BRITISH PHILATELIC

Bulletin

The magazine for collectors of UK stamps

VOLUME 55 NUMBER 11 | JULY 2018 | £1.95

Dad's Army stamp parade

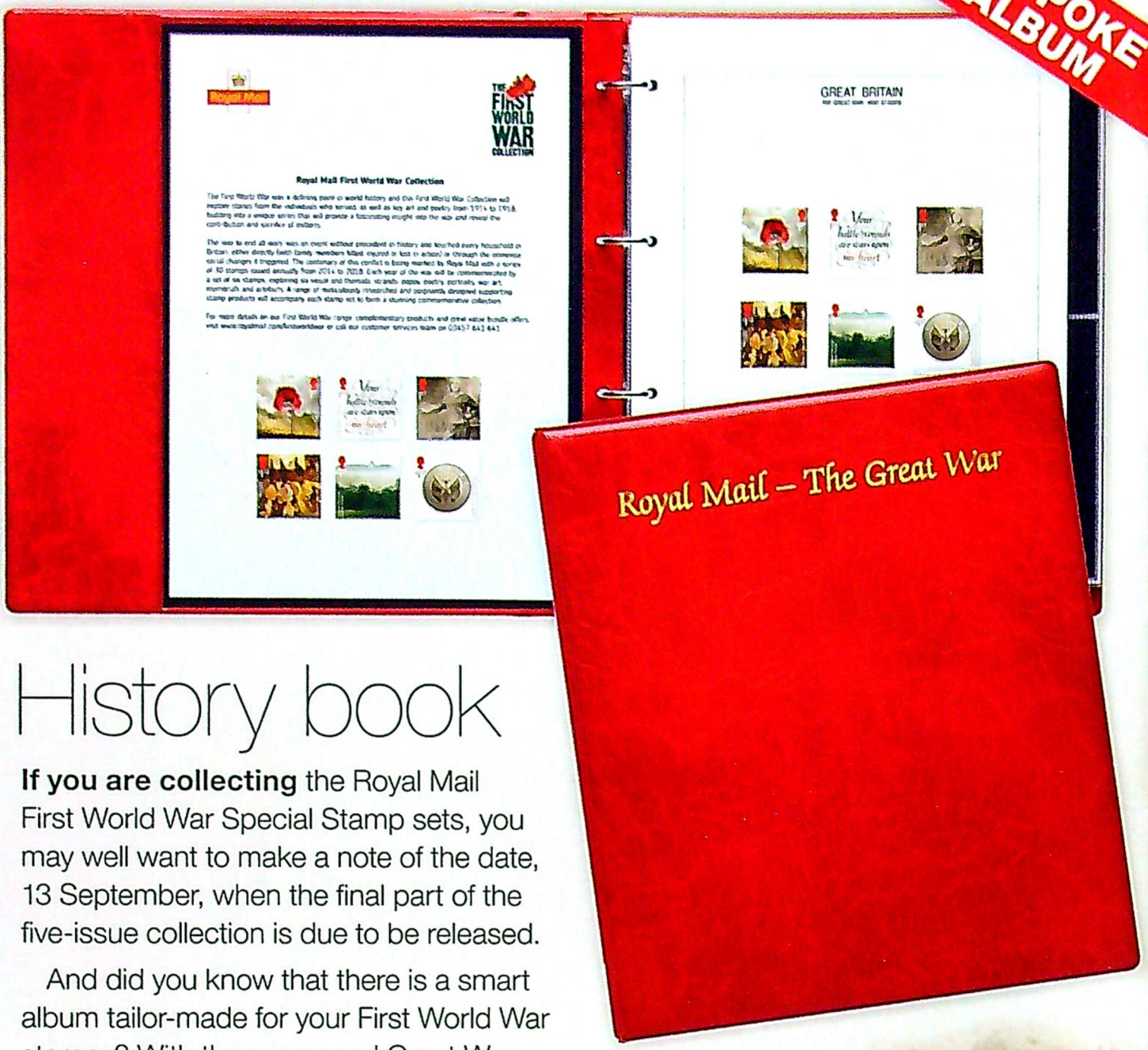
• Preview: Hampton Court



Summer 2018 special issues

RICHARD WEST ON COUNTRY STAMPS • DESIGNER PROFILE: IAN CHILVERS

BESPOKE ALBUM



History book

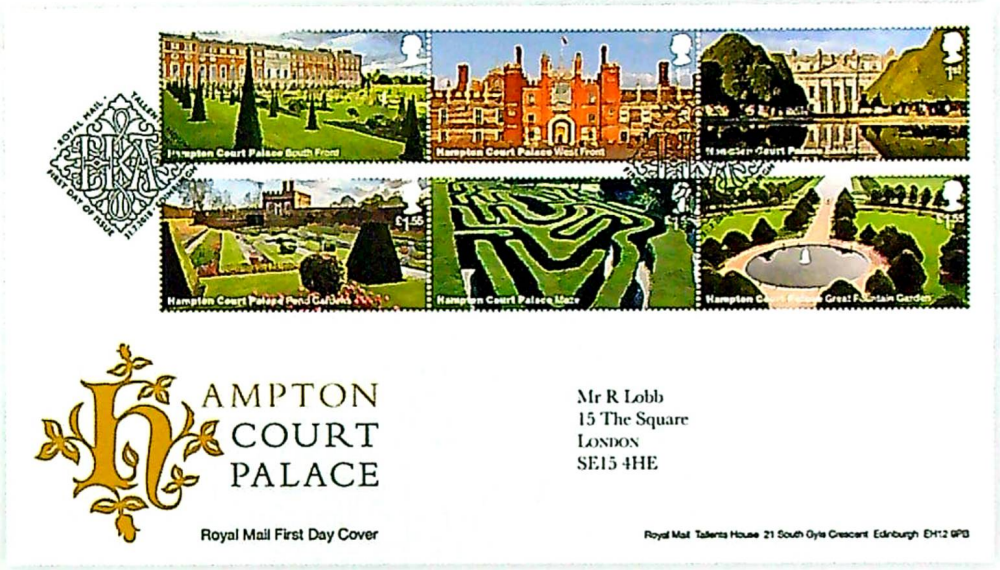
If you are collecting the Royal Mail First World War Special Stamp sets, you may well want to make a note of the date, 13 September, when the final part of the five-issue collection is due to be released.

And did you know that there is a smart album tailor-made for your First World War stamps? With the poppy-red Great War Collector Album and Slipcase you can create a self-contained commemorative collection and keep it in pristine condition.

The special Collector Album will hold and display the entire five-year series of Royal Mail stamps, First Day Covers, Presentation Packs, Prestige Stamp Books, Postcards and Coin Covers being issued to mark the centenary of every year of the First World War from 1914 to 1918.

To order: contact Royal Mail at the address on page 256 or order online at www.royalmail.com/stamps. Simply type the product code PA777 into the search box. The Album with Slipcase costs £24.99. Media code: 18BUL04 •

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Richard West traces the development of perennial favourites, Country Stamps with a concise timeline to inspire collectors **330**

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Royal Mail Editor Tim Noble, Royal Mail, 185 Farringdon Road, Floor MP-03, London EC1A 1AA ● Price £1.95 from Post Office Ltd philatelic outlets or by order from Post Office branches ● **12 months' subscription** £18.95 UK and Europe, £24.95 rest of world. Send subscriptions to Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles, PO Box 1373, Sunderland SR5 9PG, UK or subscribe online at www.royalmail.com/bulletin ● All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or parts is prohibited without prior permission of the Editors ● **Printed** in Great Britain by Zenith Print & Packaging Ltd ● **ISSN** 0953 8119 ● Royal Mail is a trading name of Royal Mail Group Ltd. Registered in England and Wales, number 4138203. Registered office: 100 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0HQ ● Stamp images © Royal Mail Group Ltd ● **Front page collage** Kerrie Callard with Royal Mail Special Stamps from the Reintroduced Species, Royal Academy, Owls, Dad's Army, Votes for Women and Post & Go Mail by Sea, and Royal Wedding postmarks. Background image: Shutterstock

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Test your knowledge of stars of the small screen featured on Special Stamps **350**

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Specials on parade!

Marching in smart se-tenant formation, Royal Mail's latest Special Stamps pay tribute to television's favourite Home Guard platoon, *Dad's Army*

WAR IS HELL BUT ONE HELL OF A LAUGH IF YOU SERVED IN DAD'S ARMY – possibly the best-loved sitcom in British TV history. And this was the secret of its success: while undeniably funny, and mercilessly mocking of Mainwaring and his men, the show also respected their bumbling bravery. For one of the great appeals of *Dad's Army* was that it could combine high farce – Jones running about repeating 'Don't panic!' – with moments of sublime poignancy, for example when the near-incontinent, doddering Godfrey ('Do you think I might be excused?') is revealed to have won the Military Medal in the previous war for rescuing wounded men under fire.

Perhaps that respect came from the wartime experiences of Jimmy Perry, who with David Croft formed the legendary comedy-writing duo that created the likes of *It Ain't Half Hot Mum* and *Hi de Hi!* Perry had served in the Home Guard as a teenager before his adult call-up, and had witnessed at first hand the frail courage and enthusiastic amateurism of the men charged with

Dad's Army – Prices	
Stamps	£8.50
First Day Cover	£10.62
First Day Envelope	30p
Presentation Pack	£9.00
Postcards (8 in set)	£3.60
Stamp Book	£4.02
Generic Sheet	£7.50
Framed Stamp Set signed by Ian Lavender	£69.99
Framed Stamp Set	£29.99
Framed Generic Sheet	£49.99



defending our shores against a Nazi invasion.

Indeed it was Perry's own experience of service that inspired the show now featuring on the wonderfully nostalgic Royal Mail Special Stamp issue marking the 50th anniversary of *Dad's Army*, released on 26 June. That, and a fateful walk through London's St James's Park one summer day in 1967. There he saw the Changing the Guard ceremony, which rekindled memories of being in the 10th Hertfordshire Battalion of the Home Guard (then called the Local Defence Volunteers) in Watford as a 16-year-old and his mum, Mrs Pike-like, telling him to wear his scarf to stop getting a cold.

As Perry watched the ceremony, he was suddenly onto an idea, and that idea became a legend. He showed his first script to David Croft, who loved it and passed it to the BBC, which also loved it. Perry and Croft got together to write more for a first series, and had the pleasure of seeing it premiere on British television on 31 July 1968. The show ran to nine series and 80 episodes, with audiences of over 16 million regularly tuning in to see the lads from Walmington-on-Sea making total buffoons of themselves. And yet we loved them as well as laughed at them. Because we all knew they were softies with the hearts of lions.

Acknowledgements: DAD'S ARMY and the DAD'S ARMY arrows are trade marks of the British Broadcasting Corporation and are used under licence © BBC1968; DAD'S ARMY television stills, © BBC, used with permission from BBC Motion Gallery/Getty Images; all other quotations, character names, images, text and trade marks from the television series DAD'S ARMY © James Perry Productions Limited and Worldwide Theatrix Limited •

Stories behind the stamps ▸



Above: scriptwriters Jimmy Perry (left) and David Croft after receiving their OBEs at Buckingham Palace

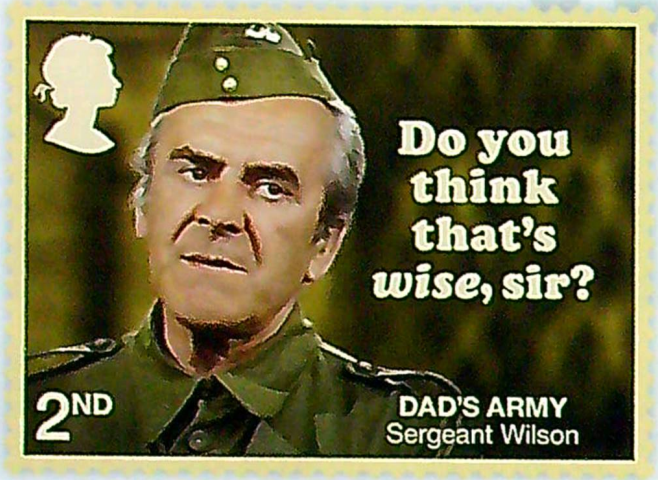
Photographs Rex Features

Below: the *Dad's Army* Stamp Book has two Special Stamps and four first class definitives. See page 262 of May *Bulletin* for details of the full range of philatelic items in this issue



Sergeant Wilson

John Le Mesurier (1912–83). After the Second World War, when Le Mesurier was a captain with the Royal Armoured Corps on India's North-West Frontier, he became a familiar face in British cinema and TV. The epitome of suave, he was known for his popularity with women, his elegant capacity for alcohol and his droll sarcasm – key to his rendering as Sergeant Wilson. In 1972 Le Mesurier won a BAFTA for his role in the Dennis Potter drama *Traitor*.



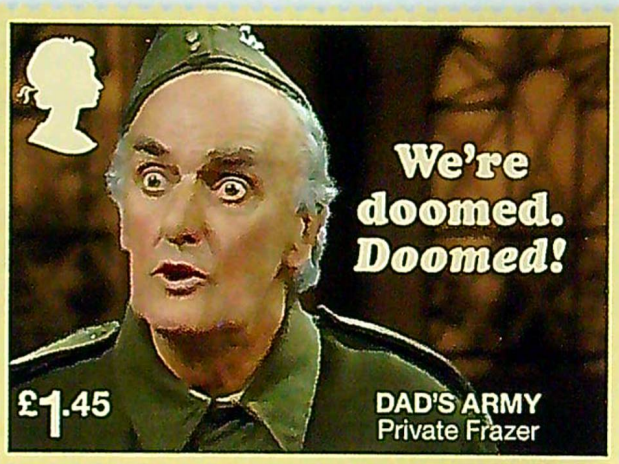
Private Pike

Ian Lavender (b.1946) was *Dad's Army*'s youngest actor, only 22 when he was cast as mummy's boy Pike. In a recent interview with *The Oldie* magazine, he recalls David Croft describing him as 'green, wet behind the ears, peely-wally but enthusiastic'.

After the series ended, Lavender's stage work ranged from *The Merchant of Venice* to *The Rocky Horror Show*. His TV appearances have also been extensive, including *The Glums* and *EastEnders*.







Private Walker

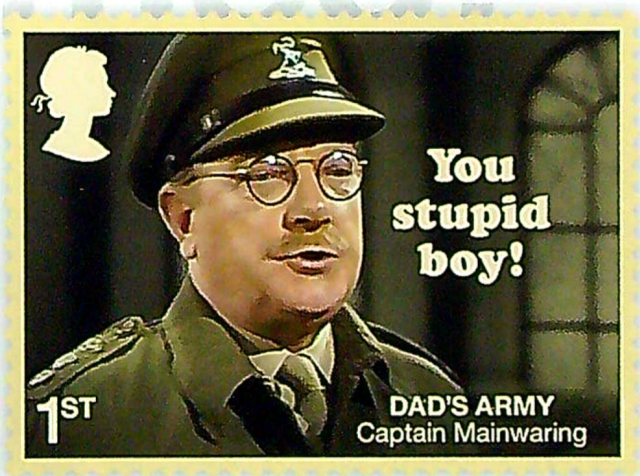
James Beck (1929–73) played the Cockney spiv who could supply the platoon with large amounts of anything on ration – for a price. He did National Service before starting his outstanding acting career, which included the lead role in the sitcom *Romany Jones*. At the time of his premature death he was planning to work on a new show with Arthur Lowe.

Private Frazer

John Laurie (1897–1980) had the part of Frazer, the eternal pessimist and funeral director. Laurie's acting career embraced everything from *Hamlet* to The *Clitheroe Kid* and films directed by luminaries such as Alfred Hitchcock and David Lean. He served in the First World War with the Honourable Artillery Company and in the Second with the Paddington Home Guard.

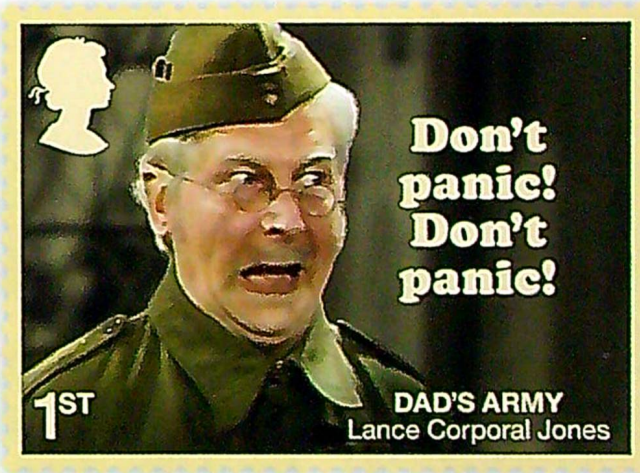
Captain Mainwaring

Arthur Lowe (1915–82). As Captain Mainwaring, Lowe perfectly portrayed pomposity tempered by ill-disguised vulnerability. This trait was echoed of a number of the many other characters he played in his extensive acting career, which included a spell in *Coronation Street* and several films directed by Lindsay Anderson. He joined the army on the eve of the Second World War and served in the Middle East in the Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry.

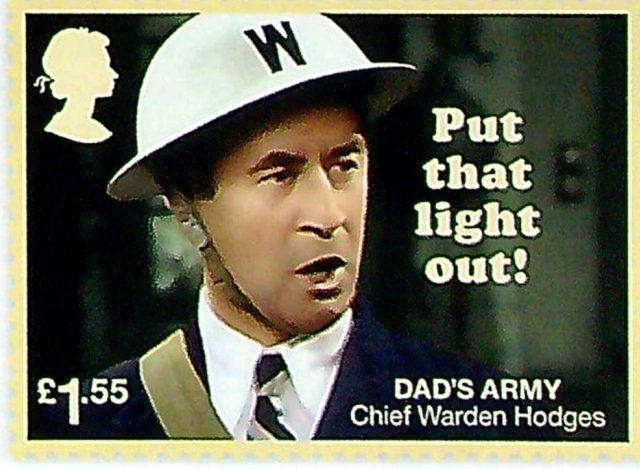


Lance Corporal Jones

Clive Dunn (1920-2012) was only 48 when he took the role of the old butcher of Walmington-on-Sea, a panicky but loyal member of the *Dad's Army* platoon. In the Second World War Dunn was a trooper in the 4th Queen's Own Hussars in Greece, then spent four years as a POW in Austria. He appeared in many TV sitcoms, including *Bootsie and Snudge*, had a number one record with *Grandad* in 1971, and received the OBE in 1975.







Private Godfrey

Arnold Ridley (1896-1984) won hearts in his role the as elderly medical orderly, strong of spirit and weak of bladder. In real life he had served in both World Wars and was badly injured at the Somme in 1916. His son Nicholas has said: 'Unlike Godfrey, my father was never awarded a Military Medal. But he was awarded an OBE for playing a doddery old non-combatant'.

Chief Warden Hodges

Bill Pertwee (1926–2013) was cast as Hodges, the greengrocer with a nasty streak; as the local air-raid warden, power had gone to his head. A prolific performer in theatre, variety, music hall and pantomime, Pertwee had been a member of the Air Training Corps during the Second World War. He was awarded the MBE in 2007.



Tudor majesty Celebrate the splendour of King Henry VIII's palace at Hampton Court with a rather regal new Royal Mail stamp issue out this month

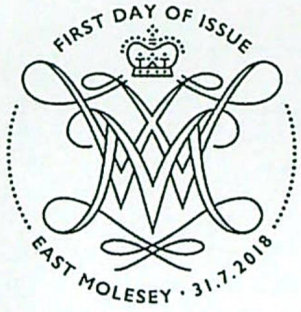
Hampton Court has ranked among the top British historic attractions for almost two centuries since a young Queen Victoria opened it up to visitors in 1838. Now you can view this Tudor treasure in miniature on the elegant new Hampton Court Palace stamp issue released on 31 July. The building of the palace began in 1515, and was originally for Cardinal Thomas Wolsey, a favourite of Henry VIII, before being taken over by the king. Today it offers a unique journey into the history of royal architecture and lifestyle, as visitors stroll around the lavish state apartments, vast kitchen, Haunted Gallery, gracious gardens and the famous maze – some of which are represented in the issue. Accompanying the stamp issue is a Miniature Sheet, a Presentation Pack, Stamp Souvenir, Miniature Sheet Souvenir, Postcards, Stamp Book and Press Sheet.

Hampton Court Palace – Stamp Specifications	
Date of issue	31 July
Number of stamps	Six
Design	Osborne Ross
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	60mm x 30mm
Number per sheet	30/60
Printer	ISP
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	14.5 x 14
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA

Stamp by stamp The se-tenant strip of three First Class Special Stamps features views of Hampton Court Palace South Front, West Front and East Front. The second se-tenant strip has three £1.55 Special Stamps with images of the Pond Gardens, the Maze and the Great Fountain Garden.

The Miniature Sheet includes two First Class stamps, showing the Great Hall and King's Great





FD1816-PL



FD1816-TH



FD1816-NP

Top: Hampton Court Palace First Day Covers
Left: three options for first-day postmarks: the pictorial alternative has William and Mary's initials; the Tallents House postmark has the initials of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn; the non-pictorial and pictorial alternatives Hampton Court's location of East Molesey

Bedchamber, and two £1.45 values with images of the Chapel Royal and King's Staircase. The illustrated information card, contained in both the Special Stamps First Day Cover and the Miniature Sheet First Day Cover, offers an intriguing glimpse into the building of Hampton Court from the Tudor period and the Baroque palace built for William III and Mary II.

Orders for Serviced First Day Covers must reach Royal Mail by 31 July. Customers may also send stamped envelopes on the day of issue to Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB for the Tallents House postmark •

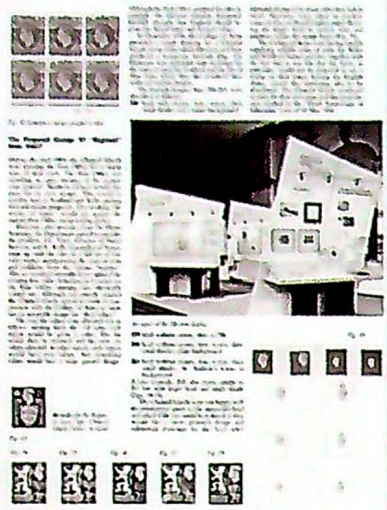
Acknowledgements: all images © Historic Royal Palaces – South Front, East Front and Pond Gardens photography by Andrew Butler; West Front photography by James Brittain; Maze photography by Vivian Russell; Great Fountain Garden photography by AerialVue 7. Mini Sheet: King's Great Bedchamber and Chapel Royal photography by Robin Forster; King's Staircase photography by James Brittain.

Hampton Court Palace – Prices	
Stamps (3 x 1st Class, 3 x £1.55)	£6.66
Miniature Sheet (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.45)	£4.24
First Day Cover Stamps	£8.41
First Day Cover Miniature Sheet	£5.51
Presentation Pack	£11.40
Stamp Souvenir	£8.41
Miniature Sheet Souvenir	£5.51
Postcards (11 in set)	£4.95
Stamp Book (4 x 1st Class definitives and 2 x 1st Class from Miniature Sheet)	£4.02
Press Sheet	£46.64

Country file

Richard West recalls the birth, life and fascinating times of Britain's country definitive stamp designs

1



Right: early ideas for low value 'regional' definitives in 1946: typical examples for the Channel Islands and Scotland – as documented in 'National Postal Museum: The Philatelic year 1990'



2a

Right: stamps marking the third anniversary in 1948 of the liberation of the Channel Islands



2b

Below: in August 1958 3d stamps were issued for six regions, each rich in emblematic design detail

3



1935 Guernsey requests a stamp to mark the Silver Jubilee of King George V.

1937 Northern Ireland requests its own stamp.

1939 The Isle of Man requests its own stamp.

1946 An approach is made to the Post Office for stamps for the Channel Islands, to revitalise the tourism industry after the German occupation. This stimulates thoughts for new low-value definitives (1) featuring symbols that depict the 'regions' of the United Kingdom, or issuing designs for each 'region' with values from either ½d to 3d, or just 2½d and 3d. Although several arguments are put forward against such ideas, 1d and 2½d stamps are issued on 10 May 1948, to mark the third anniversary of the liberation of the Channel Islands (2a and 2b).

1949 The Isle of Man makes a request for a stamp to mark the Festival of Britain in 1951.

1951 There is a question in the House suggesting that special stamps for Scotland should be considered.

1956 On 30 January an internal letter is sent to the Postmaster General suggesting stamps for Scotland. Subsequent discussions extend the idea to other regions. After several months of deliberations it is agreed to release stamps in specified denominations for six 'regions' – Guernsey, Isle of Man, Jersey, Northern Ireland,

4



Above: in September 1958, a month after the first six regional stamps, these 6d and 1s 3d values for Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales were issued

5



Above: stamps to pay the postcard rates for the islands were issued in 1964

Scotland and Wales. The designs for these are determined by local committees, and local designers among others are invited to submit ideas.

1958 On 18 August, 3d stamps are issued for Guernsey, Isle of Man, Jersey, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales (3). On 29 September, 6d and 1s 3d values are added for Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales (4). Changes in postal rates later result in new values, while colours are adjusted to correspond to those of the Machin definitives. Phosphor bands are also added.

1964 On 8 June 2½d values are issued for Guernsey, Isle of Man and Jersey to pay the picture postcard rate (5).

1969 On 1 October Guernsey and Jersey gain postal independence, producing their own stamps.

1971 On 7 July new designs by Jeffery Matthews are issued for the Isle of Man, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales (6), following decimalisation. Each feature the Machin portrait, and a 'regional' symbol. In each case the initial values are 2½p, 3p, 5p and 7½p, printed in photogravure by Harrison and Sons.

Over the years many new values are added, and printing moves to lithography by John Waddington and The House of Questa.

1973 On 1 July the Isle of Man gains postal independence. ▶

6



Above: following decimalisation, new designs featured the Arnold Machin portrait and 'regional' symbols

7a



Right: when thoughts turned to new 'Regional' definitives for issue in 1994, this design was submitted by Andrew Davidson

7b



Above: Bill Sanderson submitted this design in 1993, using a frame designed by Jeffery Matthews

7c



Above: one of a range of ideas submitted by David Gentleman

8a



8b



8c



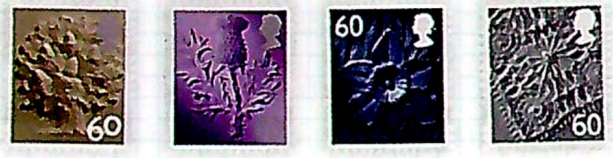
Above: new designs produced for Scotland and Wales in 1999, and for Northern Ireland in 2001

Below: Country Stamps for England were issued for the first time in 2001. These designs had to be modified with white borders to improve the phosphor signal

9



10



11



Right: In 2006 a series of 'Celebrating' miniature sheets began with Celebrating Scotland, introducing new designs

1993 Thoughts turn to a series of regional definitives, including England, to be issued in 1994. Jeffery Matthews is asked to design frames that can be used throughout. Andrew Davidson (7a) and Bill Sanderson (7b) submit designs using these frames. David Gentleman also prepares designs (7c); at the same time he writes a report that examines the whole concept of regional designs. However, no further work is undertaken at this juncture.

1999 New designs are introduced for Scotland and Wales (8a and 8b) on 8 June. The highest value changes with revisions of postal tariffs.

2001 On 6 March new designs are introduced for Northern Ireland (8c), while England has special designs for the first time (9). The highest value changes with revisions of postal tariffs.

2003 On 14 October the 1999 and 2001 designs, previously bleeding to the perforations, are reissued with white borders to improve the phosphor signals. Again denominations change with each revision of postal tariffs.

2006 On 30 November a revised Scottish Flag design is first used with other new designs for the Celebrating Scotland Miniature Sheet (10), and later in Prestige Stamp Books and on the Castles of Scotland Smilers® Sheet.

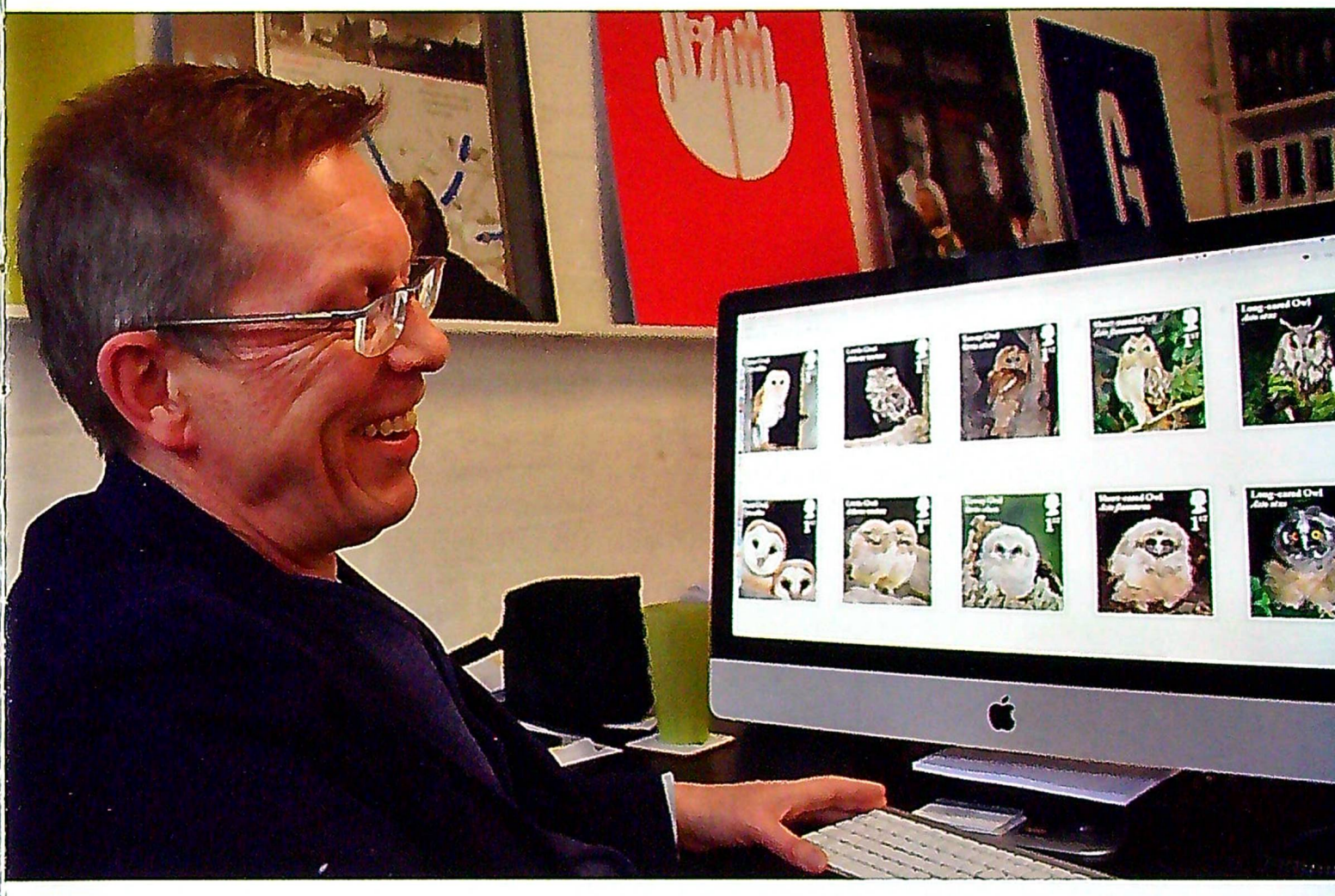
2007 On 23 April a St George's Flag design is first used with other new designs for the Celebrating England Miniature Sheet, and later in Prestige Stamp Books and on the Castles of England Smilers® Sheet.

2008 On 11 March new designs for a Celebrating Northern Ireland Miniature Sheet are released.

2008 On 29 September the 1958 designs for Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales are reissued in decimal values, in a Miniature Sheet and a Prestige Stamp Book, to mark the 50th anniversary of the introduction of 'country' definitives.

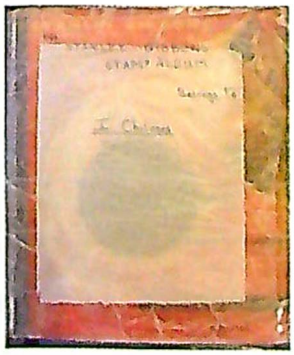
2009 On 26 February a Welsh Dragon design is first used with other new designs for the Celebrating Wales Miniature Sheet, and in Prestige Stamp Books and on the Castles of Wales Smilers® Sheet.

2017 On 23 March a new typeface introduced for the denominations •



Master of the miniature

Designer Ian Chilvers tells Andrew Neish how a special childhood birthday gift inspired him to create a collection of stunning stamp issues



Above Ian Chilvers contemplates the Owls set he designed, and the stamp album he has treasured since his schooldays

'To Ian, From Mum & Dad, 16th Sept. 1969'. This simple message of affection, in a stamp album given to Ian Chilvers as an eighth birthday present, heralded his life-long love of stamps and of stunning design in miniature. That this leading stamp designer still regards the album with great fondness at the age of 56 is testament to the power of philately to inspire.

On the cover, lovingly wrapped in protective paper and Sellotape, the boy Ian wrote proudly in biro: 'This Stanley Gibbons Stamp Album belongs to I Chilvers.' Ian the man opens the album today in his airy south London design studio, its walls displaying some of the fine Special Stamp issues he has created, including The Crimean War, the Victoria Cross set, Six Decades of Royal Portraits, Kings and Queens, and Motorcycles.

He turns the pages. The years melt away as he recalls that first contact with stamps and reveals how they have informed his world and his professional ▸



Above: Ian recalls how he strove to make sure the definitive stamps lined up perfectly in his first album

Below: a framed stamp display at the entrance of Ian Chilvers' studio

life: 'So this is my eighth birthday, and it was the time of *Blue Peter*, when you were always taught to cover your precious books,' chuckles Ian, whose most recent issue is this year's Owls. (Also in his portfolio is Machin at 50, Windmills and Watermills, Royal Mail 500 and 2011's Royal Wedding.)

'I remember my father showing me how to apply a hinge to the back of a stamp and explaining about the different denominations, and that you have to line everything up on the grid and get those stamps in order so they are neatly distributed on the page. I think this was me learning to organise and that's just what graphic design is for me; it's that discipline of having a logic to what you are putting on a page.

'My favourite stamps that I placed in this album as a boy were David Gentleman designs, the Battle of Britain stamps and so on, even though I didn't know they were David Gentleman at the time. All of these things were lodged in my head from then on, and even though I didn't know anything about these designs, at art college I was trying to do what David Gentleman was doing – the brilliant simplicity of distilling visual communication down onto a tiny bit of paper – and I have been trying to do that ever since.'



Trying and succeeding in spades, it is clear, from even just a glimpse of the portfolio of stamp sets Ian has built up as a partner at design agency Atelier Works.

A wall of stamp history You cannot miss the power of his work when you enter the Atelier Works studio in Iliffe Yard, a leafy, cobbled Victorian mews near Elephant and Castle, south London that houses a host of creative businesses. Atelier Works' neighbour, for example, is the leading typographical artist Kelvyn Smith, who printed lines of war poetry on a First Class stamp in Royal Mail's 2017 First World War issue.

You ascend old steep steps to the first-floor studio and there at the top is a wall display of Ian's Royal Mail work. Glancing at the display, Ian talks of logic, of order in design, yet his stamps do not suffer from a logical, methodical approach that is repetitive. Far from it: visually they are stunning. Rather, Ian recognises that stamp issues are a mix of art and editorial, for by their nature they are narratives of our nation, of British life and history. And to tell a great story you need to

know your subject. As Ian puts it: 'I'm not going to rub my head in Marlon Brando method style, but I do believe in method design. By which I mean: steep yourself in the subject. Then when you present your ideas for an issue to Royal Mail you really know your stuff and can offer a logical solution, not an airy-fairy "I-think-this-would-look-nice" approach. That just doesn't work.'

Leaving nothing to chance What works is his intensive approach to research before design. Take the 2004 Crimean War issue – the extraordinary result of spending a day deep in the archives of the National Army Museum in Chelsea. There he pulled off the shelves a rare photo album, over a century old, containing contemporary photos of rank-and-file veterans of the 1854 conflict: portraits of worn yet proud faces of men who had seen horror, their memories of combat reflected in alert, soldierly eyes.

'I was so struck by the powerful images, all that amazing character and experience of a precarious life in those faces. I researched some more and discovered that Queen Victoria herself had commissioned these photographs. She didn't want the generals and all the glory, she wanted photos of the rank-and-file, men who had actually fought the enemy face to face, who had risked their lives. I thought this was a fantastically egalitarian stance and I realised this was the right way to remember the war.'

As thorough as ever, however, Ian left nothing to chance: 'I then engaged a miliatary genealogist to search army records to check on each soldier who was a candidate for the stamps. It was essential to ensure no soldier had a criminal past or a blemished military record. You cannot feature an unsavourty character on a stamp, next to The Queen's head.'

Research has been key on other issues, too. In the 2006 Victoria Cross set, the challenge was that simply featuring the pictures of VC recipients does not really tell the story – servicemen in uniform can look, well, rather uniform. Ian wanted to tell the story of what they did to deserve the medal, and show that on the stamps. 'I decided to do that by researching contemporary newspaper reports of the men's actions, because they would be much more powerful and fresh than retrospective books written many years after.'

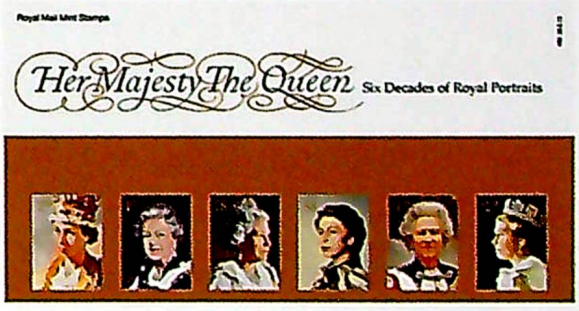
And what a result: with the deliberately 'badly spaced' type, old-fashioned fonts and writing tone reflecting the historical era in which the men fought, Ian's designs offer a gritty perspective of courage in conflict.

Six Decades in Royal Portraits, a 2013 issue, is also revealing about the journey Ian takes to reach the final destination of a finished stamp set. On ▸



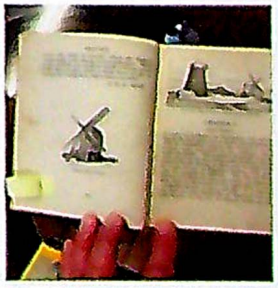






Above, from top: 2004 Crimean War, 2006 Victoria Cross Miniature Sheet, 2011 Royal Wedding, 2013 Royal Portraits – all Royal Mail issues designed by Ian

Below: Ian was inspired by the drawings in the book *England of the Windmills*, published in 1931, which he discovered during his research for the Windmills and Watermills stamp issue



Stamp images © Royal Mail Gorup Photographs: KMSP

IAN CHILVERS ON...

- **His modus operandi** 'The tools of my trade are my eyes, my brain and my feet. It's not the software or the Mac that you use to design, or what you can find online. It's what you discover when you get out and do research.'

- **Perfect design** 'The design that looks absolutely effortless.'

- **His philatelic hero** 'David Gentleman. That man is unsurpassable.'

- **Philatelic indulgence** 'When a new issue of mine comes out, I go down to the philatelic counter in the Post Office near Trafalgar Square and buy a sheet of 25.'

- **Philatelic fans** 'Sometimes philatelists ask me if I will sign a first day cover as a gift to their grandchildren.'

- **His philatelic family** 'My Uncle Frank is in his early 70s and still collects stamps – it's nice to be able to send him a new set I've designed.'

learning that there were to be five stamps showing previously seen works, with a sixth stamp featuring an entirely new portrait commissioned by Royal Mail, Ian's first instinct was to present The Queen in a radical way, articulating the monarchy in the 21st century. Contenders for the stamp design were portrayals by Andy Warhol and Lucian Freud, and a controversial 1998 Royal Society for the Arts commission showing Her Majesty's head adrift from her body (by Justin Mortimer)

These pictures were part of a long list of around 100 images of The Queen as Ian and members of the Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles team began their edit. 'We had all these images laid out on a giant table and as we moved them around, it became clear that a radical issue was not going to work – three radical portraits just weren't enough,' Ian recalls.

'Perhaps following from that childhood stamp album and my fanaticism for doing things in order, and my love of history, I thought about showing a progression of painting styles through those six decades. But that would be mixing visual styles, which would make the issue look disjointed. So we progressed to looking at images that were calm and regal, how we thought The Queen would like to be perceived. It's like panning for gold; you sift, and sift, and sift, and searching for the best becomes the route that you explore.'

A royal deadline With a short list of around ten images, Ian then researched the painters, checking to see how each painting had been reviewed in the fine art world: 'After all, these are royal paintings, so you have to check their standing in that world. As this was The Queen, we had to have painters and paintings that had earned respect.'

The final piece in the puzzle was finding the right artist for the new commission. 'We had a set of five portraits that visually sat well together. Of course I then had to find an artist whose style sat well too. But there was an added dimension: the artist would have an audience with The Queen, so I had to find someone who would have the nerve to do that, who wouldn't be fazed by painting in the presence of Her Majesty. So this part of the process wasn't really about design – it was about assessing an artist's proven experience and considering which artist would be more likely to paint a fitting portrait

The commission ultimately went to Nicky Philipps, already known for painting Princes William and Harry. Time was of the essence, as the set was all ready to go apart from her picture. 'We had the five stamps ready – the artist permissions to use the pictures, we had the hi-res images, the retouching sorted. It was quite unnerving but Nicky delivered in time,' recalls Ian. 'She had only completed the head and shoulders, the rest was a blank canvas and the corgis and robes were added later, but to see how the painting would work with the set, all we needed was the head and shoulders profile!'

Handling a hero As a designer, creating the Machin 50th Anniversary issue and Presentation Pack was obviously a pleasure. Especially as Arnold Machin is as much a hero for Ian as David Gentleman. 'I do admire the fact that here was a designer who was first and foremost an artist and a sculptor. Who made drawings, who crafted a bas-relief, who created that famous cast of The

Queen's head. Who produced an image that was at once regal, so understatedly elegant, but in no way showy. And yet he went through an enormously long process, a journey, an evolution to arrive at what we all recognise was a design icon.

'My aim, then, for this stamp issue was to reflect that incredible evolution, to show an artist at work, making progress. And it was vital to get the issue right – first, because the Machin is so important. And second, because I know that philatelists really know their stuff, and for many the Machin is the holy grail, and you cannot make a mistake with something so iconic and so loved.'

Nerve-wracking it might have been to design a set that would be scrutinised in fine detail by the 'Machin mafia', but for Ian stamp design is always a pleasure. 'And one of the great pleasures of working for Royal Mail,' he says, 'is that it has taken me full circle. That stamp album, those Gentleman stamps, the influences that shaped my life from the age of eight, have taken me on a journey to become a graphic designer and here I am designing stamps. So I've got a lot to thank Royal Mail for' •



The Owls philatelic preview is on page 232 of your May Bulletin

SPECIAL STAMP DEVELOPMENT



2016 ROYAL MAIL 500

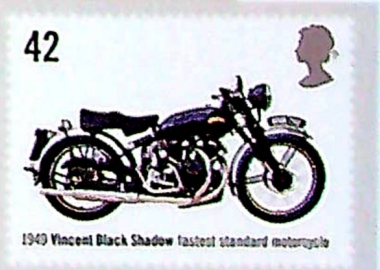
An early idea for the stamp set shown above, was to illustrate the history of the postal service through famous and pivotal letters from different eras. However the chosen design incorporated a variety of impactful illustrative appraoches.

2017 WINDMILLS AND WATERMILLS

One of Ian's early concepts for this set was to use simple line drawings similar to the illustrations he found in an old book. Another option was to design the stamps on a diagonal, to make a visual feature of the windmill sails at an angle. You can see some of Ian's notes on the final designs in the photograph above right.

2005 MOTORCYCLES

Ian is a keen British motorcycle fan (his first bike at the age of 17 was a BSA C15 and his current ride is a 1957 Velocette Viper), so designing this issue on British machines was 'a dream job' for him He sourced real vintage bikes and sent artist Michael English to photograph them as guides for his painting for the stamps. 'The problem was that we had to make sure every part of every bike was original. If necessary I went to the archives of the Vintage Motorcycle Club, sourced the original advertising brochure, and got a photo of the original tyre or spark plug or whatever, to ensure that the pictures were 100 per cent British!'



Inside Royal Mail

SAC of the Sixties



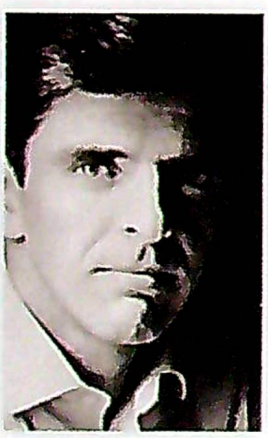
Richard West continues his account of the world of UK stamps half a century ago – a seminal era in the development of the Stamp Advisory Committee and exploring new creative approaches to stamp design

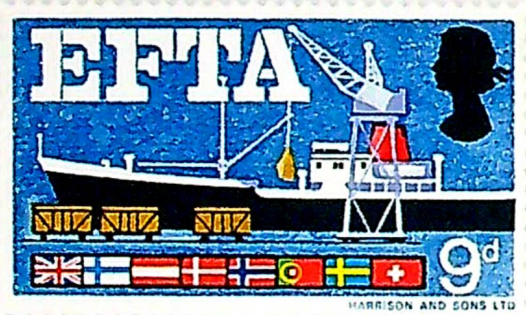
IT WAS ALL CHANGE when Edward Short took over from Tony Benn as Postmaster General in July 1966. He reduced the number of special issues to six a year. He also suggested that members of the existing stamp advisory panel, under the aegis of the Council of Industrial Design, might act as advisors on a one-to-one basis with the artists invited to put forward ideas for stamp issues.

Now coming under his watch would be the design submissions for two stamps marking the establishment of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), due for release in 1967 (see below). A number of designers, as well as Harrison & Sons, were approached to propose designs for the stamps.

When it came to discussing the EFTA submissions, the advisory panel did not favour ideas put forward by designer Clive Abbott on behalf of Harrisons. Soon after, Short visited the printers where he was shown the essays of the Committee's preferred designs. He asked to see the other designs that had been submitted and immediately felt that those by Abbott were far more appropriate, immediately overturning the panel's decision.

This did not best please the stamp advisory panel and its Chairman James Fitton suggested that the members might resign en masse. But such a threat did not faze the Post Office, where officials had been increasingly feeling that the Council of Industrial Design was being confrontational to



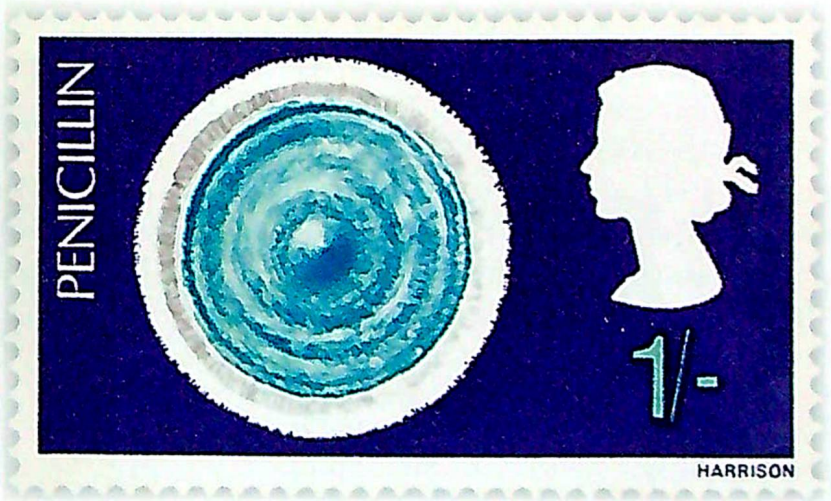




Above: Clive Abbot
Right: EFTA designs issued in 1967 after some controversy

Stamp images © Royal Mail Group Ltd Churchill/iStock





Left: Clive Abbott's designs for the 1967 British Discovery and Invention Special Stamp issue

the new attitudes towards stamp policy and design. Nevertheless, the stamp advisory panel remained – for the time being. However, before long it would again clash with Short, and again over a design by Clive Abbott, for the 1967 British Discovery and Invention set. The panel chose a design by Abbott, featuring radar, for the 4d value. Short felt that a complementary design by Abbott, representing penicillin, should be on the 9d value, thus again overruling the panel's decision. Abbott's designs are shown above.

The stamp advisory panel disbanded

With two disagreements within a few months, the inevitable happened. In February 1967 Edward Short disbanded the old stamp advisory panel and decided to establish a new style of stamp advisory committee that would be entirely within the remit of the Post Office. This was felt particularly pertinent timing, given that the Post Office would become a corporation in 1969. However, it would be a year before the new committee could be formed and meet for the first time: the new Post Office-apppointed Stamp Advisory Committee (SAC) held its first meeting on 21 February 1968.

Meanwhile the next few issues were thus determined within the Post Office, with Short playing an important role. For the Christmas stamps ▸



Above: the 4d value of the 1967 Christmas stamps, featured The Madonna and Child by Murillo – as recommended by Postmaster General Edward Short

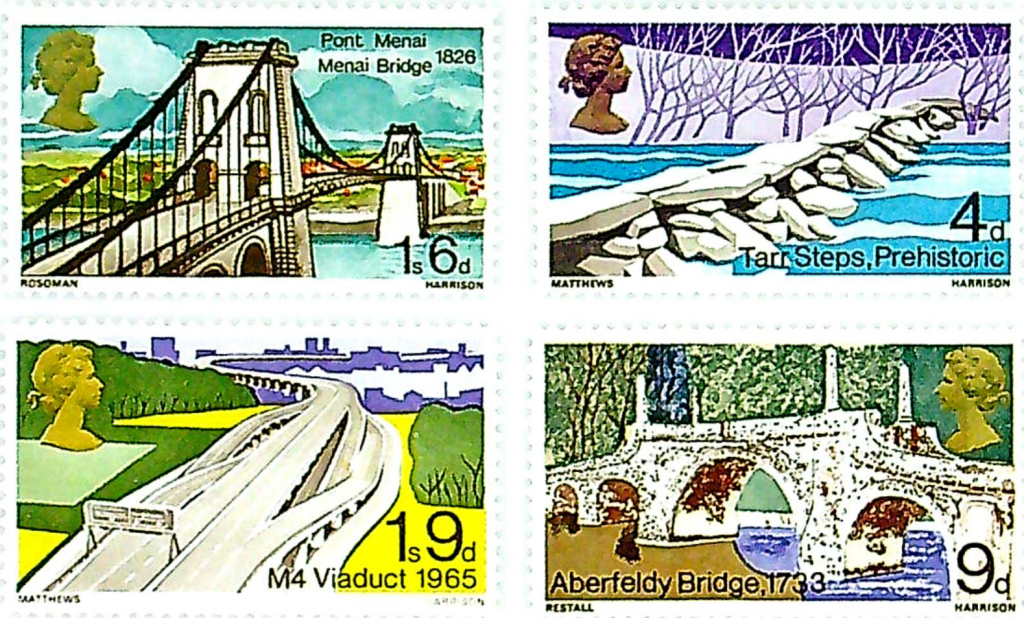
of 1967 he decided that paintings should be used, and wanted to be involved in the choice. It was Short's recommendation that *The Madonna and Child* by Bartolomé Estaban Murillo be used (for the 4d value, see left) and personally checked the essays before printing began.

The next issue, planned for release in early 1968, was to feature British Bridges. The process was now largely undertaken by the Operations and Overseas Department (OOD) of the Post Office, in close consultation with Short. While the familiar pattern of inviting artists was followed, the submitted designs were assessed by the OOD, which put its recommendations to Short.

It was Short who determined which should go to essay stage, selecting the four designs by Jeffery Matthews and Andrew Restall as issued, plus a fifth one of Tower Bridge by Matthews that was not in the event used.

Every year the Post Office received many suggestions for stamp issues. Short decided to bring together a number of anniversaries under one set, announcing the four – RAF, TUC [see pages 308 and 309 in part 1 of this feature], Votes for Women and Captain Cook (see below) – that would be featured in 1968. Still the familiar process was followed, with the OOD recommending designs that it felt the best from those submitted, namely: David Gentleman – TUC; Clive Abbott – Votes for Women, RAF and Captain Cook. Short felt that Gentleman's Captain Cook design should be essayed.

In the event, the OOD's choice for Clive Abbott's designs was essentially accepted, albeit Short felt uneasy at the style of lettering Abbott had used for his Caption Cook design (page 341) and also wanted more colour added to the RAF design. Gentleman was asked to provide some further ideas for the TUC stamp.



Right: British Bridges, issued in 1968

The new committee

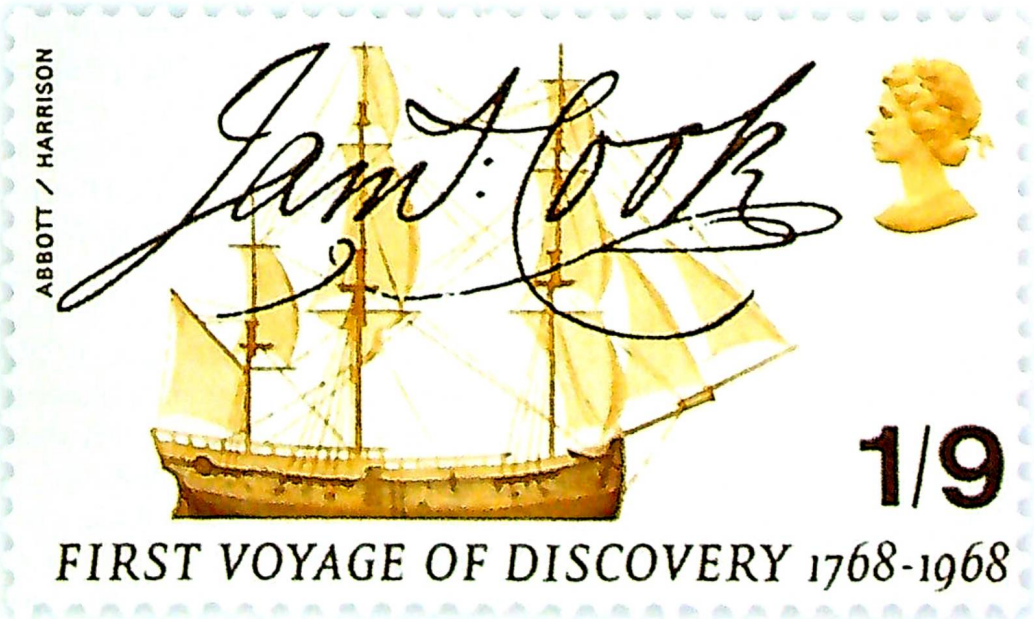
The new Stamp Advisory Committee was more broadly based than the previous advisory panel and comprised representatives of the Royal College of Art, experts in graphic design, industrial design and typography, a prominent philatelist, a philatelic journalist, a Labour MP, a Conservative MP and a housewife. The terms of reference of the new committee were to advise the Postmaster General on artists to be invited to submit designs, instructions to artists and to give advice on the designs to be submitted for Royal approval. However, the committee was advisory in that responsibility for final decisions on stamp design remained with the Postmaster General.

The new Committee included representatives of the Post Office, namely G R Downe as Chairman, plus S Rose, J Baxter, D Beaumont and B Sproat. Also included was R F York from Harrison and Sons. The other members were D Batsford, K Chapman, Professor R Guyatt, R A G Lee, A Lousada, I Pearce, Sir P Reilly, G Rogers and H Spencer.

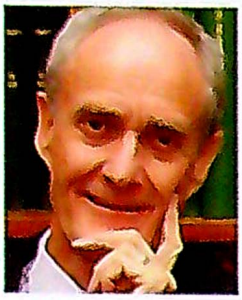
It met for the first time on 21 February 1968. The Minutes of that first meeting were to, say the least brief. With regards to the Anniversaries set, they read: 'The Committee members were shown essays for designs in the "British Anniversaries" issue: the TUC stamp, the Votes for Women stamp and the Captain Cook stamp.' It seems a final decision regarding the TUC stamp was not made at this juncture.

Having set up the new Committee, Short would not see it in operation for long. He ceased to be Postmaster General on 6 April 1968, to be replaced by Roy Mason. The second meeting of the committee was on 10 April. This time it recommended that Gentleman's design featuring the letters 'TUC' be adopted, while leaving the final decision to the new Postmaster General.

The Stamp Advisory Committee continues today, meeting every two months, its deliberations ensuring that the UK remains at the forefront of stamp design worldwide •



Left: Clive Abbot's design for the Captain Cook stamps of 1968. Fifty years on, collectors will soon be able to see the Captain Cook issue to be released later this year and see how designs compare

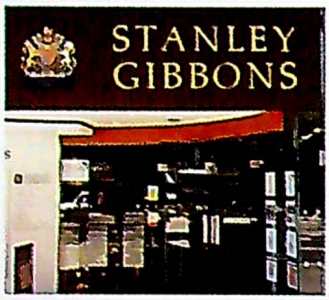


Stamp scene Dane Garrod keeps you posted on events and activities in the philatelic world

Society meetings for GB Collectors

12 July • The Royal Philatelic Society London Summer Meeting at 1pm, with a One Frame Competition, led by Alan Holyoake FRPSL. Non-members of the society are welcome as guests at 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY, and are required to contact Administration Manager Jason Webber on 020 7486 1044 prior to the meeting day.

14 July • The National Philatelic Society Annual General Meeting is held on the First Floor of The Postal Museum, 15-20 Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DA, at 11am, followed by members' displays from 2.45pm. Refreshments available. Visitors and prospective new members are welcome.



19 July • The Postal History Society holds a joint meeting with the Royal Philatelic Society London at the Fairfield Manor Hotel, York. For further details please contact the convenor, Steve Ellis, at steve@homestead75.co.uk.

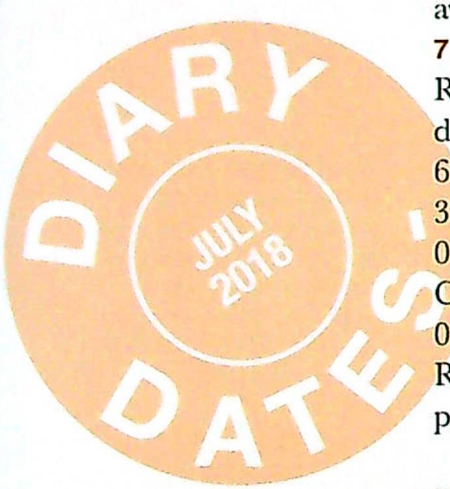
8 August • The Great Britain Philatelic Society's next meeting is at the Stanley Gibbons Summer Philatelic Gathering, 399 Strand, London WC2R 0LX (left), 6pm reception and standing displays by GBPS members. To join the society, see www.gbps.org.uk/join •

Stamp fairs

1 July • Wolverhampton Stamp Fair, Bradmore Social Club, 60 Church Street, Wolverhampton WV3 7ER, 9am to 3pm, eight dealers, free parking, Social Club bar available. Enquiries: John Coaten, 07808 864297. • Milton Keynes Stamp Fair, Novotel, Saxon Street, Leybourne Court, Heelands, Milton Keynes MK13 7RA, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845.

4 July • Croydon Postcard Fair, St George's Church Centre, Barrow Road, Waddon, Croydon CR0 4EZ, 9am to 4pm, seven dealers, free parking and admission, refreshments available. Enquiries: Peter Duncan, 01444 482620, pjduncan26@gmail.com.

5 July • Rugby Stamp and Postcard Fair, Rogers Hall, Deerings Road, Hillmorton, Rugby CV21 4EN, 9.30am to 3pm, free admission and parking, refreshments available. Enquiries: Simon Hemmings, 01455 642248, stamps@midphil.com.



7 July • Huddersfield Stamp Fair, St Thomas's Community Centre, Manchester Road, Longroyd Bridge, Huddersfield HD1 3HU, 9.30am to 4pm, four dealers, tea and coffee available. Enquiries: Alastair Campbell, 01484 681559. • Bilsborrow Stamp Fair, Village Hall, Bilsborrow PR3 0RE, 10am to 3.30pm, up to 12 dealers, hot and cold food all day. Enquiries: Terry Barnett, 01514862610. • Leicester Stamp Fair, Derby Room, Holiday Inn, 129 St Nicholas Circle, Leicester LE1 5LX, 9.30am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: John Suschitzky, 0116 235 0441. • Rawreth Stamp Fair, Rawreth Parish Hall, Church Road, Rawreth SS11 8SH, 10am to 4pm, around ten dealers, refreshments, free parking. Enquiries: Steve Search, 01702 323682, stevesearch@hotmail.com.



• Charing Cross Market, 1 Embankment Place, Villiers Street, London WC2N 6RH, 7am to 3pm. Enquiries: Bridget Petticrew, 01252 842906, bridget@charingcrossmarket.com. • Cardiff Stamp, Postcards and Collectors' Fair, Cardiff City Hall, Cardiff CF10 3ND, 10am to 4pm, 40 dealers. Enquiries: Malcolm Harrington, 01792 415293, malcolm.harrington@hotmail.co.uk. • Beckenham Stamp and Postcard Fair, Azelia Hall, Croydon Road, Beckenham BR3 4DA, 9am to 3pm, 12 dealers, refreshments. Enquiries: Ray McQuade, 020 8395 9285. • Haywards Heath Postcard & Collectors' Fair, Clair Hall, Perrymount Road, Haywards Heath RH16 3DN, 10.30am to 4pm, 25 dealers, free car parking, refreshments available. Enquiries: Rosemary Shepherd, 01892 662132. • Deal Stamp Fair, The Landmark Centre (right), 129 High Street, Deal CT14 6BB, 9am to 1pm. Enquiries: Peter Barrett, 01304 829827.

8 July • Chelmsford Stamp and Postcard Fair, Old Chelmsfordians Club, Roxwell Road, Chelmsford CM1 2LY, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Steve Burnell, 01708 229763. • Bristol Stamp and Postal History Fair, Easter Compton Village Hall, Main Road, Easter Compton, Bristol BS35 5SJ, 10am to 3.30pm, free car parking. Enquiries: Mark Grimsley, 0117 962 3203, mark_grimsley-stamps@hotmail.co.uk. • Wokingham Stamp Fair, St Crispin's Centre, London Road, Wokingham RG40 1SR, 9am to 3pm. Enquiries: Tristan Brittain, 07957 158299. • Newhaven Stamp and Postcard Fair, Denton & Mount Pleasant Social Centre, Denton Road, Newhaven BN9 0PX, 10am to 4pm, seven dealers, free parking. Enquiries: Tony Trevis, 07966 151073.

11 July • Cheltenham Stamp Fair, St Andrew's United Reformed Church, Montpellier Street, Cheltenham GL50 1SP, 10am to 4pm, free admission. Enquiries: Mark Grimsley, 0117 962 3203, mark_grimsley-stamps@hotmail.co.uk. • Bexhill Philatelic Society Stamp & Postcard Fair, St Martha's Church Hall, Cooden Sea Road, Bexhill-on-Sea TN39 4SL, 2pm to 4pm. Enquiries: Ray Burnett, 01424 214294, rayburnett@hotmail.com. • Ripley Stamp Club Fair, Village Hall, High Street, Ripley GU23 6AF, 12.30pm to 3.30pm, ten dealers, refreshments and free parking. Enquiries: Martin Mathewson, 01932 565814.

13 July • Strand Stamp Fair, The Galleon Suite, Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, Russell Square, London WC1H 0DG, 9am to 4pm, free admission. Enquiries: Kate Puleston, 020 8946 4489.

14 July • North Wales Stamp and Postcard Fair, Ysgol Eirias, Eirias Road, Colwyn Bay (below right) LL29 7SP, 9.30am to 3pm, 12 dealers, free parking, refreshments available. Enquiries: Steve Chapman, 01745 826434. • Derby Stamp Fair, Nunsfield Community Hall, 33 Boulton Road, Alvaston, Derby DE24 0FD, 9.30am to 4pm, seven dealers, free parking and admission, refreshments from 12 noon. Enquiries: Kevin Johnson, 07808 665472 • Cambridge Stamp Fair, Arbury Community Centre, Campkin Road, Arbury, Cambridge CB4 2LD, 10am to 3pm, 12 dealers, car parking and refreshments available. Enquiries: Brian Bownham 01223 355004. • Telford Stamp and Card Fair, Belmont Hall, Wellington Centre, Telford TF1 1LU, 10am to 3pm, 15 dealers, refreshments available, free parking. Enquiries: Richard Camp, 01952 405458, mail@richardcamp.co.uk. • Laindon Stamp Fair, Methodist Church Hall, High Road,▸



Photograph: Frank Irwin / Alamy



Langdon Hills SS16 6EX, 9.30am to 3pm, eight dealers, free parking and admission, refreshments available. Enquiries: David Church, 01268 543371. • Charing Cross Market – see 7 July. • Basingstoke Stamp and Postcard Fair, Costello Technology College, Crossborough Hill, Basingstoke RG21 4AL, 10am to 4pm, 12 dealers, free parking and admission, refreshments available. Enquiries: Paula Cant, 01256 415699, paula@paulacantstamps.co.uk. • Folkestone Stamp Fair, Trinity Church Hall, Sandgate Road, Folkestone CT20 2UQ, 9am to 1.30pm, free parking and entrance. Enquiries: Peter Barrett, 01304 829827.

15 July • Dronfield Stamp Fair, Coal Aston Village Hall, Coal Aston, Dronfield S18 3AY, 9.30am to 4pm, ten dealers, free parking and admission, refreshments available. Enquiries: Kevin Johnson, 07808 665472.

20 and 21 July • York Stamp and Coin Fair, York Racecourse YO23 1EX, Friday 11am to 6pm and Saturday 10am to 4pm, 95 dealers, free parking and admission, hot and cold food. Enquiries Chris Rainey on 01793 513431.

21 July • Hull Stamp Fair, St James Centre, 169 First Lane, Hessle, near Hull HU13 9EY, 9.30am to 4pm, five dealers, free parking and admission, refreshments available. Enquiries: Kevin Johnson, 07808 665472. • Liverpool Stamp Fair, St Columba Church Hall, Hillfoot Road, Hunts Cross, Liverpool L25 0NR, 10am to 3.30pm, seven dealers, parking available. Enquiries: Terry Barnett, 0151 486 2610. • Colchester Stamp and Postcard Fair, Parish Hall, Old London Road, Marks Tey, Colchester CO6 1EN, 9.30am to 3.30pm, free admission and car parking. Enquiries: Lorne Webb, 01424 751518. • Upminster Stamp Fair, St Lawrence Church Hall, Corbets Tey Road, Upminster RM14 2AJ, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845 • Charing Cross Market – see 7 July. • Michael Hale Collectors' Fair, The America Hall, De La Rue Way, Pinhoe, Exeter EX4 8PX, 10am to 4pm, 12 stamp dealers, free parking,. Enquiries: Michael Hale, 01749 677669.

22 July • Bexley Stamp Fair, Freemantle Hall, Bexley High Street, Bexley DA5 1AA, 9.30am to 3pm, seven dealers. Enquiries: Lorne Webb, 01424 751518, lornehw@btinternet.com.

28 July • Morley Stamp Fair, St Mary's Hall, Commercial Street, Morley LS27 3HZ, 9.30am to 4pm, 15 dealers, free parking and admission. Enquiries: Kevin Johnson, 07808 665472. • Middlewich Stamp Fair, Community Centre, Civic Way, Middlewich CW10 9BX, 10am to 3.30pm, seven dealers, free parking and admission. Enquiries: Fred O'Reilly, 01226 765069. • Wanstead Stamp Fair, Our Lady of Lourdes, 51 Cambridge Park, Wanstead E11 2PR, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845. • Charing Cross Market – see July 7. • Portchester Collectors' Fair, Parish Hall, Castle Street, Portchester PO16 9PY, 10am to 3pm, free parking, 50p entry. Enquiries: Jill Popplestone, 02380 446143.

29 July • Doncaster Stamp Fair, Park Social Club, Eden Grove Road, Edenthorpe, Doncaster DN3 2LS, 9.30am to 4pm. Enquiries: Kevin Johnson, 07808 665472. • Peterborough Stamp Fair, Holiday Inn, Thorpe Wood, Peterborough PE3 6SG, 10am to 3pm, ten dealers, free parking. Enquiries: Richard Lewis, 01945 700594, richard@lewis8571.plus.com. • Hopton Stamp and Postcard Fair, Hopton Village Hall, Station Road, Hopton NR31 9BE, 10am to 3pm. Enquiries: Terry Allaker, 01502 563759. • Stevenage Stamp Fair, Novotel, Knebworth Park, Stevenage SG1 2AX, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845 •

Photograph: The Victorian Web

National and international exhibitions

The twice-yearly **York Stamp and Coin Fair** returns on Friday and Saturday 20 and 21 July at York Racecourse (right), with a National Exhibition of all classes, including Open Philately, Picture Postcards and Ephemera.

This pre-eminent show in the north of England features around 100 dealer stands. Visitors can buy or sell, get valuations or simply browse and find out more about their particular collecting interests. There is a bar on the first floor of the grandstand and a self-service restaurant serving hot and cold meals, snacks, tea and coffee on the ground floor. Parking and admission are free. Further details from Chris Rainey on 01793 513431.

There is still time to book for the **Centennial Philatelic Congress of Great Britain**, which is organised by the Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS) and runs from 26 to 29 July at Jurys Inn Gateshead Quays, South Shore Road, Gateshead NE8 3AE. The highlights of Congress include the signing of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists (RDPs) and the banquet – this year in the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Newcastle. Further details of this event are available from Steve Harrison, sharrison500@btinternet.com.

The following collectors have been elected as RDPs this year, the most prestigious of honours in philately, which recognises achievement, research, publication and service: Robert Abensur RDP (France), Gustav Douglas RDP FRPSL (Sweden), Cheryl Ganz RDP FRPSL (USA) and Geoffrey Lewis RDP FRPSL (Australia) – all pictured right. You can read about the new signatories at www.abps.org.uk/News.



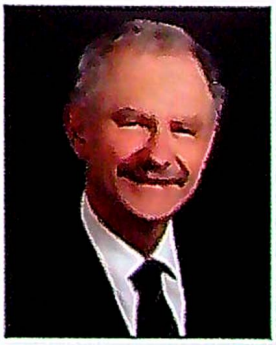
Robert Abensur



Gustav Douglas



Cheryl Ganz



Geoffrey Lewis

Autumn Stampex will be held from 12 to 15 September at its regular venue of the Business Design Centre in Islington, London. This is an excellent commercial show with more than 70 dealer stands. It takes place twice a year and is the UK's largest show for stamp collectors, organised by the Philatelic Traders Society.

The Stampex National Exhibition will include all classes. The closing date for applications to display is 12 July. Applications are accepted online only at exhibitions.abps.org.uk/users/sign_in. For advice on how to enter, email exhibiting@abps.org.uk. All British exhibitions are now open to non-competitive entries, which may be wholly philatelic or made up of non-traditional material. Any collector who would like to display material out of competition should complete the online entry form and tick the non-competitive box.

For young collectors there is a Kids Zone at Stampex, with free goodie bags, activities and a fun auction on the Saturday (details at www.stampactive.co.uk).

Italia 2018, the Italian national exhibition, runs from 23 to 25 November and invites international participation in two areas. Its History of the 'Great War' is an open online exhibition that will include the following classes: traditional philately, thematic, interophilos, maximafilia, postal history. Exhibits should comprise between five and ten frames, each of 12 sheets. Closing date for entries: 31 July.

The second area, supported by the Federation of European Philatelic Associations, is Philatelic Literature. Closing date: 15 July.

Italia 2018 is held at the exhibition ground of Veronafiere, well known for hosting international trade shows. Enquiries: www.italia2018.eu ▸

The Postal Museum temporary exhibition

If you are planning a family outing in London over the summer holidays, The Postal Museum has plenty to intrigue all age groups. The exhibition **Voices Of The Deep** uncovers for the first time stories from 717 personal letters that were trapped in a sunken ship in 1941, almost three miles deep in the Atlantic Ocean. The *SS Gairsoppa* was en route from Calcutta, carrying vital war supplies, when it was attacked by an enemy U-boat as it approached the British coast. Included in the cargo were 109 tons of silver, which inspired the Odyssey Marine Expedition to visit the wreck. As well as the silver, the Odyssey crew discovered a treasure trove of postal history – hundreds of letters, mostly in fine condition owing to the lack of oxygen on the ocean bed.

The letters offer poignant insights into the everyday lives of people from all walks of life during the Second World War and form the basis of the fascinating exhibition which runs until 13 January 2019. Admission includes a ride on **Mail Rail**. Plan your visit at www.postalmusuem.org, where you will also find the programme of family events and activities during the summer holidays.

The Arts Council has chosen The Postal Museum as one of the five finalists in the 1918 Museum Of The Year Awards. Watch out for the winners, announced on 5 July at www.artfund.org •

Special Stamp-related events



If the stunning Royal Mail Special Stamps issued on 31 July (see Preview page 328) inspire you to visit **Hampton Court Palace** this month, you can immerse yourself in Henry VIII's world during a season of Tudor cooking, events and talks. Discover how more than 800 meals were prepared each day in the grand kitchen and hear experts reveal the history of royal food. Details: www.hrp.org.uk.

The Royal Mail Special Stamps and Miniature Sheet released on 16 August (see page 352) mark the 250th anniversary of **Captain Cook and the *Endeavour* Voyage**. This is a great year for Captain Cook collectors, with many talks, events and exhibitions taking place across the UK, Australia and New Zealand.

Over the weekend of 6 to 8 July a Tall Ships and Sea Shanties festival takes place near the Captain Cook Museum in Whitby – the town where the young Cook was given his first opportunity to sail the seas, in coal ships. Details: www. www.discoveryorkshirecoast.com.

Until 28 August The British Library has something for all the family at the exhibition called James Cook: The Voyages – and while you are there you can enjoy the John Ritblat Gallery and the best permanent display of philately on the planet. Enquiries: www.bl.uk.

The website www.captaincooksociety.com has a document supplied by Brian Sandford, listing more than 600 stamps from 80 countries across the world, relating directly to Captain Cook, places he visited and wildlife he found there •

Calling all readers

John Davies FRPSL is compiling a new book on the philatelic history of the **1890 Penny Postage Jubilee**. He asked the *Bulletin* to let readers know that he would be grateful for details and scans of any rarities or unusual items that relate to the celebrations at any of the events, such as the Guildhall and South Kensington Exhibitions and formal dinners. This would include details of invitations, tickets, registered covers or ephemera. If you feel able to contribute, please email davies1890@btinternet.com •

2018 Congress Medal



The Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS) has awarded the 2018 Congress Medal to **Erene Grieve** (right), who was nominated by Haverfordwest Philatelic Society. Erene's name is well known among philatelists for the tremendous amount of work she has done in encouraging youngsters to take up the hobby of stamp collecting. She will be presented with the prestigious award at the ABPS Congress in Gateshead later this month (see page 347).

In 1997 Erene first began to put into practice her idea of getting more children interested in stamps by setting up stamp clubs in schools. She started Stamps in Schools in Pembrokeshire, where she lives and still runs four school clubs and a church group herself. She has travelled to schools all over the country and so far has run workshops in over 500 schools – a total of 1,000 workshop sessions have reached at least 30,000 children!

For some 30 years, schoolchildren in Pembrokeshire, under Erene's guidance, have been involved in philatelic competitions at federation, national and international level. Haverfordwest Philatelic Society holds youth presentation evenings and the members are often amazed at how many cups and medals the children have won. But it comes as no surprise if one has seen Erene in action – she is an ex-schoolteacher and remarkably gifted in her ability to engage, inspire and encourage young people.

Her achievements have been recognised by a number of awards, including the Rowland Hill Initiative Award for personal contributions to youth in 1998 and 2003. In 2012 she received the Marsh Trust Volunteers for Museum Learning Award, having been nominated for The British Museum. On accepting the award, she said, 'There's something magic about hearing a child say "Thank you that was brill", or even "That was cool", or even "This has been the best day of my life!" You don't walk out of the school thinking, "I wish I'd got paid for that". You go out thinking, "This is wonderful!"

As well as her work in schools, Erene takes an active part in Stamp Active (previously known as the National Youth Stamp Club), of which she has been a keen member for the last 18 years. Since 2007 she has been the South Wales Federation Youth Officer and for 17 years the Youth Co-ordinator for the Raflet Postal Stamp Club. Haverfordwest Philatelic Society has benefitted hugely from Erene's enthusiasm for the hobby, as she was their chairman from 2002 to 2017 and is now Secretary.



Congratulations Erene! You deserve it.

If you would like to help bring Stamps in Schools to your area, email stampsinschools@gmail.com. Erene Grieve can tailor workshops to capture the imagination of groups of young learners of different ages and abilities •

Photographs courtesy The Postal Museum. London Special postmark image © Royal Mail Group Ltd



Why I love philately Bart Willekens shares his holiday experience in Cyprus – philatelists find friends in unexpected places



Lying on the sands of Limassol beach under a warming Cypriot sun, with the Med lapping at my toes, was a wonderful way to spend a holiday. Really, I could not complain. It was a world away from the somewhat grey skies of home in Belgium. Yet, as usual, I found I could not quite take a complete mental break away from my passion for philately.

And more specifically, lazing away there on the sunny south coast of Cyprus, surrounded by holiday-makers from all over the world, I started thinking about the international nature of the Royal Philatelic Society London, of which I am a proud member. Despite its name, the RPSL has members all over the world. Indeed, I am myself often in London at the RPSL's headquarters, and there meet collectors from Europe and beyond, not just from the UK.

So it occurred to me that there was no reason why there should not be members living right here on Limassol. Well, then, why not look them up? And so it was that I ended up spending the afternoon not on the beach but at the home of a fellow collector and fellow Society member Stelios Theophilou, talking (stamp) shop and mulling through his marvellous collection of Cyprus censored mail.

I had located him online on my mobile phone, sent a text message saying who I was and that I was a member of the RPSL, not expecting necessarily to hear back before I headed home. Yet just minutes later, he rang me back to say how pleased he was to hear from a fellow philatelist from overseas and would I like to come over for coffee and cake?



Limassol seafront: *Cyprus Mail*

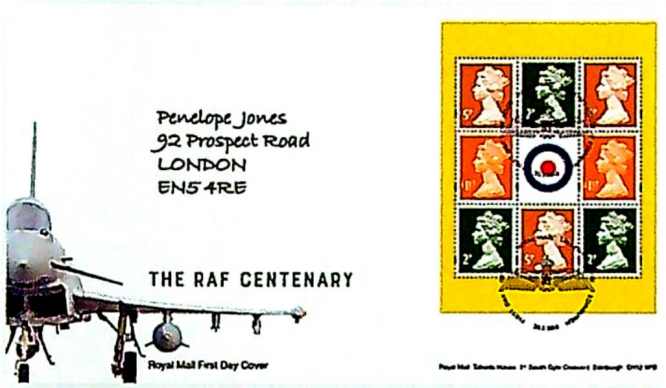
At Stelios's home we got talking about our respective collections. I learned a lot about the history of Cyprus, the cake was excellent (homemade marmalade cake, a speciality of the region) and, well, the coffee soon turned into a few Belgian beers. On hearing our loud laughter when she returned home, Mrs Theophilou remarked that she had never realised quite how much her husband enjoyed his hobby!

It was a delightful afternoon, and a highlight of our holiday; but more importantly it made me realise why I collect. Yes, very much for the stamps themselves. Yes, for the fascinating history they represent. But most emphatically yes for the way philately brings so many people together and creates friendships across the world that can last a lifetime •

Bart Willekens is a fundraiser for the 'Tomorrow's Royal' appeal, raising money for the refurbishment of the new RPSL building. Contact: TomorrowsRoyal@rpsl.org.uk

Planes, trains and wedding days Royal Mail Editor Tim Noble chooses two new covers and a card

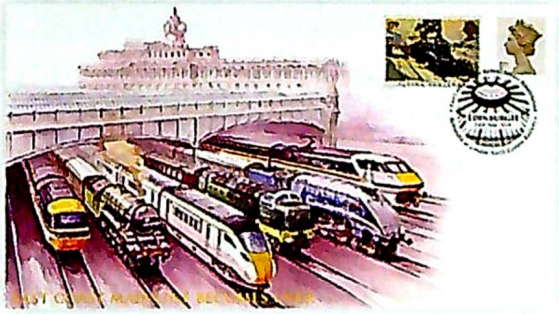
A classic note of respect One of a suite of phlatelic items celebrating the centenary of the Royal Air Force, this Royal Mail cover has a block of stamps from the RAF100 Prestige Stamp Book.



Nine mixed-value Machin definitives (3 x2p, 3 x 5p, 2 x £1.17) are set around a central label showing the RAF roundel •

Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles
PO Box 1373,
Sunderland
SR5 9PG
UK
Overseas subscribers will need to use a stamp.
Tel: 03457 641 641
overseas: +44 131 316 7483.

Iron horses new and The latest Buckingham Rail Cover celebrates The Renationalisation Of The East Coast Mainline, which has come temporarily under the control of the New London North Eastern Railway (LNER). This handsome cover has an evocative painting by artist John Wigston, depicting the history of the line against the backdrop of Waverley Station.



A 17p Flying Scotsman stamp and First Class Machin definitive are cancelled with a special postmark dated 24.06.2018, the renationalisation date •

Buckingham Covers
Warren House
Shearway Road
Folkestone
Kent CT19 4BF
01303 278 137
www.buckinghamcovers.com

Royal Weddings Celebration This souvenir maxi stamp card from Adrian Bradbury has a gallery of the stamp images that have marked the marriages of the Queen's children and two grandchildren. The backing card features a photo of this year's royal newlyweds, Harry and Meghan. The Royal Wedding stamps of May 2018 are the only actual stamps on the sheet and the se-tenant pair sits in pride of place at the top, franked by a pictorial handstamp with a line drawing of Windsor Castle and the first-day Royal Wedding date •



British First Day Covers
BFDC Ltd
3 Link Road Stoneygate
Leicester
LE2 3RA
www.bfdc.co.uk/cards

Great little TV quiz



1 Name the puppeteer who introduced us to the small yellow bear named Sooty, in his TV debut in 1952
a Harry Ramsden
b Harry Corbett
c Harry Corbyn

2 Which founding member of the brilliant *Monty Python* team has just written *Always Look on the Bright Side of Life; A Sortabiography*?
a Eric Idle
b Rick Idell
c Fidel Fiddle

3 The iconic partnership of these two Comedy Greats lasted from 1941 to 1984. Which of them was born in Morecambe?
a Ernie **b** Eric
c Neither of them

4 *Dad's Army*'s Captain Mainwaring was famously played by Arthur Lowe, also well known for which role in *Coronation Street*?
a Leonard Swindley
b Stan Ogden
c Fred Elliot

5 First broadcast by ATV Midlands in 1967, *Captain Scarlet* was produced using an innovative technique that Gerry and Sylvia Anderson termed:
a 'Andersonimation'
b 'Supermarionation'
c 'Supermarinating'

How to enter

Send your answers, along with your contact address or phone number, marked 'Bulletin TV Stamps Quiz' to: Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. Or by email to Tim.Noble @royalmail.com.

Closing date 15 August 2018. **Prizes** Senders of the first ten correct entries drawn from the postbag after the closing date win a *Dad's Army* Presentation Pack.



May Philatelic Flower Quiz solutions 1b, 2c, 3a, 4e, 5g, 6f, 7d. *Winners* A D Laxon, A Allison, P Almond, A Adcock, G Patterson. *May Name That Stamp Solution* Country Definitive, England, 2018. *Winners* C Bishop, P Steventon, A G Wheeler, A Bridgeman, R Sayers.

Rules and regulations 1 Promotions are open to all readers aged 18 and over, except employees of Royal Mail Group Ltd, their business associates and immediate families. 2 Responsibility cannot be accepted for entries which are incomplete, damaged or not received for any reason. Proof of posting is not proof of receipt. 3 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 stated. 5 For prize draws where readers must answer a question, 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 The Editor. ●

You can view more television-themed stamps at www.rmspecialstamps.com

The Glasgow Stamp Shop

Our stamp stock and customer service are first-class



The Glasgow Stamp Shop has been in business since 1908 in various guises but it has always offered collectors a huge stock of GB stamps, philatelic expertise and experience – and a very warm welcome.

Today this family-run business sells stamps all the way back to 1840 but also features a philatelic counter where the current ranges of British stamps are available at Post Office prices.

And you'll never be short of choice: Glasgow Stamp Shop owner Gordon Carroll, a philatelic trader for over 40 years, keeps his stock levels at around 98% of all GB stamps issued.

In-store or online at www.glasgowstampshop.co.uk, you'll be buying the best...

- Massive range of GB stamps from 1840 onwards
- Philatelic counter with new Royal Mail stamps
- Full Sets, Presentation Packs, Prestige Stamp Books, Souvenir Covers and Stamp Cards available
- Comfortable seating area to study our stock at your leisure
- Friendly expert service
- We'll even make you a cup of tea or coffee if you experience philately fatigue!

COME INSIDE...

The Glasgow Stamp Shop
132 West Nile Street
Glasgow G1 2RQ

The original stamp shop opened in Glasgow's West Nile Street in 1908, then moved to various addresses in the city centre. But today we are delighted to declare we are once more trading in West Nile Street, ensuring that the shop's proud tradition of unswervingly serving philatelists continues.

Visit us at www.glasgowstampshop.co.uk, call 0845 602 5506 or email hello@glasgowstampshop.co.uk

Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles Special Stamp issues

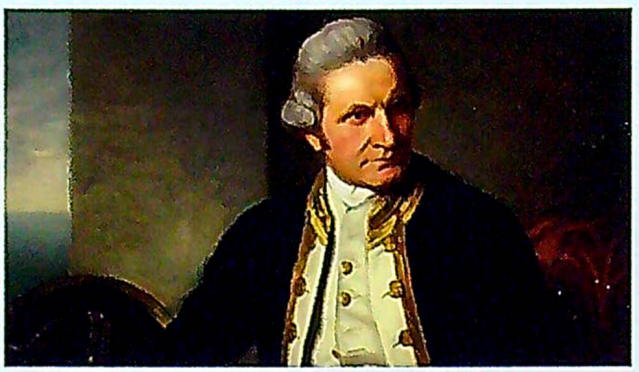


31 July **Issue** Hampton Court Palace: Special Stamps (3 x 1st Class, 3 x £1.55 in 2 rows of se-tenant threes), Miniature Sheet (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.45), Stamp Souvenir, Stamp Sheet Souvenir, Presentation Pack, Postcards (11 in set), Stamp Book (2 x Special Stamps, 4 x 1st Class definitives). Preview: page 328.

11 August **Issue** The Old Vic: Special Stamps (2 x 67p, 2 x £1.25, 2 x £1.45, 2 x £1.55), Stamp Souvenir, Presentation Pack, Postcards (8 in set).



16 August **Issue** Captain Cook and the *Endeavour* Voyage: Special Stamps (2 x 2nd Class, 2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.45 in horizontal se-tenant pairs), Miniature Sheet (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.45), Stamp Souvenir, Stamp Sheet Souvenir, Presentation Pack, Postcards (11 in set), Coin Cover in limited edition of 10,000.



Order all philatelic items, including the stamp products listed above, at www.royalmail.com/stamps or from Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles PO Box 1373, Sunderland SR5 9PG, UK. (Overseas subscribers will need to use a stamp.) Telephone order line (08.30 to 17.00 Monday to Friday): 03457 641 641. From overseas: +44 131 316 7483. Minimum handling charge UK £1.45, Europe £1.55, rest of world (airmail) £2.15. Please quote 18BUL07, the *Bulletin* media code. Selected items are available at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets at main post offices.

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Royal Mail

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