The magazine for collectors of UK stamps

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Royal Mail

Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 58 No.12

The workshop of the world



Stamps that tell the story of Britain's pivotal role in the industrial revolutions

WILD COASTS • GB POSTAL HISTORY 1855 • RICHARD WEST REFLECTS

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… Carry on Collecting



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… aged 73
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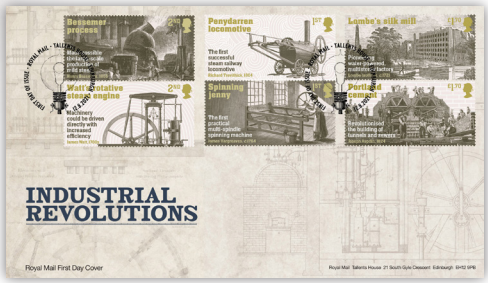
Issued 1951 … aged 70
… most of us are



Issued 1961
… aged 60
… collection steaming ahead

UPA – The Collectors' Secret Weapon

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British revolutionaries

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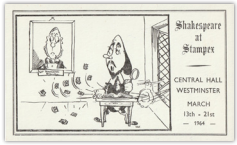
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Editor Chloe Tuck, Royal Mail, 185 Farringdon Road, Floor MP-03, London EC1A 1AA ● **Design and content creation** Ian Boardman, Adesso Creative Ltd ● Price £2.45 from Post Office Ltd philatelic outlets or by order from Post Office branches ● **12 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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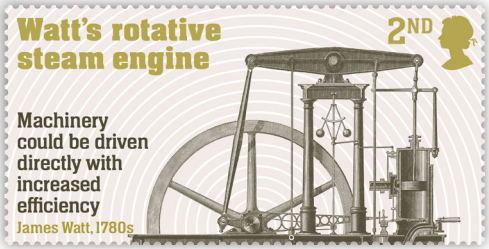
There's much more to come Don't forget to keep up to speed with all of Royal Mail's new issues and withdrawals **384**

Pioneers of industrial revolutions





Bessemer process – *2nd Class*



Watt's rotative steam engine – *2nd Class*

Industrial Revolutions – Stamp Specifications	
Date of issue	12 August
Number of stamps	Six – 3 x vertical se-tenant pairs (2 x 2nd Class, 2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.70)
Design	Common Curiosity
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	60mm x 30mm
Number per sheet	30/60
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	14.5 x 14.5
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA

Bessemer process – engraving of manufacture of steel by the Bessemer process, Sheffield, England, from Great Industries of Great Britain (London, c.1880) © World History Archive/Alamy Stock Photo; Watt's rotative steam engine – steam engine drawing © Science History Images/Alamy Stock Photo; Penydarren locomotive – illustration by Andrew Davidson © Royal Mail Group Limited 2021, referencing a technical drawing of the replica of Richard Trevithick's Penydarren locomotive of 1804 © National Museum of Wales; spinning jenny – Hargreaves's spinning jenny illustration © Mary Evans Picture Library; Lombe's silk mill – engraving of the Old Silk Mill, Derby © Look and Learn/Bridgeman Images; Portland cement – section through sanitation tunnels during the construction of London's sewage system © Corbis/Getty Images

In 1851, the Crystal Palace in Hyde Park staged a Victorian extravaganza drawing the rich and famous from the highest echelons of society, as well as an intrigued British public – over six million of them in fact – about a third of the entire population. The contribution of the hosting nation's exhibits *'held the lead in almost every field where strength, durability, utility and quality were concerned, whether in iron and steel, machinery or textiles'* – as extolled in Yvonne Ffrench's *The Great Exhibition.*

The Industrial Revolutions six-stamp issue which is out on 12 August celebrates the ingenuity and pioneering spirit behind some of the most notable inventions showcased. Also highlighted are the scientific and engineering advances that are synonymous with the transition into the modern world. The stamps specifically focus on innovations relating to the harnessing of water and steam power, the use of new materials and the expansion of textile manufacturing. Accompanying the issue

The 'workshop of the world'

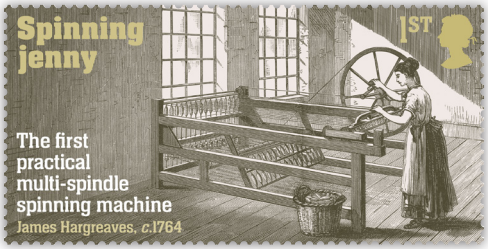
Benjamin Disraeli in the House of Commons in 1838 – in reference to the British manufacturing and industrial capacity



Penydarren locomotive – *1st Class*



Lombe's silk mill – *£1.70*



Spinning jenny – *1st Class*



Portland cement – *£1.70*

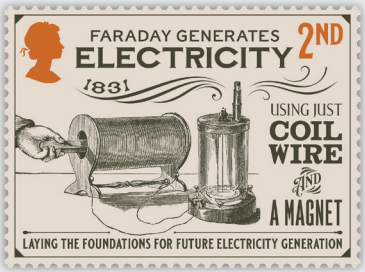
is a four-stamp Miniature Sheet that features embryonic stages of the harnessing of electricity – precursors to revolutionary changes in communications and daily life. A Presentation Pack and Prestige Stamp Book also number among the products available. Here we give the gist of the stories behind each stamp.

Bessemer process – *2nd Class* In 1856, Sir Henry Bessemer patented a procedure in which iron was melted in a pear-shaped 'Bessemer converter'. This involved blowing air through molten iron producing a violent exothermic reaction. The resultant metal – mild steel, retained most of the properties of wrought iron and could be produced on a large scale. Sir William Siemens and Pierre-Émile Martin, developed another means of making steel – the open-hearth process. The Bessemer process was further developed by Sidney Gilchrist Thomas. Both the open-hearth and Bessemer processes were utilised until the 1980s.

Watt's rotative steam engine – *2nd Class* In 1765 James Watt conceived the 'separate condenser', which was a device to reduce the amount of waste produced by the Newcomen steam engine. Watt patented the device in 1769. In 1776 Watt and his business partner, Matthew Boulton, installed two steam engines with separate condensers. Initially engines were used for draining mines, blowing blast furnaces and recycling water to drive water wheels to power machinery. Housed at the Science Museum in London is Watt's 'Lap' engine, which dates from 1788. The model incorporates most of his steam-engine improvements and was put to use for 70 years at Matthew Boulton's Soho Manufactory in Birmingham – driving 43 metal polishing (or 'lapping') machines.

Penydarren locomotive – *1st Class* Richard Trevithick (1771–1833) was the son of a Cornish mine 'captain', he worked in Cornish mines from his teenage years and by 1796 was experimenting ▶

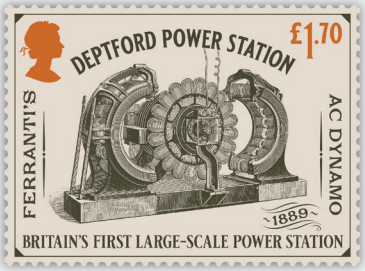




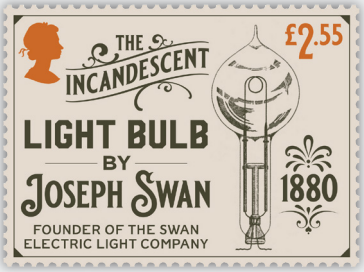
Faraday generates electricity – *2nd Class*



Transatlantic cable – *1st Class*

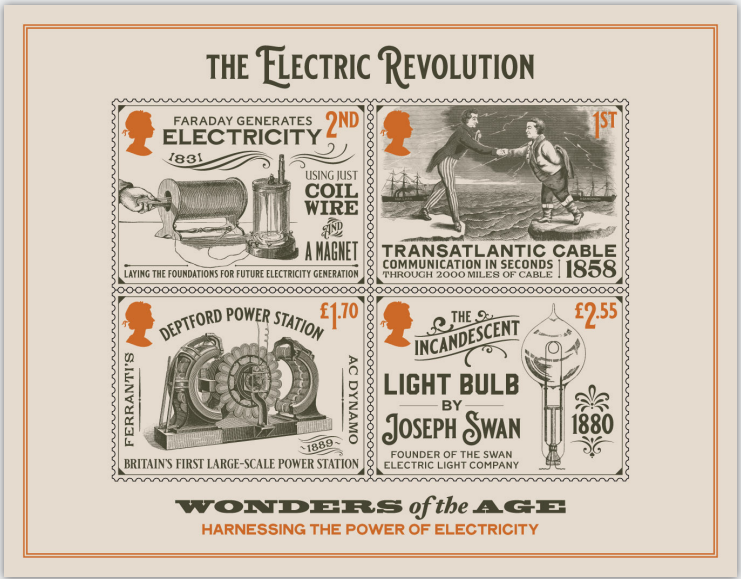


Deptford Power Station – *£1.70*



Light Bulb – *£2.55*

The Industrial Revolution was based around the harnessing of water and steam power, the use of new materials, the expansion of textile manufacturing and the development of canals and railways. The harnessing of electricity ushered in the Electric Revolution which was the catalyst for sweeping changes in communications and daily life. The Miniature Sheet stamps highlight four significant 'wonders of the age'



Faraday generates electricity – drawing of Michael Faraday's demonstration © Universal History Archive/Universal Images Group/Getty Images; transatlantic cable – woodcut symbolising the first transatlantic telegraphic message between the United States and Great Britain © Everett Collection Inc/Alamy Stock Photo; incandescent light bulb – drawing of Joseph Swan's first commercial bulb © Science History Images/Alamy Stock Photo; Ferranti's AC dynamo – drawing of the alternating current dynamo by Sebastian Ziani de Ferranti © Granger Historical Picture Archive/Alamy Stock Photo



A map of the telegraph network in the United Kingdom, 1853.

with high-pressure steam. He was a pioneer in the application of steam power to road vehicles, railway locomotives and boats, and designing the Cornish engine that was widely used to pump water for drinking and in mines. Having designed a railway locomotive at the turn of the 19th century, Samuel Homfray of the Penydarren Ironworks near Merthyr, invited him to build another. The result was the earliest documented proof that a steam engine could travel on iron rails and pull a load – some ten tons of iron and 70 men, for a distance of nine miles.

Spinning jenny – *1st Class* In the mid-1760s James Hargreaves created a spinning machine with a carriage that was moved outwards by the spinner, drawing and twisting the roving before moving back to wind the spun yarn onto rotating spindles. He built the machine for his own use but subsequently sold several to his neighbours before gaining a patent in 1770. There were 16 spindles on the version that he patented, and in due course machines with up to 120 were built. Spinning jennies could be worked by hand or by horsepower. In the late 18th century, the textile industry developed by evolutionary as well as by revolutionary means. Large numbers of 'jenny shops' were added to farmhouses at the same time that multistorey, water-powered (and later steam-powered) spinning mills were being constructed. In the development of spinning technology, the jenny was highly significant as the first practical multi-spindle spinning machine.

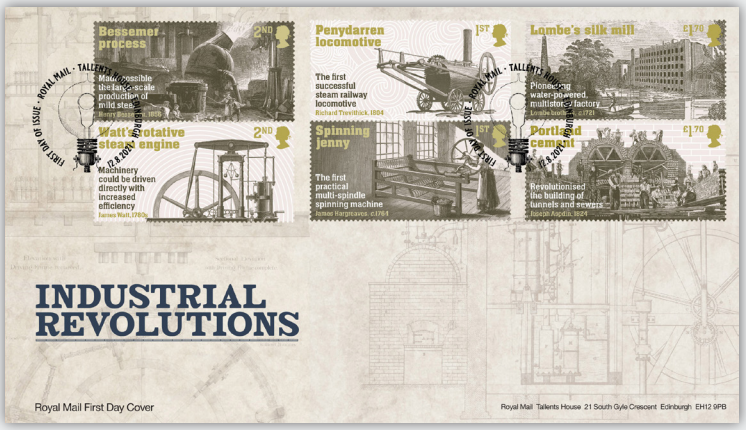
Lombe's silk mill – *£1.70* Spitalfields was at the hub of silk manufacturing in the early 18th century, but it was in Derby that Thomas Cotchett built a three-storey mill housing silk-throwing machines. The initiative wasn't successful but a former employee – John Lombe was inspired, and in the knowledge that the Italians were already using power spinning, he visited northern Italy around 1716 and gleaned valuable insight from what he saw on his travels. After his return, he and his half-brother Sir Thomas Lombe registered a patent for a silk-throwing process in 1718. They subsequently built a five-storey mill, 110 feet long and 39 feet wide, in order to facilitate throwing which took place on large machines that extended through the lower two floors (smaller doubling machines worked on the three storeys above). It's believed that the Derby Mill, with power provided by waterwheels driven by the River Derwent, began work in 1721. After the Lombes' patent expired in 1732, several other mills were built that operated in a similar way. ►

Industrial Revolutions Miniature Sheet Specifications

Date of issue	12 August
Number of stamps	Four (1 x 2nd Class, 1 x 1st Class, 1 x £1.70, 1 x £2.55)
Design	Common Curiosity
Miniature Sheet size	115mm x 89mm
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	41mm x 30mm
Perforations	14.5 x 14
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA

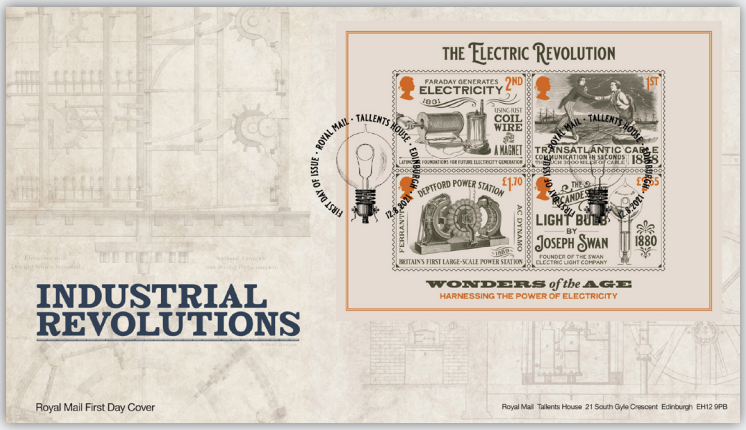


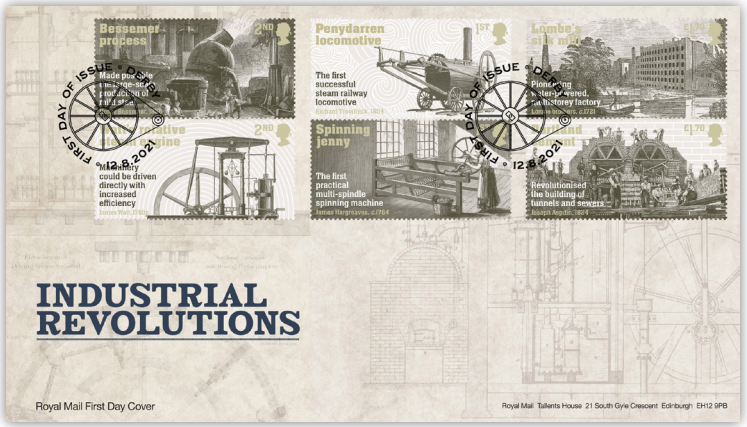
First Day Cover with the Tallents House postmark which depicts an example of Joseph Swan's lightbulb



Portland cement – *£1.70* In 1824 Joseph Aspdin invented a new material – Portland cement, for use as mortar. Previously it was common place for builders to use lime in their mortar. The cement, named after its resemblance to Portland stone, is made from clay and a form of calcium carbonate – normally limestone or chalk. The elements are mixed and ground, and fired up to 1,450°C in a kiln, the lime, alumina and silica then combine to form a clinker. This is then cooled, mixed with gypsum to stabilise the cementitious compounds and pulverised in ball mills. The burgeoning cement industry in the Victorian era was synonymous with Aspdin's son's contribution who in the mid-1840s established a works at Northfleet, Kent. The Medway Valley which was close by became a major centre of cement production. Joseph Bazalgette used Portland cement to build London's network of sewers. This followed the 'Great Stink' of 1858, when a bill was rushed through Parliament to fund the project. As was explained in *The Times* – Members of Parliament had been *'forced by sheer stench'* to solve the sewer issue.

Miniature Sheet First Day Cover, here shown with the Tallents House postmark





First Day Cover with the alternative handstamp which has an illustration of one of the doubling machines that was used at Lombe's Mill



FD2116-TH



FD2116-PL



FD2116-NP

Faraday generates electricity – *2nd Class* Michael Faraday was an English scientist who contributed to the study of electromagnetism and electrochemistry. In August 1831 he demonstrated electromagnetic induction using lengths of copper wire insulated in cotton wrapped around an iron ring. The fellow experimentalist and physicist Ernest Rutherford held Faraday in high esteem stating '*When we consider the magnitude and extent of his discoveries and their influence on the progress of science and of industry, there is no honour too great to pay to the memory of Faraday, one of the greatest scientific discoverers of all time*'.

Transatlantic cable – *1st Class* One of the earliest uses of electricity – from the 1830s was in telegraphs, routed along railway lines. William Fothergill Cooke and Charles Wheatstone conceived the system. Wheatstone designed instruments for land and sea telegraphy, but deep-water cables did not work successfully in the 1850s. The first transatlantic cable, laid in 1858, soon failed. A committee established to investigate its failure found that the cable used was of poor and variable quality. With revised methods, the first successful ►



Prestige Stamp Book Pane First Day Cover with the alternative handstamp. The pane comprises eight Machin Definitives: 2 x 5p, 3 x 10p, 2 x 20p and 1 x £1.70

The Presentation Pack contains the six Special Stamps and the Miniature Sheet in a separate carrier. The pack features beautiful illustrations, period photography, and includes fascinating descriptions of the inventions featured on the stamps – as well as information about the people that created them







Above: Presentation Pack outer

Left: Presentation Pack inner



Prestige Stamp Book: pane one (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.70)



Pane two: (2 x 2nd Class, 2 x 1st Class)



Pane three: (1 x 2nd Class, 1 x 1st Class, 1 x £1.70, 1 x £2.55)



Pane four: (eight Machin Definitives: 2 x 5p, 3 x 10p, 2 x 20p, 1 x £1.70)

transatlantic cable was laid in 1866. The initial failure also prompted two of the Atlantic Telegraph Company's electrical engineers, Latimer Clark and Charles Bright, to call for the establishment of common electrical units of measurement, starting with a common unit of electrical resistance, which was later established in 1881.

Deptford Power Station – *£1.70* Deptford in London was the site of Britain's first alternating current, 'central' power station – one that supplied long distance customers. The power station was built in 1888-89 by the British electrical engineer and inventor Sebastian de Ferranti. It had two generators and two 1,500-horsepower steam engines which were subsequently replaced by turbines of the type that were developed by the Anglo-Irish engineer Sir Charles Algernon Parsons.

Light Bulb – *£2.55* The English physicist and chemist Sir Joseph Wilson Swan was the person responsible for developing and supplying the first incandescent lights used to illuminate homes and public buildings, including the Savoy Theatre, London, in 1881. This followed him being granted a patent for his incandescent light bulb in 1880 and opening a factory in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Electric lighting systems were installed at stately homes, and from the 1880s electricity was also used for street lighting and tramways. In 1881 his inventions were exhibited at the International Exposition of Electricity, Paris – when Swan's electric lighting illuminated the city. Arc lights also provided spectacular demonstrations on such occasions as Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887, when a 16,000-candlepower electric beacon illuminated Titterstone Clee Hill in Shropshire ●

Industrial Revolutions – Prices	
Set of 6 Special Stamps	£6.42
Miniature Sheet	£5.76
Presentation Pack	£13.10
First Day Cover Stamps	£8.35
First Day Cover Miniature Sheet	£7.55
First Day Cover Prestige Stamp Pane	£3.65
Stamp Souvenir	£8.35
Stamp Sheet Souvenir	£7.55
First Day Envelope	£0.30
Postcards (11 in set)	£4.95
Prestige Stamp Book	£18.03

A Snapshot of 1855

The cover illustrated here is quite a remarkable survival. It was posted on 19 September 1855 from Birmingham to a man in Leamington, and must have been fairly urgent, as the sender wrote 'If absent to be sent to him immediately' on the front. As it happened the addressee was indeed absent, so the next day it was duly reposted to him at the Bull Hotel in Scarborough, an old coaching inn. Unfortunately, any sense of urgency seems to have been lost at that point, as when it was readdressed to him a second time (back to Leamington again) it was three weeks later on 11 October. (To be fair to the hotel, they may simply have kept it to await his arrival, and forwarded it when he failed to turn up.) Since redirection of letters outside the original delivery area wasn't free until 1892, the two additional journeys had to be paid for with fresh stamps. So a nice example of redirected mail – however, the particular interest of this cover is that it provides a snapshot of several of the changes to stamps and postmarks that were happening at the time, all on a single item. Let's take a closer look and see how.

The Stamps A major change in postage stamps in 1855 was the continuing development of a new-fangled technology known as 'perforation'. As brief background, the technique (as applied to paper) was originally patented by Henry Archer in 1848. Stamps perforated by his machine were trialled by the Post Office in 1850-51 – to general approval from those who encountered them, being much more convenient than cutting stamps from the sheet with scissors. Negotiations with Archer took some time, but by 1854 the Post Office was ready to begin issuing perforated stamps as standard. As it happened, this required the construction of new machines. Archer was an entrepreneur, not an engineer, and his prototype was described by Edwin Hill[1] as 'a very bad piece of engineering'. It had proved the viability of the concept, but was inadequate for production purposes. For this, four new machines were commissioned from an established London engineering firm, David Napier, at a cost of £400 each.

Archer's original machine perforated the stamp with what philatelists refer to as gauge 16[2], and at first the Napier machines followed suit – but this gauge had technical problems. The punch sets proved fragile in use, and the stamps themselves prone to unwanted separation unless treated gently, having what might be described as too much hole and not enough paper. (Collectors lucky enough to have multiples of them should therefore handle with care.) The problem was recognised fairly quickly, and new punch sets with 'holes wider apart' ordered by Hill. These were of gauge 14 (thus giving an improved paper-to-hole ratio), but they took quite some time to produce, and the first set was not available until the beginning of 1855. As a full complement consisted of three sets per machine to allow for servicing and repairs, the original gauge 16 sets continued in use periodically over some months.

What this meant in practice was that stamps of both perforation gauges were being issued concurrently. Of course, most letters bore only one stamp, and when more were needed they usually came from the same sheet, so examples of stamps of the two gauges on the same cover are not easy to

[1] The elder brother of Rowland Hill, who worked with him and was responsible for a number of technical developments.

[2] Technically defined as 16 holes in a distance of 2cm. For a standard sized definitive stamp, this corresponds to 16 holes along the top edge – or in practice 15 complete holes and two half-holes at the sides.

[3] *Great Britain Victorian Mixed Franking Covers*, Ray Simpson and Karl Louis, 2020.



Three cancellation styles and two types of perforation gauge – all on one cover

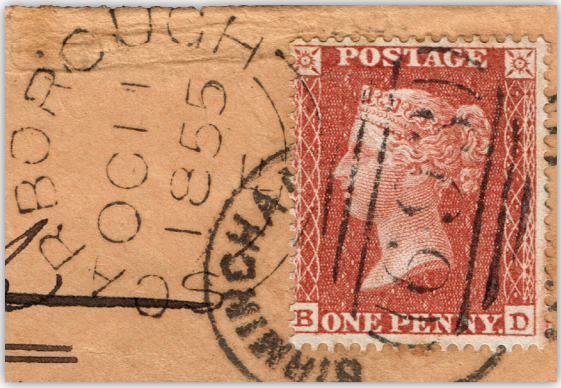
find (a recent book on mixed frankings[3] records fewer than 30). Redirected covers were one way to produce them, as the stamps used perforce came from different sources. In this case, the stamps used in Birmingham and Scarborough were the perf.16 type, but the Leamington stamp is the newer perf.14 – illustrating the essentially random distribution of the two types, as a post office or stamp office indenting for supplies would get whichever sheets were next in line to be issued.

The Cancellations The 1850s also saw developments in the way the stamps were cancelled. The original procedure in 1840 used two handstamps on a letter – an office datestamp on the back in the established manner, to show where and when it was posted, and a separate anonymous 'Maltese Cross' to cancel the postage stamp on the front. It would probably have been easier to use the datestamps for both purposes, but this was only done occasionally and irregularly, though Maltese Crosses were replaced from 1844 by barred cancellers, with a number in the middle to indicate the office of posting. The 1850s saw what was in effect a large scale 'time and motion' study to assess the idea of using one handstamp for both purposes. Two types of experimental 'duplex' stamp – i.e. a numeral canceller combined with a datestamp – were issued between 1853 and 1859[4], dubbed the 'spoon' and 'sideways duplex' by collectors. Spoon cancellations had the numeral and datestamp portions joined, in a shape reminiscent of a tea caddy spoon (a much more familiar sight in the days before teabags!). Sideways duplexes had the two parts separate, with the datestamp (as the name suggests) sideways on to the numeral[5]. They were also much more widely used, as the spoons were largely the responsibility of a single surveyor, with no overlap between the towns that used the two different types. (Neither pattern was used for the 'regular' duplex handstamps that followed them, which had separate ►

[4] These experiments were largely confined to England and Wales, although there was a separate experiment with spoon cancellations in Ireland, some using a distinct pattern.

[5] A few had the datestamp vertically above the numeral part, but since these were usually struck sideways on the cover, the name still applies…





The 16 perf. penny red cancelled with the Scarborough (693) Sideways Duplex





The 14 perf. penny red cancelled with the Leamington (444) Numeral, horizontal oval



The 16 perf. penny red cancelled with the Birmingham (75) Spoon

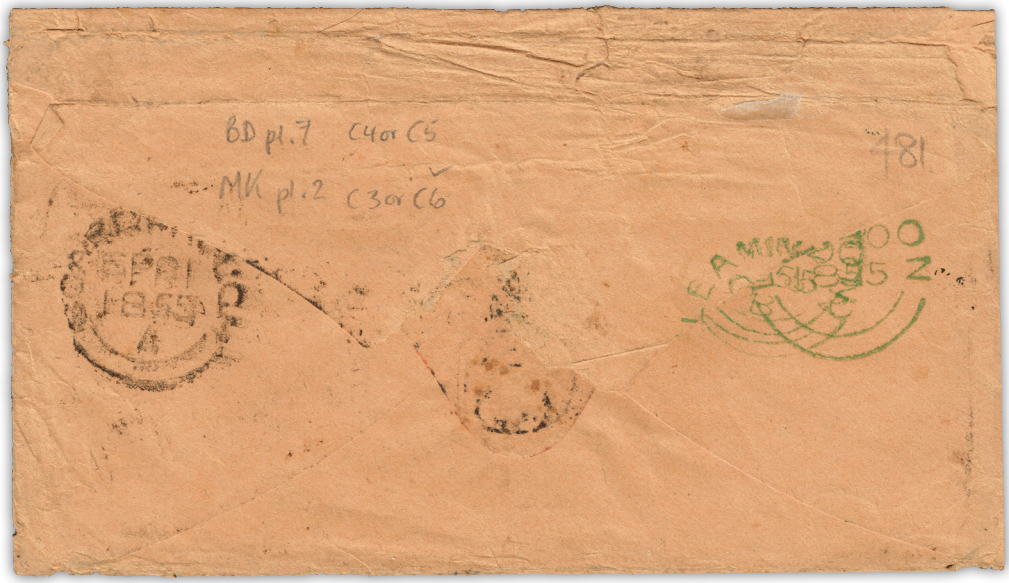
date and numeral portions, but oriented the same way.) In 1855, then, there were three types of cancelling handstamp in use simultaneously. Redirected covers with examples of two of the three are nice things to find, but this cover has all three – a spoon cancellation of Birmingham, a single numeral of Leamington, and finally a sideways duplex of Scarborough. I can't recall seeing another example of this, although I would be interested in reports if anyone has one.

The Datestamps Finally, datestamps on the back remained in use, and were the subject of another experiment taking place in the 1850s. The role of Post Office 'Surveyor' was mentioned above: these were roving postal inspectors/troubleshooters, with seven of them covering England and Wales. In 1852 an experiment began using different colours for town backstamps in each district, in the hope that it would 'assist in deciphering an imperfect stamp' when 'investigating cases of delay'. The ones on this cover call attention to the state of the experiment in 1855. The Leamington datestamp is correctly struck in green, showing that the town was in the North Wales surveyor's district[6]. Unfortunately, the idea gradually faded out, and by 1855 things were far from neatly ordered – Scarborough was in the Northern district, which had been allocated red ink, but on this cover it was using plain old standard black (supposedly allocated to the Eastern district).

So this cover manages to be a nice snapshot of many of the developments in 1855. I suppose it narrowly misses a few others – all three stamps are on the recently introduced large crown watermark paper, and from the early plates of die II, and there was no cause to use a surface printed stamp. However, what it *does* have is remarkable, so one mustn't be greedy!

*By Maurice Buxton FRPSL a long-term collector, and webmaster for the Great Britain Philatelic Society – **www.gbps.org.uk***

[6] The boundaries of the districts did not correspond to how we would typically think of them today, with both North and South Wales districts extending well into England, and many Northern towns in the Midland district.



The reverse of cover shows the experimental use of a green datestamp



Wild

Birds divebombing their prey at almost the national speed limit, dolphins who greet each other by name, the porpoise that plays games with a starfish – Britain's seas are full of amazing creatures.



The nation's fascinating marine life and shoreline are now celebrated in Royal Mail's Wild Coasts issue. Species featured in the set are the grey seal, bottlenose dolphin, gannet, cuttlefish, orca, long-snouted seahorse, spider crab, cuckoo wrasse, anemones and coral reefs. Wild Coasts, comprising ten First Class stamps and released on 22 July, is accompanied by a Miniature Sheet that shows a marine food chain, from algae up to the harbour porpoise. Also available are a Presentation Pack, Press Sheet, Collector's Sheet, Stamp Souvenir, Stamp Sheet Souvenir, Stamp Book, Postcards and Framed Stamps.

The creatures in the set have extraordinary talents and intriguing habits that help them hunt, flourish and survive. The northern gannet, one of our biggest seabirds, is a supreme airborne hunter. To catch fish, it zooms down from 30 metres into the sea at 60mph. The bird swims 15 metres below the surface to seize prey, eating it underwater before returning to the flock's colony amid the cliffs. And what a flock: Britain's coasts are home to up to 70 per cent of the world's gannet population – around 220,000 pairs of birds. In Scotland, Bass Rock alone hosts more than 75,000 pairs. The sheer size of the colony means you can smell the birds' powerful scent ten minutes away from the craggy island.

Other deadly hunters in the issue include the orca, commonly known as the killer whale, though it is in fact the biggest dolphin species. There is only one 'pod' of eight adult orcas living here, off Scotland's west coast, so they are a rare sight. And their prey – seals, birds, squid and fish – often never see them coming. That's down to orcas' clever two-tone camouflage. Their white underbelly is hidden by bright sunlight flooding into the sea, so prey find it difficult to spot from below. This dolphin's

Coasts

black upper side, blending with the ocean, is not easy to see from above, so seals and penguins on ice floes won't spot the orca until it's too late. An orca will slap the sea with its tail, generating a wave that disturbs the ice floe, knocking victims into the water. The orca swallows them whole, reserving its ten centimetre-long teeth for bigger prey.

Grey seals' large eyes and highly attuned hearing help them hunt prey in dark, gloomy seawater. They can extend their hunting trips, up to 70 metres under the surface, by slowing their heart rate to conserve oxygen levels. The way some of our Wild Coasts creatures create life is no less innovative than the methods others use to take it: the long-snouted seahorse, one of two UK seahorse species, undergoes a 'reverse' pregnancy. This means the female seahorse transfers her eggs to a male, who fertilises them. He protects the eggs in his 'brood pouch' before giving birth. ►

Wild Coasts – Stamp Specifications	
Date of issue	22 July
Number of stamps	Ten – 2 x horizontal se-tenant strips (10 x 1st Class)
Design	Steers McGillan Eves
Stamp format	Square
Stamp size	35mm x 35mm
Number per sheet	25/50
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	14.5 x 14.5
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA



Northern Gannet
all ten stamps – First Class



Long-snouted Seahorse



Common Cuttlefish



Orca



Grey Seal



Fried-egg Anemone



Bottlenose Dolphin



Cuckoo Wrasse



Spiny Spider Crab



Cold-water Coral Reef

Northern Gannet © Tim Slater/Alamy Stock Photo; Common Cuttlefish © Alex Mustard/2020VISION/ naturepl.com; Grey Seal © Robin Chittenden/naturepl.com; Bottlenose Dolphin © Graham Eaton/naturepl.com; Spiny Spider Crab © Sue Daly/ naturepl.com; Long-snouted Seahorse © Alex Mustard/naturepl.com; Orca © Hugh Harrop; Fried-egg Anemone © Sue Daly/naturepl.com; Cuckoo Wrasse © Scotland: The Big Picture/naturepl.com; Cold-water Coral Reef © Prof J Murray Roberts, University of Edinburgh

Top: First Day Cover with the Tallents House handstamp featuring an illustration of two puffins

Middle: First Day Cover with the alternative pictorial hand-stamp with the Achnasheen location, and illustration of a humpback whale

Bottom: Miniature Sheet First Day Cover with the Tallents House handstamp

Housed in all First Day Covers is an information card that includes brief insight into the coastal and marine wildlife found in the UK, along with key facts about the impact of human behaviour on marine life





FD2115-TH





FD2115-PL



FD2115-NP





Miniature Sheet



Phytoplankton – *First Class*



Zooplankton – *First Class*



Atlantic Herring – *£1.70*



Harbour Porpoise – *£1.70*

And the cuckoo wrasse, one of Britain's most colourful fish, is born female. Cuckoo wrasse are called protogynous hermaphrodites, which means they can change sex at will. When the dominant male in a cuckoo wrasse colony dies, a female will become male to take his place, helping to ensure breeding continues. In addition to this innovation, the intelligence of our marine life should not be underestimated. The common cuttlefish, a mollusc, has an advanced neurological system. The cuttlefish possesses one of the biggest brains of the world's invertebrates, which can process data it gathers from its sense of sight, smell and even sound (delivered through pressure waves). Bottlenose dolphins, found off the Welsh and Cornish coasts, are extraordinary communicators, 'talking' to each other with clicks, squeaks and whistles. They create their own hallmark whistle, akin to a name, which other dolphins learn and greet them with for years afterwards. The dolphin's abilities and intelligence seem to articulate a general truth about our marine life. Creatures they may be, but they have developed smart and sometimes sophisticated ways of surviving and thriving in Britain's wild waters ●

Article by Andrew Neish

Wild Coasts – Miniature Sheet Specifications

Date of issue	22 July
Number of stamps	Four (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.70)
Design	Royal Mail Group Ltd
Illustrations	Maïté Franchi
Miniature Sheet size	192mm x 74mm
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	41mm x 30mm
Perforations	14.5 x 14
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA



The double-sided Presentation Pack dives into the wild coasts of British waters. With the UK fringed by a patchwork of unique and beautiful marine habitats, the pack explores the places that support the incredible diversity of wildlife, as well as some of the species that interact in complex and often fascinating ways. The pack also expands on the wildlife chosen for the ten stamps, with a special carrier card for the Miniature Sheet that details the four levels of the Marine food chain; from Photoautotrophs to Secondary Carnivores





Presentation Pack Outer



Presentation Pack Inner



Stamp Book: 2 x 1st Class Special Stamps, 4 x 1st Class Machin Definitives

DEFENSIVE CAPABILITIES

Britain's coastal creatures use a range of defensive ploys to protect themselves against predators.

When bottlenose dolphins go to sleep, they doze with one half of their brain active and one eye open – keeping them alert to attackers.

Spiny spider crabs are covered in hooks that attract seaweed and sponges, which help to camouflage them. Their long legs allow them to move forwards and backwards as well as from side to side, giving them extra manoeuvrability to evade enemies.

The common cuttlefish uses its pigment cells, called chromatophores, to change colour and pattern, allowing them to blend in with their environment and escape the eyes of predators.

FOOD CHAIN / PORPOISE

The harbour porpoise is the star of the Miniature Sheet, which features a food chain from the porpoise's direct prey Atlantic herrings to zooplankton and phytoplankton.

Yet these marine mammals, which have been observed off the Orkneys, Shetlands and Welsh coast, are tremendously shy, avoiding humans and contact with boats.

A porpoise's life may seem precarious – it has to feed constantly to survive the freezing temperatures of the North Sea, eating ten per cent of its body mass daily.

Yet porpoises possess a great sense of fun, and have been spotted playing with starfish and clumps of seaweed, balancing them in their flippers for hours.

£791m The value of all fish caught by the UK fishing fleet in 2020

8,000 The oldest cold-water coral reefs in UK waters are estimated to have been created 8,000 years ago

90 Female orcas can live for up to 90 years in the wild

11 Basking sharks, which visit our waters between May and October, can weigh up to 11 tonnes – almost as heavy as a double decker bus

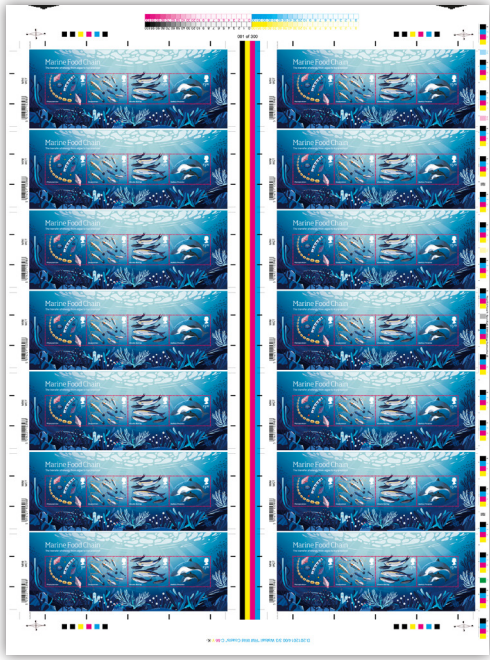
3 The common cuttlefish has three hearts – one for its body and the others for its two sets of gills



Collector's Sheet

Wild Coasts – Prices	
Set of 10 Special Stamps	£8.50
Miniature Sheet	£5.10
Presentation Pack	£14.50
First Day Cover Stamps	£10.85
First Day Cover Miniature Sheet	£6.80
Stamp Souvenir	£10.85
Stamp Sheet Souvenir	£6.80
First Day Envelope	£0.30
Postcards (15 in set)	£6.75
Retail Stamp Book	£5.10
Collector's Sheet	£9.70
Press Sheet	£78.55
Half Sheet (25 x 1st Class) **choice of two*	£21.25
Full Sheet (50 x 1st Class) **choice of two*	£42.50
Framed Stamps	£29.99
Framed Collector's Sheet	£29.99

**Stamp Sheet options pertain to the stamp configurations as per the two se-tenant strips*

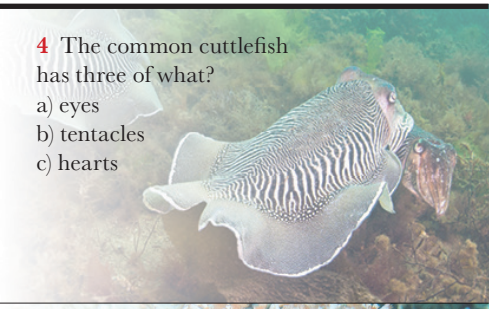


Press Sheet

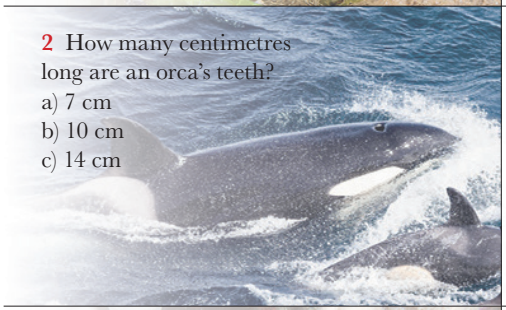
Wild Coasts Quiz



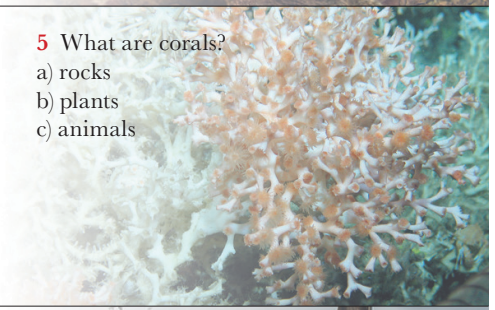
1 How many seahorse species are found in the UK?
a) two b) four
c) six



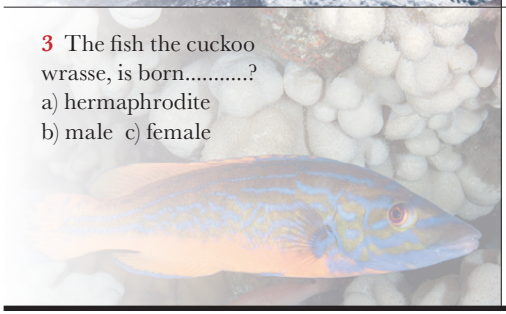
4 The common cuttlefish has three of what?
a) eyes
b) tentacles
c) hearts



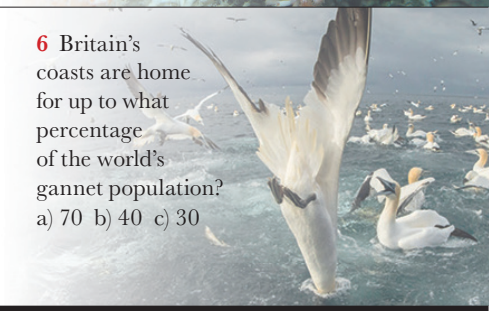
2 How many centimetres long are an orca's teeth?
a) 7 cm
b) 10 cm
c) 14 cm



5 What are corals?
a) rocks
b) plants
c) animals



3 The fish the cuckoo wrasse, is born.....?
a) hermaphrodite
b) male c) female



6 Britain's coasts are home for up to what percentage of the world's gannet population?
a) 70 b) 40 c) 30

How to enter Please send your answers, with your contact address or phone number, marked 'Wild Coasts 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 Wild Coasts Presentation Pack.

Closing Date 15 September 2021.

May solutions The Wars of the Roses Quiz
1)c 2)c 3)a 4)b 5)b 6)c

Winners Anthony H Lewis, Ilford; Stuart Hicks, Reading; Mr North, Epping; Allan Downey, Dunfermline; Dave Dorgan, Bolton.

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.

A lifetime in stamps

Richard West MBE FRPSL warmly reflects on almost 65 years in the philatelic arena

For many seasoned collectors of British stamps, Richard West needs little introduction, however here we shed a little light on his background before he opens his heart, and shares his experiences in the world of stamp collecting – his selection of images help to tell the story.

Richard was born in Wimbledon in 1946, and aged seven he moved to Hove with his family – none of whom had collected stamps. Having attended a grammar school he furthered his education at University College London where he studied Mathematics. He went on to take the Postgraduate Certificate in Education at the Institute of Education. Following that, he taught Mathematics in Southgate in north London before going into full-time philatelic journalism and becoming actively immersed in the philatelic arena. He served on many committees linked with societies, philatelic organisations and exhibitions. Richard has judged nationally and internationally, and been the UK Commissioner at several overseas international exhibitions. His passion, enthusiasm, work-rate and general contribution to the hobby he loves, is well respected and has been acknowledged with commensurate accolades. He's a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society London, he was awarded the Congress Medal, and in 2012 he received an MBE for Services to Philately.

So Richard, what drew you to philately?

Seeing the stamp collection of my next-door neighbour. No one in my family ever collected stamps. However, it was my sister who really got me started in 1956 when I was about 10 years old: she bought me an album, the 'Blue

My first British stamp set purchase – the Jubilee Jamboree issue of 1957



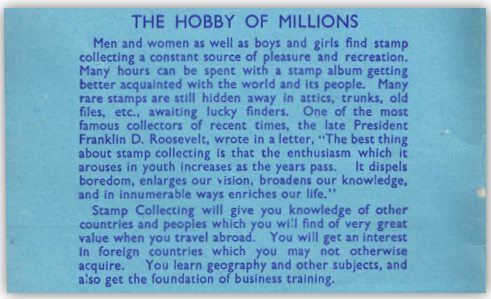




Below: the tiny 'Blue Lagoon' stamp album – just 152mm x 124mm (portrait)



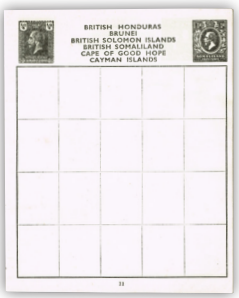
Front cover


THE HOBBY OF MILLIONS

Men and women as well as boys and girls find stamp collecting a constant source of pleasure and recreation. Many hours can be spent with a stamp album getting better acquainted with the world and its people. Many rare stamps are still hidden away in attics, trunks, old files, etc., awaiting lucky finders. One of the most famous collectors of recent times, the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt, wrote in a letter, "The best thing about stamp collecting is that the enthusiasm which it arouses in youth increases as the years pass. It dispels boredom, enlarges our vision, broadens our knowledge, and in innumerable ways enriches our life."

Stamp Collecting will give you knowledge of other countries and peoples which you will find of very great value when you travel abroad. You will get an interest in foreign countries which you may not otherwise acquire. You learn geography and other subjects, and also get the foundation of business training.

Message on the inside front cover



Grid for 20 stamps per page

Lagoon', and a packet of stamps from Woolworths. In those days packets of stamps were frequently seen, and every branch of Woolworths had a counter full. I recall the first British set I bought was for the 1957 Jubilee Jamboree. I was greatly helped by the fact that Brighton boasted several stamp shops, the owners of one in particular, Kaye's Stamp Shop in central Brighton, being particularly encouraging. I also started buying *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* and soon after *Stamp Collecting Weekly*, from which I learned a lot. I also discovered the Brighton and Hove Philatelic Society, which at the time boasted some 200 members and a thriving Junior Section.

What areas were you first interested in?

The 'Blue Lagoon' was a typical starter album, with pages for stamps from around the world. However, I soon found modern Commonwealth of greatest interest. With far fewer new issues those days, and stamp dealers offering definitive sets to 3d or 1/- equivalent, in addition to full sets, the pocket money could stretch to a reasonable collection. In addition, the British Post Office started to be more adventurous. I always recall visiting the newly opened Philatelic Bureau in London and seeing the issues planned for 1963 on display; bolder designs and colours certainly made them appealing. Around this time I started a stamp club at my school, I was encouraged by one of the teachers who also collected. Then in March 1964 I attended my first stamp exhibition, Stampex, held at the Central Hall in Westminster. ►



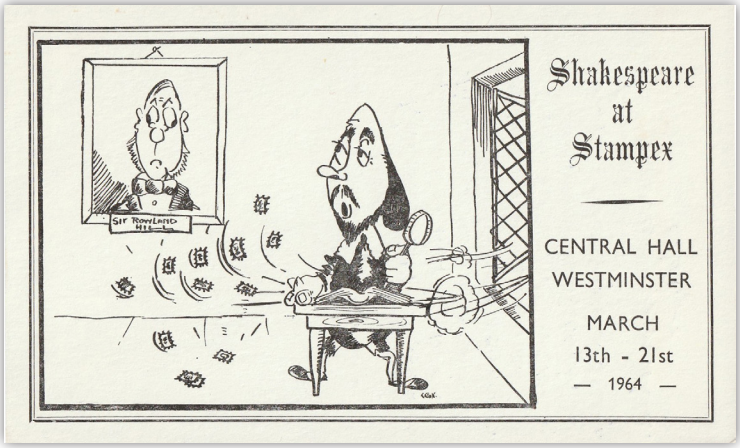




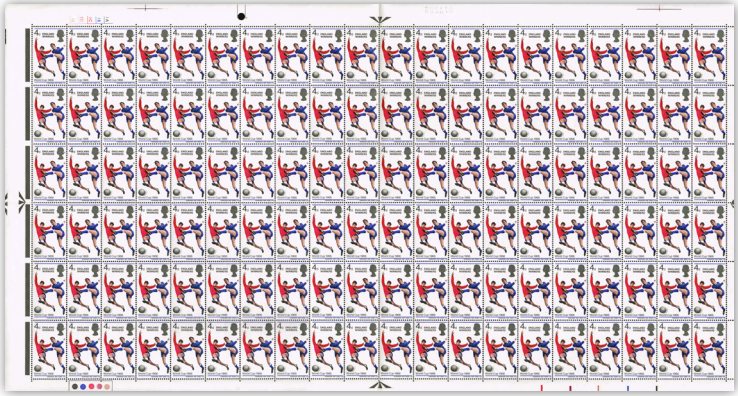


1963 witnessed a complete change to British stamps: more colourful, bolder and pictorial designs

Left: postcard promoting Stampex 1964 with its Shakespearean theme







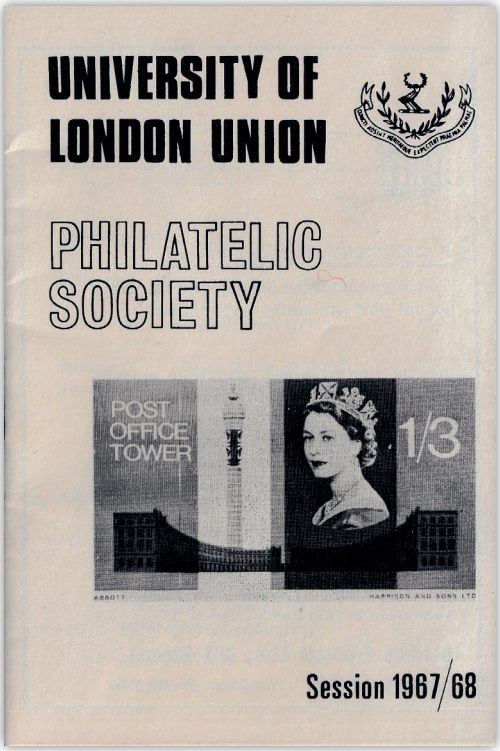
The 1966 England Winners stamp – amidst collectors clamouring for a block of four, I was carrying 200 sheets

Below: programmes for the philatelic societies at University College London and the University of London

What areas have been of particular interest subsequently?

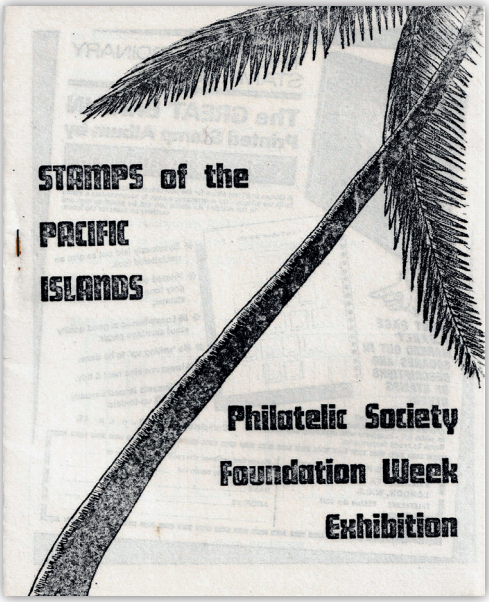
Initially I decided to concentrate more on Norfolk Island and Papua New Guinea. My interest has always mainly focused on stamps, although I was also attracted by covers from these areas, particularly those from Norfolk Island prior to the issue of their own stamps. However, I always spread my interests fairly wide, which later would prove useful.





How did philately become your career?

It was certainly not planned; it all came about from two chance meetings. First was with another member of the Junior Section of the Brighton and Hove Philatelic Society. That member was Nicholas Hoogstraten (as he was then known – his notorious story can be found on Google) who at the time was working for Stanley Gibbons. He told me of a stamp wholesaler in Brighton, W. Ramsay Strachan, whose name was entirely unknown to me. Nevertheless soon after I called at his premises at Central House in Brighton seeking a summer job. Central House was a remarkable multi-storied building. From top to basement (except for a Wimpy at street level) it was crammed full of stamps from around the world, mint in sheets and used in bundles of 100. Ramsay was a highly respected and influential person in the stamp trade. Closely involved with the Philatelic Traders' Society and Stampex, his main business revolved around producing packets of stamps, including the FG Series as sold through Woolworths and the Ace packets found at many newsagents. In those days many branches of Woolworths would top up their stock of packets twice a week. Thanks to Ramsay I met representatives of both the British Post Office and Crown Agents.



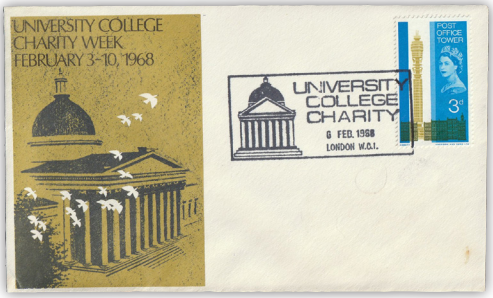
Cover of the brochure that accompanied the Stamps of the Pacific Islands exhibition

I recall working for Ramsay during the summer of 1966. He always ordered quantities of new British issues, and had requested 200 sheets of the 4d England Winners stamp. He asked me to go to the Philatelic Bureau in London on the day of issue to pick up his supply. As has been well documented, the likes of 18 August 1966 will never be witnessed in British philately again. Fights had broken out at Trafalgar Square Post Office where the stamps had gone on sale at midnight. At the Philatelic Bureau the queue extended down six flights of stairs and round the outside of the building: Customers were being limited to a block of four. I was able to go to the head of the queue, and was handed a carefully wrapped package. Had it been known I was carrying 200 sheets I doubt if I would still be alive to tell the tale today!

Following school I took a degree course in Mathematics at University College London. Residing close to Tottenham Court Road (in the shadow of the Post Office Tower) I was able once a week to tour the multitude of stamp shops in the Strand area. During my first year I set up a philatelic society at the College, which the following year was extended to the entire University of London. Thanks to the contacts I established while working for Ramsay I was able to organise, in conjunction with the Crown Agents Stamp Bureau, an exhibition of Stamps of the Pacific Islands staged at University College. I also arranged a Great Britain Forum, with an invited team of experts answering questions from the audience (it was open to everyone). The panel at the first such Forum, held on 8 November 1967, included the Postmaster General, Edward Short, Arnold Machin (the first Machin definitives had recently been issued), Clive Abbott, who designed the Post Office Tower and EFTA sets, and John Horsey who wrote as 'Queensman' for *Stamp Collecting Weekly*. The Forum was held annually for three years. ►



Photograph of the exhibition held at University College



Souvenir cover and cancellation designed by Clive Abbott to raise money for the University College Charity Week



One of my first visits as Editor of *Stamp Magazine* was to Guernsey. Sporting a Covid-style haircut, I was greeted by Peppino Santangelo, President, Guernsey Post Office (centre) and Bill Sexton, Director (right)

Close to Tottenham Court Road were the London offices of Link House Magazines, publishers of *Stamp Magazine* whose Editor, Arthur Blair, got in touch. This was my second chance meeting, for he asked me to write a piece for the magazine about the newly formed society and the exhibition, and the following month an article on Papua New Guinea. Thus, in 1967, I began writing for the philatelic press. I provided regular contributions to *Stamp Magazine*, ironically not a magazine I had previously read regularly, and soon after also for the companion newspaper-style publication *Stamp Weekly*.

Following my degree course, I attended the Institute of Education for a year, after which I taught Mathematics at a school in Southgate – and all the while still writing for the philatelic press. Until I was invited to join Link House Magazines full time, being appointed Editor of *Stamp Magazine*, following the retirement of Arthur Blair in 1972. Maintaining a wide interest in the hobby was clearly a benefit when editing.

Do you have any favourite stamps or covers?

That is difficult to answer, as there are so many stamps I like. However, from my early years as a collector, I always admired the Annigoni portrait of The Queen, and so liked the 2s 8d Local Government stamp from Norfolk Island, and other issues that have featured this portrait from places such as Fiji, Hong Kong and the Turks & Caicos Islands. Like many collectors I have also always liked the Machin definitives, and the work of David Gentleman, most notably his designs for



David Gentleman's designs for the Shakespeare Festival lower values in 1964 – a refreshingly innovative approach to British stamp design









The Norfolk Island 2s 8d local Government stamp with the Annigoni portrait of The Queen

Left: The Annigoni portrait on definitives from Fiji, Hong Kong and Turks & Caicos Islands

the Shakespeare Festival set in 1964. Having had the privilege of meeting so many excellent designers over the years, such as the incredible Czeslaw Slania who I have seen performing his engraving skills, I can appreciate their extraordinary talents and the countless wonderful designs they have given us.

What joy have you felt at finding a particular item?

It is always good to be able to add something to the collection, especially if it is a stamp or cover that has eluded you for some considerable time. But often the fun comes from the searching, and once in the collection, there is almost an anti-climax. Equally frustrating is when a dealer offers you such an item, but on inspection, it turns out to be wrong.

Have you ever been sold a forged item?

Fortunately not. That is not to say I don't have any forgeries, but I know what they are. It is frightening how many forgeries exist of the Machin definitives. However, as just mentioned, I have been offered stamps that turn out to be not as described. This can happen with the likes of overprints and shades. Fortunately the vast majority of dealers and auctioneers are happy to correct the mistake. One shade I find is frequently mistaken goes back to the 1964 Shakespeare Festival issue. The 2s 6d is known in black: this is best identified by comparison with other examples of the 2s 6d. I have frequently seen examples described as 'black' which, when put alongside another example, look distinctly brown. I must admit that I do prefer to see what I am buying ►



The 2s 6d Shakespeare Festival stamp – but is it the black shade?



Postcard depicting Czeslaw Slania and the first stamp he engraved for the Swedish Post Office



The iconic Machin definitive, and the poster announcing the upcoming issue



'in the flesh'. I fully realise that online buying and selling is now the norm, and many are more than happy with the results. But it can have its downside, so one must be wary of items being not as described or over-priced.

What joys have you felt at viewing a display or visiting an exhibition?

I have always enjoyed looking at displays, whether at exhibitions or part of philatelic society meetings. I really do believe that those who are not members of societies, or do not go to exhibitions, are missing a great deal. You always learn something from seeing the material of others, even if it is not your own specific collecting interest. It's also amazing what collections are around that few are aware of. Many years ago, while Secretary of Brighton and Hove Philatelic Society, I was told of a solicitor in Hove who collected Canada. He had never shown his material publicly, but I persuaded him to show to the society. What he had was unbelievable – mint Canada, including the scarcest items, and much of it in blocks.

A fond memory will always be the international stamp exhibition London 1980. The Queen visited the exhibition: I had the honour of being introduced. I was involved in the years of planning. I shall never forget that as soon as the public had left on the final day, and the doors closed, the contractors came in and began demolishing everything. I sat down and cried.

What joys have you felt at meeting or assisting fellow collectors?

Again, what makes societies and exhibitions so special is meeting with others. Not only have many personal friendships been established, but the sharing of knowledge and experiences has been invaluable. I have particularly valued my involvement with the Stamp Active Network that encourages the hobby among the young. There is a great deal of satisfaction in seeing a display or collection develop from its beginnings until it achieves a high award at a national competition, but more especially on the international arena. One soon realises, however, that all too quickly will come the time when academic and other pressures means the stamps are put to one side. Hopefully one day, in the future, the collection will be remembered, maybe looked at afresh, and a new collector will emerge. And with luck, the same pleasure will be achieved that I have enjoyed for nearly 65 years ●

Below: being introduced to The Queen at the international stamp exhibition London 1980 with other members of the Organising Committee, and (below right) Her Majesty being shown exhibits by Dr Alan Huggins





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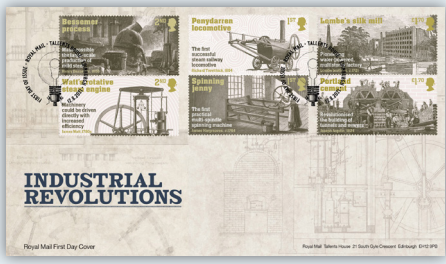
New Issues and Withdrawals

Information correct at the time of going to press

4 August **Withdrawal** The Wars of the Roses: Stamp Souvenir.

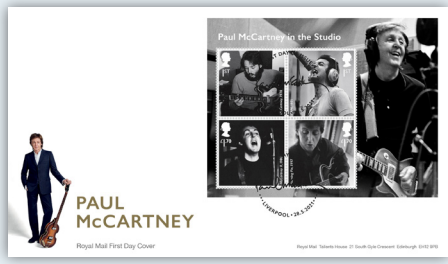


12 August **Issue** Industrial Revolutions: Stamps (2 x 2nd Class, 2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.70). Miniature Sheet (1 x 2nd Class, 1 x 1st Class, 1 x £1.70, 1 x £2.55). Presentation Pack. Stamp Souvenir. Stamp Sheet Souvenir. First Day Envelope. First Day Cover. First Day Cover Miniature Sheet. First Day Cover Prestige Stamp Book Pane. Postcards (11 in set). Prestige Stamp Book (Pane 1: 2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.70, Pane 2: 2 x 2nd Class, 2 x 1st Class, Pane 3: 1 x 2nd Class, 1 x 1st Class, 1 x £1.70, 1 x £2.55, Pane 4: 2 x 5p, 3 x 10p, 2 x 20p, 1 x £1.70).



28 August **Withdrawal** Paul McCartney: Stamp Souvenir. Stamp Sheet Souvenir.





2 September **Issue** British Army Vehicles: Stamps (4 x 1st Class, 4 x £1.70). Miniature Sheet (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.70). Presentation Pack. Stamp Souvenir. Stamp Sheet Souvenir. First Day Envelope. First Day Cover. First Day Cover Miniature Sheet. Stamp Sheets. Postcards (13 in set). Framed Print with Stamp.

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