. For more details, see www.cheshammuseum.org.uk or phone 01494 792 549 •

Island issue The Isle of Man Post Office issued eight stamps on 8 August depicting the postal history of the Knockaloe Internment Camp on the island during the First World War. Knockaloe, near Peel, was purpose-built using prefabricated huts and included its own rail link. About 24,000 men classified as 'enemy aliens' were detained there with some 3000 military and civilian personnel looking after them. The stamps reproduce mail sent from the camp, with the camp postmarks, registration label and even the

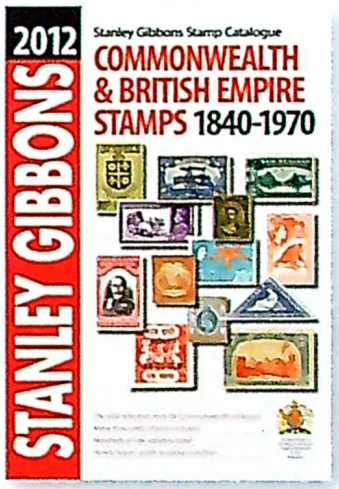
Below: an unusual stamp set from the Isle of Man, showing items of WWI postal history from the Knockaloe Internment Camp



Photo courtesy Spink

private Camp stamp. The eight stamps cost £4.96 or £5.71 in presentation pack. A miniature sheet was also issued, price £3 or £3.75 in pack. Enquiries/orders to: Isle of Man Stamps & Coins, PO Box 10M, Douglas, Isle of Man IM99 1PB. For more details about stamps issued by the Isle of Man Post Office, see website www.iomstamps.com.

New catalogue The 2012 edition of Stanley Gibbons *Commonwealth & British Empire Stamps 1840-1970* is now available (see right). Users will note significant price changes on errors and varieties and newly discovered watermarks are listed for the first time. The volume costs £77.50. Also available is a new edition of Part 17 of the general SG catalogue covering China, Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan, also Japanese Occupation of China, Kiachow, Kwangchow, Manchukuo, and Tibet.



In the five years since the last edition was published there has been great demand for stamps of this region with escalating prices in the Far Eastern stamp market and record auction prices for major Chinese items. The new Part 17 costs £44.95. Both catalogues are available at the SG shop at 399 Strand, London WC2R 0LX or by mail order from Stanley Gibbons Publications, 7 Parkside, Ringwood, Hants BH24 3SH, telephone 01425 470247 or e-mail orders@stanleygibbons.com •

Profits up Stanley Gibbons Ltd reports pre-tax profits of £1.65 million in the first half year, up 5.1 per cent on last time. Sales were 25.5 per cent higher at £14.95 million, due in part to increased demand for rare Chinese stamps in both the UK and Asia •

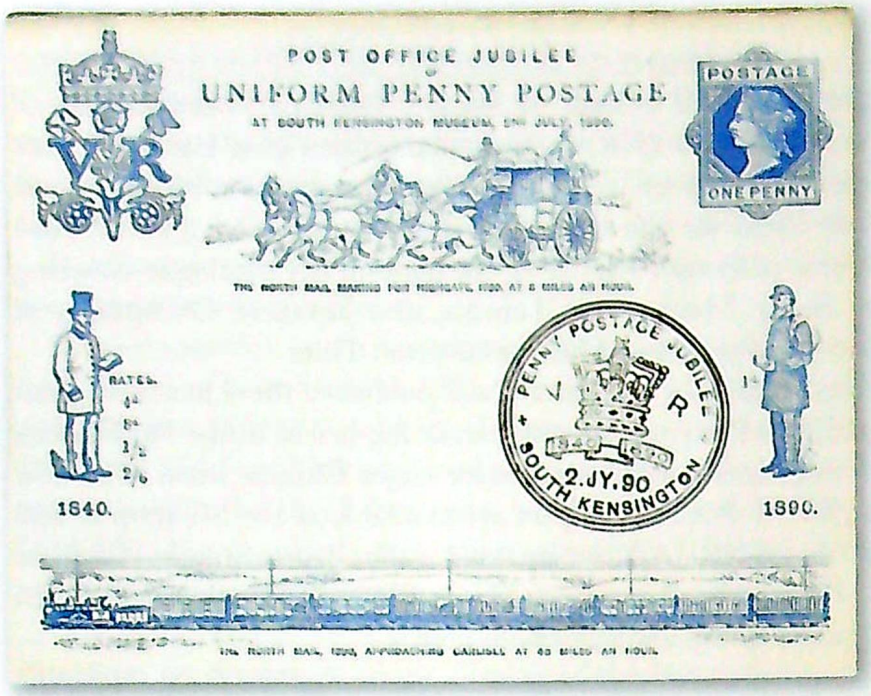
This month in history Decimal Christmas stamps



Forty years ago this month the first Christmas stamps in decimal currency went on sale. The three stamps, for inland 1st and 2nd class mail, and overseas airmail, featured stained glass windows in Canterbury Cathedral. The 2½p value depicted the 'Dream of the Wise Men', the 3p the 'Adoration of the Magi', and the 7½p the 'Ride of the Magi'. The values and the Queen's head, embossed in gold, were neatly displayed in side panels in prominent red, blue, and green colours. Designed by the Clarke-Clements-Hughes design team, the stamps were gravure printed in no fewer than eight colours. Not surprisingly stamps were found with missing colours, and also lacking the phosphor bands and embossing of the Queen's silhouette.

Rarest of these is the 3p stamp with the new blue colour missing, only known in used condition. The 2½p stamp was reel-fed printed in double panes, the 3p in double panes, reel-fed and single pane, sheet-fed, and the 7½p just single pane, sheet-fed production. The gold Queen's head differs in size between the reel-fed and sheet-fed printings on the 3p stamp. Large quantities were sold – over 339 million of the 2nd class stamp, 217 million of the 1st class, and nearly 19 million of the airmail 7½p stamp. Collectors bought over 113,000 presentation packs containing the three stamps. The accompanying Christmas aerogramme featured peace doves with Season's Greetings in several languages.

Precious Jubilee envelope John Davies, Chairman of the Stamp Active Network, talks about a piece close to his heart

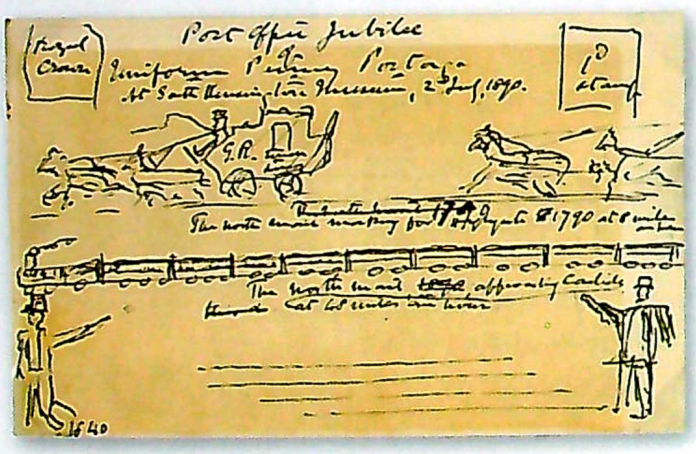


Above: the Post Office Jubilee Envelope of 1890.
Below: original preliminary pen and ink sketch, upon which the Envelope's design was based

I first became attracted to this envelope at Stamp World London '90, which was held 100 years after the original Jubilee events in London. In 1890 Great Britain's first commemorative postal stationery was introduced, in commemoration of the Uniform Penny Postage, launched 50 years earlier.

It was the sell-out success of a Guildhall letter card, prepared for the Jubilee Exhibition held there from 16 to 19 May, that inspired the Post Office to prepare their own souvenir. On the last day of the Guildhall Exhibition, the Post Office Jubilee Committee met and began to plan a special souvenir envelope for the Conversazione that was to be held a few weeks later, on 2 July at South Kensington Museum.

The story of the Post Office Jubilee Envelope is well documented. An archive of its production, containing correspondence between the Post Office and WT Shaw of De La Rue, was sold virtually complete in the 1970s and remains in private hands. It records a pace of production from origination to printing that is unlikely to be matched today.



The envelope itself is something that you either love or hate. Hate – because it led to the introduction of the philatelic souvenir back in 1890; love – for the quality of its production and its importance in the story of the commemoration of 50 years of Uniform Penny Postage and, of course, our first postage stamp, the Penny Black •

John Davies is Chairman of the Stamp Active Network, which promotes stamp collecting among young people in the UK. He is also actively involved with ABPS, GBPS, Banbury Stamp Society and several other societies.

A is for Angel...

Setting out on an A-Z philatelic tour of Britain, Adrian Keppel roams around the UK and does some scenic stamp-spotting along the way









AN INTRIGUING SELECTION of quintessentially British landmarks appears in the new UK A-Z stamp series. With the second part due out next April, the complete set will showcase the beauty of Britain.

In the North 'We have never seen an angel, which is why we have to keep on imagining them', said artist Antony Gormley when he created what has now become a most powerful symbol for the Northeast of England: the Angel of the North (representing A). Its two wings, measuring 177ft across, are set at a slight angle to give the impression of an embrace.

Blackpool Tower (representing B) has already been granted philatelic status on the 1994 issue marking the Centenary of Picture Postcards. Constructed in 1894 to resemble its famous Parisian cousin, it may not be as tall as the Eiffel Tower – in fact it is not even half as high – but it may be considered just as popular and enigmatic.

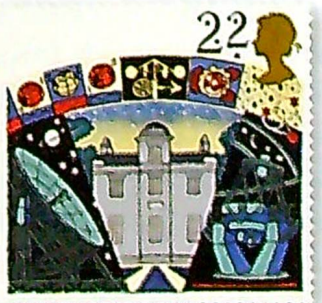
Jodrell Bank (representing J) was established in 1945. Its enormous Lovell Telescope became operational in 1957 and is still the third largest in the world. This important landmark in astronomy has already left its traces in the philatelic world. It was proudly featured on a 1966 stamp of the British Technology set, and later in the 1990 Astronomy set.

The tidal island of Lindisfarne (representing L) is best known for its Priory, built on the site of a monastery founded circa AD 634 by the Celtic monk Saint Aiden. In the 700s the famous illuminated Lindisfarne Gospels were created there and, although the original is now in the British Library, a modern ▸



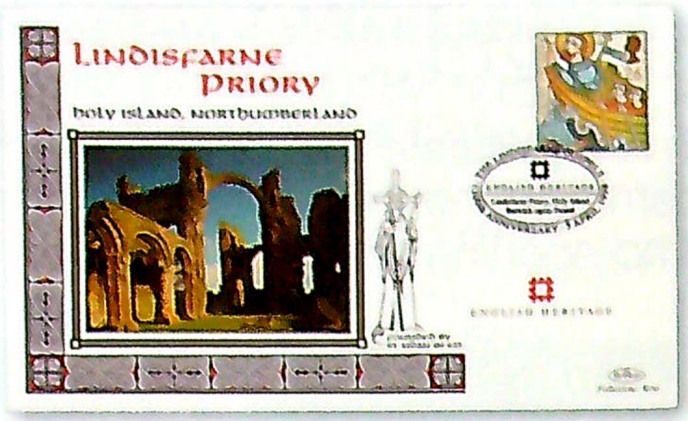
Top: the Angel of the North first featured on one of the labels on the 2007 Glorious England generic sheet, it now leads the A-Z issue (top left) Above: Blackpool Tower on the 1994 issue marking the Centenary of Picture Postcards. The new stamp (centre top) is more literal in style







Left: Jodrell Bank in the new A-Z issue; in the 2002 PSB pane; and on the 4d value of the 1966 British Technology set





Right: Lindisfarne Priory has been the subject of a number of beautiful covers, such as this one, which carries a stamp from the English Heritage series of 1998

copy can be viewed in the North East at Durham Cathedral. Following Viking raids in 875, the Priory was not re-established until Norman times in 1093. The oldest remains on the site date from that period.



Down South Number Ten Downing Street (for D) is one of the most famous front doors in the world. Ever since the 1730s it has been the office, and later residence as well, of the First Lord of the Treasury, who for over a century now has also been the Prime Minister. The house was not always loved and there were times it was near to being razed, but that never happened and now the house and its address and front door have become an international icon. Many of its past residents may be found on philatelic items. Churchill is undoubtedly the one most often portrayed, but he was recently joined by Gladstone in the 2009 Eminent Britons set.



The Kursaal in Southend-on-Sea (representing K), although never before depicted on a stamp, was an exceptionally popular venue in its heyday. Until WWII this was a highly fashionable place for all the best seaside entertainment; it has come to be regarded as the world's first theme park and pre-dates Coney Island in the US. At one stage, it included a circus and boasted the first ever lady lion tamer and female 'wall of death' rider. Recently restored, today the Kursaal is treasured because of its unique architecture, the work of Campbell Sherrin – who also designed, among other cutting-edge buildings of the day, the Brompton Oratory.

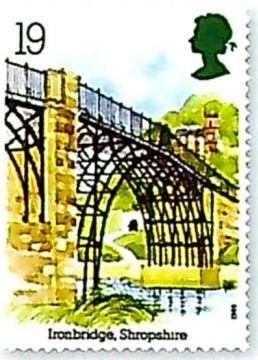


Above: London's Downing Street, the Kursaal in Southend and Glastonbury Tor – all feature in the first part of the UK A-Z issue

Way out West Country It is said that back in the 12th Century on Glastonbury Tor (representing G) the coffins of King Arthur and Queen Guinevere were discovered, which led to claims that the hill could well have been the mythical island of Avalon. At the foot of the hill, in the grounds of Glastonbury Abbey, we find the famous Glastonbury Thorn, which blooms at Christmastime. It is believed to have been brought there by Joseph of Arimathea when he brought the Holy Grail to Glastonbury.

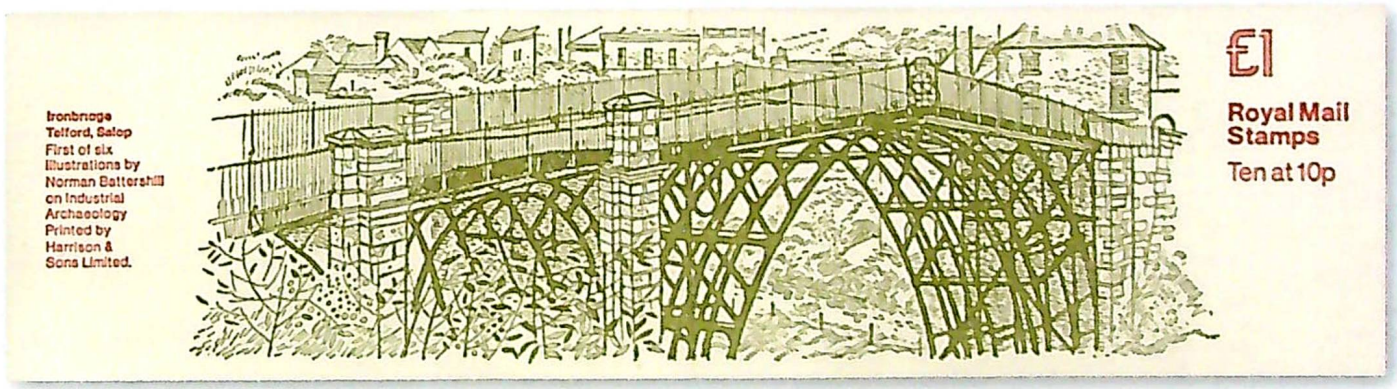
Coming back to the more recent past, the Iron Bridge (for I) stands at the heart of the Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage Site. The first arch bridge in the world to be made of cast iron, the Iron Bridge was designed by Thomas Farnolls Pritchard, who died only a month after the work had begun, in 1777. Because there was no precedent for building with iron, the fastenings were made using woodworking methods, such as the mortise and tenon and blind dovetail joints. Completed in 1779, the Iron Bridge has become a symbol for







Clockwise from left: the Iron Bridge in the 1989 Industrial Archaeolgy series, mini-sheet and stamp, in the new UK A-Z issue, and on the cover of a 1979 stamp book



the dawn of the industrial age. Ironbridge is a familiar philatelic subject, having appeared previously in the 1989 Industrial Archaeolgy stamps and mini-sheet and on a 1979 stamp booklet.

Northern Ireland treasure Maybe not as internationally famous as some of the other landmarks included in the set, but at least as ingenious a construction, is the rope suspension bridge between the mainland of County Antrim and the little island of Carrick-a-Rede (for C). The bridge, originally built by salmon fishermen, now attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors each year, many of whom brave the 20-metres walk over the bridge, 30 metres above the water. Some of those find it so scary that they have to be rescued by boat, not daring to walk back over the bridge. ▸





Left: Carrick-a-Rede's vertiginous bridge in the new issue and on the 2008 Glorious Northern Ireland sheet



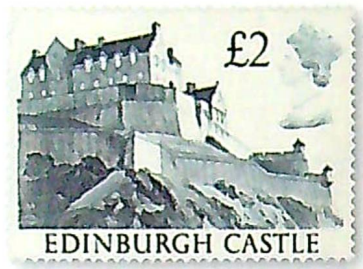
Above: Harlech Castle

Welsh genius The Welsh entry in this set is famous Harlech Castle (for H), built by Edward I during his conquest of Wales. After seven centuries its grandeur remains in tact, a testament to the defensive architecture of Master James of St George who masterminded Harlech Castle's design and supervised an army of builders and craftsmen over a period of six years, beginning in April 1283. The result was perfectly concentric castle, with one line of defences enclosed by another. Unfortunately, the outer wall is in ruins today so, although it's clifftop position is imposing, the castle does not convey the full 13th-century effect. Harlech Castle was featured in the 1966 Landscapes set.



North of the border The Scottish contingent of the UK A-Z consists of Edinburgh Castle (representing E). It is built upon a volcanic rock, where archaeological evidence of human settlement dates from 900BC. The oldest part of the current castle – St Margaret's Chapel – dates from around 1130. The castle was a royal residence until the Union of the Crowns in 1603. It is included in the Wilding Castles high-value definitive set of 1955 onwards, and also in its decimal successor, issued from 1988 onwards. In more recent years the castle appears on the Celebrating Scotland miniature sheet of 2006.



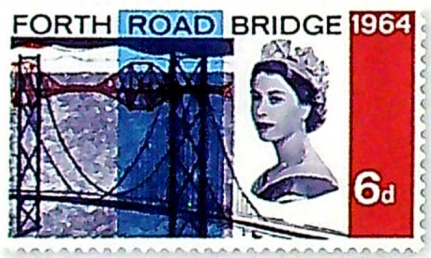


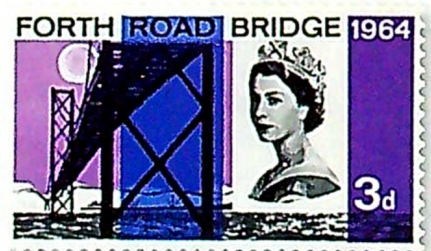


Above: Edinburgh Castle on the new set, Wilding Castles and 2006 mini-sheet.
Below: Forth Railway Bridge – on the new stamp, and in 1964 alongside the Forth Road Bridge

The Forth Railway Bridge (for F), is a cantilever railway bridge over the Firth of Forth. Having taken more than 4,000 men, seven years and 57 lives to build, the Bridge opened in March 1890. From then until 1917, when the Quebec Bridge was completed, it had the longest single cantilever bridge span in the world; today it has the second largest. The striking bridge was first seen on stamps in the 1964 issue that marked the opening of its neighbour, the Forth Road Bridge •









London under fire

A recently discovered find describes salvage work by the Post Office during the Blitz. Vyki Sparkes, Assistant Curator at the BPMA, reports

As a crucial link in the communication chain of military operations, and a mainstay of general morale, the General Post Office (GPO) carried a lot of responsibility during World War II. One of the most serious of the many problems facing the organisation at that time was the aerial bombardment of Britain, in particular of London. Post Office staff are known to have worked tirelessly to keep open the network of postal, telegraph and telephone services, even in the Blitz period of regular bombing raids, from August 1940 to the following spring.

Personal histories

Little was known about the extent of the salvage work carried out by the Post Office until the recent discovery, during an audit of the British Postal Museum & Archive (BPMA) collections, of a number of documents offering graphic descriptions of the life of one civilian postal worker during the Blitz. Behind their unassuming plain covers, the archived scrapbooks and diaries contain newspaper cuttings and handwritten notes that create vivid pictures of the challenges faced almost daily during the worst weeks of the Blitz.

Frederick George Gurr was the unlikely hero to emerge from the Archive. At the outbreak of war, he was Head Postman at the King Edward Building in the City of London, with only a few years left until retirement. We learn from his scrapbook that in September 1940 he instigated an operation to rescue post boxes that had been buried by bombing. Concern was expressed at the GPO that General Salvage Squads involved in this type of emergency operation might not properly recognise the importance of recovering mail. Consequently, it was at the request of the Divisional Controller that Gurr set up the GPO Rescue and Salvage Squad.

The Squad was composed of a small group of selected postmen who had been withdrawn from their normal duties. Tools were scrounged from friends and neighbours, a workshop set up and a vehicle commandeered. In a typewritten account dated shortly after he began salvage operations, ▸



GPO posters reminded bombed-out families that their mail could be forwarded during the Blitz



Lest We Forget: three poppy stamps are redistributed next month in remembrance of those who have died in wars

Images ©Mirrorpix/The Bridgeman Art Library; BPMA



The Post Office Rescue and Salvage Squad in action at Paternoster Square, January 1941

Gurr summarised his feelings: '...on our way back to the Office, despite our heavy load, there was a feeling of satisfaction, of something achieved that would mean a lot to many [people]... and in particular beating Jerry [the German forces] at his work of destruction'. Once recovered, the mail from the damaged letter boxes was given special attention to make sure that all the salvaged items got back into circulation without further delay.

The Second Great Fire

The GPO Rescue and Salvage Squad was kept busy from the very first week of its formation, and many photographs in Mr Gurr's scrapbook record the squad members rescuing mail from letter boxes in various heavily bombed parts of the City of London. One of the worst nights of bombing was on 29/30 December 1940, when some 1,500 fires were started; the night was dubbed 'The Second Great Fire of London'. As a result, at least 30 letter boxes in Gurr's district were burned, but he stated: 'I'm proud to say we've never yet failed to collect [the mail] – or at least some part of it – however bad the Blitz. The firebombs were our worst enemies – often the letters were charred beyond salvage. But others I picked up were still readable and I took them to the London GPO [General Post Office] where they were patched together and sent out...'

At the Moorgate Branch Post Office, the Squad tunnelled under 3,000 tons of girders and debris of the collapsed Dominion House to recover staff possessions from lockers, including bank books, cash, saving certificates and even knitting. Also salvaged from Moorgate were written records, furniture and safes containing money and stamps. In the BPMA's collections are two sets of sheets of carbonised (ie burned black) stamps salvaged from Moorgate, their pages completely charred and fused together.

By June 1941 the squad was credited with having saved £250,000 worth of stamps and money from safes and bombed Post Office buildings. Partly because of the metal shortage, many of these salvaged safes were sent off for reconditioning. Gurr wrote '[It is] the letter boxes I'm interested in most, and as long as we can keep the Postal Service going, come what may, we shall be happy.' In between salvage operations, the Squad were called in to help sort the mail at the height of the bombing in May 1941.

The Post Office pledged that no area would be without postal facilities for more than 24 hours during World War II. Do any *Bulletin* readers recognise the unidentified bombed Post Office pictured below?



The Squad was featured in newspaper accounts and received numerous accolades from all levels of Post Office management. In May 1941 Gurr's bravery was officially recognised when he was awarded the British Empire Medal for showing '*courage, determination and resource in reaching and forcing open receptacles buried beneath debris in danger zones and has been successful in retrieving a considerable amount of correspondence with the minimum of delay*' ●

1.

LEFT TO RIGHT.
MR G.A. CASEY. MR E.A.V. GOODWIN. MR P.A. BUNYARD.
POSTMAN DRIVER OF SALVAGE VAN MR. W.C. EASTON.

EVENING STANDARD—
SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 194[illegible]

Award for G.P.O. Salvage Man



Mr. Fred Gurr, here seen seated on the bonnet of a G.P.O. salvage van to-day with his salvage squad in front of him, has just been awarded the British Empire Medal for hazardous work in clearing correspondence from damaged post-boxes in heavily bombed areas. Mr. Gurr and his squad have retrieved a considerable amount of G.P.O. property.

SOME OF THE LADS OF THE SQUAD.

PHOTO TAKEN OUTSIDE THE BLITZED AND RUINED SITE OF QUEEN VICTORIA ST BRANCH POST OFFICE E.C.4. AT THE TIME WHEN PRESS PHOTOGRAPHER ARRIVED TO TAKE THE PHOTO THE LADS WERE DIGGING THEIR WAY DOWN TO AN UNDERGROUND SHELTER AND BOILER ROOM FROM WHERE THEY EVENTUALLY SALVAGED ALL BOILERS, PIPES, + HOT WATER INSTALLATIONS A TOUGH JOB FLOODED DEEP IN WATER.

Mail on mail

Julia Lee on how the evolution of the postal system is depicted on UK stamps

THE STORY OF THE UK POSTAL SERVICE begins in 1635, when Charles I opened the use of his mail service to the general public in order to raise revenues. Oliver Cromwell followed by setting up a general post office in 1657, which Charles II replaced with the General Letter Office in 1660. At this time in the 17th century, before the move to stage coaches, mail was carried by post boys in relays, each carrying a horn to alert the next boy along the road.

Three hundred years later an image of such a post horn features in the first stamps to celebrate the postal service – the 1960 issue marking the 300th anniversary of the General Letter Office's foundation. On the 1s 3d stamp (1), the post horn sits next to a crown and among oak leaves – probably a reference to English royalty, following the story of Charles II hiding in an oak tree to avoid capture by Republicans after the Battle of Worcester. On the 3d (2), a post boy on a galloping horse blows a post horn. There is also an elaborate little Charles II cypher in the top left corner.

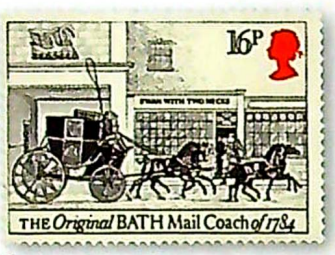
Movement by mailcoach By the late 18th century the postal system was considered inefficient and slow. In 1784 John Palmer, a Bath theatre owner, organised the first mail coach run, essentially to prove to postal officials that the timely delivery of post could be achieved. The first run from Bristol to London took 16 hours, a massive improvement on a journey that normally



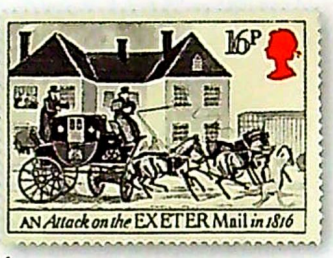
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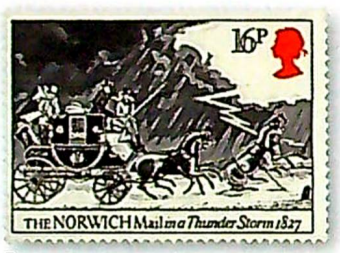
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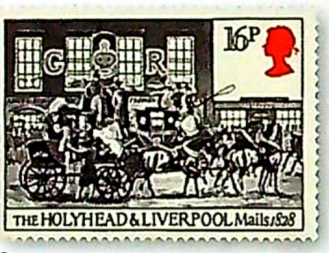
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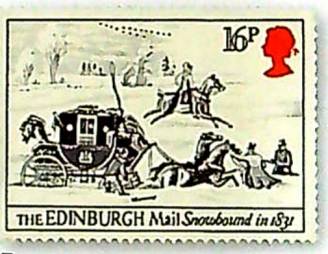
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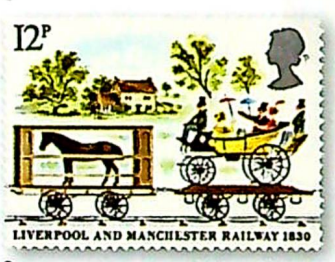
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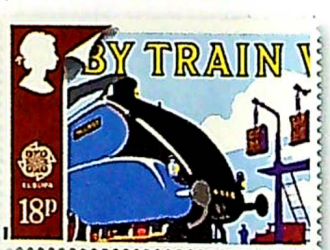
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Stamps celebrating the General Post Office (1, 2). Slania's 1984 Bicentenary of the First Mail Coach run (3, 4, 5, 6 and 7). The 150th anniversary of the Liverpool and Manchester railway commemorated in the 1980 issue (8). The 1988 Transport issue showing the *Mallard* (9)

took up to 38 hours. By the end of 1785, his coaches served Norwich, Liverpool, Leeds, Dover, Portsmouth, Poole, Exeter, Gloucester, Worcester, Holyhead and Carlisle.

In 1984, a beautiful set of stamps, engraved by Czeslaw Slania (3, 4, 5, 6 and 7), marked the anniversary of the first mail coach run with illustrations of significant incidents from the mail coach era. The events portrayed include a lioness from a travelling menagerie attacking the Exeter mail coach, the Norwich mail coach in a thunderstorm, Holyhead and Liverpool mails leaving London, and the Edinburgh mail coach trapped in a snow drift. A depiction of a mail coach in a more modern setting is featured in the 1989 stamp set of the Lord Mayor's show (10) – one of the five 20p stamps shows a coach taking part in the annual London parade. The railways eventually took the place of mail coach routes, with the last London-bound coach leaving Norwich in 1846.



10

An original mail coach in London's annual Lord Mayor's Show, on this 1989 stamp

The age of steam Mail was first carried on the Liverpool and Manchester Railway shortly after it opened and, by 1838, mail coaches were being transported on railway wagons, to be taken off at the nearest appropriate station and continued to their end destination by road. The 1980 stamp set issued to mark the 150th anniversary of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway features such a mail coach on a wagon (8).

An apparatus for dropping mailbags into a net positioned at the side of the railway track was quickly developed and in 1839 a system was adopted that allowed mailbags to be collected from a moving train. The 20th century version of this system features in the Mike Dempsey set of 1988 Europa Transport and Mail Services, showcasing 1930s transport. The 18p value (9) shows the record-breaking Mallard and, uniquely among UK stamps, mailbags waiting on pick-up arms, ready to be caught by the speeding train.

> By 1838, mail coaches were being transported on railway wagons

The man who changed it all The industrial revolution was accompanied by a social revolution that saw people flocking from rural communities to find work in cities. Burgeoning businesses needed to communicate and workers needed to write home. The old set-up, where the addressee paid for the post upon delivery – not knowing in advance how much that may be because it was dependent on the distance travelled – was inefficient and prohibitively expensive to the working classes. The postal reformer Rowland Hill ▸



11



12



13

Left: one of the stamps from the 1990 150th Anniversary of the Penny Black issue (11); the Penny Red celebrated in the 1992 Memories issue (12); this year's House of Hanover special issue again featured the stamp that started it all (13)

petitioned for a Uniform Penny Postage and invented the Penny Black in 1840. The much-loved Penny Black has been celebrated on modern stamps, notably in the 1990 150th Anniversary of the Penny Black issue (11), while the Penny Red is featured in the 1992 Memories issue (12). The recent House of Hanover in the Kings and Queens series (13) and the Stamp World London 90 minisheet also feature the Penny Black.

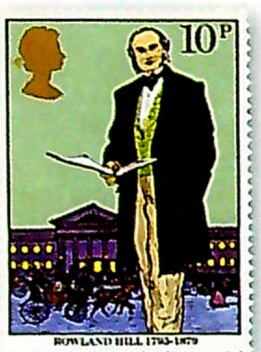
In 1979, on the centenary of Rowland Hill's death, a set of four stamps was issued, with the sale of the accompanying miniature sheet helping fund the 1980 London International Stamp Exhibition. Designer Eric Stemp used an overall theme of people holding letters, beginning with Hill on the 10p stamp (14). The 11½p and 13p show the two different uniforms of 1839 postmen – of the General Post and the London Penny Post respectively (15 and 16).

❝ The centenary of Rowland Hill's death and the bicentenary of his birth were both marked with special stamp issues ❞

The London Penny Post had been set up by William Dockwra and Robert Murray in 1680 alongside the General Post Office and in many ways – for example, pre-payment and letter boxes – anticipated the later developments we are so familiar with. However, the Duke of York (who had the General Post Office monopoly and profited from it greatly) took the London Post into his care two years later. The two distinct systems remained until 1844 and the uniforms hung on for another 11 years until, in 1855, a collective post office uniform of scarlet was issued to the mail carriers of both the London District and the General Post.

The bicentenary of Rowland Hill's birth was marked in 1995 in a stamp set commemorating Pioneers of Communication. Hill is shown on the 19p in front of the Uniform Penny Postage Petition (18) and on the 25p in front of the Penny Black (19). The other two stamps in the set feature Marconi but are relevant to Hill too – the Post Office allowed Hill to pioneer the use of

Stamps commemorating Rowland Hill: marking the 1979 centenary of his death (14, 15, 16 and 17); the 1995 Pioneers of Communications issue (18 and 19); the 2004 250th Anniversary of the RSA issue (20)



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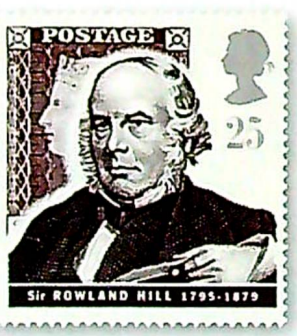
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the wireless before the Italian government realised the invention's worth.

He was honoured on the 2004 set which marked the 250th anniversary of the Royal Society of Arts. The 1st class value refers to his being awarded the first RSA Albert Medal in 1864 for his postal reforms (20). A Penny Black sits at the top right corner of the stamp, as if it were an envelope.

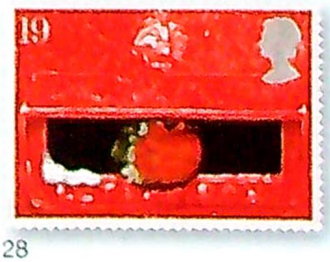
Central collection points In response to the explosion in the volume of mail that coincided with the Penny Black, the novelist and postal worker Anthony Trollope invented the pillar box. The first box was installed in Jersey in 1852 and its 150th anniversary was celebrated in a 2002 stamp set (21, 22, 23, 24 and 25). Its five stamps carry images of pillar boxes dating from 1857 to 1874, including the early (and rare) 1857 VR Science and Art Pillar Box and an Air Mail Post Box of 1933.

These familiar pieces of street furniture were further celebrated in 2009 with the first series of Post Boxes stamps (26), 1983's Christmas Post (27), and the Christmas 1995 stamps which included a robin in the mouth of a pillar box on the 19p value (28) •

Next month Julia gathers together stamps celebrating the PO Savings Bank, Universal Postal Union, ship deliveries and airmail.



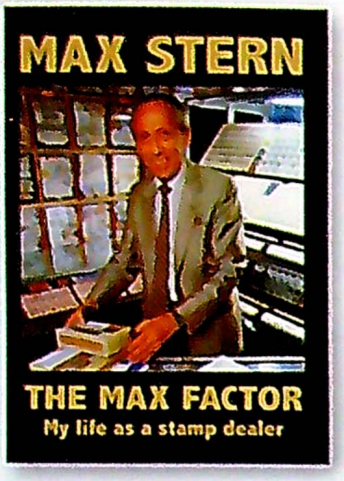
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Above: UK stamps that celebrate the post box – the 150th anniversary set of 2002, the Post Boxes miniature sheet of 2009, Christmas Post of 1983, and 1995's popular Christmas robin

The Max Factor book review by John Holman



Above: *The Max Factor* is published by Makor Jewish Community Library, 306 Hawthorn Road, Caulfield South, Victoria 3162, Australia

THE CHARISMATIC stamp dealer Max Stern, who was 90 in March, has written a book entitled *The Max Factor: My life as a stamp dealer.* Born in 1921 to a 'Jewish, middle-class family' in Bratislava, then part of Czechoslovakia, he became interested in stamps as a boy of 12 and started 'making money' from stamps while still at school. He returned to stamp dealing after the World War II, during which he was imprisoned in the Zilina labour and Sachsenhausen concentration camps. In 1948 he and his wife emigrated to Australia where he has lived ever since. His new book includes telling observations of postwar trading in Europe, his first trip to New York and his emigration to Australia.

Lucky breaks Stern recalls setting up shop in Melbourne and installing a kerosene heater, which he would use to roast chestnuts in winter. After a while he had a lucky break when an elderly gentleman came to the shop – he was the son of Samuel Reading, the first engraver of the Australian kangaroo series of 1913. The visitor 'opened a torn old purse' and produced several die proofs of the kangaroo stamps. This was a memorable moment for Stern: 'I had never seen a die proof before in my life. I'd never even heard of them.' Stern contacted an auctioneer who advised immediate purchase and the six proofs were then sold for $300 each. In 2008 one of them sold at auction in the US for $100,000.

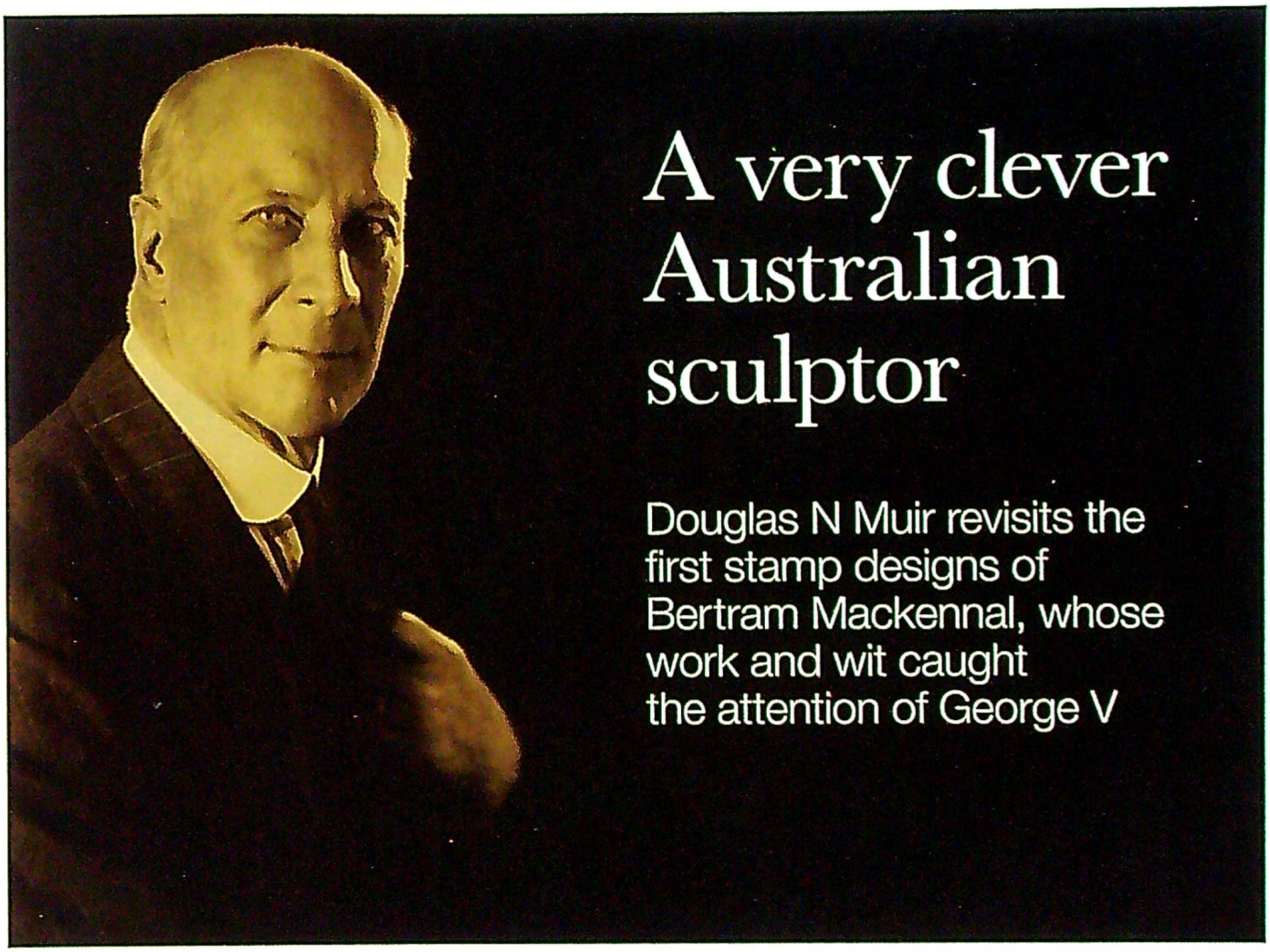
Another lucky break was the 1956 Olympic Games in Melbourne. With an overdraft from the bank, Stern serviced covers from the 15 different Olympic venues. By the start of the games he had orders for 3,000 covers from overseas and sold nearly 5,000 locally.

International perspectives By 1986 Stern was an agent for Royal Mail he pointed out that there had never a joint issue with Royal Mail and another country. He proposed a set for the Australian bicentennial. Initially the idea was rejected, but after the Duke of Kent supported the proposal it was put back on the agenda. The process was so involved that the stamps could not be ready by 26 January 1988, Australia Day, and they went on sale in both countries on 21 June – midsummer's day in England and the winter solstice in Australia. Another chapter describes other joint ventures with the USSR, China, France, Sweden, and Thailand.

When Czechoslovakia split into the Czech Republic and Slovakia new stamps were needed and old Czech stamps were rendered obsolete. Vast stocks of these remained in Prague and Bratislava, the first sold to a dealer in the UK, the second bought by Stern for US$80,000. The stamps were posted to Australia in 320 parcels, each of 20kg. It took Stern many years to dispose of the vast stock – he once offered stamps at auction in lots of one million at a time.

The Max Factor is an enjoyable read, both for details of Stern's life and the wider arena of stamp dealing. At the end of the book are tributes to him from many in the philatelic world and also from his dentist – an avid stamp collector of course – who writes: 'it is noteworthy that Max eats one large block of Lindt chocolate every day.'

Perhaps that is the secret of Max Stern's eternal youth •



A very clever Australian sculptor

Douglas N Muir revisits the first stamp designs of Bertram Mackennal, whose work and wit caught the attention of George V

STAMP COLLECTORS ALWAYS ASSOCIATE Bertram Mackennal with King George V, as the profile portrait by Mackennal featured on most of the low-value definitives of George V's reign (1910-1936). While Mackennal is perhaps best known for the beautiful Seahorses designs issued in 1913, it was his profile of the new King that first brought his work to the attention of the Post Office, via the Palace.

Soon after King George V came to the throne on 22 June 1910, a representative of the Royal Mint asked him to meet Mackennal in order to see his preliminary work of a profile drawing of the King for some new coins. George V wrote in his diary: '*Saw Mr Macartney (deputy Master of the Mint) about the new coins & medals & then I gave a sitting to Mr Mackennal (a very clever Australian sculptor) who is doing my head for the new coinage & medals.*'

That diary entry, of Friday 5 August 1910 at Marlborough House in London, leaves us in little doubt that Mackennal had made a favourable impression at this, his first meeting with the King. Mackennal was already a well-known sculptor, whose work had merited a commission to design coins and medals for the new monarch's reign. The idea that he was only persuaded to prepare designs for stamps because of the King's interest in the philately is supported by archived diaries of the King.

Edgar Bertram Mackennal was born on 12 June 1863 in Melbourne, Australia, the third of six children of John Simpson Mackennal (also a ▸



Top: Bertram Mackennal, 1863-1931. Above: *Circe*, a work that earned Mackennal acclaim in Paris in 1893



Above: the 1908 Olympic commemorative medal reverse (actual size 50mm diameter) shows Phoebus Apollo and rearing horses, later to inspire the Seahorses stamp design

sculptor, originally from Stranraer) and Annabella Sarah Hyde (from Glasgow). A few years earlier, Mackennal's father had sailed to Australia to seek his fortune in the gold fields. Bertram studied art in Melbourne from the age of 16 and then came to Europe to pursue his career as a sculptor. His first notable success as a sculptor came when he was based in Paris in the 1890s – his *Circe*, a statuette of a goddess in the new style, was exhibited at the Paris Salon. He moved to London more permanently in 1894, slowly gaining recognition, and ten years later he was commissioned to provide the pediment sculpture for the New Government Buildings, Parliament Street, Whitehall, London. This building is now often referred to as 'GOGGS' (Government Offices Great George Street) and houses HM Treasury.

His first successful venture into medals came in 1908 when he designed the prize and commemorative medals for the London Olympics. The medal designs were based on classical allegories, one of which featured Phoebus Apollo standing in a chariot pulled by four rearing horses.

Relations with George V

It was George V who suggested in August 1910 that Mackennal provide designs of frames for the first definitive stamps of his reign. This was after the King had seen rather poor efforts by artists commissioned by the then Postmaster General, Herbert Samuel. When Mackennal's first versions were submitted to the King via the Post Office, comments came back by the same route, in accordance with the official process of choosing stamps for a new monarch. But by November 1910, having visited the King at Windsor as part of his continuing work on coins and medals, Mackennal felt it appropriate to write directly to the King and submit new stamp designs for the King's comment and approval, 'behind the back' of Herbert Samuel. If the King approved the designs they were presented to Samuel as *a fait accompli*. As a result of these direct dealings, much of the artwork for the first definitives now form part of the Royal Philatelic Collection (and are not held at the BPMA).

Meanwhile the Downey three-quarter profile had been separately engraved by J A C Harrison on behalf of the Royal Mint for the Post Office's use on stamps. In accordance with official procedure, these were submitted by the Royal Mint to the Postmaster General on 14 November, and thence to the King.

The Downey proofs were returned to the Postmaster General with the following note. *'The King thinks there must have been some mistake on the part of the Mint in sending them to you until they had been passed by Mr Mackennal, the sculptor who had undertaken to do this in accordance with an understanding with His Majesty.'*

Mackennal had been at Windsor Castle that weekend and seen the proofs, and it was clearly at his instigation that they were returned. In his typically forthright way, Mackennal said of the Downey Head definitives: *'What awful stamps. I have to suffer for all. I think the lion one ought to be withdrawn. It was not my idea as I think you know, nor the King's.'*

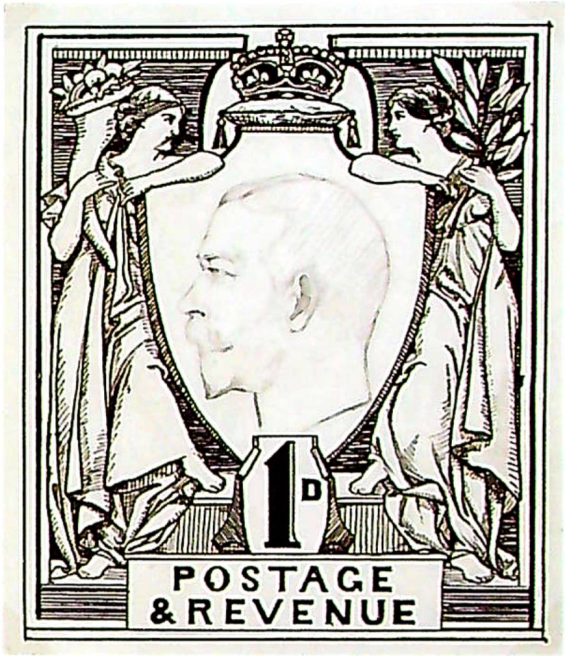


Top: three-quarter profile Downey head with the lion couchant of the 1911 stamps
Above: the Mackennal profile issued the following year

Despite this criticism, the lion design stamps, which had been very much the idea of Samuel, were issued on schedule. But Mackennal succeeded in getting rid of the lion at the first opportunity. Right from the outset, Mackennal had proposed a profile portrait of the King rather than the

Illustrations: reproduction of Mackennal drawings by gracious permission of Her Majesty The Queen, to whom the copyright belongs. Stamp images © Royal Mail Group Ltd 2011 courtesy of The British Postal Museum & Archive





Far left: photograph of Mackennal's first plaque (executed in February 1911) for the 1d design which replaced the three-quarter profile of Downey.
Left: one of Mackennal's earlier stamp frame designs of September 1910, showing a suggestion of a profile head of George V

three-quarter profile initially used. He submitted two profile effigies with his first frame designs, vestiges of which can still be seen in the British Postal Museum Archive. Similarly, he provided a profile for the Seahorse design, and of course for coins and embossed paper. All these designs ultimately derived from the first head Mackennal designed for obverse of the Union of South Africa medal of 1910 (issued by the Royal Mint and presented to individuals in service to the cause of the Union).

A few days before Christmas in December 1911, when the King returned from the Coronation Durbar in Delhi, he found awaiting him a new design for the 1d stamp. It incorporated a profile portrait which he immediately approved. After a lot of heated correspondence, this head – in slightly different formats and sizes – was subsequently incorporated into all the stamps of the reign and used on currency notes, postal orders, coins, medals and all forms of stationery. For this, and other sculptures of royalty, Mackennal was knighted in 1921, the first Australian to receive this honour.

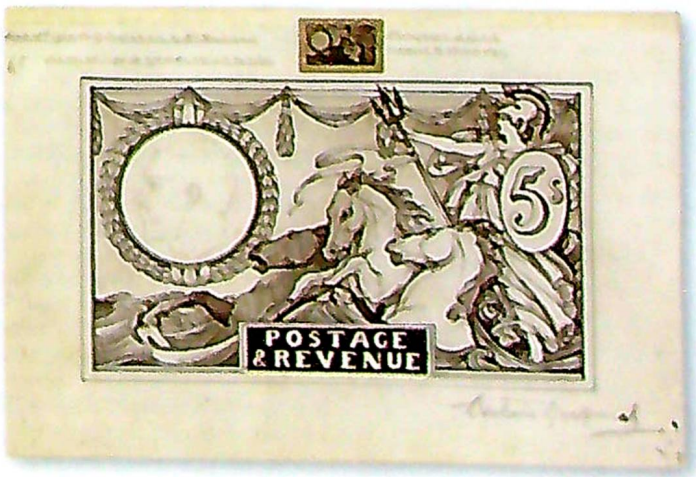


Above: Mackennal's 1910 design with head of George V for the South Africa medal.
Below: the original artwork for the Mackennal's Seahorse stamp designs for the high-value definitives of 1913. The centenary of this much-loved design falls in 2013, as does the 150th anniversary of Bertram Mackennal's birth

Last post

We leave the last word on Bertram Mackennal to the King. In his diary entry for Monday, 12 October 1931 at Sandringham is recorded the one and only criticism he is known to have made of Mackennal. (The May to whom this diary note refers is Queen Mary, and Maud is George V's sister and the Queen of Norway.)

'A summer's day quite hot & no wind. Went out to try & get some duck in Frankfort pool, but I never got a shot. I then went on to White Hills pool where I got 4 teal. In afternoon May & I paid Maud a visit at Appleton & she showed us her garden, we then went to our church to see Mackennal's medallion of dear Mama (which is not very good alas), he I regret to say, died suddenly on Saturday' •



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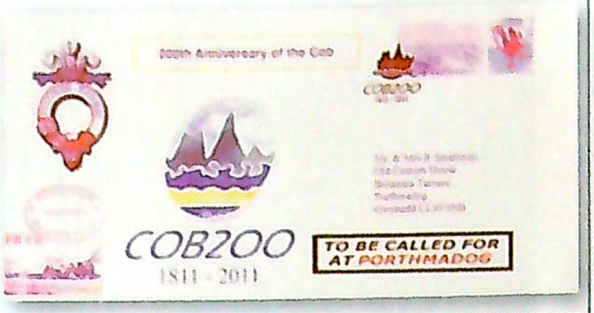
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Cover producers wishing to announce a recent or forthcoming cover should submit copy of up to 75 words and an image of the cover. Announcements are published on a first-come-first-served basis or around a theme, at the discretion of the Editor. Please send submissions for December *Bulletin* to the address on page 36 by 28 October.

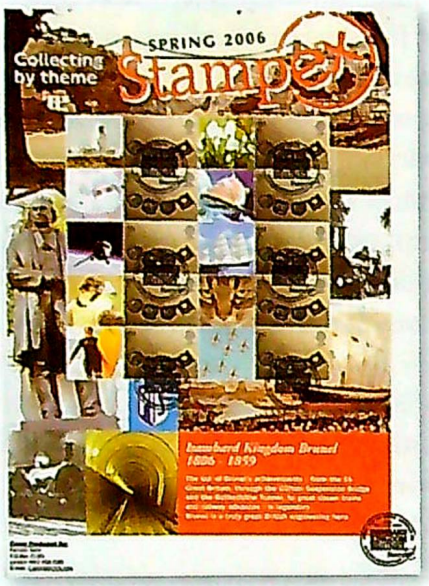
The Ffestiniog Railway For the first mile out of Porthmadog, the Ffestiniog Railway (a narrow-guage heritage railway) runs along the top of an embankment locally known as 'the Cob', which was constructed in 1811 as part of a project to reclaim the lands of the Traeth Mawr tidal estuary. This commemorative cover marks the 200th anniversary of the Cob. **Price**: £7 including p&p ●

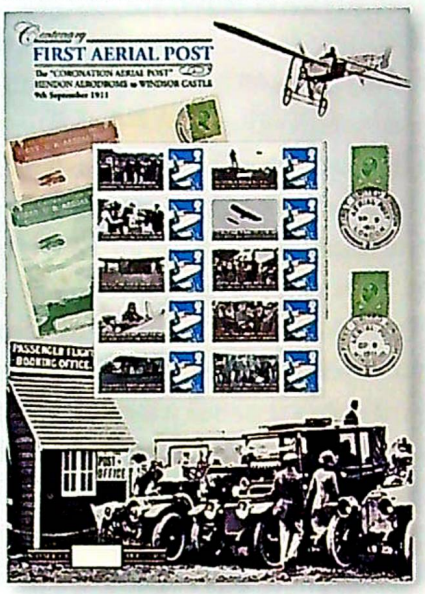




Centenary of first aerial post –the cover shown left carries two special stamps and postmarks and includes a commemorative medallion, produced by Cath Buckingham and Tower Mint. It marks the centenary of the first aerial post, as celebrated at the centenary event in Windsor Great Park last month. Limited numbers are available with the signature of Henk van Hoorn, a Bleriot pilot. **Price**: £17.95 unsigned, £26.95 signed ●

Brunel bonanza In a numbered, limited edition of 25 from F Jamil, this A4 sheet carries first-day-of-issue post marks on the stamp set marking the 200th anniversary of the birth of Isambard Kingdom Brunel. **Price**: £17.50 including p&p ●





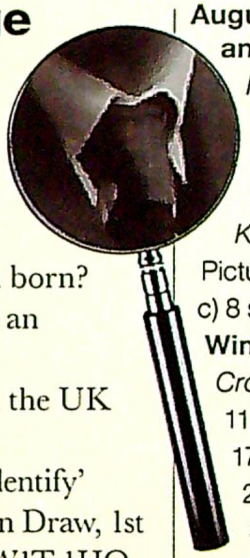
First Aerial Post Customised sheet of ten captioned labels telling the story of the historic Bleriot flight of 1911, and two special cancellations. All sheets are numbered, in a limited edition of 500, from Benham. **Price**: £24.95 ●

Prize draw rules and regulations

1 The closing date is 9 November, 2011. 2 Promotions are open to all readers aged 18 and over, except employees of Royal Mail Group Ltd, their business associates and immediate families. 3 Responsibility cannot be accepted for entries which are incomplete, damaged or not received for any reason. Proof of posting is not proof of receipt. Prizes must be accepted as offered; they are not transferable and there are no cash alternatives. 4 Winners are notified within 28 days of closing date. 5 For prize draws where readers must answer a question or solve a crossword, winners will be the senders of the first correct entries drawn at random by an independent person after the closing date. 6 Promoter's decision on any aspect of the promotions is final. No correspondence will be entered into. 7 Entry implies acceptance of these rules. 8 Prizes are subject to suitability and availability. The promoter reserves the right to a) substitute a prize of equal or greater value if circumstances so demand and b) to suspend or cancel or hold void any of the competitions or prize draws at any time without notice. 9 Winners' names are available 28 days after closing date; send an SAE to Melanie Williams, *British Philatelic Bulletin*, Royal Mail 1st Floor, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ. The promoter is Royal Mail Group Ltd, 100 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0HQ.

Prize draws Collectors' conundrums and a cryptic crossword

Identify and **Knowledge**



Our theme for this month is the life of Arnold Machin

1 *Identify* the stamp from the detail, right, with its name and year of issue.

2 Test your *Knowledge*:

a) In which town was Arnold Machin born?

b) At which company did Machin serve an apprenticeship as a decorator of china?

c) On what date did the first stamps in the UK Machin series go on sale?

Send your answers, marked 'October Identify' and/or 'October Knowledge', to Bulletin Draw, 1st Floor, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ.

Closing date: 9 November 2011. The first ten correct entries drawn after the closing date win a selection of November special issue stamps •

August solutions and winners

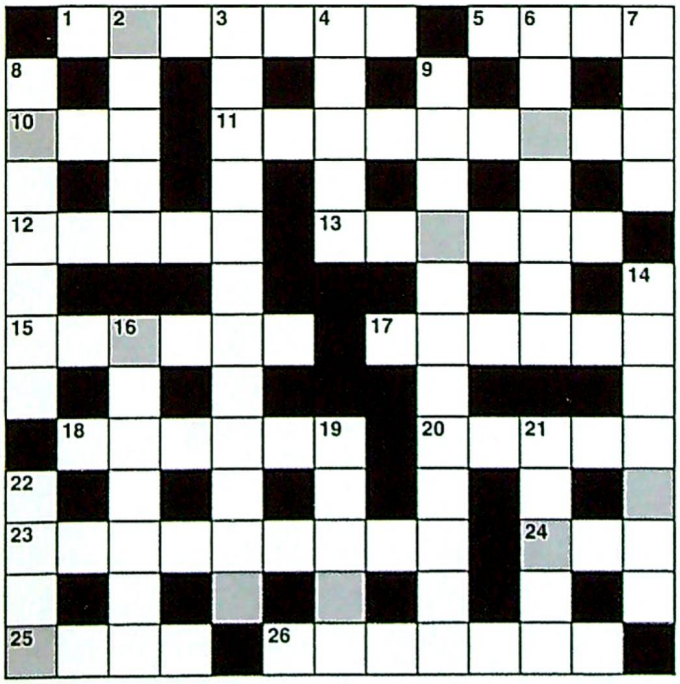


Identify: Seaside stamp set of 2007, 78p donkeys (right).
Winner Elaine Emery, Porchester.

Knowledge: a) Centenary of Picture Postcards. b) None. c) 8 stone/51kg.
Winner Mrs S Brennan, Yateley.

Crossword: Across: 1 Coppice. 5 Clot. 10 Art. 11 Star pupil. 12 Hindi. 13 Peeler. 15 Define. 17 Studio. 18 Source. 20 Posed. 23 Getting on. 24 Van. 25 Side. 26 New York. Down: 2 Often. 3 Passion fruit. 4 Cramp. 6 Lip-read. 7 Tale. 8 Cathode. 9 A pretty penny. 14 Condone. 16 Floated. 19 Eagle. 21 Sever. 22 Eggs.
Solution: First day cover.
Winner John O'Hare, Galway.

CROSSWORD Complete the puzzle below, then rearrange the letters in the grey squares to form a stamp-related word. Send that word, with your name and address and marked 'October Crossword', to the address above. The first correct entry drawn after 9 November wins a selection of special issues.

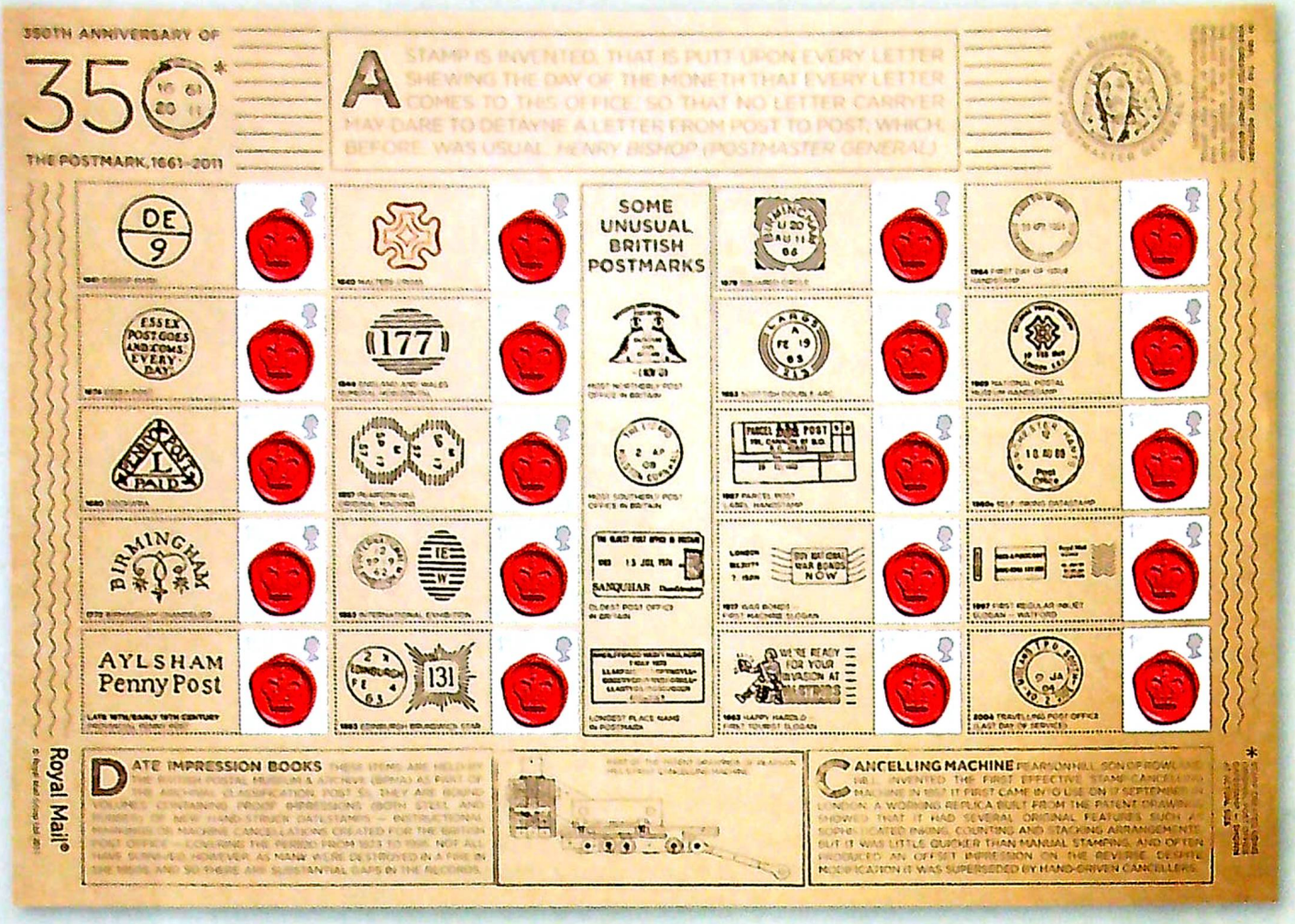


CLUES ACROSS

1 Disease ruined coastal area (7)
5 Nothing in honours list title, blow it! (4)
10 Self worth is, say, zero (3)
11 Inn stocking fashionable vegetable (9)
12 Crime in the newspaper (5)
13 Clannish behaviour starts during court case (6)
15 Former youth leader in religious establishment (6)
17 Article on inflation too (2, 4)
18 Successful footballer and etcher? (6)
20 Eyes up damsel going back inside (5)
23 Believer to do the twist in film (9)
24 That is five first to contend in rivalry (3)
25 Bird to carry out twice (4)
26 Russian fellow writes 'broken arm' in secret language (7)

CLUES DOWN

2 Woman coming round all right to call up (5)
3 Part of others should break, or shouldn't! (12)
4 Band leader in duet arranged his first performance (5)
6 Body of soldiers ordered to hold equipment (7)
7 Flat number initially not given (4)
8 Predate ridiculous bureaucracy (3,4)
9 Railway buff educates clay worker (12)
14 Cover with bandage (7)
16 Urged popular edict to be changed (7)
19 One horn creation! (5)
21 Retiring fiend existed (5)
22 In the thick of an exam, I despair somewhat (4)



350 years of postmarks

A whole lot of history is contained in one new Smilers® generic stamp sheet that celebrates the 350th anniversary of the postmark. The sheet comprises 20 x 1st class Royal Seal stamps. Alongside the stamps are labels illustrated with different postmarks, which are arranged in date order, beginning with the very first Bishop Mark that was introduced in 1661 by the first Postmaster General, Henry Bishop.

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