

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The Royal Mail magazine for stamp collectors

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Bulletin

Jeffery Matthews interview •
A collector's journey • Smilers®



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Railway issue begins a series
celebrating the nation's
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Issues and withdrawals



Cover Royal Mail's Great British Railways stamps are previewed on page 316. Cover photograph by Aaron Sneddon

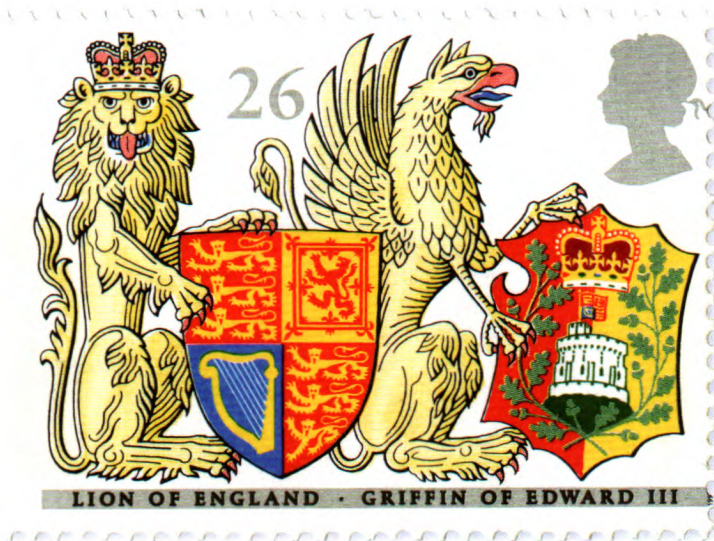
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15 June	Issue House of Stuart stamps, Miniature sheet, Press sheet, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards, Cachet Cover ● Mammals Stamp Book
15 June	Withdrawal Mythical Creatures stamps, Stamp Card and Presentation Pack
18 June	Withdrawal Kew Gardens Coin Cover
08 July	Issue British Grand Prix commemorative sheet
14 July	Issue Kings & Queens Prestige Medal Collection No 4
20 July	Withdrawal Journey to the Moon commemorative sheet
27 July	Issue Olympic & Paralympic Games (Part 2) stamps Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards, commemorative sheet, Stamp Book No 3, Olympic countdown coin cover
02 August	Withdrawal Thaipex 2009 Expo Exhibition sheet
10 August	Issue Florence Nightingale coin cover ● London Eye commemorative sheet
17 August	Withdrawal Postboxes miniature sheet, stamp cards, generic sheet, Presentation Pack, press sheets
19 August	Issue Great British Railways stamps, presentation pack, stamp cards ● 12 x 2nd, 6 x 1st stamp books with printer's name removed
31 August	Withdrawal Fire and Rescue stamps, presentation pack, stamp cards

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Postbag We answer a selection of readers' questions

Starting over

I'm interested in collecting British and Commonwealth stamps and related literature.

I began collecting in 1966 but lost my whole collection in the civil war in Jaffna. Four years ago I started my hobby again and I'd be grateful for any advice on rebuilding my collection.

M F C Hubert, Colombo, Sri Lanka



Dear Mr Hubert

I'm sorry to hear about your loss. The best way of replacing a collection is to buy one at an auction. As sterling is weak at the moment, I'd suggest a British auction house that specialises in this area, specifically Tony Lester, Corbitts, Sandafayre, and UPA – all of whom regularly have country collections in their auctions. You need to take account of postage, and to bear in mind that any lots which are on stock cards are twice as heavy as those on album pages or stock books. I hope this helps you recreate your collection speedily.

Colin Searle, Secretary ABPS



Mr Hubert wins a set of Bulletin binders and a silk tie with Penny Black motif.

Competition conundrum

A number of readers have written to express their disappointment in the lack of competitions in April's issue. Never fear, competitions are back and are new and improved (see page 319).

Complete your collection

I have the following back issues of the *British Philatelic Bulletin*, available free for anyone able to collect: 1977, February to December inclusive, 1978 to 1983 complete, 1984 (October missing), 1985 to 1991 complete, 1992 (April missing), 1993 to 2000 complete, 2001 (October missing), 2002 to 2006 complete. Any Bulletin readers who are interested, please phone Dr KG Baker, Stockton-on-Tees, 01642 553179.

Stamp of authority

With used issue and definitive Machin stamps being harder to obtain, I would like to find out if your Hand Stamp Centres are still active. If so, could you please advise their addresses and how I should approach getting covers cancelled to order and returned to New Zealand, to obtain used copies of the mint stamps already in my possession?

Captain J W Paston, Hawke's Bay, New Zealand

Dear Captain Paston

We do still operate Special Handstamp Centres. I've sent you a copy of *All About Postmarks* (readers can request this from Tallents House). Our services include Special Handstamps by Reposting and Permanent Pictorial Postmarks, as well as Royal Mail first day of issue postmarks by mail order. We aim to announce all new Special Handstamp designs and postmarks in advance of their first use in the *British Postmark Bulletin*, available by annual subscription from Tallents House at the address on page 291.

Denise Sivills, Philatelic Customer Services Manager, Royal Mail

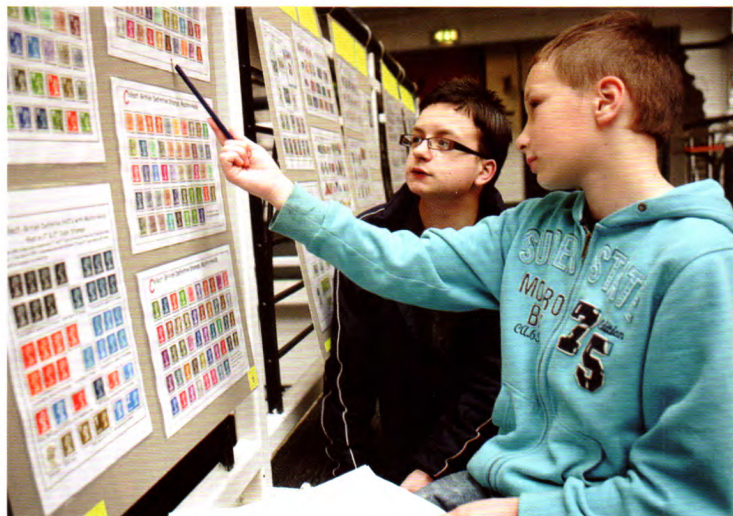


Surprise us and we'll surprise you!

Karin Ward, Editor of the *Bulletin*, welcomes your letters on all matters stamp-related, and we have a topical selection of philatelic delights to give as a thank-you to readers whose letters are published on this page. Please note, however, that Royal

Mail can't reply to all letters. Please include an email address if possible. Send your letters to: The Editor, British Philatelic Bulletin, Redwood Publishing, 7 St Martin's Place, London WC2N 4HA or email royalmail.bulletin@redwoodgroup.net.

Behind the scenes Julia Lee reports on the opening day of the Exhibition 2010



I KNOW THIS IS GOING TO BE an exciting day when I arrive at the Business Design Centre. The queue stretches round the Hilton Hotel, and at 9.40am has over 125 people in it. The sense of anticipation is palpable. The first two in the queue are Indian stamp dealer, Deepak Dalve, and his compatriot, collector Dn Misra. They arrived at 8am. Behind them is Garth Davis, who arrived from Chessington at 8.30am. A little further down is GB collector Phil Woolley and his two sons, Tom, 14, and Matthew, 10, who have been bribed with a day out in London if they go to the stamp show first.

I know the dealers' stands will be busy, so I visit country post offices instead. On the Pobjoy Mint stand, where they handle Ascension, Falklands and South Georgia, I meet Moira Eccles, the Falklands postmaster. She tells me about their twice-a-week mail flights from RAF Brize Norton and parcel post via Chile. Passing along to the Korea Post stand, I meet the designer of their London 2010 envelope, who shyly signs three for me.

Then I approach one of the Royal Mail staff stand at the back of the hall. The postboxes nearby have a notice showing which postmark will frank the mail placed in it – different dates for the London 2010 postmark, or special postmarks for The King's Stamps and Britain Alone issues. I then get a tip that the Chinese ambassador, Liu Xiaoming, is coming to the Royal Philatelic Society London's stand at 3pm. I join the entourage at the back, and see him shown Alan Holyoake's astounding GB exhibit.

All day, I greet people I know, recognise others from photographs and find great stories. By next weekend I'll have walked miles, met hundreds of people and filled my notebook with contacts, tips and ideas. This show is not only a delight for philatelists, it's an absolute dream for philatelic journalists •



Clockwise from top left: Tom and Matthew get the bug; Sojung Kim, the Korean postage designer; just a couple of the dedicated stamp-sleuths at the show; Alan Moorcroft, head of the RPSL enjoys the day

What's new? Issues, products and events

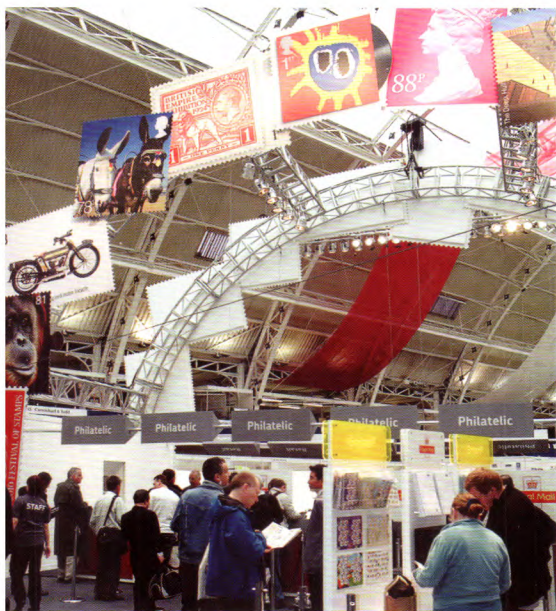
Royal Mail at the Exhibition The London 2010 International Exhibition was a resounding success with many enthusiastic participants, including Royal Mail. 'We were thrilled to be at the heart of such an innovative international exhibition,' enthuses Royal Mail's Head of Sales and Marketing for Philately, Mark Say. 'We knew how important it was for us to have a presence at an event where we were able to talk to philatelists and hear their thoughts. It was also important for us to be there in our role as custodians of the amazing heritage that Britain has in this field,' Mark continues. 'There seems to be a groundswell of interest in philately again, which has been reflected in the mainstream press. Obviously, our day-to-day business is stamps, in the same way that *Bulletin* readers are immersed in the subject at a very deep level, but we're thrilled that more people are becoming interested in this most fascinating area of collecting. It's also heartening to see that children and younger people are getting the bug too. Once you set foot in the world of stamps, you're generally hooked!'

Many members of Royal Mail staff milled around the show and, not least, had a good look at the exhibition area proper. 'It was interesting to see how the change-over of competitive exhibits went,' Mark continues. 'As it had never been done anywhere in the world before, all eyes were on London.'

The Royal Mail stand was located beneath a huge arch of some of Britain's most striking stamps, making it both memorable and easily identifiable. The team talked to hundreds of collectors during the event and would like to thank all *Bulletin* readers in particular for their input •

Large scale attraction

The entrance to the Royal Mail area at London 2010 was marked by a huge arch, hung with giant examples of favourite GB stamps



The reader's view The eagerly awaited London 2010 exhibition at the Business Design Centre saw many keen philatelists chomping at the bit. John Killick, a South London-based *Bulletin* reader for over 20 years, and a collector of George V and GB stamps, was one of them. He visited with his friend Keith Lanning. 'As we went in we were directed up the escalator to the Gallery level,' John explains. 'This is a level that I suspect many people attending other stamp exhibitions here do not venture to. On this occasion it was packed, with every bay taken up with stamp dealers. And, of course, the competition frames were accessed from this level in the Gallery Hall.'



After a close inspection of the first half of the competitive displays, John moved on. 'The day before the show, Stanley Gibbons had sent the Exhibition chairman an enormous envelope. This was proudly on display, hanging in full view from the domed roof. I guess that it would have needed more than one Large "Pricing in Proportion" first-class stamp to get there!' In fact, just a few days before the opening of the show the 32ft 9in by 23ft piece of postal stationery was registered as a Guinness World Record for the world's largest envelope.

John enjoyed another part of the show. 'The Royal Mail had a larger than normal stand and were showcasing a special exhibition miniature sheet overprinted with "London 2010" and posting boxes that would cancel your envelope to mark your visit there.' John queued with many others to get his hands on a piece of history.

'The first day was busy but not to a point where you couldn't look for those items to compliment your collection. The venue's large glass roof allowed plenty of light to help you see what you were buying,' John continues. His conclusion? 'Overall it was a great success. I'd like to say well done to the organisers, volunteers and venue management – a lot of hard work and thought had been put into the show and it made my visit very enjoyable.' ●



The main event John Killick at the Exhibition; the world's largest envelope

An 'intelligent' stamp As we all celebrated the history of the postage stamp, among the many feasts for the eyes at London 2010 was an item of particular interest to fans of emerging technology. At the Royal Mail stand, visitors were able to witness the launch of the first stamps to 'come alive'. This is not as futuristic as it might sound, according to Martyn Fry, Royal Mail Head of Production. 'Although the opportunities this technology presents are still being explored, the Augmented Reality feature on the Britain Alone issue adds a totally new dimension to stamps. By downloading the special software to their computers, collectors are able to trigger video images which bring the subjects to life.'

'As well as the Augmented Reality feature', Martyn continues, 'mobile phone users can download software that allows them to get direct website information for particular stamp images.' It's a world first... ●



A special prize The trophy is particularly covetable because it's issued in this philatelically important year

Real winners BPMA has sponsored a competition for each of the 15 UK philatelic federations, with the objective of spreading the word about the pleasures of the stamp collecting in the special year of 2010. As this *Bulletin* goes to print, the first three winners have been announced, as follows. David Rossall's *Luke Howard – a Remarkable Man* was voted the favourite exhibit by visitors to the Annual Congress of Scottish Philatelic Societies in Perth earlier this year. David Rossall also won the coveted BPMA trophy for the Association of Scottish Philatelic Society. The BPMA trophy for the main 2010 event of the Midland Philatelic Federation was won by Tony Whitehead of Solihull Philatelic Society, for his entry of King George V Savings Stamps. And the Thames Valley & District Federation winner was David Potts, with an open class entry called *Buying stamps in Altrincham – a look at buying stamps in the 1950s in the Manchester area*. Congratulations to Messrs Howard, Whitehead and Potts! You are the first BPMA trophy winners to feature on these pages this year, and we would like to reward your achievements with a year's free subscription to the *British Philatelic Bulletin* •

Golden rumours The story of the first-class gold stamps with no overlay has been discussed at length philatelic circles... Examples of both 1st Class Gold and 2nd Class Blue stamps have been discovered with *four* security slits. While the stamps themselves are likely to be genuine, the additional two slits in the top half of the stamps have been added, post-production. This comes hot on the heels of a Hampshire dealer being sentenced to 21 months in jail for faking cancellations and altering stamps to enhance their resale value. Worrying times.

It's not always easy to identify fakes and collectors may not always be aware of the existence of a certain variety of stamp, so it's important to assume the stamps are forgeries until proved otherwise. Martyn Fry, Head of Production, Stamps and Philatelic at Royal Mail, says: 'Whilst Royal Mail makes every effort to publicise stamp varieties ahead of their likely availability dates, general stock availability and production demands do, on rare occasions, require varieties to be released into the market place before information reaches collectors. However, information on specific features of a stamp may not be publicised in advance and may be subject to ongoing changes.' Anyone who has reason to believe they may have identified a forger, please contact Royal Mail Stamps & Philatelic, who will take up the case and ensure confidentiality •



Philatelic Twitter If you've ever wondered what the fuss Twitter is all about, take time to discover this surprising resource, which even caters for philatelists. Get real-time news about auctions, events and everything stamp-related from the likes of the BPMA, Philatelic Database, Stanley Gibbons sent directly to you on your computer or phone to keep ahead of the crowd •

STOP PRESS So far, nearly 1,000 people have voted on the 'what would you like to see on a stamp?' poll on the London 2010 site. The frontrunner as we go to press is Big Ben. For your say, go to www.london2010.org.uk •

The month of June News and events

Money, stamps and power The London Exhibition may be over, but it is still a hot topic of conversation, as the year-long Festival of Stamps carries on apace. To mark a highly significant time for the African continent, as 17 countries celebrate 50 years of independence from colonial rule, a display at the British Museum shows how money and stamps were affected by these radical changes. Examples from Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, French West Africa, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa and Zimbabwe are used to illustrate the importance of stamp design and provide much to ponder over on the nature of propaganda, sovereignty and cultural identity. The display is on show in room 69a until 6 February 2011 •



This stamp was issued when the Union of South Africa was created at the end of the Anglo-Boer wars. It was the first to carry a portrait of a British Monarch, and so acknowledged British control of the region

Medal of honour This year the prestigious Congress Medal, awarded in recognition of dedication and voluntary service to British philately at national level, goes to Ian D Crane. Ian has been a collector for over 65 years, and has contributed to the National Philatelic Society, the Revenue Society of Great Britain, the Cinderella Stamp Club, the Philatelic Writers Society and the Royal Philatelic Society London. He has attended every Congress save three since 1985, and he has served on the Congress Committee for many years. Ian currently spends much time as Honorary Librarian at the RPSL organising the library team, and where he was awarded the RPSL London Medal in 2007. Ian's own collections include those on Obock, Djibouti, and GB £1 stamps. The following philatelists received ABPS Awards of Merit: Colin Baker, Brian H Bretherick, John F Dorrington MBE, Chris Dudency, Derek R Dunk, Peter Forrestier Smith, Phillip Harriman, Edward Hitchings, Norman Hudson and Leslie S James • ►



The coveted Congress Medal, which has been awarded to 52 philatelists of note

No, your eyes do not deceive you. This is Douglas Muir's favourite (unissued) stamp. It might be something to do with him being a Scot!



North of the border The 81st Annual Congress of the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies was attended by over 600 people and incorporated 2010 Festival of Stamps and Thematica 2010. The host society was Aberdeen PS, which is celebrating its centenary this year. Highlights included The BPMA's Douglas Muir showing his favourite stamp of all time – depicting Scotland as winners of the 1978 of the World Cup – and signing the Book of Scottish Philatelists; Susan Oliver's amusing speech about philatelic auctions; and BTA Chairman Richard Wheeler's thematic display on puppetry. The ASPS Award of Merit that was presented to Alex Walker, a past president of the Aberdeen PS, for his work as the Society's librarian over many years. Plans are already in motion for the next ASPS Congress on 15-16 April 2011, to be hosted by the Strathclyde Postcard Club and the Glasgow Thematic Society. Put it in your diary now! ●

Philalux 'deferral' In February the President and Commissioner General of Philalux 2010 had the unenviable task of writing to the head of the organizing body of each country to inform them that the Luxembourg exhibition will not be held this year but postponed to April 2011. So why was Philalux cancelled? There were no problems finding enough exhibitors, but the organisers had difficulty sourcing sufficient postal administrations and dealers willing to book space at the exhibition. And the most likely reason for this shortfall in bookings is, quite simply, the cost to standholders of the large number of international exhibitions being held in Europe this year. It seems that Philalux has suffered from a surge of global interest in philatelic events. 'The deferral of the event is a little disappointing, but nevertheless there is every sign that show will a great success on its replacement date,' says Frank Walton, the UK Commissioner for Philalux 2010. He reminds Bulletin readers that, 'Collectors who have already applied need not reapply, but anyone else who is interested in displaying on the new dates, please contact me at frank@frankwalton.com' ●

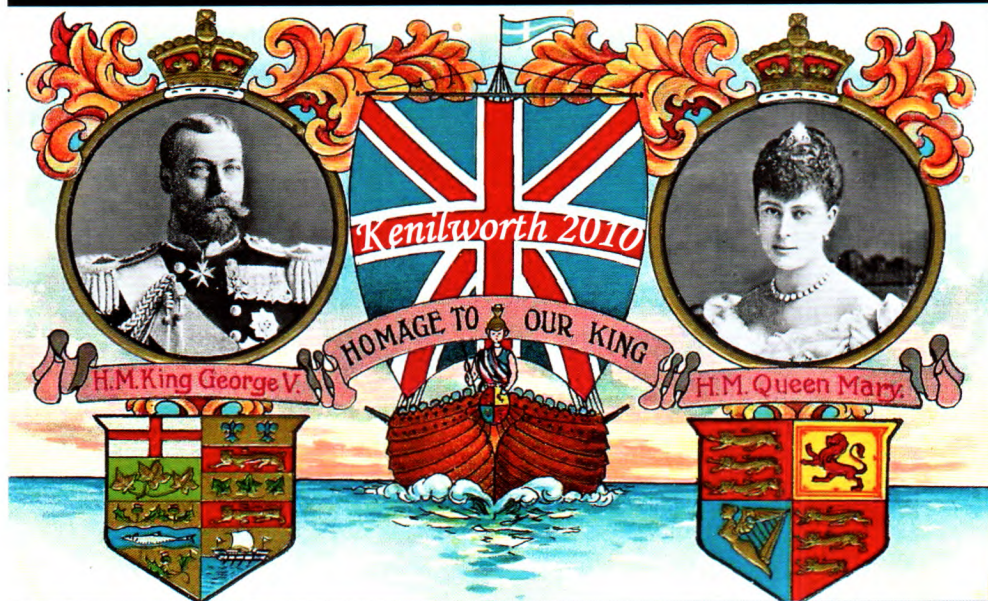
Brilliant Britain The Stamp Active Network for junior philatelists is running a competition to encourage its young members to develop and display their collections. Young people up to the age of 12 are invited to create a one-page mini-exhibit about some aspect of Britain. There will be three age groups – up to 7, 8 to 9, and 10 to 12 – with Bronze, Silver and Gold medals being awarded in each age group.

The entries will be judged on three factors: knowledge of the subject, originality and presentation. As well as the prize, winners will get the chance to exhibit as the best entries will be on display at Autumn Stampex at the London Business Design Centre. The closing date for the competition is 1 September. For further details visit www.planetstamp.co.uk •

Distinguishing the distinguished 346 philatelists from 40 countries have achieved the distinction of signing the roll of distinguished philatelists since its inception in 1921. Currently, there are 71 signatories from 24 countries including 14 from the UK, ten from the USA, five from Italy, four from Germany, and three from Switzerland. This year, the members unanimously decided to ask Kees Adema FRPSL from the Netherlands, Dr Hugo Goeggel FRPSL of Switzerland, Dr Wolf Hess FRPSL from Germany, Italian Dr Giancarlo Morolli FRPSL, American Wade E Saadi FRPSL, and our own Brian Trotter FRPSL to sign the roll. The signing ceremony will take place on Friday 23 July at Leamington Spa Town Hall during the 2010 Philatelic Congress of Great Britain. Congratulations to all • ►

The commemorative postcard for this year's Philatelic Congress

Philatelic Congress of Great Britain — Kenilworth 2010





The rare chrome coloured seahorses, recently sold through Grosvenor

Chrome de la crème Among the ever more refined philatelic specialisms in De La Rues is a delicate shade of chrome, a very pale sepia-brown. Its desirability was reflected in the price fetched for a superb example at Grosvenor's most recent auction of Specialised Great Britain Stamps and Covers. At £13,500 it realised more than double the guide price in the catalogue. The chrome 2s 6d in question is an unmounted mint, upper right-corner marginal example of this rare and highly distinctive shade. While chrome has been recognised by specialists for a long time, it's a shade that has only recently been included in the Stanley Gibbon Spec. vol 2. Its rarity had not been generally reflected in catalogue values, in comparison to the 2s 6d cinnamon-brown and 10s Cambridge blue, which are fairly common ●

Diamond life Members of the Channel Island's Specialists Society enjoyed a weekend of philatelic celebration in Guernsey in honour of the group's 60th anniversary this April. Alongside an auction, competition and evening reception, the main display of the weekend, entitled *Civilian Prisoners during the German Occupation of the Channel Islands*, was very well received. It featured scarce letters and covers from Channel Islanders who had been sent to prisons in France and Germany. Gerald Marriner FRPSL, The Society's Secretary, said, 'It was a very successful event, with some spirited bidding and excellent displays.' For more on the Society's work, visit <http://ciss1950.org.uk> ●

Picture-perfect St Peter Port was the site of the Channel Island's Specialist Society's recent celebrations





Diligent workers kept the mail going during the war years of 1914 to 1918. Were any of your relatives involved?

Help preserve GPO history The popular online family history website www.ancestry.co.uk has recently initiated a World Archives Project aimed at 'helping to keep the world's history alive'. It allows anyone from the family history community to transcribe important historical records and to make them available online with all indexes remaining free to the public, wherever they reside. One of its first projects is to transcribe the GPO Appointment Books held by The BPMA. If you are interested in helping to make these important staff records more easily available visit www.ancestry.co.uk/worldarchivesproject. The project is currently in progress and all volunteers will be much appreciated ●

News from across the pond As many philatelists will remember, anthrax mailings caused five deaths in 2001 and a dramatic change to mail handling in America. It cost millions of dollars and resulted in an eight-year federal case that has recently been closed. The FBI believes that a mentally ill Army scientist who had access to Anthrax was working alone and was solely to blame for the tragic loss of life. The accused, Dr Bruce Ivins, committed suicide when he believed that an indictment was likely. However, some people are questioning the FBI's judgement and the conspiracy theorists don't buy this explanation, so expect more on this story in the future ●

The United States Postal Service recorded a US\$3.8 billion loss in the 2009 fiscal year. It is therefore considering a raft of 50 changes that could include the elimination of one of its delivery days each week to help save costs. If Congress approves, then the changes planned will happen next year. US letter mail volumes are predicted to decline by a further 37% by 2020. It's believed that email is to blame for the reduced use of traditional post ●

Events

5 June 2010

Association of Essex Philatelic Societies 'StampEssex - Festival of Stamps'. 10am to 4.30pm at Charter Hall, Colchester Leisure World, Cowdray Avenue, Colchester CO1 1YH. 01279-652458, peter.denly@btinternet.com

12 June 2010

Yorkshire Philatelic Association 'YPA 2010'. 9.30am to 4.30pm at Pudsey Civic Hall, Dawson's Corner, Pudsey, Leeds LS28 5TA. 01977 793566, jedwards48@toucansurf.com

26 June 2010

North of Ireland Philatelic Federation. 10am to 4pm at Portadown Town Hall, 15-17 Edward Street, Portadown, BT62 3LX. jproctor@dunbia.com

3 July 2010

SWIPEX 2010. 10am to 4pm at Plymouth Guildhall, Armada Way, Plymouth PL1 2AA. 01752 789622, rmbx3084@tiscali.co.uk, or 01326-316017, neil.sargent@btinternet.com



Marvels in miniature

Master of the colour palette, Jeffery Matthews talks to Julia Lee about ‘spring cleaning’ the definitives

INSTRUMENTAL IN THE REJUVENATION of the Machin, the iconic stamp of our time, Jeffery Matthews MBE has designed stamps for Royal Mail since 1965 and, in the process, has become one of Britain’s best-loved designers. From the old favourite 1967 Bridges set, with an industrial landscape tucked behind the then new M4 viaduct, to his remarkable 1998 Queen’s Beasts designs with tiny lions on the shields, Matthews’ love of detail and talent for the miniature are renowned. His designs rarely seem dated and almost always invite the observer to take a closer look.

Such artistry and craftsmanship is evidently a family trait. Jeffery Matthews’ ancestors include a line of notable craftsmen that can be traced back as far as 16th-century cutlers in Sheffield. Eventually they moved to London, becoming silversmiths and goldsmiths, as was his father Henry. Both his brother and cousin were apprenticed to his father, and his brother continues to make watch cases. ‘All my cousins are craftspeople, we all work on our own. I can definitely see a link,’ he agrees.

As a lad, Jeffery used to visit his father’s workshop to help out and watch him work. ‘I’d sweep the place and clean up,’ Jeffery explains. ‘Sometimes I’d make little component parts, such as a bow for a watch case. I’d make a dozen at a time, and my pocket money would be based on the results. My father’s work was at miniature detail, so some of that must have rubbed off on me.’

While his father cherished the idea of his son taking over the business one day, he nevertheless remained supportive when it became obvious from an early age that Jeffery’s talents lay elsewhere. When his very first stamp design – for the 1960 Tercentenary of the Post Office Charter – was taken to essay stage, but other designs were issued instead, his father sent him a clipping on the chosen issue and with it the encouraging words, ‘My considered opinion is that these are tripe’.

Fast forward 30 years to 1980 and Jeffery’s work had won such admiration that one person’s absolute trust in his design detail almost backfired. Jeffery’s best-loved and largest stamp design was issued to accompany the London 1980 Exhibition. The brief for the stamp was for an engraved design, and

‘My pocket money was based on results of work I did in my father’s workshop’



that was one of the reasons Jeffery submitted an idea. 'It appealed to my background of fine detail,' he explains. But he was worried that, unlike their predecessors, this Stamp Advisory Committee (SAC) wouldn't be used to seeing painted or sketched images that would later be turned into engravings. 'I thought I'd better draw it like an engraving, and in the end, what I did for the stamp was almost identical to that initial drawing.'

As the printers had not had their own engravers since the 1960s, the Post Office now had to go to a commercial engraver. Matthews had expected the engraver to work up the drawing as an engraving, but in the end the engraver copied every line and dot – down to the Queen's head, which was supposed to be a positional for the Machin head. Matthews believes this is 'the weakest part of the whole thing'. Despite this, the design packs in a huge amount, but Jeffery admits: 'I left out the skyscrapers'.

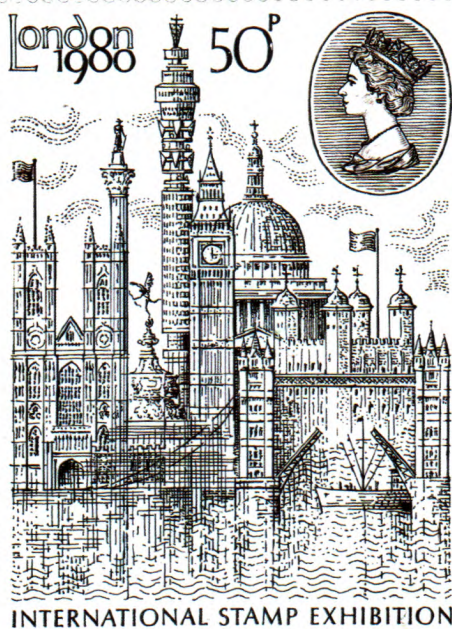
Amazingly, Jeffery Matthews has described himself as 'not a colour person', even though he is perhaps best known for his work on the Machin colour palette. Jeffery was hired by Angela Reeves, the Royal Mail design manager at the time, in part because of his famously 'phenomenal sensitivity for colour'. Like his ability to make the smallest detail sing, his eye for colour and commitment to getting it right is part of the reason he's become so thoroughly associated with British stamps over the last 45 years. Commissioned in 1984 to bring a new lease of life to Arnold Machin's designs, Jeffery Matthew's palette was introduced in 1988.

'As the number of values increased, so did the need for colours,' he explains. Machins had colour in three different forms – as a solid, light and graduated background. This, naturally, gave the Post Office a much bigger range.

Eventually, however, as Angela Reeves put it in a past issue of the *Bulletin*: 'Many of the colours had become insipid and dull; the range badly needed "spring-cleaning"'. She and Jeffery agreed that it was vital to return to Machin's original vision. 'It was about trying to regain the strength of Machin's concept,' he adds, 'and to get it all back to a one-colour background, like his original.'

But how does one pick the colours to provide that background, to give a

Left: Stamps from the Jeffery Matthews London 2010 Exhibition Philatelic Stamp Sheet
Above: the man himself



Jeffery's 1980 stamp, complete with a 'sketched' head of the Queen

big enough range and yet stay true to Machin's ideal? 'It was tricky,' Jeffery admits. 'They had to be reasonably distinguishable and memorable. There are certain parameters, for example yellow doesn't read well through machines. So nearly all the yellows were gone. I got back towards yellow by using old gold.'

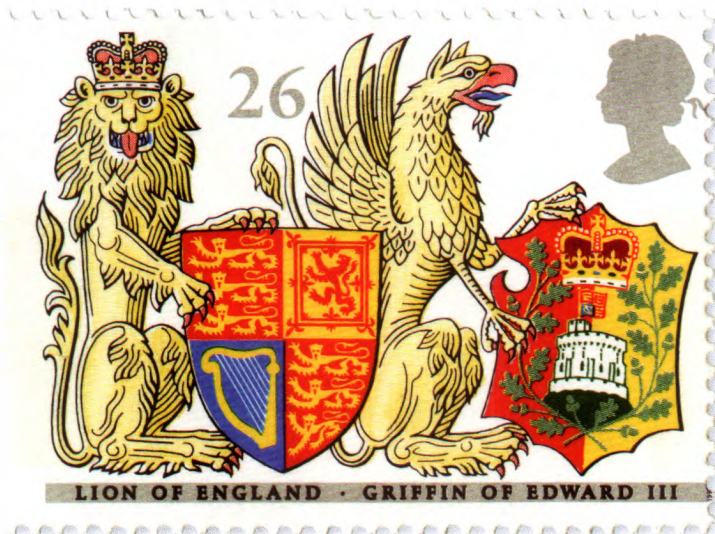
The secret to his success was a lot of mixing and methodical hard work. 'I laid down a whole number of reds, blues and greens,' he says. 'If you start off with a middle of the road, say a perfectly ordinary red then you can go each side of that. If you go towards the yellow, you get a more orangey red, move towards the blue and you get a more purple red. You can add light to it, particularly if you're going towards pink. Add dark and you start going towards brown. If we start putting grey into the colour, we come up with a pastel.'

As for picking the actual colours it was a case of 'doing a hell of a lot of them and presenting them to the design manager'. Then, Jeffery says, wryly: 'We'd debate over three different variations of a green. That's how it was done – discussion, experiment and mixing colours. I probably had three or four goes at each colour in opaque designers' gouache.'

Jeffery actually did this twice, as Royal Mail wanted to add more colours in 1988. 'I nearly had apoplexy,' he says, of the second time. By that point, he had done hundreds of swatches. Then there was a very late addition, the ruby Machin in 2007 for the design's 40th anniversary. 'It just about holds its own,' Jeffery believes, against the dark maroon and red of his earlier work.

Reflecting on his work, he recalls: 'In the early days, I got a terrific kick out of seeing the finished product on an envelope.' He adds the excitement was bigger if the design had taken over his life or had been difficult to bring to fruition. As for the more permanent record of his work on British stamps, this has only just begun to dawn on him: 'It's something I've become consciousness of recently,' Jeffery adds modestly. 'It seems that almost without any effort, I'm written into the history of this country.' ●

‘We'd debate over three different variations of a green. That's how it was done – discussion, experiment and mixing colours’



A good example of Matthews' excellence in fine detail – from the 1998 Queen's Beasts issue

Plate 77 or a brilliant fake

The idea seems unfeasible, but the forensic case is tantalising...

IN THE NORMAL course of events, the envelope pictured below would be a reasonable example worth approximately £5. However, this cover may be worth a great deal more and has generated a heated online debate with over 1,000 messages on website 'Stamp Bulletin Board' alone. Until last year it was believed that only ten examples of a plate 77 Penny Red existed (namely the AB, AC, LL, MI, NC, PH, PI letterings and three others, one of which is believed to have been destroyed in the 1906 San Francisco fires). And, of course, no Penny Reds had ever been found on a cover. But in a coup that every philatelist could only dream of, one collector believes he has found three undiscovered Penny Reds on part of an envelope sent from Guernsey to Brussels in 1865.

As there's no imprimatur or trial sheet of plate 77 available to make comparisons, the owner – Abed Najjar – has failed to have them certified as genuine. Among the explanations for their existence, the three most popular are: that there has been a misreading of plate 77 (but this wasn't in use at this date); that they were printed on plate 73 and then altered at a later date; or that plate 73 was partly changed at the time to print stamps bearing the number 77. All possible. And yet... detailed forensic examinations conclude they have definitely not been faked or tampered with. So who's right and how can it be proved? Please let us know what you think – write to the Editor at the address on page 3 or email royalmail.bulletin@redwoodgroup.net •

Focus on fakery? Bearing previously undiscovered plate 77s, an envelope sent from Guernsey to Brussels in 1865 has become an object of forensic scrutiny



Stamp of individuality

Ten years of Smilers® and their generic forms have seen beginnings of investment potential

THE ARRIVAL OF Royal Mail Smilers® in 2000 was met with a mixed reception from the philatelic world, but a few canny collectors were able to see potential in this new area. Whatever your view on these customised stamp sheets, the facility to create one's own stamp has resulted in an established practice and, consequently, a recognised area of GB collecting.

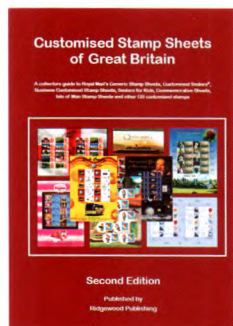
There are two different Smilers® products – 'personalised' and 'business customised', with a distinct difference between the two products and the steps involved in using each of them. Business customised versions require greater design work input from the purchaser, including design of sheet borders, and can have sequential sheet numbering to create 'limited editions'. While all the personalised Smilers® are self-adhesive, conventionally gummed stamps are available in the business versions.

Commercial advantage The earliest Business Customised stamps issued were made in conjunction with the private company Bristol Coaches, who split the majority of sheets and gave away stamps as a business promotion. Few whole sheets were kept and two sold for more than £2,000 each on eBay in 2009. Although largely dominated by philatelic retailers, some global businesses, including Fiat have also used the Business Customised service – their stamps (top right) had a 'part number' and could be ordered from their service departments!

Several organisations have used Smilers® for fundraising and charitable purposes. A promotion created for Cancer Research UK in 2003, featuring images of people affected by cancer – including Sir Bobby Moore (right) – was sold at the time in a presentation pack for £5. Now it changes hands for around £75.

Individual commemoratives Single stamps or combinations of Smilers® stamps are ideal for creating covers. Generic sheets are also holding their popularity. The latest issue celebrates their first ten years, and Smilers Business Manager John Rowley observes: 'London 2010 gave collectors a unique opportunity to customise their Smilers®. The fact that this sheet marks an anniversary might also help to make it a collectible.'

Easier than ever Advances in technology have made creating and ordering Smilers® even easier, as digital images can be uploaded to the Royal Mail's website, payment made online, and stamps delivered to your door. Mail order is also available. For more information, Smilers® news and details of new issues, visit www.smilers-info.com ●



Customised Stamp Sheets of Great Britain is a guide to GB customised sheets, from 2000 to January 2010. The second edition costs £24.95

Right: Fiat used Smilers® to promote the Grande Punto. Whole sheets like this one have become a rarity

Below: this 2003 Cancer Research promotion, with the word 'thanks' represented as a hallmark, now changes hands for around £75

First Class - Grande Punto



Above: a popular 2007 Royal Mail Smilers® generic sheet of unembossed Arnold Machin stamps that marked the 40th anniversary of the issue of new Queen Elizabeth II definitives

Left: The 2010 Royal Mail generic (uncustomised) Smilers® sheet is available on line, by mail order and at Post Offices, for £10 (product code AT061)

By George! Martin Robinson, post box expert, begins our new series with this George V gem

Below: a rare Type E George V pillar box. To find out more about letter boxes, join the Letter Box Study Group. For details go to www.lbsg.org

IN THE UK WE'RE SPOILT for choice when it comes to post boxes. We have an example of almost every different sort of box made in the reigns of Queen Victoria, Edward VII, Edward VIII, George V, George VI and the present Queen. Some are in museums, including the Post Office's own collection, but most are still out on the streets. Amongst our 100,000-plus letter boxes, there are pillar boxes, wall boxes, lamp boxes and more. Over

the coming months we hope, with readers' help, to draw attention to the many different types.

Of course, 2010 marks the centenary of the accession of George V, well known for his devotion to stamp collecting. His reign witnessed a number of notable innovations in postal communication, including airmail and greetings telegrams, as well as new letter box designs. So it's fitting that we should begin our series with an item from his reign. One of the areas the Post Office had been interested in for a long time was automatic stamp-selling machines, and by 1926 some 2,000 of these had been installed. A favoured idea was to combine stamp machines with posting boxes, and in 1924 a prototype telephone kiosk incorporating a stamp machine and post box was installed in Bath.

This month's box (left) is a special type of oval pillar box with a posting box at one side and stamp vending machine at the other. After some experimentation with different constructions, these were erected in 1932, in two sizes. Seventy-five of the larger Type D pillar box were made, 50 for London and 25 for provincial towns, and 50 of the smaller Type E boxes, all for the provinces. They weren't a great success, but two dozen of the larger and nine of the smaller boxes survive. The box shown was pictured at Hastings railway station in 1982. The others are (or were, for letter boxes are sometimes taken out of service); in Chichester at the Guildhall Museum; Douglas, Isle of Man at Derby Road PO; Glasgow at Carntyne PO; Harrogate at St Hilda's Road; Ilford at Ilford Lane; London SE18 at Flaxton Road; Rothesay at Craigmore Pier; and in the Post Office collection. Do let me know if you see any of these.



**1 Fluted pillar box**

Spotted by D Williams in Warwick

**2 Victorian wall box**

Spotted by P Johnson at Eaton Hall, Cheshire

**3 Penfold pillar box**

Spotted by G Lord at South Queensferry

Our first winner!**A closer look**

1 This pillar box is one of two in Warwick. It was manufactured in 1856 before a national standard design had been agreed. Ten of them survive, all but two of them still in service. Later the same year the aperture was changed from vertical to horizontal, and five of these boxes survive, three of them in Malvern.

2 Wall letterboxes were first made in 1857. The one shown here dates from 1881, representing the culmination of 24 years of design improvements. There were three sizes and this is the smallest.

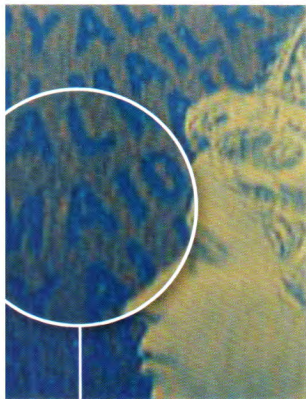
3 Something of a Celtic puzzler – this pillar box in front of the Forth Bridge is one of the famous Penfold designs introduced in 1866. But none of these were erected in Scotland, so what's going on? The answer is that the Post Office had some replicas made and from 1989 these have been installed at sites where a modern box might have been inappropriate.

**We would like to hear from you**

Each month we aim to showcase and explain three readers' photographs. Future themes for the Post Boxes pages of Bulletin include: July, VR pillar boxes (Channel Islands); August, rarities from Elizabeth II; September, post boxes of the reign of Edward VIII.

The post box that most intrigues Martin Robinson will win its sender a copy of his book *Old Letter Boxes* (£4.95 Shire Books) and a presentation pack of the 2009 Post Box Miniature Sheet (£3.20, which goes off sale 17 August), both shown right. Send your photographs to: The Editor, *The British Philatelic Bulletin*, 7 St Martin's Place, London WC2N 4HA. Or email royalmail.bulletin@redwoodgroup.net. We regret that we cannot return your photographs •

Mainly Machins A report by Douglas Myall



A closer look See how the IL of MAIL has been replaced by 10 on this second-class stamp

King George V Prestige Stamp Book On 8 May, Royal Mail released a Prestige Book celebrating the centenary of the accession of King George V. Details of this have already been published in the *Bulletin* but I want to tell you about some hidden gems in it. The fourth pane was printed by Walsall. It contains eight Machin stamps comprising four first-class NVIs, two second-class NVIs and two 50p stamps around a label featuring the Downey head used on stamps of King George V. The stamps are all self-adhesive and the 50p is a first for this printer. In a previous article I revealed the hidden codes printed in iridescent ink above the diadem, which indicated the source format of security definitives. The stamps in this pane have a new letter, P for prestige, in the form MPIL. They also have another hidden code. In the same iridescent ink, just left of The Queen's forehead, are the numerals 10 replacing two letters of MAIL and appearing as MA10. This wasn't put there to mark the London 2010 exhibition. It is a production date, similar to the year of issue that has appeared on recent special issues and which was printed by the phosphor cylinders.

This production date has been added to all printings of security definitives since January. It will change each year between January and April as printings are due. To date, I can confirm that the MA10 code occurs on the stamps in the following Walsall books: book of six 1st gold with source code S and the word postcodes in the website address printed with a lower case

‘MA10 is a production date – added to security definitives since January’

letter ‘p’, issued 26 January; books of six 1st gold with source code S and a label advertising the London 2010 festival, issued 30 March; books of six 1st with source code C, comprising four gold

Machins and the second issue of Olympics stamps, issued 25 February; and books of 12 x 1st and 12 x 2nd with source code T, first available from Royal Mail's stand at Spring Stampex from 24 February 2010.

Only the books of 12 printed since January have the year code. On these, the strip at the right containing the cylinder numbers is wider than usual, being 7.5mm instead of 5mm, and the printer's name does not appear on the back cover. The De La Rue business sheets with the year code should have appeared by the time you read this article.



Spot the difference Cartor used Garamond font in the 54p stamp (top) instead of the Matthews typeface (bottom)

Garamond values In a recent issue of *Bulletin*, I mentioned the surprise appearance in two Prestige Stamps Books of 5p and 54p values in a strange typeface. This is how it occurred: the artwork for head and values is usually sent to all contracted printers in digital form. Unfortunately, the images for these two values were omitted. Instead of waiting for the Royal Mail to resupply the artwork, the printer attempted to match the required Jeffery Matthews typeface by eye but selected Garamond instead, except for the letter ‘P’ which they already had. Arrangements have been put in place to prevent a recurrence of this type of mistake. The 54p occurs in both the Design Classics and Royal Society Prestige Books, but the 5p only in the Design Classics Prestige Book, which is now out of circulation •

GB Overprints Society Overprint collector

John W Smith reviews this specialist website

Who is it for? Anyone who collects British stamps overprinted for use in the Colonies and protectorates, official overprints designed for the army, Inland Revenue, government parcels or Board of Education use, overprinted postal orders, or 'phantoms', will be assisted greatly by a visit to the Great Britain Overprints Society (GBOS) website at www.gbos.org.uk.

What's the heritage? Formed in 1970, the GBOS is a specialist study society. The website, launched in 2005, succinctly sums up the specific appeal of overprints: 'Many have discovered a fascinating sideline when they found that, although a significant number of high-value British stamps were outside their pocket, the same stamp with an overprint for use in another country often commanded a fraction of the price.' That opens up a vast area of collecting, which is where this site comes in handy.

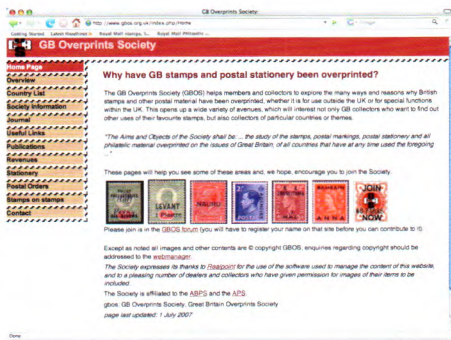
How is it organised? There is an exhaustive lists of the countries, official overprints, political overprints and phantoms that are not listed in standard catalogues, all supplemented by historical facts. For those who seek additional information on their chosen subject, the website has a publications section here a number of reference books are listed. There is a huge illustrated section on postal stationery and another separate section on postal orders.

What are the best bits? Another advantage for the person seeking answers is the Forum – you can click through to the Forum from the home page. It is designed for members and guests to pose questions to other Society members, which means that you're likely to find someone here who'll respond to the most specific of requests. The site has illustrations of 99 per cent of the items covered by the Society, and also features the Society's journal *The Overprinter*, and explains how to join.

What could be improved? The GBOS site is clear, easy to access and gives excellent links to other websites. The site is evolving, of course, and details of stamps on covers remains a future project.

Your view Please share your recommendations by emailing royalmail.bulletin@redwoodgroup.net or writing to The Editor, *British Philatelic Bulletin*, 7 St Martin's Place, London, WC2N 4HA ●

Correction: last month's featured website was mistakenly credited as www.philatelydatabase.com rather than www.philatelicedatabase.com. Apologies for any confusion caused.



Above: the home page of the Great British Overprints Society's website

Other sites for overprint collectors

You might like to visit www.bahrain-stamps.com, www.kuwait-stamps.com and www.oman-stamps.com for more data on overprints from the Gulf area. For Indian overprints visit www.indiastudycircle.org. Another useful site is www.postalcensorship.com



Lines of history

Keith Downing is chuffed to share the highlights of his railway-themed collection

MY FATHER AND GRANDFATHER WERE BOTH RAILWAYMEN, and my railway-themed stamp collection began in 1980, when the 150th anniversary of the Liverpool and Manchester railway was celebrated and fuelled my interest in all things connected with trains. Unlike the majority of train enthusiasts, however, I am not particularly devoted to steam trains – magnificent though the engines are. It is rather the social history of railways in general that enthral me. Collecting philatelic material is a fascinating way of recording the technological progress and social changes witnessed by my father and his father in their daily working lives.

When railways first began in the early 1800s, they offered dirty and dangerous employment, but the pay was good and the status of the work was above most of the factory or agricultural labouring jobs available. The prestige of the top express trains made the job of engine driver the dream

Right: first day cover of the 7p Stephenson's Locomotive stamp, part of the 1975 Anniversary of public railways issue
Below: 8p Waverley Class stamp, with railway signal handstamp



Scotsman Covers
75 Powis Road
Preston
PR2 1AD



The 1980 commemorative stamp marking the 150th anniversary of the opening of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway

of many generations of small boys. Then, as railways suffered competition from cars and planes, the glamour faded somewhat. Romantic, but grimy steam locomotives were succeeded by efficient, but anonymous diesel and electric trains. Of course, lines were closed and motorways and airports grew up across the country, but railways continued to develop, with high-speed services and eventually the Channel Tunnel linking Britain to the rest of Europe opened in 1994. And there are stamps that portray each of these eras of rail history, echoed in many different countries.

Source of inspiration Dipping into my own collection, I can only hope to scratch the surface of the wealth of railway-themed philatelic material available. But I hope that some of the items shown on these pages will give an idea of how one might set about starting a railway collection, perhaps taking as inspiration the Great British Railways stamps issued by Royal Mail in August to mark the 50th anniversary of the building of the last steam locomotive for British Rail (see pages 316 and 317 for further details).

Almost every aspect of railway history can be found in a philatelic format, as railways were born before the postage stamp. The Liverpool and Manchester Railway opened in 1830 and was used to carry the first mail by train, an event commemorated in the series of British stamps in 1980, shown above, and in stamps from many other countries both before and since the Royal Mail issue. The railway linking Liverpool and Birmingham was used for the first travelling post office (TPO) from 1838, and soon mail was being sorted on trains on all the main lines out of London. This practice continued until 10 January 2004, when the last travelling post office pulled into Penzance station, leaving only bagged mails continuing to travel by dedicated trains from Wembley to Shieldmuir outside Glasgow. The definitive book on collecting TPOs is *The Travelling Post Offices of Great Britain & Ireland* by HS Wilson published 1996 by the Railway Philatelic Group (ISBN 0901667 234).

Early British rail issues Despite the fact that Britain had the world's first railways, our Post Office didn't show a mainline locomotive on a stamp until 1975, when it marked the 150th anniversary of the Stockton and Darlington Railway (see left).

Strangely enough, the first British stamp to have any degree of relevance to a railway collection was issued to mark a road event (right) – the opening of the Forth Bridge in 1964 showed the historic

The 1964 6d Forth Road Bridge commemorative stamp



Global interest

Some of my favourite international stamps



World first New Brunswick proudly depicted one of its powerful locomotives rather than an important leader



First commemorative
Peru was breaking into a new area when it marked the third anniversary of the Lima to Callao railway



Britain's railway history
has also been shown on stamps from around the world. This Dominica stamp commemorates 150 years of the Travelling Post Office

rail bridge running alongside it. I've always enjoyed finding less obvious material like this to develop my collection.

First in the world The first-ever postage stamp to show a steam locomotive was produced by New Brunswick, Canada, in 1860. And what is usually claimed to be the world's first commemorative stamp was produced by Peru in 1871 to mark the third anniversary of the railway from Lima to Callao.

Since then, developments around the world have been illustrated philatelically as new lines opened and ever more powerful locomotives were introduced. Steam locomotives have almost entirely vanished into museums, but new luxury trains have restored some of the glory that the Orient Express established. Long distance passenger trains have also vanished from some countries entirely and railway TPOs have ceased across Europe. A network of express passenger and postal trains still serves China, and dedicated high-speed lines suggest that trains of the future will contribute to the green solution to our transport needs.

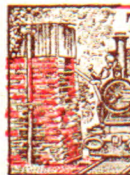
British first The very first railway-connected postal item was a commemorative 1d envelope showing the improvement in mail trains over the half century. From 1891 until 1984, railways were the only legitimate way to send letters outside of the Post Office service, as they could offer express carriage by agreement with the PO for a supplementary fee. The railway service was even quicker than the Royal Mail service, but such services on many of the minor lines were used only by a small number of enthusiasts, an area I have not really ventured into properly. But I still can't resist posting myself a modern souvenir when I can – an idea revived by the Talylyn railway in 1957 (see right). In the UK, some railway postal services continue to be offered today as a souvenir by several lines up and down the country, still subject to an agreement with the Royal Mail.

That's just a quick journey through my collection. Already, I can see another strand of collecting ahead of me – it's the philatelist's eternal affliction! •

For more information

The largest society in Britain for philatelists interested in railway material from anywhere in the world is the Railway Philatelic Group, founded in 1966. The TPO and Seapost Society dates back to 1947 and studies only mails carried by rail or at sea. Both societies publish quarterly journals, run regular auctions and annual conventions.

- For a wide range of background information and contacts, and a detailed bibliography covering all aspects of railway philately, visit www.railwayphilatelicgroup.com
- The quarterly journal *Railway Philately*, published by the RPG, carries a regular summary 'Themescene' of all new issue railway thematic stamps.





Left: stamps introduced by the Talyllyn railway for the revival of a souvenir Railway Letter Service
Below: an early letter using the Railway Letter Service



Win a Steam Dream

All aboard for an unforgettable journey into railway history! To celebrate Royal Mail's Great British Railways issue, we've joined forces with Steam Dreams to offer a 'Pullman Style' day trip aboard the steam-hauled vintage Cathedrals Express – that's the prize for one lucky winner and their companion in this month's special *Bulletin* competition. Just turn to page 319 for your chance to win, and remember to apply your philatelic grey matter in entering our regular 'Knowledge' and 'Identify' prize draws too.



Mighty engines of the steam era A philatelic



First Class Inland letter rate –
Coronation, LMS Coronation
Class, at a platform in London's
Euston Station in 1938



First Class inland letter rate
– *Evening Star*, the last of the
British Railways Class 9F, at
Midsomer Norton in 1962



67p, basic airmail rate –
King William IV, GWR
King Class, photographed
near Teignmouth in 1935

THE GREAT BRITISH RAILWAYS issue of six stamps and its presentation pack go on sale at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and at Royal Mail Tallents House on 19 August. (Please note that this is earlier than the originally scheduled date of 16 September).

The new issue marks the fiftieth anniversary of the building of British Railways' last steam locomotive – the 9F Class *Evening Star*. Colin Divall, Professor of Railway Studies at the University of York, was consulted to help choose other great engines to feature, with the aim of representing the whole of the UK by including engines from the four main railway companies that were amalgamated into British Railways in 1948. These companies were Southern Railway (SR), the Great Western Railway (GWR), London, Midland and Scottish Railway (LMS) and London North Eastern Railway (LNER). To cover Northern Ireland, the Northern Counties Commission (NCC) of Northern Ireland – which is an LMS subsidiary – is also included, as well as British Railways itself.

First day cover facilities Your orders for serviced FDCs (i.e. stamped and postmarked) should reach Tallents House (address on page 3) by the day of issue, with payment of £5.29 UK (including VAT) or £4.51 overseas (no VAT). The stamps will be cancelled with a first day of issue postmark of the Tallents House, Edinburgh or the alternative York postmark as required – please mark accordingly on the outside of your envelope. Customers who hand in or post stamped Royal Mail First Day Cover envelopes at main Post Offices on the day of issue will receive the pictorial York first day postmark.

Alternatively, customers may send stamped envelopes to any of the Special Handstamp Centres for the pictorial or plain York postmark, quoting the appropriate reference number – York pictorial 1 FD 09 32; York non-pictorial Ref No FD 09 32NP.

Great British Railways, 19 August 2010

Set of stamps	£4.10
Presentation pack No 446	£4.60
First day cover envelope, unstamped	30p
First Day Cover, mail order price	£5.29
Serviced first day cover stamps, overseas customers	£4.51
Set of six stamp cards	£2.40

Design background Like many of his generation Brian Delaney, of the stamps' designers Delaney Design Consultants, had 'a fascination with engines as a schoolboy,

tribute to some iconic British locomotives



67p, basic airmail rate –
Royal Lancer, LNER Class A1,
photographed in 1929



97p, world airmail – Sir Mador
de la Porte, SR King Arthur
Class, at Bournemouth Central
Station between 1935 and 1939



97p, world airmail – an LMS
Northern Counties Committee
Class WT, Engine No. 2, at
Larne Harbour, circa 1947

especially the massive steam engines.’ And he welcomed the design challenges offered by this stamp series: ‘Ian Prevett and I looked through thousands of original photographs of the period to choose six images that would work well together and include engines used by the big four pre-1948 railway companies and British Railways. Our objective was to retain the particular character of the photography of the era and to present the most powerful images of the iconic engines within the small area available on the stamp.’

As this *Bulletin* goes to print, Brian Delaney is working on a follow-up Miniature Sheet of Great British Railways – watch *Bulletin* for details.

Collectors’ retrospective Other British stamps to have featured railways include: 1975 Anniversary of Public Railways; 1980 150th Anniversary of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway; 1985 Famous Trains; 1999 Millennium Series, Victorian Railway Station 43p; 2003 Classic Locomotives; 2006 Brunel; 2007 World of Invention, Steam Locomotive 1st; Pioneers of the Industrial Revolution, George Stephenson and Locomotion 56p. (Please note, these stamps are no longer available from Royal Mail.) ●

Contained in the Great British Railways Presentation Pack, shown right, are details of all the trains featured and an erudite synopsis of this world-renowned era in British transport. ‘The story of Britain’s steam railways in the 20th century is complex, so cutting it down to 1500 words was a real challenge,’ says Professor Colin Divall. ‘I have tried to give the topic a fresh angle by looking at the way in which locomotives became part of the railways’ marketing.’



Commemorative covers New this month

Orders and enquiries

GBCovers

102 Regal Way, Kenton,
Harrow, Middlesex, HA3 0RY
Pay by cheque to GBCovers,
or by Paypal to
derek@gbcovers.co.uk

Buckingham Covers

Warren House, Shearway Rd,
Folkestone, Kent CT19 4BF
Phone 01303 278 137
www.buckinghamcovers.com

The Cambridge Stamp Centre

29 Hobson Street,
Cambridge CB1 1NL
Phone 01223 363980

The Stamp Centre

79 Strand, London WC2R 0DE
Free order line 0800 975 4581

ROLLING STONES



Strand Stamp Centre

A superb limited-edition, fully licensed official collectable, featuring a specially produced Rolling Stones postmark and the *Let It Bleed* stamp from the Royal Mail Classic Albums Set. Also available in ten-stamp version.

Prices £9.99. Ten-stamp version £19.99
(free p&p on both) ●



Buckingham Covers

This tribute to the 'forgotten army' features the full set of Britain Alone stamps and is postmarked in Womenwold. A limited number are signed by the actress Rachel Weisz, star of *The Land Girls*.

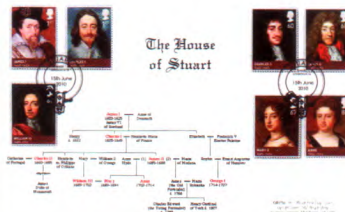
Prices Signed copies are £34.95 (p & p £1.65), unsigned covers cost £11.95 (p&p £1.65) ●



The Cambridge Stamp Centre

This commemorative cover celebrates the anniversary of the bombardment of Narvik by HMS Effingham, and is autographed by Engine Room Artificer Robert Edmunds, who served on the ship. Postmarked 24 April, which was the 70th anniversary of the event.

Prices £24.95 (£2 p&p) ●



GBCovers

A limited edition of 35 Official First Day Covers for the Stuart issue, with a special Stuart badge handstamp, illustrated with the House of Stuart family tree.

Prices Each authorised and numbered cover is £16 (£2 p&p) ●

Cover producers wishing to announce a recent or forthcoming cover should submit copy of up to 75 words in the style above. The text should briefly describe the cover, state the stamps and postmarks it will bear, and give retail prices and an address for orders and enquiries. Announcements are published on a first-come-first-served basis and may be modified or shortened at the Editor's discretion. Royal Mail cannot enter into correspondence or telephone conversations concerning covers announced here.

Prize draw rules and regulations

1 Promotions are open to all readers of *Bulletin* aged 18 and over, except employees of Royal Mail Group Ltd or Redwood, their immediate families, their agents, or anyone professionally connected with these promotions. 2 The closing date for receipt of entries is 9 July 2010. 3 Responsibility cannot be accepted for entries which are incomplete, delayed, wrongly delivered, damaged or not received for whatever reason. Proof of posting is not proof of receipt. Prizes must be accepted as offered. No cash alternative to prizes and prizes are not transferable. 4 Winners will be notified by post within 28 days of closing date. 5 For competitions where readers must answer a question or solve a crossword, winners will be the first correct entrants drawn at random by an independent person after the closing date. 6 Promoter's decision on any aspect of the promotions is final and binding and no correspondence will be entered into. 7 Entry implies acceptance of these rules. 8 In the case of businesses, consent of the owner/line manager will be required to enter the draw. Any tax liability arising as a result of winning the prize is the responsibility of the individual. 9 Prizes are subject to suitability and availability. The promoter reserves the right to substitute a prize of equal or greater value should circumstances make this necessary. 10 The promoter reserves the right to suspend or cancel or hold void any of the competitions or prize draws at any time without notice. 11 Winners' names and counties are available 28 days after the closing date; send an SAE to Sharon May, *Bulletin*, 7 St Martin's Place, London WC2N 4HA. 12 The promoter is Royal Mail Group Ltd, 100 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0HQ.



Win a Steam Dream A classic train journey awaits our lucky winner!

TO CELEBRATE THE launch of the Great British Railways stamp series (19 August) we're offering a special prize a vintage steam-train journey for two, courtesy of the Cathedrals Express. Our winner and their companion will be treated to a Champagne brunch and four-course dinner in luxurious 'Pullman Style' on a return trip from London to Canterbury or Salisbury*.

How to enter Answer this question: Which was the first British stamp to have a railway-related subject? Send your answer on a postcard with your name, address, email and phone number to:

Steam Dream Competition, Bulletin,
Redwood, 7 St Martin's Place,
London WC2N 4HA or email



THE CATHEDRALS EXPRESS

royalmail.bulletin@redwoodgroup.net by 9 July 2010. Please see page 318 for terms and conditions. Five runners up will receive prizes of the Great British Railways stamps presentation pack.

The Cathedrals Express run about 50 day trips a year and its fleet includes Britain's first brand new steam locomotive Tornado (pictured above), built over 19 years by a group of enthusiasts.

For more information about different Cathedrals Express destinations, special events and a new eight-day Explorer trip in 2011, phone 01483 209888 or visit www.cathedralsexpress.co.uk.

*Please note: prize trip must be taken before November 2010, dates subject to availability •

Regular competitions – Identify and Knowledge

1 Identify the stamp from this detail, right. Please give the name of the stamp and its year of issue.

2 Test your philatelic knowledge by answering the following questions.

- Which two stamps from Mauritius, currently being exhibited at the Guildhall Art Gallery, are among the rarest in the world?
- In what year was the Club de Monte-Carlo de l'Elite de la Philatélie established?
- Who is the Head of Philatelic Collections at the British Library?

Please send your answers on separate postcards, marked *Identify* or *Knowledge* to The Philatelic Bulletin, Redwood, 7 St Martin's Place, London WC2N 4HA to arrive by 9 July 2010. The senders of the first correct answers drawn after the closing date will receive a prize selection of the Great British Railways stamps. For full rules and regulations, see page 318 •



Flagging up new Smilers® sheets



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Available in sheets of 10 or 20 first-class stamps, the sheets are priced £7.80 and £13.95 respectively. Sheets of 20 are available at £12.95 each for orders of more than one sheet.

To place an order visit www.royalmail.com/smilers or telephone 0845 074 2000.



Royal Mail, Tallents House,
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