The magazine for collectors of UK stamps

July 2022 | £2.45

Royal Mail

Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 59 No.11



Feline philately



PRIDE SPECIAL STAMPS • MOURNING KGV • SLOW EXPRESS DELIVERY • MPs PAY UP

UPA VIP Series: **'Because' …**

Philatelic Feelings…

Sometimes Collectors get a raw deal, don't they ? For example, whilst on holiday, I remember my wife (a keen plant collector), once spent an extraordinary amount in the sum of £200 for some plants. She paid the bill and was just about to leave when she spotted the company's catalogue (price/ stock list) which she hadn't seen. Being 200 miles away from home she asked if she might have one so that she could use their mail-order next time ? Incredibly she was told the price of the company's pricelist was £5.

Naturally, she didn't buy one, nor did she ever do business with that company again – ALL for the sake of just £5 – that company lost the goodwill of a client who spent £200 on just one *first* visit …

Similarly, some stamp companies are *extraordinarily* mean. Sometimes auction catalogues are not supplied free, or buyer's premiums run at 20%+ levels ***even upon company's own stock***, postage, packing and insurance may be added, scans/ photocopies cost, moreover … not all auctions guarantee their lots – which is hard to understand when these days, so few collectors physically attend auctions in person.

At UPA, collectors really are **Very Important Philatelists** – that's right UPA **VIP's**, and you don't have to spend £200= to be charged £5 extra, or for that matter £40 extra buyer's premium. Indeed 'Buyer's Premium' sounds pretty special doesn't it, until you realise that it is you that is paying the premium, and what is it for ?

Moreover, you don't have to spend or win £200 worth to be charged £5, or even charged £40 more on your 1st visit … at UPA, you will be joining more than 3,000 different collectors (and some dealers), who have spent £75+ and have been refunded back their 1st £55 FREE, so that they can test my company UPA, virtually for free, with no added buyer's premiums to pay, no extra charges for shipping and insurance, wherever you are in the world (light lots delivered UPA Loyalty Post-Free, naturally) …

Finally, your 20,000+ lot quarterly UPA auction catalogue is also FREE. That's 5,000 colour-corrected images and a catalogue that costs £60,000 just to print and post each auction. What is the secret formula that makes all this possible? The answer is **S C A L E**. More collectors bid in UPA auctions than any other auction in the UK (or most of the rest of the world, for that matter) … so, go on … it won't cost you even ONE penny, plus

It's so easy to collect Your Free Catalogue + 1st £55 FREE offer – **NOW! – simply GO to:**

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UPA VIP | **Putting Collectors Like You First**

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Editor Chloe Tuck, Royal Mail, 185 Farringdon Road, Floor MP-03, London EC1A 1AA ● **Design and content creation** Ian Boardman, Adesso Creative Ltd ● Price £2.45 from Post Office Ltd philatelic outlets or by order from Post Office branches ● **12 months' subscriptions** £22.95 UK and Europe; £29.50 rest of the world. Send subscriptions to Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles, PO Box 1373, Sunderland SR5 9PG, UK or subscribe online at royalmail.com/bulletin ● **Binders** (to hold 24 issues) are priced at £4.99 and are available by post or online ● Copyright and editorial rights are reserved by Royal Mail Group Ltd ● All rights reserved ● Reproduction in whole or part is prohibited without prior permission of Royal Mail Group Ltd ● **Printed** in Great Britain by Zenith Print & Packaging Ltd ● **ISSN** 2633 2310 ● Royal Mail is a trading name and registered trade mark of Royal Mail Group Ltd. Registered in England and Wales, number 4138203. Registered office: 185 Farringdon Road, London EC1A 1AA ● Stamp images © Royal Mail Group Ltd.

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Cool for cats





Siamese grooming – *2nd Class*



Ginger cat playing – *1st Class*



Tabby stalking – *2nd Class*



British Shorthair sleeping – *1st Class*

They're out now – the delightful new Royal Mail Special Stamps

Siamese grooming, Tabby stalking and Tabby-and-white stretching © Warren Photographic; Ginger cat playing © YAY Media AS/Alamy Stock Photo; British Shorthair sleeping © Michal Bednarek/Getty Images; Maine Coon staring © Life On White/Alamy Stock Photo; Black-and-white cat on alert © Bailey-Cooper Photography/Alamy Stock Photo; Bengal being curious © Juniors Bildarchiv GmbH/Alamy Stock Photo

Cats – Stamp Specifications

Date of issue	9 June
Number of stamps	Eight – (2 x 2nd Class, 2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.85, 2 x £2.55)
Design	Studio Up
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	41mm x 30mm
Number per sheet	30/60
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	14.5 x 14
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA



Maine Coon staring – *£1.85*



Bengal being curious – *£2.55*



Black-and-white cat on alert – *£1.85*



Tabby-and-white stretching – *£2.55*

When dogs are dubbed man's best friend, who could blame cats for 'feline' jealous? They may not offer the tail-wagging, tongue-lolling loyalty of their canine rivals, but cats have amazed us for millennia, earning our love with their mystery, quirks, hunting prowess and agile beauty.

Now Royal Mail is paying tribute to all things feline with the Cats issue, showing moggies enjoying their favourite activities, including hunting, washing and, of course, sleeping. Familiar breeds featured include the tabby, ginger and Siamese. Issued on 9 June, the eight-stamp set is accompanied by a Presentation Pack, Stamp Souvenir, Postcards, Collector's Sheet, and Full and Half Sheets. Yet we have paid tribute to cats since ancient times: a grave believed to be 9,500-years-old found in Cyprus contained the remains of a cat and its owner, the earliest known association between humans and felines. Discovering their rodent-killing skills which protected granaries, the Egyptians domesticated cats as far back as 1500 BCE (and possibly earlier), and came to worship them. They even put mummified mice in cats' tombs to feed them in the afterlife. The ►



Above: First Day Cover with the Tallents House handstamp. 'Meow' is a typical communication between cat and human, different levels of meow can indicate different demands

Opposite: First Day Cover with the alternative handstamp. The location of Purfleet represents the 'Purrrr' sound made by a happy, contented cat normally made in response to pleasure

prophet Mohammed owned a cat, Muezza; finding the animal snoozing on the sleeve of his prayer robe and needing to wear it, Mohammed cut off the sleeve rather than disturb Muezza's sleep. In the White House, President Abraham Lincoln fed his family cat Tabby using a gold fork. Today, cats are equally revered. There are almost 11 million pet cats in the UK; more than a quarter of British households have one – one of these is Ricky Gervais's: the comic's beloved moggie, Picklicious Fatkins the First, has even been set up with its own Twitter account, which has over 62,000 followers. Perhaps their uncompromising habits and curious quirks are what most endear us to cats – and there is often more to their amusing habits than meets the eye… For example, we smile wryly at all that grooming. Cats spend up to half their waking hours washing – surely a sign of supreme self-regard? Not necessarily: when a cat licks itself, the action encourages healthy blood flow, distributes essential oils around their coat, and cools them down. And that cardboard box your delivery came in – why does your cat instantly climb into it, showing bafflingly avid interest in exploring such a boring, featureless space? Even after thousands of years of domestication, hunting instincts are still hardwired into feline DNA – and experts say a cat sees the box as the ideal spot from which to ambush prey and remain protected against predators. That hardwiring is why felines spend around two-thirds of their lives sleeping. Not because they're naturally languorous or lazy; they're simply storing energy for the hunt.

We can also misunderstand why cats appear to play with their prey before killing them. What owner hasn't shuddered when they see their pet seemingly physically and mentally torture a tiny, helpless mouse, batting



it about like a toy? In fact, your cat is not being cruel, it's being careful. Experts say cats kill cautiously, gradually wearing down their victims, avoiding injury by bite or scratch by making prey too tired to fight back. To be fair, though, cats find hunting fun: stalking, pouncing and the final kill release endorphins, the feel-good hormones. But we can't blame cats for killing. They're classed as obligate carnivores, meaning that to survive they need to eat meat. And physically they're constructed to hunt it… The same mechanism that unsheathes their claws also doubles the width of their paws – formidable weapons for hunting. Their enhanced peripheral vision, with a 200-degree view, compared to humans' 180, helps them spot victims. Their super-sensitive ears swivel independently to vector in on the location of prey by the sound it makes, and can detect the ultrasonic squeaks of a mouse metres away. Yet for all their hunting instincts and killing skills, cats have a tender, vulnerable side, which of course makes them such loveable pets. When your cat stares at you with soft eyes and a slow blinking motion, they're signalling their affection for you. When cats initiate 'bunting', gently butting you with their forehead, they're saying: 'You're my friend'. When they thrust their tail in the air and curl the very end of it, it's a sign they're happy to see you. When they rub furniture with their cheeks, glands release their scent, which reassures them their surroundings are safe and makes them feel secure. And, happily enough, cats make us feel secure. In a recent survey by the charity Cats Protection, 20 per cent of owners said they got a cat simply to reduce stress and anxiety levels in their life. In these uncertain times, then, it seems the perfect moment to celebrate the comfort that our furry feline friends give us ●

Article by Andrew Neish



FD2210-TH



FD2210-PL



FD2210-NP

The Presentation Pack is an adorable souvenir which includes all eight Special Stamps. Insight is offered into the history of the human-cat relationship, cat tail meanings and a brief guide to different breeds. It's all you need to help you get a better understanding of your pet. The eight stamps feature various breeds of cat doing what they do best, grooming, stalking, playing, sleeping, staring, being on alert, being curious and stretching!

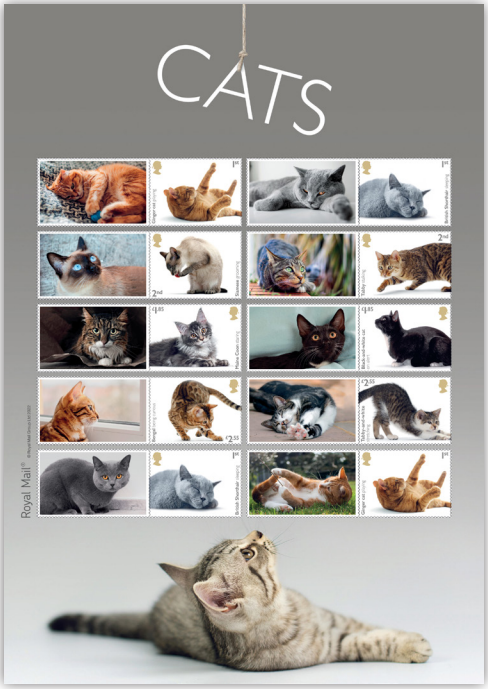


Presentation Pack inner



Presentation Pack outer





Collector's Sheet

Cats – Prices	
Set of 8 Special Stamps	£12.06
Presentation Pack	£12.96
First Day Cover Stamps	£15.15
Stamp Souvenir	£15.15
First Day Envelope	£0.30
Postcards (8 in set)	£3.60
Collector's Sheet	£15.20
Framed Stamps	£29.99
Framed Collector's Sheet	£29.99
Half Stamp Sheet (30 x 2nd Class)	£20.40
Full Stamp Sheet (60 x 2nd Class)	£40.80
Half Stamp Sheet (30 x 1st Class)	£28.50
Full Stamp Sheet (60 x 1st Class)	£57.00
Half Stamp Sheet (30 x £1.85)	£55.50
Full Stamp Sheet (60 x £1.85)	£111
Half Stamp Sheet (30 x £2.55)	£76.50
Full Stamp Sheet (60 x £2.55)	£153

cats quiz



1 What is the name of the ginger cat on this stamp from 1995?
a) Fred
b) Chloe
c) Felix

2 Cats have peripheral vision of how many degrees?
a) 200
b) 220
c) 240

3 What was the name of the famous Post Office cat that was born in 1950?
a) Tigger
b) Tabby
c) Tibs



4 Who is credited with inventing the cat flap?
a) Sir Isaac Newton
b) Albert Einstein
c) Thomas Edison

5 How many whiskers does a cat typically have?
a) 22 b) 24 c) 26

6 Cats 'meow' to communicate with..?
a) other cats
b) dogs
c) humans

How to enter Please send your answers, with your contact address or phone number, marked 'Cats Quiz', to: Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. Or by email to chloe.tuck@royalmail.com.

Prizes The first five correct entries drawn after the closing date win the Cats Presentation Pack.

Closing Date 15 August 2022.

April solutions Migratory Birds 1) a 2) b 3) c 4) a 5) b
Winners Miss Marian Phillips, Chippenham; Malcolm Brown, Sprowston; Mr E Gilbert, Takeley; Graham Derbyshire; Glusburn; Celia Rhodes, Pyrford.

Terms and conditions Promotions are open to any reader aged 18 or over, except employees of Royal Mail Group Ltd, their business associates and immediate families. Responsibility cannot be accepted for entries which are incomplete, damaged or not received. Proof of posting is not proof of receipt. Prizes must be accepted as offered; they are not transferable and there are no cash alternatives. Winners are notified within 28 days of closing date stated. 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. Royal Mail's decision is final. No correspondence will be entered into. Entry implies acceptance of these rules. Prizes are subject to 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. The winners' names are available 28 days after closing date. To receive this please send an SAE to The Editor.

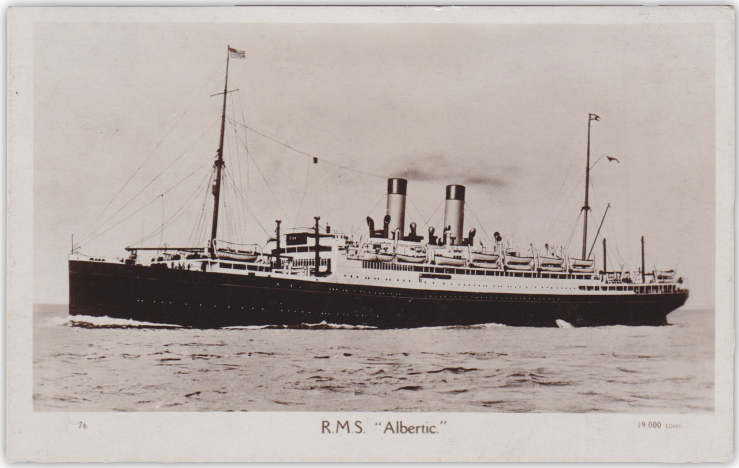
Paquebot postcards

Sometimes you won, sometimes you lost

The UPU *Paquebot* service is well known among collectors as a source of 'used abroad' cancellations on stamps. The general idea is that letters posted on board a ship at sea are handed in to the local post office at its next port of call; since the ship uses the stamps and postage rates of its own country, but that port can be anywhere in the world, the end result is often stamps of one country with the postmarks of another. (The ones used typically include the word *Paquebot*, and/or terms such as 'posted at sea' or 'maritime mail'.) Of course, the port of call could equally well be in the ship's *own* country – in which case the result looks just like ordinary mail of that country, except for the postmarks. Covers with GB stamps and British *Paquebot* cancellations are quite common, typically seen from cruise ships heading back to their home port.

The regulations for '*postal packets deposited in a letter box on board a British ship or in the hands of the commander of such ship or of a postal agent on board such ship*' noted that if '*deposited when the ship is on the high seas, such packet shall, with reference to the several rates of postage… be treated as an outgoing postal packet*'[1]. In other words, the

[1] Quoted in this case from the *Foreign and Colonial Post Warrant 1921*, although the wording did not change much over the years.



1927: a picture postcard of the *RMS Albertic*, apparently sent by a passenger, but prepaid only the 1d inland rate not the 1½d overseas rate. On arrival the stamp was cancelled with a Liverpool 'Paquebot / Posted at Sea' datestamp and a surcharge raised for double the deficiency (466 was the office code for Liverpool). The recipient in Huddersfield was charged 1d on delivery. The ship had recently been transferred to the White Star Line, and sailed on the service between Britain, Canada and the USA from April 1927 to August 1930



rates for overseas mail applied. Therein lay a catch: this rule meant that *all* mail posted on a British ship was treated as overseas mail, even when landed at a British port – and this included mail to a British address.

This could result in a curious situation whereby mail paid with GB stamps, postmarked at a British port, and addressed to somewhere in Britain had to be paid at the overseas rate. For letter mail this generally made no practical difference – the 'Imperial' rates of 1898-1975 were set to be the same as the current inland rate, and Britain was by definition a destination in the British Empire. In some other cases, however, the difference was significant – although whether that meant the sender had to pay more or less than the inland rate depended on the circumstances.

Postcards in particular had this problem. They were just the sort of thing that passengers on cruise liners would want to send to friends and relations in Britain, but until 1935 there was no special Imperial postcard rate. The result was a large number of cards posted on ships heading into British ports that were paid at the cheaper inland postcard rate – the senders presumably being unaware of the fine print of the international regulations, and acting ►



1925: small postal notice on the subject of rates of postage from British ships on the high seas (possibly intended to be made available on board?). It notes in bold type: 'Special attention is directed to the rate of postage for postcards. Many postcards are posted incorrectly prepaid 1d. only, and are consequently surcharged on delivery.' It seems unlikely that this made a lot of difference, although the Post Office could at least say that it had attempted to highlight the problem!

RATES OF POSTAGE FROM BRITISH SHIPS ON HIGH SEAS AND FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM.

All persons posting letters, etc., on board British ships on the High Seas are entitled to prepay them by means of British postage stamps.

The rates from British ships on the High Seas and from the United Kingdom are :—

LETTERS.

From the High Seas for the United Kingdom. **From the United Kingdom or the High Seas** for any British Dominion, Colony, Possession or Protectorate included in the Imperial Postage System, and Egypt, also letters addressed to the United States of America posted in the United Kingdom or on a British ship *conveying mails directly between the United Kingdom and the United States of America.*	1½d. for first oz., and 1d. for each additional oz.
For all other destinations, including Iraq, Palestine and China (except Wei-hai-wei)	2½d. for first oz., and 1½d. for each additional oz.

POSTCARDS.

From the High Seas for the United Kingdom. **From the United Kingdom or the High Seas** for all destinations abroad *including British Possessions and the United States of America.*	**1½d. each.**

PRINTED PAPERS.

For all destinations : .... ½d. per 2 oz.

Special attention is directed to the rate of postage for postcards. Many postcards are posted incorrectly prepaid 1d. only, and are consequently surcharged on delivery.

General Post Office, London,
March, 1925.

Printed for H.M. Stationery Office by Henderson & Spalding Ltd., Sylvan Grove, S.E.15.
P. 590 (Rev. 36569/25. (Z3914) Wt 26302/689 5,000 4/25 H & Sp Gp 161

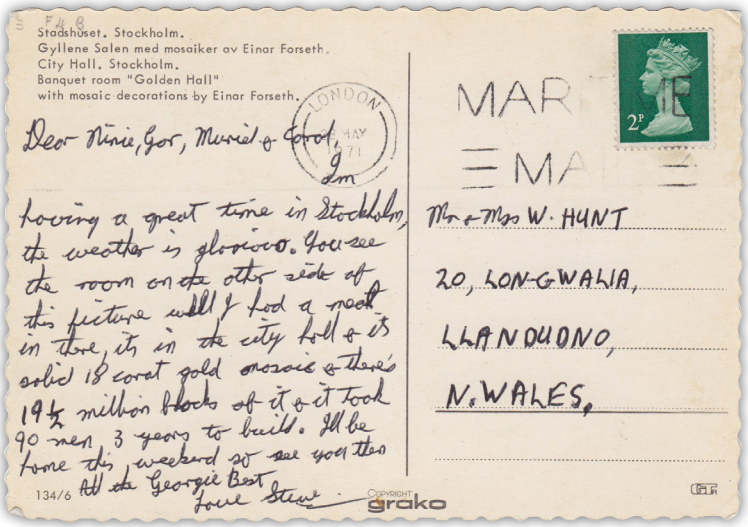


on the natural assumption that a card from a British port to someone in Britain was an inland item. This evidently caused enough confusion that Post Office notices specifically drew attention to it (although not to the corollary that senders would save on postage by waiting until they arrived on land and posting the cards there).

However, for a short time after decimalisation in 1971, the *opposite* situation applied. Special rates for inland postcards came to an end in 1968 upon the introduction of two-tier post – mail was now either first or second class depending only on the rate paid, whatever the format or contents – but there continued to be overseas postcard rates. On 'D-Day', 15 February 1971, the basic £sd rates for surface mail were directly translated to their £p equivalents, which in some cases were actually less than the inland equivalents (which had seen a rate increase along with decimalisation)[2]. The worldwide postcard rate of 5d became 2p, although the cheapest inland rate was now 2½p second class – a situation that lasted until 1 July when the new UPU convention came into effect and rates were raised. So for a few months, an alert traveller returning home could save 20% on their postage on cards to GB addresses, by the simple expedient of posting them on board the ship while it was still at sea!

Article by Maurice Buxton FRPSL

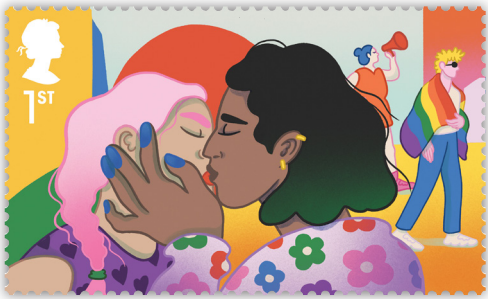
[2] For more details of decimalisation see the *Royal Mail Philatelic Bulletin* for February and March 2021.



May 1971: a card from a tourist who was visiting Stockholm, posted on board ship to a Welsh address and landed in London (with a 'Maritime Mail' machine cancellation). Paid at the cheaper 2p rate



Issued on 1 July



First Class



First Class



£1.85



£1.85

Royal Mail celebrates the UK's 50 years of Pride progress

Pride – Stamp Specifications	
Date of issue	1 July
Number of stamps	Eight – (4 x 1st Class, 4 x £1.85)
Design	NB Studio
Illustrations	Sofie Birkin
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	50mm x 30mm
Number per sheet	30/60
Printer	Cartor Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	14 x 14
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA



First Class



First Class



£1.85



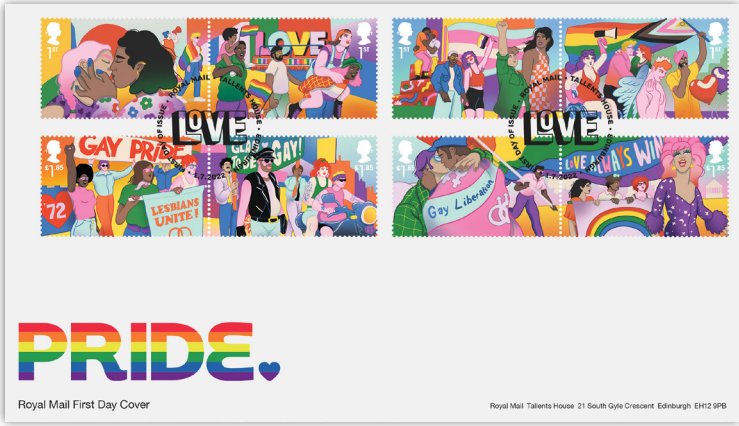
£1.85

The first march for LGBTQ+ rights with the name 'Gay Pride Rally' took place on a summer's afternoon on 1 July 1972. And to celebrate the event 50 years to the day, Royal Mail has issued eight vibrant stamps illustrated by the British artist, Sofie Birkin. The march that took place from Trafalgar Square to Hyde Park was inspired by events in the USA, where the first Pride events had taken place to commemorate the anniversary of the Stonewall riots.

The Stonewall uprising consisted of a number of demonstrations by members of the gay community as a result of a violent police raid in the early hours of 28 June 1969, at the Stonewall Inn gay bar in Greenwich Village, Lower Manhattan in New York City. Many of the neighbourhood's LGBTQ+ community retaliated and fought back to repel police aggression, the tension having been brewing after several recent police raids on local gay bars. The riots are widely considered to be the catalyst that transformed the gay liberation movement and the twentieth-century fight for LGBTQ+ rights in the United States and beyond. The following year to mark the anniversary of the uprising, the first gay pride marches took place in Chicago, Los Angeles, New York, and San Francisco. Subsequently gay rights organizations were founded across the US and around the world.

It wasn't only in the States that persecution of the gay community by police was reported. This was one of the issues that was addressed in February 1978 when the Tom Robinson Band ►

First Day Cover with the Tallents House handstamp



The First Day Cover with the alternative postmark which has the London WC2 location – the district of the first Pride festival in 1972



The Pride Long Envelope (Limited Edition Stamp Souvenir) which also features all eight Special Stamps



FD2211-TH



FD2211-PL



FD2211-NP



released a single which many consider to be Britain's national gay anthem, *Glad to be Gay*. Robinson's lyrics sarcastically label the British police 'the best in the world' before highlighting similar attacks on homosexuals to those that had precipitated the Stonewall riots. More words saturated with sarcasm follow with: 'I don't believe that sort of thing happens here'. The song also attacked the hypocrisy of the British media and society's tolerance of soft porn in family newspapers – 'Pictures of naked young women are fun, in *Titbits* and *Playboy*, page three of *The Sun*' whilst conversely he reasons 'There's no nudes in *Gay News*, our one magazine, but they still find excuses to call it obscene' – *Gay News* without any images was prosecuted for obscenity. Robinson also speaks out against broader prejudices against the gay community and the hatred fomented that resulted in a vicious and unprovoked attack on a friend. The song's title that's repeated several times in the chorus – *Glad to be Gay,* is also lettered on one of the £1.85 value stamps.

The stamps are accompanied by a Presentation Pack that's written by Amelia Abraham, who tells the story of Pride in the UK from the 1972 rally up until the modern era and the usage of the Progress flag. Other products complementing the stamps include a Collector's Sheet, Postcards and a choice of three Coin Covers in BU, Silver or Gold.

Pride has snowballed over the last five decades with London, Cardiff, Manchester and Edinburgh all hosting celebratory events attracting millions. The parades, concerts and parties embrace an ever widening range of identities, and Royal Mail, as expressed through this stamp issue, is very supportive of efforts to facilitate better inclusion for all LGBTQ+ people in the UK •



Above: The Pride Filler Card, and below is the Pride Long Envelope Filler Card





Presentation Pack and (below) Presentation Pack outer

Below: Presentation Pack inner





Pride BU Coin Cover



Pride BU Coin Cover Insert



Pride Silver Coin Cover



Pride Collector's Sheet



Pride Gold Coin Cover, and below the Coin Cover's hand-stamp and Silver Coloured Coin Reverse





Pride – Prices	
Set of 8 Special Stamps	£11.20
Presentation Pack	£12.10
First Day Cover Stamps	£14.10
Stamp Souvenir	£14.10
Limited Edition Stamp Souvenir	£15.99
First Day Envelope	£0.30
Postcards (8 in set)	£3.60
Collector's Sheet	£12.40
Framed Stamps	£29.99
Framed Collector's Sheet	£29.99
Framed Kiss Stamp	£29.99
BU Coin Cover	£17.50
Silver Coin Cover	£67.50
Gold Coin Cover	£1,095
Half Stamp Sheet (30 x 1st Class)*	£28.50
Full Stamp Sheet (60 x 1st Class)*	£57
Half Stamp Sheet (30 x £1.85)*	£55.50
Full Stamp Sheet (60 x £1.85)*	£111

choice of two

Mourning the king of philately

In recent years, and philatelically that could be considered the last 70, there have been stamps issued in remembrance of people such as Diana, Princess of Wales, The Queen Mother, Winston Churchill, and Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. However, before then there was no precedent for a memorial issue. Since 1840 when postage stamps began, there have been four monarchs who have reigned and died without any memorial stamp issued, but it was certainly considered on the death of King George V in 1936, the 'king of philately'. Before that date in a space of just over a year, three other countries had decided to honour and acknowledge the death of a president, a king and a queen consort. The president was Paul von Hindenburg of Germany who died on 2 August 1934, having been a general and statesman who had led the Imperial German Army during World War I, and later became President from 1925. A regular issue of 14 definitive stamps of different values with the Hindenburg medallion image was issued from April 1933, and it was six of these stamps that were speedily re-worked into a memorial issue with a mourning overprint of a black border on each stamp. Time was of the essence as it was appropriate for these

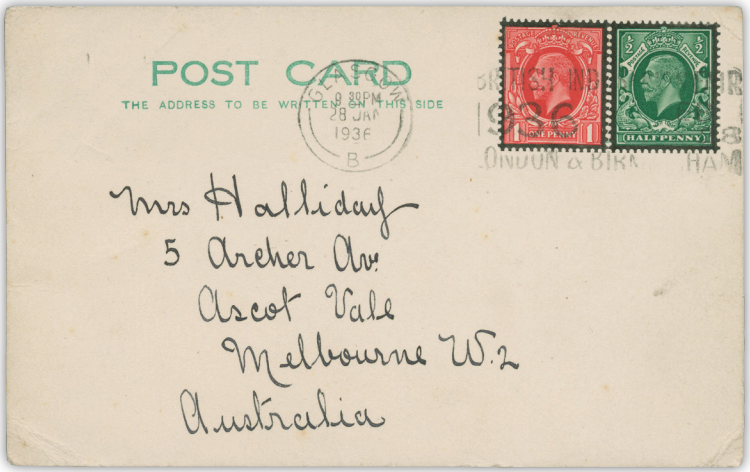
The internment in burial of a member of the Royal Family is usually preceded by a lying-in-state in Westminster Hall in London, and this postcard shows that event in the last week of January 1936 of 'His Late Beloved Majesty King George V'



stamps to be available as soon as possible, and the delay of 31 days was minimal with issue on 4 September 1934. A month later, King Alexander I of Yugoslavia died unexpectedly on 9 October 1934. Two definitive stamps with his portrait had been issued on 18 August, nearly nine weeks earlier with a view to continuing the issue with other values. And so on 17 October they were – 14 different values which included the first two again, all with a black border extending over the perforations. In the following year of 1935, a Queen Consort was also honoured in the same way with definitive stamps with her portrait and a black border as a sign of mourning – Queen Astrid of the Belgians, with her unexpected death on 29 August 1935. These memorial stamps began with a single stamp issued on 3 October, only weeks after her death, and a further seven stamps on 1 December 1935. Examples of these three memorial issues are shown overleaf (p 343).

With this international precedent, it was expected that a similar issue signifying mourning might be considered for King George V. However, some members of the 'general public' decided to produce items of their own. As is known, King George was a keen philatelist and collector of stamps of the British Empire, most of which, but not all, had his image within the overall design. When the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists was begun in 1920 to acknowledge those across the world, King George was invited to be the first signatory. His stamp collection survives as the Royal Philatelic Collection which has been added to through the years and belongs personally to the reigning sovereign, unlike the Royal Collection which belongs to the state.

Before the funeral of the King, a lying-in-state took place at Westminster Hall and sepia postcards were produced featuring this event, and an example is shown opposite. The postcard below was sent from Glasgow to Melbourne in Australia on 28 January 1936, the day of the monarch's funeral. The artist J Walker had taken two definitive stamps and unofficially applied hand-painted black borders to create mourning or memorial stamps. The ►



Artist J Walker decided to hand-paint the edges of two stamps 'In Mourning' for the king, and posted the card, addressed to Australia, on the day of the funeral on 28 January 1936. Although the stamps were de-faced and technically invalid, no mention was made on the card which continued on its long journey

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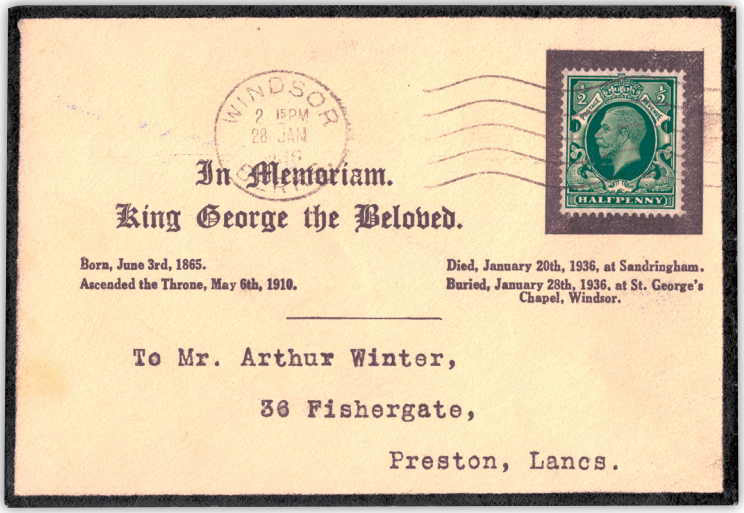
The 4d Green and Brown and 9d Purple and Blue, from the Queen Victoria Jubilee set issued on 1 January 1887

card passed through the postal system without any written comment added, despite the stamps being de-faced and technically invalid. Fortunately, it survived, now as a memorial in its own right. The printing of colour on perforations with colour 'bleeding off' the edges of stamps, as per Walker's manipulated black border, was not new to Britain, as four of the Victorian Jubilee issue stamps had printing on the 'fringes'. This design innovation presented technical challenges for the printers De La Rue but they overcame them enabling the issue of the first two stamps styled this way, the 4d and 9d, on 1 January 1887.

A more traditional way to signify mourning is with the envelope or postcard, where a black edge is printed. In Victorian times, with the announcement by post of a death and often with a printed card, the envelope would have a black edge surround, and many of these have survived. Illustrated below is a later one designed, printed, and made available within days of the death of King George V. With full details of birth, ascension to the throne, date and place of death, and of burial, the postmark is from Windsor at 2.15pm on 28 January, the day of the funeral at St. George's Chapel, Windsor. The receiver, Mr Arthur Winter in Preston, Lancashire, was a known keen philatelist who collected and obtained postal covers from around the world, and would have arranged for these with haste. This one has a ½d green stamp of the recently deceased king. Mr Winter would have sent them to the postmaster at Windsor under cover and with a letter requesting postage on the 28th. To signify mourning in the traditional way, a black square has been printed for the stamp to be placed upon, rather than the white perforation edge being blackened by ink or paint.

The greatest legacy of 'the king of philately' has to be the Royal Philatelic Collection, but his involvement with stamps began as a young man. Some members of the royal family are known to have been collecting stamps by

The cover with mourning black-edge produced 'In Memoriam' for a 'beloved' king within days of the death of King George V



1864, just under twenty-five years after their introduction in 1840. The first serious collector in the family was Prince Alfred, who sold his collection to his older brother King Edward VII, who gave it to his son, later King George V, who became one of the notable philatelists of his time. In 1893 and as Duke of York, he was elected honorary vice-president of what became the Royal Philatelic Society London. On his marriage that year, fellow members of the society gave him an album of nearly 1,500 stamps as a wedding present. He expanded his collection, and as king requested that he received a block of four of each new issue from across the British Empire. These were all housed in 328 'Red Albums' with around 60 pages in each. Later additions in the time of his son, King George VI, were in 'Blue Albums', and for his grand-daughter, our present Queen Elizabeth II, in 'Green Albums'. The collection was kept at Buckingham Palace until moved in recent years to St. James's Palace, returning to Buckingham Palace in 2019.

As the king of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and of the British Empire, George V appeared hard-working and became widely admired by the people of Britain and the Empire. With his wife Queen Mary, they were an 'inseparably devoted couple' who upheld character and family values, and as king he invariably wielded his influence as a force of neutrality and moderation, seeing his role as mediator rather than final decision maker. By the Silver Jubilee of his reign in 1935 he had become a well-loved king, saying in response to a crowd's adulation, 'I cannot understand it, after all I am only a very ordinary sort of fellow'. That may or may not be, but we in this philatelic and stamp world remember him with respect for his support and involvement in our hobby ●

Article by Dane Garrod FRPSL

In next month's *Bulletin* we will be presenting the essays and story behind the GPO's proposed King George V memorial stamps



From left to right are black-edged mourning stamps of President Hindenburg of Germany, Queen Astrid of the Belgians, amd King Alexander I of Yugoslavia

Parliamentary envelopes of 1840

One could readily argue that the greatest change to the delivery of correspondence and the payment of the cost of postage took place within the years just prior to, and during 1840. For many decades before then, there had been misuse of the facility of postage offered. Throughout the eighteenth century the resolution to the problem was considered and regulations changed. The cost of postage was considerable when compared to wages earned with the cost of transportation of letters based upon mileage for the letter to travel, and a fee per sheet. However, Members of Parliament had privilege with an element of free postage, within limitations, which were laid down in a Parliamentary Act of 1784. In 1795 the squeeze was intensified in order to limit these items that raised no revenue for the country. The permissible weight of each letter was reduced from two ounces to one ounce, and Members could no longer send and receive letter and packets to any number per day, but were limited to ten sent and fifteen received.

By 1837, change was long overdue, and a Committee on Postal Reform reviewed the whole range of the Posts. On 5 December 1839 the short-lived Uniform Fourpenny Post was introduced, and lasted until 9 January 1840. On the following day new measures came into effect with the Uniform Penny

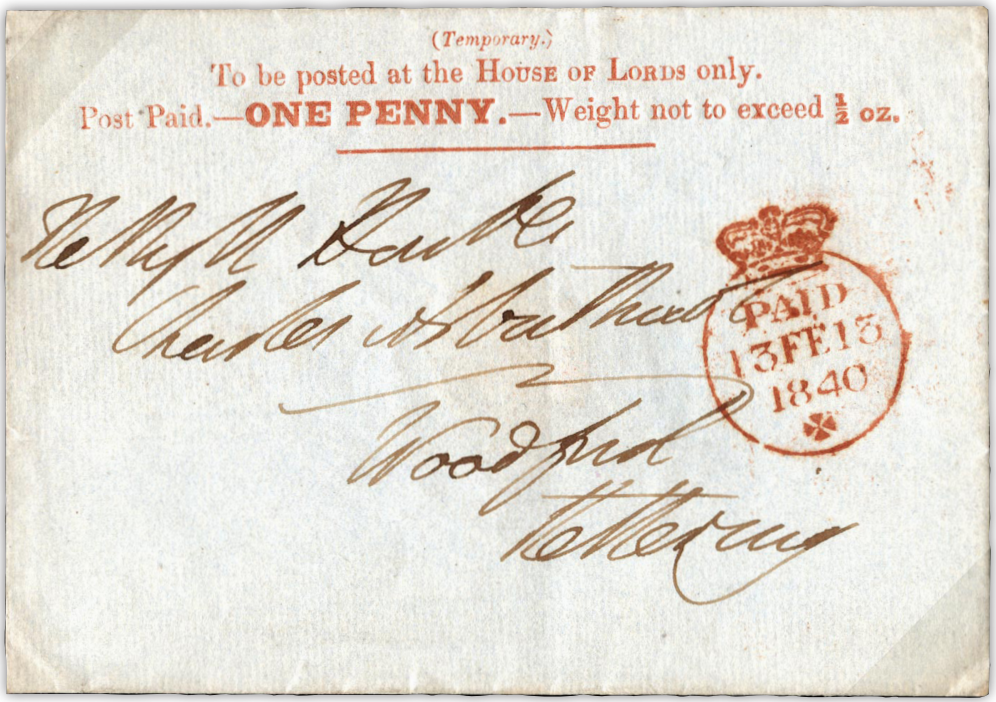


The 'Houses of Parliament only' envelope, postmarked on 13 February 1840 and sent from London to Manchester at the two-pence rate for weight not exceeding one ounce

Post. During this period from 10 January to 6 May 1840 with the issue of the Penny Black postage stamp and Mulready envelopes, Parliamentary envelopes were temporarily in use with the fee designated thereon. Understandably, with their use for under four months, the survival rate is minimal. The cover shown with 'To be posted at the Houses of Parliament only' clearly signifies the restrictive use. The signature of the sender was no longer obligatory, but 'old habits die hard' and so Charles Villiers has signed as he had no doubt many times before with 'Free' postage. Described by another MP as the 'solitary Robinson Crusoe standing on the barren rock of Corn Law repeal', he is the longest serving Member of Parliament to a record 63 years.

The cover from the House of Lords was sent to Charles Arbuthnot, a good friend of the Duke of Wellington, to Woodford House in Northamptonshire, an early 19th century mansion that was the home of the Arbuthnot family. The cost of postage on this envelope was one penny for the half-ounce maximum weight, whereas the other cover was rated at two-pence to cover double the weight to one ounce. The rarity of these surviving envelopes is shown by the belief that only five are known of the 'Houses of Parliament' envelope, unless you perhaps know otherwise…

Article by Dane Garrod FRPSL



The 'House of Lords only' envelope, also postmarked on 13 February 1840, and addressed to the Arbuthnot home at Woodford, near Kettering in Northamptonshire

Images reproduced with the kind permission of Stanley Gibbons.

A very slow Express Delivery

If someone pays extra for express delivery service, they are expecting that their letter will be delivered at the earliest possible opportunity. And to be fair, the letter shown here was delivered at the earliest possible opportunity. Unfortunately, that opportunity was nearly five years after it was posted. It was sent on 6 June 1940 by a firm of international transport agents in Novara in north-west Italy, addressed to another such firm in Yorkshire – at this point in World War II Italy was still officially neutral, so commerce with the UK remained possible. Senders Messrs Ambrosoli & Villa paid an extra 2.50 lire for express post (perhaps in the expectation that delays would be caused by censorship and the general wartime chaos). It seems that the letter was still in the hands of the French post office on 10 June, on which date Italy finally declared war on France and the UK. The subsequent armistices between France and the Axis powers came into effect only a fortnight later on 25 June, and the expectation would have been that mail such as this was going to end up 'lost in transit'.

However, in April and May 1945, when the war in Europe was nearly over, the British post office received some 200 mailbags that had been concealed from the Germans by the French postal authorities (doubtless at some risk to themselves). These contained a mixture of mail from the UK for abroad, mail from abroad for the UK (over half the total), some transit mail, and post that had been intended for members of the British Expeditionary Force in France



in 1940. The Postal Services Department received a letter from the French Postal Administration, which read in part: 'In consequence of the events which occurred in France in the month of June 1940 a large number of closed mails and letters to and from foreign countries were blockaded in the postal service in the occupied zone of France… My Administration considered it to be its duty to shield from German control such mails and correspondence originating in or destined for countries at war with the Axis powers, notably Great Britain, until circumstances would permit of their being forwarded under normal conditions. To that end all these letters and mails were collected together and measures taken to guard them from the investigations of the authorities of the Reich.'

A report from the Divisional Controller, London Postal Region, to the Postal Services Department (Overseas Mail Branch) dated 6 May 1945 noted: '…The correspondence contained in the mails for this country (category (b)) was stamped with the legend "Detained in France during German Occupation" and was released for delivery after the appearance of the relative press notices in the evening newspapers of Saturday, the 14 April, and the following Sunday newspapers… The care and thoroughness with which the French Administration has performed this work is remarkable, particularly in the circumstances under which it was done, and it may not perhaps be regarded as out of place to suggest that an expression of the P.M.G.'s thanks be conveyed to them.'

The 'legend' referred to was a boxed handstamp reading 'DETAINED IN FRANCE / DURING GERMAN/ OCCUPATION', which is seen on a wide range of items from these mailbags. The letter here also received a strike of the boxed 'EXPRESS FEE PAID' handstamp, used on incoming express letters to show that the fees had been paid by the sender – so it appears that the letter was at least given express service for the last part of its journey, despite the five year delay!

Article by Maurice Buxton FRPSL



Images and insight into Lep Transport Limited can be found at https://ccmv.aecsouthall.co.uk



Due to the recent pandemic and occasional cancellations, you may wish to check that a particular stamp fair is going to take place, and so details of contacts and telephone numbers are given.

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

During July, **The Great Britain Philatelic Society** has a ZOOM meeting from 2pm to 3pm on Saturday 16 July when Chris Hibbert will speak about 'Additional Strikes of the Maltese Cross', and show examples to those who have joined the meeting. You are welcome to do so by contacting Phil Waud at secretary@gbps.org.uk, who will give guidance and make arrangements for you. The final meeting of the season at **The Royal Philatelic Society London** will be from 1pm on Thursday 7 July when the 'Devonshire Bowl' One Frame Competition will take place. This will cover many subjects with something of particular interest for everyone, and is at their premises at 15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BW. You are welcome to attend this meeting, but should you wish to do so as a non-member, then please make a telephone call during weekday office hours prior to the meeting day to the Adminstration Manager, Jason Webber, on 020 7486 1044. **The National Philatelic Society** will meet at The Phoenix Centre, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL on Saturday 9 July with the Annual General Meeting at 11am followed by an auction and displays by members.

2 July Bilsborrow Stamp Fair, Village Hall, Bilsborrow (6 mls N of Preston) PR3 0RE, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Fred O'Reilly, 01226 765069.

Bournemouth Stamp Fair, Pelhams Park, Millhams Road, Kinson, Bournemouth BH10 7LH, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Peter Jones, 01489 582673.

Charing Cross Market, 1 Embankment Place, Villiers Street, London WC2N 6RH, 7am to 3pm. Enquiries: Bridget Petticrew, 07540 144433.

Croydon Stamp Fair, Shirley Methodist Church Hall, Eldon Avenue, Croydon CR0 8SD, 9am to 3pm. Enquiries: Ray McQuade, 020 8395 9285.

Eastbourne Stamp Fair, St. Mary's Church Hall, Decoy Drive, Hampden Park, Eastbourne BN22 9PP, 9.30am to 3pm. Enquiries: Chris Rapley, 01795 478175.

Leicester Stamp Fair, The Holiday Inn, 129 St. Nicholas Circle, Leicester LE1 5LX, 9.30am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: John Suschitzky, 01162 350441.

PHILANGLIA 2022 at Burgess Hall, Westwood Drive, St. Ives (Cambs.) PE27 6WU, 10am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: Tony Hender, 01328 829318.

Sutton Coldfield Stamp Fair, Methodist Church Hall, South Parade, Sutton Coldfield B72 1QY, 9.30am to 3.30pm, up to 8 dealers. Enquiries: John Rice, 01785 259350.

Swindon Stamp Fair, Lawn Community Centre, Guildford Avenue, Swindon SN3 1LA, 10am to 3pm. Enquiries: John Puttock, 01793 542767.

Wigginton Stamp Fair, Recreation Hall, Wigginton, York YO32 2PL, 9am to 2pm. Enquiries: Mike Lewis, 07742 153669.

3 July Lincoln Stamp Fair, Village Hall, Hawthorn Road, Reepham LN3 4DU, 9.30am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: Tony Limb, 07562 570562.

Milton Keynes Stamp Fair, Irish Centre, Manor Fields, Watling Street, Fenny Stratford MK2 2HX, 10am to 3pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845.

Newcastle-under-Lyme Stamp Fair, Community Centre, Wye Road, Newcastle-under-Lyme ST5 4AZ, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Simon Collyer, 07966 565151.

Oxford Stamp Fair, Botley W.I. Hall, North Hinksey Lane, off Botley Road, Oxford OX2 0LT, 10am to 1.30pm. Enquiries: Tristan Brittain, 07957 158299.

Worthing Stamp Fair, Heene Community Centre, 122 Heene Road, Worthing BN11 4PL, 9.30am to 3pm. Enquiries: John Perriman, 01903 244875.

7 July North Cornelly Stamp Fair, Green Acre Motel, Heol Fach, North Cornelly CF33 4LH, 9am to 1pm. Enquiries: Trevor King, 01522 857343.

8 July Cardiff Canton Stamp Fair, St. Catherine's Church Hall, 169 Kings Road, Cardiff CF11 9DE, 9am to 1pm. Enquiries: Trevor King, 01522 857343.

Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, Russell Square, London WC1H 0DG, 9am to 3pm. Enquiries: Kate Puleston, 020 8946 4489.

9 July Charing Cross Market (as entry for 2 July).

Derby Stamp Fair, Nunsfield House Community Hall, 33 Boulton Road, Alveston DE24 0FD, 9.30am to 4pm. Enquiries: Kevin Johnson, 07808 665472.

Great Barr Stamp Fair, Collingwood Centre, Collingwood Drive, Pheasey, Great Barr B43 7NF, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Dave Burnett, 07765 792998.

Margate Collectors' Fair, Union Church, Union Crescent, Margate CT9 1NR, 10am to 3pm. Enquiries: Clive Baker, 07802 402873.

Norton (Teesside) Stamp Fair, Methodist Church Hall, High Street, Norton TS20 2QQ, 9.30am to 1.30pm. Enquiries: Mike Lewis, 07742 153669.

Rawreth Stamp Fair, Parish Hall, Church Road, Rawreth SS11 8SH, 9am to 3pm. Enquiries: Sarah Brooks, 07786 302722.

Telford Stamp and Card Fair, Belmont Hall, Wellington, Telford TF1 1HJ, 10am to 2pm. Enquiries: Richard Camp, 01952 405458.

Upminster Stamp Fair, St. Laurence Church Hall, Corbets Tey Road, Upminster RM14 2AJ, 10am to 3pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845.

10 July Wokingham Stamp Fair, St. Crispin's Centre, Wokingham RG40 1SS, 10am to 2pm. Enquiries: Tristan Brittain, 07957 158299.

14 July East Horsley Stamp Club Fair, Kingston Avenue, East Horsley KT24 6QT, 12pm to 3pm. Enquiries: Martin Mathewson, 01932 565814.

15 & 16 July York Stamp & Coin Fair, The Grandstand, York Racecourse, YO23 1EX, Friday 10am to 5pm, Saturday 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Chris Rainey 01793 513431.

16 July Brighton Stamp Fair, Church of the Good Shepherd Hall, 272 Dyke Road, Brighton BN1 5AE, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: John Perriman, 01903 244875.

Charing Cross Market (as entry for 2 July).

Chester Stamp Fair, Hoole United Reformed Church, Hoole Road, Chester CH2 3AU, 10am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: Terry Barnett, 01514 862610.

Colchester Stamp Fair, Parish Hall, Old London Road, Marks Tey CO6 1EN, 9.30am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: Lorne Webb, 01424 751518.

Hull Stamp Fair, St. James's Centre, 169 First Lane, Hessle, HU13 9EY, 9.30am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: Kevin Johnson, 07808 665472.

Northampton Stamp Fair, The Abbey Centre, East Hunsbury, Northampton NN4 0RZ, 9.30am to 3pm. Enquiries: Tristan Brittain, 07957 158299.

Plymstock Stamp Fair, Plymstock Community Centre, 6 Memory Lane (the Broadway car park), Plymouth PL9 9GH, 9.30am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: Rex Eccott, 01288 381489.

Southampton Stamp Fair, Methodist Hall, St. James Road, Shirley, Southampton S015 5HE, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Peter Jones, 01489 582673.

17 July Dover Stamp Fair, Biggin Hall, Biggin Street, Dover CT16 1BD, 9.30am to 2pm. Enquiries: Keith Shepherd, 07718 157826.

Dronfield Stamp Fair, Village Hall, Coal Aston, Dronfield S18 3AX, 9.30am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: Kevin Johnson, 07808 665472.

Knowle Stamp Fair, Village Hall, St. John's Close, Knowle, Solihull B93 0NH, 9.30am to 2.30pm, up to 15 dealers. Enquiries: Andrew Vaughan, 07824 775979.

Norwich Stamp Fair, Brook Hotel, Barnard Road, Bowthorpe, Norwich NR5 9JB, 10am to 3pm. Enquiries: Tony Hender, 01328 829318.

23 July Charing Cross Market (as entry for 2 July).

Petersfield Stamp Fair, Community Centre, off Love Lane, Petersfield GU31 4BW, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Peter Jones, 01489 582673.

24 July Bexley Stamp Fair, Freemantle Hall, High Street, Bexley DA5 1AA, 9am to 2pm. Enquiries: Lorne Webb, 01424 751518.

30 July Charing Cross Market (as entry for 2 July).

Coventry Stamp Fair, Shilton Village Hall, Wood Lane, Coventry CV7 9JZ, 10am to 1pm. Enquiries: Dave Mann, 07976 797975.

Ealing Stamp Fair, Kingsdown Baptist Church Hall, Northfields Avenue, Ealing W13 9PR, 9am to 1pm. Enquiries: Tristan Brittain, 07957 158299.

Liverpool Stamp Fair, St. Columba Church Hall, Hillfoot Road, Hunt's Cross, Liverpool L25 0ND, 10am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: Terry Barnett, 01514 862610.

Morley Stamp Fair, St. Mary's Hall, Commercial Street, Morley, near Leeds LS27 8HZ, 9.30am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: Kevin Johnson, 07808 665472.

Wanstead Stamp Fair, Our Lady of Lourdes Church Pastoral Centre, 51 Cambridge Park, Wanstead E11 2PR, 10am to 3pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845.

31 July Peterborough Stamp Fair, Holiday Inn, Thorpe Wood, Peterborough PE3 6SG, 10am to 3pm. Enquiries: Richard Lewis, 01945 700594.

Shifnal Stamp Fair, Village Hall, Aston Street, Shifnal TF11 8DW, 9.30am to 3pm. Enquiries: Dave Burnett, 07765 792998.

Stevenage Stamp Fair, Novotel, Knebworth Park, Stevenage SG1 2AX, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845.

4 August North Cornelly Stamp Fair, Green Acre Motel, Heol Fach, North Cornelly CF33 4LH, 9am to 1pm. Enquiries: Trevor King, 01522 857343.

5 August Cardiff Canton Stamp Fair, St. Catherine's Church Hall, 169 Kings Road, Cardiff CF11 9DE, 9am to 1pm. Enquiries: Trevor King, 01522 857343.

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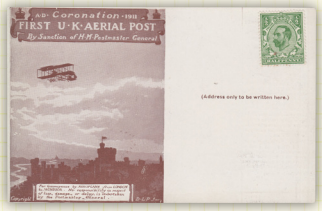
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ALL OFFERED SUBJECT UNSOLD

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Unused London post card in brown **£150.00**

114464



Unused London envelope in bright green **£140.00**

104471



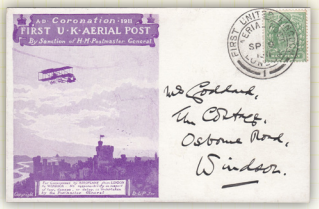
Used London post card in brown to Kennington **£45.00**

114465



Used London envelope in scarlet to Tunbridge Wells **£85.00**

117857



Very scarce London post card in violet to Windsor **£775.00**

117859



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PTS

New Issues and Withdrawals

Information correct at the time of going to press

1 July — **Issue** Pride: Stamps (4 x 1st Class, 4 x £1.85). Presentation Pack. Stamp Souvenir. Limited Edition Stamp Souvenir. First Day Envelope. First Day Cover. Postcards (8 in set). Stamp Sheets. Collector's Sheet. Coin Covers (BU, Silver, Gold). Framed Stamps. Framed Collector's Sheet. Framed Kiss Stamp.



7 July — **Withdrawal** Migratory Birds: Stamp Souvenir.



28 July — **Issue** Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games: Stamps (4 x 1st Class, 4 x £1.85). Presentation Pack. Stamp Souvenir. First Day Envelope. First Day Cover. Postcards (8 in set). Stamp Sheets. Coin Covers (BU, Silver, Gold). Framed Stamps.

5 August — **Withdrawal** Unsung Heroes: Women of World War II: Stamp Souvenir. Stamp Sheet Souvenir.





1 September — **Issue** To be announced.

You can order any of the Royal Mail stamp products listed above, by visiting **www.royalmail.com/shop** or from Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles, PO Box 1373, Sunderland SR5 9PG, UK. (Overseas subscribers will need to use a stamp.) Or use the Royal Mail telephone order service on 03457 641 641 (08.30 – 17.00 Monday to Friday). For overseas customers: +44 3457 641 641. Minimum handling charge UK £1.45, Europe £1.55, rest of world (airmail) £2.15.

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