

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The ROYAL MAIL magazine *for stamp collectors*

Bulletin

Volume 41 Number 9

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Anniversaries • Court Post 2
• A British Journey: Wales



Royal Mail's philatelic tour of Britain moves on to Wales: a new issue of six stamps goes on sale on 15 June.

Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



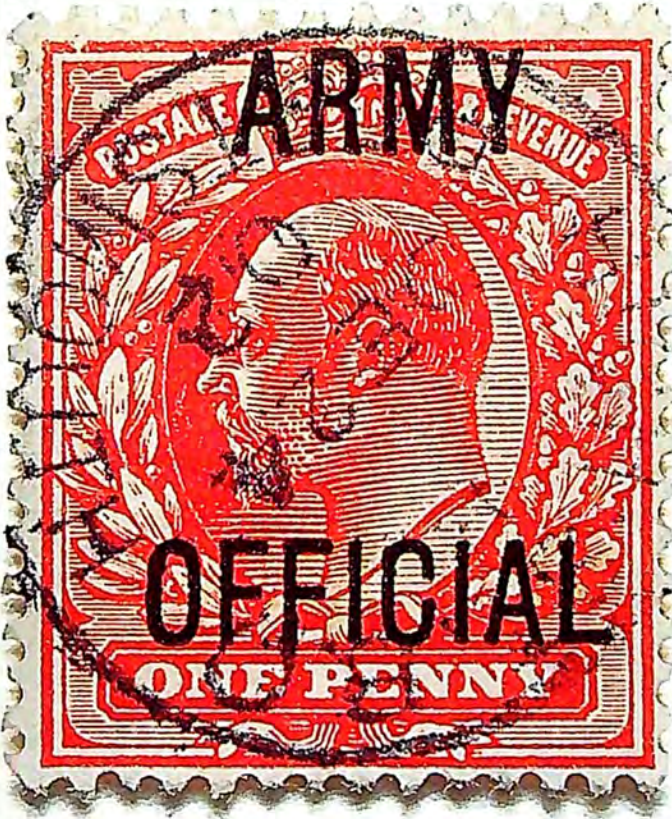
Cover Coed Y Brenin forest, Wales. A preview of the next stage of Royal Mail's British Journey begins on page 272. Photograph © Wales Tourist Board.

Issues Note some items are available only from Royal Mail Tallents House Edinburgh and Post Office Limited philatelic outlets at main post offices in Bath, Belfast, Birmingham, Brighton, Bristol, Cambridge, Canterbury, Cardiff, Chester, Coventry, Croydon, Durham, Edinburgh, Exeter, Gatwick Airport, Glasgow, Grimsby, Guildford, Harrogate, Leeds, Leicester, London (Eastcheap and Trafalgar Sq), Manchester, Newcastle upon Tyne, Norwich, Nottingham, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Southampton, Southend-on-Sea, Stevenage, Stratford-on-Avon, Stroud, Truro, Windsor and York.

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17.00 Monday-Friday): 08457
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131 316 7483

28 April	Withdrawal Extreme Endeavours stamps, presentation pack, stamp cards, and self-adhesive book.
5 May	Withdrawal 33p and 41p Machin definitives.
11 May	Issue 40p country stamps for England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland, and presentation pack containing one of each stamp.
18 May	Issue Royal Horticultural Society stamp cards.
25 May	Issue Royal Horticultural Society stamps, miniature sheet, presentation pack, <i>Glory of the Garden</i> PSB; Smilers sheet, and Philatelic Medallion Cover.
1 June	Withdrawal Coronation anniversary stamps, presentation pack, stamp cards and prestige book.
8 June	Issue British Journey: Wales stamp cards.
15 June	Issue British Journey: Wales stamps, presentation pack, and self-adhesive stamp book.
15 June	Issue Ingot pack: Edward VII and George V stamps No1.
15 June	Issue Stamp books: 12 x 2nd, 4 x Universal Letter Rate Europe & Worldwide, Business sheets of 100 x 1st and 2nd class stamps with revised Royal Mail logo, without 'The Real Network' strapline below the logo • 6 x 1st book with London Olympics 2012 message on front cover.
16 June	Withdrawal Prince William of Wales stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards.
	Ocean Liners stamp cards Please note that cards of the <i>Canberra</i> stamp and miniature sheet show this stamp with the incorrect value 38p. The stamp (and stamp in miniature sheet) has the E indicator for the European rate, now 40p. Royal Mail regrets any confusion caused.

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The **British Philatelic Bulletin** is published monthly by Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ • **Editor** J R Holman • **Price** £1.10 single copies from Post Office Ltd philatelic outlets • **Annual subscription** £11.75 UK & Europe, £16.75 elsewhere. Send subscriptions to Royal Mail Talents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB • **Binders** (to hold 24 issues) £8.50, storage boxes (about 30 copies) £9.95 available by post from Royal Mail (Edinburgh address, above) • Royal Mail also publishes the fortnightly **British Postmark Bulletin**, giving details of forthcoming special handstamps. Available on annual subscription from Edinburgh address above: £12.25 UK and Europe, £24.95 rest of the world • **Copyright** Design & text Royal Mail Group plc, unless attributed to a specified author. All requests to reproduce any article should be addressed to the Editor, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ • **Design** Robert Maude • **Printed** in Great Britain by White Productions Ltd • **ISSN** 0953 8119 • Royal Mail is a trading name of Royal Mail Group plc. Registered in England and Wales no 4138203, registered office 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ

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NYSG auction at Stampex.

Spring Stampex The exhibition (25-29 February) attracted some 7375 visitors, nearly 2400 on the opening day. Visitors were spoilt with a choice of displays from the German & Colonies Philatelic Society, American Stamp Club of Great Britain, and Guild of St Gabriel. A display relating to the tercentenary of the British presence in Gibraltar included superb material from the Gibraltar archives and stamps and postal history studies by members of the Gibraltar Study Circle.

Nearby Heritage Royal Mail provided a display relating to Edmund Dulac and the forthcoming *Entente Cordiale* issue, and visitors could watch a video about the TPO service and the restoration of a TPO coach. As usual there were many visitors to the stand of the Manchester Postal Museum where David Harrop showed military artifacts and postal material. Staff on the Royal Mail stand were kept busy, with the *Classic Locomotives* and *Lord of the Rings* stamps, albums and collectables much in demand.

The National Youth Stamp Group Area attracted more young collectors than for some time and the free auction on the Saturday was a noisy and highly active event. There were lots of extra prizes, included in the auction, donated by the Philatelic Traders Society and Royal Mail.

Ian from Brentwood was the proud winner of the Penny Black stamp, donated by the British Philatelic Trust, in the lucky dip.



Ian from Brentwood, winner of a Penny Black in the lucky dip.

Exhibitions such as Stampex require a good number of people who work 'behind the scenes' to make it a success. Of special note are the supportive National Philatelic Society members who man the information stand, helping visitors and providing information on the NPS, the Association of British Philatelic Societies, and the British Philatelic Trust. We now look forward to Autumn Stampex, 15-19 September, which will include the national competitions, and a major display by the China Philatelic Society •

Hong Kong Stamp Expo Royal Mail Stamps & Collectibles attended the Hong Kong 2004 Stamp Exhibition (30 January - 3 February). The Expo intended to attract 300,000 visitors and, even with rigid Chinese crowd control methods, some days it felt that their estimate was about right! The Royal Mail booth, near the middle of the hall, flew the Union Flag, with backdrop images of *The Queen on the Gold Definitive*, the Coronation and Prince William 21st stamp issues. Customers flocked to the stand. Perhaps the fact that the Disney stand (who are launching in China in 2006/7) was nearby also resulted in a flow-past of excited Chinese children!

People were delighted to see Royal Mail in Hong Kong. We were congratulated on both the appearance of the booth and its prominent marketing activities by the Expo organisers and customers. Our customers in

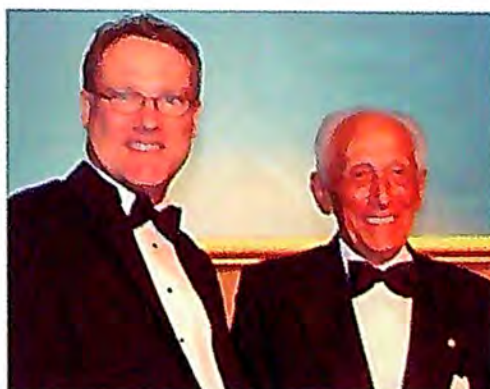
Hong Kong and surrounding areas were sent an invitation to the stand, and over 300 came along. Two prize draws were offered, one for existing and another for new customers who were interested in subscribing to collecting UK stamps. The winners were Mr Louis Chu, who received a Year Book, and Mr Wong Wai Yin Wan, who won a Scotland frame.

Popular products included anything with a Royal or British connection, and most special stamps attracted buyers. The eyes of teenage girls and ladies alike twinkled at the Prince William images! I was impressed by the knowledge of the English language and British history freely expressed by the children. Other postal administrations also commented on how many young collectors attended, compared to exhibitions in Europe. Fun Fruit and Veg attracted much curiosity and customers showed huge interest in prestige books, special collections and the new range of coin and ingot collections, with all stock being quickly sold out. We had many requests for the Year Books and Packs and the wide range of Smilers generic sheets – including the special exhibition Year of the Monkey sheet for Hong Kong. The new country stamps (white border) sold out but there was less interest in the retail books.

Many customers asked about our programme, Tallents House services and wanted to restart their UK collections. Alex Brown – whose philatelic knowledge as part of the Customer Services team in Tallents House is second to none – acted as consultant. He led the stand ably and professionally with the assistance of Pearl and Simon, two local marketing students who could translate the variety of Chinese dialects and languages in common usage. They wore their Royal Mail polo shirts with pride and were elated to keep them as souvenirs!

John Wright, former Bureau Manager, spoke at the International Postal Symposium on customer relationship marketing and using agencies or representatives as sales channels, which made for interesting debate. *Cathie Campbell, Trade & Overseas Manager, Royal Mail Stamps & Collectibles* •

Rowland Hill Awards The awards for philatelic achievement during 2003 were presented at a dinner held at Skinners' Hall, London on 18 March •



Left to right: Francis Kiddle, Erene Grieve, Miles Kington, Gavin Macrae and Max Stern. The Rowland Hill Awards were announced in last month's *Bulletin*.



The Royal Mail stand at the Hong Kong exhibition.

Future overseas exhibitions Three international exhibitions are planned this year: España (Valencia, 22-30 May), Olympilex (Athens, 13-28 August), and Singapore (28 August - 1 September). An exhibition of rare stamps will be held in Monaco (3-5 December).

España enquiries España 2004, Apartado de Correos 1010, E-28080 Madrid, Spain. E-mail españa2004@correos.es

Singapore enquiries WSC 2004, c/o AV Consultants Pte Ltd, 232A River Valley Road, Singapore 238290. E-mail wsc2004@singnet.com.sg

España 2004 – to be held at the City of Arts and Sciences in Valencia, Spain, 22-30 May – is sponsored by Spanish Post in collaboration with the Spanish Federation of Philatelic Societies. There will be some 3600 exhibition frames as well as stands for dealers and postal administrations. Exhibits will be arranged in non-competitive and competitive classes, non-competitive including displays by postal authorities, museums, stamp printers and designers as well as a Court of Honour. Competitive entries will be displayed in Championship, Traditional, Revenue, Postal History, Postal Stationery, Aerophilately, Astrophilately, Thematic, Maximaphily, Youth, Open, One Frame, and Literature classes. The UK Commissioner is Keith Fitton, 50 Firlands, Weybridge KT13 0HR •

The Singapore exhibition, including the World Stamp Championship, at the Singapore International Convention and Exhibition Centre, will have over 200 sales booths, over 2000 frames of competitive exhibits, special displays of rare exhibits, thematic displays, interactive activities for young collectors, talks and seminars. 2004 marks the 150th anniversary of the first use of Indian stamps in Singapore and the Straits Settlements. They remained in use until 1867 when the Straits Settlements issued its own stamps. The first World Stamp Exhibition in Singapore in 1995 attracted over 200,000 visitors and a similar attendance is expected for this year's show. Singapore has also hosted Asian International Stamp Exhibitions in 1987, 1990, 1994 and 1998. The World Stamp Championship will be the highest level of competition in philately where philatelists will compete for one each of gold, silver and bronze medals to be awarded to three finalists. The Gold Medallist will be recognised as having won the highest award in competitive philately. Singapore 2004 is organised by the Association of Singapore Philatelists and sponsored by Singapore Post which has issued souvenir sheets to promote the exhibition. Opening hours will be 10.00-19.00 28-31 August and 10.00-17.00 on 1 September; admission free. The UK Commissioner is Brian Sole, 3 Stockfield Road, Claygate, Esher KT10 0QG •

MonacoPhil 2004 will comprise the annual exhibition of 100 philatelic rarities displayed by members of the Club de Monte-Carlo. There will also be trade stands offering a range of material, both classic stamps and modern issues •

Washington 2006 For details on becoming a member, write to PO Box 2006, Ashburn, VA 20146-2006, USA.

www.washington-2006.org/

The fifth newsletter for the Washington 2006 international exhibition (27 May - 3 June 2006) is now on their website. The exhibition has over 375 individual and society members, and total donations exceeding \$317,000. Members receive limited edition souvenir cards featuring the Washington 2006 logo and proofs of stamp labels depicting the Capitol building within a frame reminiscent of the USA 1894 definitive issue. The cards are dated (2003-6) so a complete set will be a major collectible of Washington 2006. The exhibition's Bulletin is scheduled for May •

New 'Jeffery Matthews' sheet for Thematica The third in a series of souvenir sheets has been produced for this year's Thematica exhibition. These sheets, each limited to a production run of 5000, show design concepts from Jeffery Matthews for British stamp issues which were, in the event, not used. Jeffery, one of Britain's leading stamp designers, was awarded the MBE in the New Year's Honours. The 2004 sheet shows alternative designs which Jeffery submitted for the College of Arms set in 1984. The issued stamps were designed by Jeffery. The sheets have been kindly printed by Cartor, the security stamp printers based in France. Every visitor to Thematica will be given one of the sheets free, subject to supplies remaining available.

Thematica takes place on Saturday, 26 June and Sunday, 27 June at Carisbrooke Hall, Seymour Street, London W2, near Marble Arch. Opening hours are 10.30-17.30pm on Saturday, and 10.30-17.00 on Sunday. Admission is free. In addition to the many UK and overseas dealers, there will be displays and competitive exhibits, representatives from many of the UK's thematic societies, and the usual 'activity' area for young visitors •



Rail Mail 2004 The Nene Valley Railway will host Mail Rail 2004 on 19 and 20 June. Three ex Great Western, Southern, and London Midland Railways TPO coaches will be operating or on display. Other attractions will include the railway letter service, philatelic collections on display, vintage postal vehicles, steam and diesel locomotives in operation, and a real ale beer festival •

Rail Mail 2004 Nene Valley Railway, Wansford Station, Stibington, Peterborough PE8 6LR. Website: www.tpo.org.uk

Auctions Spink will auction the Louis Grunin collection of caricatures and illustrated envelopes on 6 May. This magnificent collection offers an outstanding range of unusual and rare pieces from the early period of the introduction of the Penny Post. The sale will include many unique and rare items •

Spink Telephone 020 7563 4000 or website www.spink.com

Over £250,000 was realised at Harmers on 3 March in the second in their new series of 'Lots and Collections' auctions which are proving very popular with bidders and vendors. Lot number 1, a fantastic Commonwealth Collection in a well-filled *Imperial* album, realised £51,700 (estimate £45,000). A valuable European collection in four albums went for £11,750 (£11,000), and a Commonwealth collection, in 21 albums, of mainly Elizabeth II, issues to about 1971 made £5405. A transport thematic collection, with emphasis on trains, went for £3878 (£2750), and a collection of France to about 1890 made £8225 (£4750). Bidders were enthusiastic when it came to GB and Commonwealth material. A collection of the 1841-79 1d stamps, in seven albums and stock books and a framed reconstruction of an entire sheet of stamps, achieved £7638 (£7500) •

Harmers For details of future auctions contact Harmers, No 11, 111 Power Road, London W4 5PY. Telephone 020 8747 6100. Website: www.harmers.com

Stamps in Schools Anyone interested in a school visit in their area should write to the Project Organiser, Mrs Erene Grieve, The Dees, Neyland Vale, Neyland, Milford Haven SA73 1QP. Right: Stamp Day at West End Primary School, Elgin, Scotland.



Stamps in Schools Project The Project continues to go from strength to strength with over 120 schools visited in all parts of the UK – from Inverness to the Isle of Wight, from Islington to the Isle of Man. Many schools are setting up new stamp clubs with great enthusiasm, helped by the Stamp Active Resource Pack produced by the National Youth Stamp Committee, and material available from the British Philatelic Trust. For information on how to set up a stamp club contact the NYSC at 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1M 6PT. *A feature about Mrs Grieve's work on the Stamps in Schools Project was published here in May 2002.* ED •

GB Philatelic Society For details of membership write to Debbie Harman, Greylands, Melton, Woodbridge IP12 1QE or e-mail gbpsmemsec@aol.com

BDSSC For membership details see the Study Circle's website: www.bdssc.co.uk

ATA PO Box 57, Arlington TX 76004-0057, USA.

Publications The March/April issue of *The GB Journal* (GB Philatelic Society) includes articles and notes on George V ½d 'New Moon' flaw, Smart-Stamps; security embossing on Victorian stamps; Edward VII 1d pin flaws, and the George V ½d Cyprus green shade. There are some useful book reviews and the usual advertisements from specialist GB dealers. A good read for all serious collectors of GB. The Society's next meeting will be at the British Philatelic Centre, Charterhouse Street, London EC1 on 15 May, beginning with a display at 11.00 •

The British Decimal Stamp Study Circle's January *Newsletter* includes a detailed account of FDCs and related postmarks for 2003, reviews of the British Museum, Christmas, and Rugby issues, plus comment and letters on recent developments affecting collectors of modern GB stamps. Accompanying the *Newsletter* are *NewsSheets* detailing cylinder numbers and printing dates of recent printings of definitive, country and special stamps, and a catalogue for the BDSSC Spring auction •

The prolific American Topical Association has published a new handbook – *Plants on Stamps, Volume IV* listing about 4630 plant stamps issued by over 200 countries from 1998 until April 2003. Last year the ATA conducted an analysis of its members' interests and found plants the most popular. The new handbook costs \$18 (postage \$2 USA, \$3 Canada, \$5 elsewhere) from the address at left. A fourth supplement to *Railways of the World on Stamps* is now available at \$10 (postage \$2/\$3/\$4) •

The March issue of *Thamescene* (British Thematic Association) includes feature articles on Manifest Destiny (Wells Fargo, USA), The Humble Spud, Sir Ernest Shackleton, and Safety of Seafarers, as well as regular BTA news, letters, book reviews, library listing, etc. The BTA President, Brian Sole, recalls his recent experiences when contacted by *The Times* for a comment on the Isle of Man Lord of the Rings stamps •

BTA For details contact Ian Paton, c/o British Philatelic Centre, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1M 6PT.

British Virgin Islands Philatelic Museum Members of the British Virgin Islands Philatelic Society are busy planning for the first Philatelic Museum in the English-speaking Caribbean. This will be part of a Museum in Old Government House where a comprehensive BVI Collection will be displayed. An area has also been reserved for temporary displays, hopefully at least two or three different collections every year, and an adjacent room will house a Philatelic Library. Publishers, philatelic writers, postal historians and philatelic societies are invited to send their publications for the Library (over 200 books already received) to: Virgin Islands Philatelic Museum, PO Box 704, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands. The Virgin Islands Postal Administration will issue two stamps to mark the launching of the Museum at Old Government House; one stamp will be devoted to the Philatelic Museum. Right: Old Government House on BVI Royal Birthday stamp of 1996 •



Jersey commemorative stamps Jersey celebrates the 60th anniversary of D-Day with a miniature sheet containing a £2 stamp on 6 June. The design is based on the 30p stamp in the 50th anniversary set of 1994. Designer Tony Theobald has reworked the design and expanded on the original map concept of showing the areas where each of the Allied Forces landed and has included the insignia of the main units and organisations involved. In July stamps will mark 800 years of the special relationship with the British Crown •

Enquiries Jersey Philatelic Bureau, Postal Headquarters, Jersey JE1 1AB. Website: www.jerseypost.com

Gibbons success Stanley Gibbons has recently announced increased annual turnover to £8.62 million with pre-tax profit of £1.23m, compared to £537,000 last year. This is due to increased popularity of stamps and autographs, with good increases in the prices of GB stamps in particular. SG Chairman Paul Fraser said these were record results for the business, which also deals in autographs in addition to stamps and postal history. Over the past year the company has sold autographs and documents belonging to Tudor monarchs as well as more recent personages •

Stanley Gibbons Ltd 399 Strand, London WC2R 0LX. Telephone 020 7836 8444. www.stanleygibbons.com

Bulletin back issues Adrian Belton has bound back issues from volume 6 (September 1968) available to a reader who can collect from him or pay postage costs. Contact Mr Belton at Overhill House, White Lodge Lane, Baslow, Bakewell, Derbyshire DE45 1RQ. Richard Maund has a run from September 1963 to December 2003 (missing just December 1991 and September 1993) available for a reader who wants them. Contact him on e-mail: both@themaunds.idps.co.uk •

Royal Mail news Special issues • Country stamps • Stamp books • Postcards • Ingots



Proofs of three of the Royal Society of Arts stamps. Note: the William Shipley stamp will become the 40p value, and Rowland Hill will be 1st class.

Special issues This month's issue of special stamps, on 25 May, marks the bicentenary of the Royal Horticultural Society and comprises six stamps, a miniature sheet, and a prestige book entitled *The Glory of the Garden*. The stamps were previewed last month. This month's preview feature is for the third of the 'British Journey' issues, depicting Welsh scenery. The stamps go on sale on 15 June. There will be no special issue in July; the 2004 programme then continues with Royal Society of Arts (10 August); Woodland Animals (16 September); Crimean War (12 October); and Christmas (2 November). The RSA stamps will feature: 1st Penny Black (Sir Rowland Hill was awarded the RSA Albert Medal); 40p William Shipley, founder of the Society; 43p RSA Commercial Examinations; 47p Apparatus for sweeping chimneys; 57p Eric Gill's famous typeface (he was the RSA's first Royal Designer for Industry); and 68p ZeroWaste, the Society's campaign for policies and lifestyles that eliminate waste. The stamps, designed by Derek Birdsall and printed by Walsall, will be previewed here next month.

The programme for 2005 will be: Farm Animals (January); Magic Circle (February); British Journey: South West England and The Brontës (March); World Heritage Sites (April); Trooping the Colour (June); Motorcycles and British Journey (region to be announced) (July); Gastronomy (August); Independent Television (September); Battle of Trafalgar (October); and Christmas (November). Exact dates of issue and numbers of stamps per set will be announced nearer the time. Miniature sheets will be issued with the Magic Circle, Trooping the Colour, Motorcycles, Battle of Trafalgar, and Christmas issues. Prestige stamp books are to be issued in March (The Brontës) and October (Battle of Trafalgar), and miniature sheets containing definitive stamps in March and September. A Smilers sheet will be issued for the Farm Animals set •

New country stamps New 40p country stamps for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland will be available from 11 May. The first day postmarks were shown last month. Serviced covers for each of the four countries with the new 40p country stamps cancelled Tallents House or the country capital (London, Edinburgh, Cardiff, or Belfast) can be ordered from Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB, each price 89p UK, 76p overseas.



Collectors can send stamped covers on the day of issue to Tallents House for its postmark or to any of the Special Handstamp Centres for the other postmarks. Please quote reference numbers: FDO437 Tallents House, FDO433 London, FDO434 Edinburgh, FDO435 Cardiff, and FDO436 Belfast. Royal Mail first day envelopes for each of the country stamps will be available at main Post Office branches in each country (and from philatelic outlets and Tallents House), price 25p each. The covers are as previous issues, showing scenery. There will be no new stamp cards. A presentation pack containing the four new 40p country stamps costs £1.95.

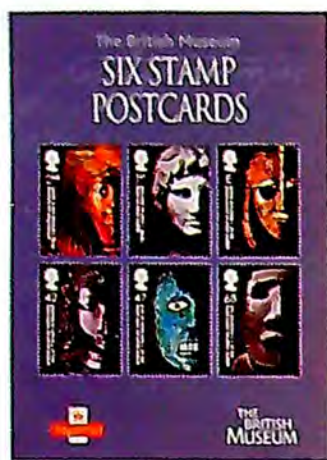
The £ rate definitive and country stamps will be withdrawn from general sale at Post Office branches on 10 May, but will remain on philatelic sale until further notice. Since 1 April the postal value of the £ rate stamp has been 40p. Any remaining stocks of the 33p and 41p Machin definitives will be withdrawn from philatelic sale on 5 May •



Stamp books Shown here is the Ocean Liners retail book which went on sale on 13 April. It contains two of the *Queen Mary 2* stamps and four 1st class definitives, all self-adhesive. The cylinders used were: D1 gold (QM2 stamp), D1 black, D1 cyan (blue), D1 yellow, D1 magenta, D1 gold (definitive stamp), D1 phosphor.

New printings of the 12 x 2nd class and the two Universal letter rate stamp books (Europe and Worldwide) will go on philatelic sale from 15 June, price £2.52, £2.28, and £4.48 respectively. The stamps will be unchanged but on the front cover the Royal Mail logo will now be shown without the 'The Real Network' strapline below the logo. Business sheets of 100 1st and 2nd class stamps (£28 and £21) will also be available with the amended logo. These reprinted books will go on sale at Post Office branches and retail outlets as stocks of the earlier books are used up •

Withdrawals Remaining stock of the Coronation Anniversary stamps, pack, cards, and PSB will be withdrawn from sale at Tallents House on 1 June. The Prince William stamps, packs and cards come off sale on 16 June •



Royal Mail stamp cards Readers are reminded that three postcard books are still available: Coastlines, Post Boxes, and British Museum. In addition to reproductions of the 10 Coastlines stamps, there are 15 other cards featuring the British coastline, including Felixstowe, Strangford Lough (Northern Ireland), and the coast near Berwick-upon-Tweed. The cards (stamp and view) measure 167 x 122mm, being larger than the standard stamp (PHQ) cards. They can be removed from the book by tearing along a row of rouletting. The Post Boxes book contains five cards reproducing the Pillar to Post stamps and a further 20 showing Post Office posters featuring pillar boxes. The British Museum book contains large-format postcard reproductions of the six stamps. Each is A5 size (21 x 14.75cm) with a white border. The cards are bound in a card cover with an easily detachable adhesive. The Coastlines and Post Boxes books cost £5.99 each (order codes PB366 and PB367), and British Museum £4.99 (PB372) •



Postmark for the forthcoming Royal Horticultural Society medal cover (25 May). See back cover for details of how to order.

Ingots and special covers The first in a new series of six ingots is expected next month. These will feature stamps of the reigns of Edward VII and George V: Edward VII 1d and £1, George V 1d Mackennal profile definitive, 10s Seahorse high value, 1d 1924 British Empire Exhibition, and 1929 £1 PUG commemoratives. The Victorian stamp ingot series is still available, price £26.95 each – see the back cover of last September's *Bulletin*.

The following coin, banknote, and ingot covers are still available: Pillar to Post ingot cover (2nd class stamp, 28 Jan 2003, code A1001, price £29.95); DNA Discoveries coin cover (25 Feb 2003, AN031, £13.95); Pillar to Post ingot cover (1st class stamp, A1002, £29.95); Coronation coin cover (2 June 2003, AN032, £15.95); Coronation banknote cover (2 June 2003, AB001, £44.95); Pillar to Post ingot cover (E stamp, A1005, £29.95); Extreme Endeavours coin cover (27 Aug 2003, AN033, £13.50); Pillar to Post ingot cover (47p stamp, 2 Oct 2003, A1007, £29.95); British Museum medal cover (7 Oct 2003, AM010, £12.95); Classic Locomotives coin cover (13 Jan 2004, AN034, £13.95); and Ocean Liners medal cover (13 April 2004, AM011, £14.95) •

Classic Locomotives Royal Mail undertakes research on the impact of each new stamp issue. For the Classic Locomotive stamps (13 January) research was conducted among 2048 adults across the UK on 23-29 January. Some 26% were aware of the stamp issue (65% amongst collectors), and 26% (74% collectors) expressed an interest in the subject as a stamp theme. The designs were considered attractive by 73% of those interviewed, the figure rising to 92% of collectors. When asked how they found about about this issue, 28% replied through a post office, 20% television and radio, 10% national press, 6% friends and family, and just 1% philatelic press. Of those interviewed, 7% said they bought stamps either for themselves or to give as presents, 22% said they used to collect, and 71% had never collected •

Stamp and coin publications Tallents House stocks two useful Stanley Gibbons publications – *Collect British Stamps* and the new *Collect British Coins*. They are available at £9.95 each (order codes PB378 and PB379) •

Philately on-line Ron Negus considers uses for a scanner



www.pgacon.com/Stampcol.asp This site looks at scanning in a philatelic context, but there are many others on the internet that examine scanning in general terms, and these are worth searching for.

A GREAT MANY computers on sale today are supplied as part of a package deal which includes the machine itself, a printer and a scanner. The use of the printer is self-evident, but not all users take the trouble to connect up the scanner. This is a pity, because scanning is a simple task. Essentially it provides the means to create a digital image of stamps, covers, printed pages, and so on. Even where a scanner is not supplied with the original machine, there are a number of models on the market that are quite inexpensive.

Dr Peter G Aitken is an American collector who is also a computer consultant, and his personal website (see address in caption above) contains a section on philately. Within this there is a sub-section devoted to 'Tips on Scanning' which provides a great deal of useful information. Another sub-section, entitled 'Stamps FAQ' (which stands for 'Frequently Asked Questions') is well worth reading also.

Within the scanning portion of his site, however, Dr Aitken starts by describing the different types of scanner that can be purchased. This includes some reasons why some types are more suited to stamp work than others. It does not recommend specific manufacturers' models, because these are being introduced all the time and any recommendation would soon be out of date. It does explain facilities to look for, and introduces the terminology found in the suppliers' sales literature. An important entry here discusses facilities versus cost price, and provides some advice on where to look for help in making the purchasing decision.

The scanner will nearly always come complete with a program that allows it to transfer the digital image as a file into the computer's storage – normally the hard disk drive is used initially for this. The other essential piece of software needed is an image editing program, and this is not often supplied with the machine. There are many good image manipulation programs on sale and it is worth using your internet search engine (with the keywords 'image editors') to find sites that review the more popular versions before selecting one. Many cheaper programs are excellent value, and give all the facilities needed for stamp work.

Dr Aitken's site then goes on to give examples of ways in which a collector can use a scanner. This begins with creating images of watermarks, and an example is shown. Then details are given on how a scanned image of a stamp can be edited in order that an indistinct postmark can be read more easily.

This is followed by the description of two different methods that enable the user to obtain an image of a postmark or overprint from a stamp in such a way that it appears to have been lifted from it. Once again, an example is shown. One of the techniques used can also be applied to detecting forgeries and printing varieties between two stamps. Overlaying scanned images of each one above the other on the computer screen and comparing them, with enlargements where necessary, achieves this. The final section of the site considers how a scanner can produce images of philatelic materials destined to appear in the ever expanding field of on-line auction sales •

Mainly Machins D G A Myall looks at recent developments



From left: Scottish country stamps from the *Letters by Night* PSB; new worldwide postcard rate stamp book; and cylinder blocks of the new 7p and new printing of the 20p, cylinder D2.

Letters by Night and anniversaries In my March *Bulletin* article I mentioned that this prestige book would also commemorate the centenary of the first official book of stamps. In the event, the book did not mention this important anniversary, although it is heralded on the first day of issue postmark used at Tallents House for covers bearing stamps from the book. If you undo the stitching of a book you will see some interesting printing details at the left edge of each component page. Among these are the page numbers. First are six text pages with each side numbered from 1 to 12. Most of these contain *The Last Post*, the specially commissioned poem by Simon Armitage. Text page 12 refers to *Night Mail*, the innovative 1936 film about the London to Glasgow Down Special, which included W H Auden's famous poem of the same name. Then, at the back of the book, come the four stamp panes which have extracts from the Auden poem on the stubs. This unusual assembly kept the two poems apart since the usual practice of alternating panes and interleaves might have caused confusion. The interesting thing is that stamp panes 1, 3 and 4 are numbered, on one side only, as pages 13, 17 and 19. Although the second pane, with the three trains stamps, does not have a number (it was printed by a different method) it is reasonable to suppose that it is number 15 in the sequence. This prompts the question, what happened to pages 14, 16 and 18? Were these gummed sides, which naturally have no printing? Or might they have been interleaves keeping the gummed panes from sticking to each other?

In March, I also mentioned that the date of issue was the 150th anniversary of stamp perforations in this country. This rather loose wording prompted an interesting letter from Peter Mansfield who points out that my text is correct only as regards postage stamps. As he says, the word 'stamp' includes fiscal and fee stamps; the first officially-sanctioned perforations were for the penny light blue receipt and penny ochre draft stamps, both issued on 10 October 1853. Listed as postal fiscals, these are illustrated in the SG *GB Concise* catalogue. The anniversary was commemorated in September 2003 in *The Revenue Journal*, the periodical of the Revenue Society of Great Britain. Readers interested in revenue stamps might like to know more of this thriving Society. Contact the Hon Secretary, Tony Hall, 57 Brandles Road, Letchworth, SG6 2JA; telephone 01462 672323; e-mail rsgb.hall@talk21.com

New stamps and books Several new stamps have resulted from the April tariff changes. There are five new Machin sheet stamps as detailed in the March *Bulletin*. They were printed by De La Rue at Byfleet. They are all from cylinders D1 (colour) / D1 (phosphor). So far I can confirm the corresponding dot sheets only on the 7p. The 20p is from a new colour cylinder, D2, but with phosphor D1. Although this value was officially withdrawn last year it remained on sale at philatelic outlets and the re-issue is in the same light green colour with two phosphor bars. It is for use as a make-up value only, as the minimum inland letter rate by the 2nd class service is now 21p.

It has been decided to withdraw the E(uropean) non-value indicators. Some E special issues are in the pipeline, but stamps permanently dedicated to the basic service for letters and cards to European countries are being phased out. The rate went up from 38p to 40p on 1 April. On 11 May, the E stamps in the country pictorial definitive range will be replaced by 40p value stamps with the same designs and colours. They were printed at Byfleet. Although no new E stamps will be printed, unused existing ones will, like all NVIs, retain their validity indefinitely.

The loss of one NVI is balanced to some extent by the issue of a new one. This prepayes the worldwide (universal) rate for airmail postcards. The rate for these went up from 42p to 43p on 1 April. The design incorporates the airmail chevrons seen on the European and Worldwide 40g stamps. Unlike previous NVIs, these did not use potentially confusing symbols but spelt out the intended service in words. The new stamp does the same. It is issued in a book of four with four airmail etiquettes, all self-adhesive. The book is printed by Walsall from dark grey, blue, red and phosphor cylinders, all numbered w1. The Queen's head is dark grey, and this will be its permanent colour. Like the other 'chevron' stamps, it is available only in booklet form so don't overlook it.

The 68p value prepayes the second weight step for airmail letters and was not changed by the April tariff. The 68p country pictorials are to continue for the present but the book of four 68p self-adhesives was withdrawn from post offices on 31 March, although it remains on philatelic sale.

Also withdrawn that day were the four high value Machins, although they will continue to be available to business customers from Royal Mail Direct, and to collectors from Tallents House. Very few post offices order these now that computer-printed labels, which do not have to be franked, are so widely used. It is not cost-effective to maintain stock records and accounting control for numerous local post offices, and they were instructed to return any of these stamps that they had on hand. I have been told that back-up plans exist should any office suffer a computer breakdown.

Two presentation packs of the new definitives are to be issued. One has the four 40p country pictorials. The other has seven national Machins. These are: 7p, 35p, 39p, 40p and 43p in new colours, the worldwide postcard NVI and the 1st gold NVI. The latter comes as a surprise to me. According to Tallents House *Stamp Preview* 115, it is the stamp issued on 1 July 2003.

The first gold NVI was a special issue on 21 April 1997 to commemorate The Queen's golden wedding anniversary. The sheet issue was included, along with the 26p gold, in presentation pack number 38 issued on that day. At that time, the permanent colour of the 1st class NVI was flame. Another gold NVI was issued in books on 5 June 2002, to mark the golden jubilee of Her Majesty's accession. It was decided to make gold the permanent colour in place of flame and the stamp in sheet form went on philatelic sale on 1 July 2003, although it was available at some post offices from around mid-June. Unless you are an ultra-specialist and take account of such attributes as the direction of printing you will not notice any difference between the 1997 and the 2003 stamps. This is not the first time that the same stamp has appeared in different packs, however. Pack number 37, containing 16 low value Machins from 1/2p to 10p, was issued in December 1973. It was re-issued with the same number in 1974, with the same 16 values plus the 6 1/2p, and again in 1975 with the same 17 values plus the 7p. If you buy this pack today make sure which one of the three you are getting.

Retail books of six 1st class self-adhesives, comprising four Machins and two special issues, were devised to introduce specials to a wider public. The series is very successful and four are planned for this year. The first contains two of the Giant's Causeway stamp from the Northern Ireland British Journey set. These were printed by De La Rue from cylinders D1, whereas the sheet stamps with conventional gum were printed by Enschedé from cylinders E1. The stamps are a good colour match and have the same graduated 9mm phosphor bars at each side, although fluorescence on the sheet stamp is quite dull compared to the bright reaction on the De La Rue version •

A British Journey: Wales The third stamp



Technical details

Printer De La Rue

Process Gravure

Stamp size 35mm square

Sheet size 25 and 50

Perforation 14.5

Phosphor One band 2nd, all-over 1st, two bands others

Gum PVA

Gutter pairs Vertical

Cylinder numbers & colours

All values D1 silver • D1 black
• D1 magenta • D1 yellow •
D1 cyan (blue) • D1 phosphor

THE THIRD SET in the 'British Journey' series goes on sale from 15 June (15 Mehefin) – this time touring the Principality of Wales (Cymru). The stamps are: 2nd class train on Barmouth Bridge (Pont Abermaw); 1st class Hyddgen, Plynlimon (Hyddgen, Pumlumon); 40p Brecon Beacons (Bannau Brycheiniog); 43p Pen-tych, Rhondda Valley (Pen-tych, Cwm Rhondda); 47p Rhewl, Dee Valley (Rhewl, Glyn Dyfrdwy); and 68p Marloes Sands (Traeth Marloes). The Queen's silhouette and price or service indicator are in silver at top left and bottom right respectively. On the 2nd and 1st class stamps, the service indicator is bilingual as on the Wales country stamps – 2ail/nd and 1af/st. The location captions are bilingual at the foot of each design. The 1st and 40p stamps are Royal Mail's contribution to this year's Europa series, issued by members of Posteurop. The 'EUROPA' symbol is printed in black in the top right corner of these stamps. The current Europa symbol was introduced in 1993 on the Contemporary Art stamps. The set incorporates locations linked to the 650th anniversary of the birth of Owain Glyndwr and the independence he declared for Wales (see p274).

The issue is designed by Phelan Barker Design Consultants, with photography by Alain Le Garsmeur (2nd class), Jeremy Moore (1st), Alan Greely (40p), Derrick Rees (43p), Janet & Colin Bord (47p), and Joe Cornish (68p).

The stamps will be issued to Post Office branches in sheets of 25; sheets of 50, with gutter margins, will be supplied to Royal Mail Tallents House and Post Office philatelic outlets.

Details of other 15 June hand-stamps will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House (£12.25 in UK & Europe; £24.95 elsewhere). For a free sample copy write to the Editor, *British Postmark Bulletin*, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1Y 8HQ.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets about a week before 15 June, price 25p. Orders for serviced FDCs with the stamps cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of Royal Mail Tallents House Edinburgh or Llanfair PG must reach Tallents House (address below) by the day of issue. Price £3.32 UK or £2.83 overseas.

Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (Tallents House postmark), or any of Royal Mail's six Special Handstamp Centres, (Llanfair postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FDO419' (Tallents House), or 'FDO420' (Llanfair). Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for the Llanfair postmark.

issue in Royal Mail's philatelic tours of Britain



SELF-ADHESIVE STAMP BOOK The 1st class Wales stamp will also be issued as a self-adhesive in a retail stamp book. This will contain two of the Wales stamps plus four 1st class Machin definitives, price £1.68. The Wales stamp will be shown on the front cover.

PHILATELIC PRODUCTS A well-illustrated pack containing the six stamps (price £3) and six stamp cards (30p each) will be available from Talents House, main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets. The pack contains photographs of the Millennium Stadium, Cardiff (Stadiwm y Mileniwm, Caerdydd); Dylan Thomas by Augustus John; the statue of Merlin in Pontypridd; the Prince of Wales Feathers; a River Taf coracle; Merchant Seafarer sculpture, Cardiff Bay; and Welsh rugby fans. Also included are the words of Anthem Genedlaethol Cymru (the Welsh National Anthem).

The presentation pack (above left) was designed by Tutssels Enterprise IG with a map and calligraphy by Kathryn Dodd. The text, by Jill Tunstall, is in Welsh and English.

Owain Glyndwr and stamps
Rhewl, Dee Valley (47p value) is Owain Glyndwr's birthplace and the Hyddgen Valley, (1st), is where the Welsh defeated the English in battle. Owain Glyndwr featured on the 5½p Medieval Warriors stamp of 1974.

Wales The bedrock of Wales came first – in some places 600 million year old pre-Cambrian strata are among oldest in the world. Undersea volcanoes then threw up dramatic mountain ranges and vast sheets of slate, followed by the coal measures. This geology has shaped Wales and her people beginning with the Celts who arrived from Europe in 6000BC, laying down the roots of Welsh culture. Sheep farmers worked the hills and river valleys, coal miners in the south powered industrialized Britain and slate quarymen from the north roofed the world. A country of industrious, chapel-going people developed with diverse traditions of sport, craft, arts, and of course the famous choirs of The Land of Song. Still widely spoken, the Welsh language is an ancient survivor of the Celts. It is alive in everyday speech, celebrated at the Eisteddfod cultural festivals, spoken in the new National Assembly For Wales, heard on s4c (Welsh Television channel), and in the songs of famous bands such as Catatonia.



Wales has a land mass of 20,800 sq km, and a coastline of 1183km. The highest peak is Snowdon (Yr Wyddfa) at 1085m (3560ft). Some 2,946,200 people live in the Principality; 582,300 speak Welsh. Cardiff (Caerdydd), the capital and largest city, has a population of 305,353.

The national emblems are the leek, daffodil and red dragon as shown on the country stamps, and the national day is St David's Day celebrated on 1 March (1 Mawrth). Wales boasts the place with the longest name in the UK – Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwllllantysiliogogogoch on the isle of Anglesey. The name is normally shortened to Llanfair PG or Llanfairpwllgwyngyll. The full-length name will appear on the alternative first day of issue postmarks, one of the few occasions it has been so used. The village sign with English translation of the name (St Mary's Church in the hollow of the white hazel near to the rapid whirlpool of Llantysilio of the red cave) features in the presentation pack •

Wales on stamps Scenery, buildings and culture feature on a number of special issues, chronicled by Paul Reynolds in the May 1999 *Bulletin*. Since then, Wales has also featured in the 2000 Millennium series (the Welsh Highland Railway, Llanelli Coast, and the Welsh harp), 2002 British Coastlines (sand spit, Conwy); and 2004 Classic Locomotives (Talylyn Railway). The British Journey stamps add to a colourful and fairly extensive collection of 'Welsh' issues. Below: Cadair Idris, © Wales Tourist Board.



The Court Post Office 1990-2004 Part 2: arrangements at other English residences

by Glenn Morgan FRPSL



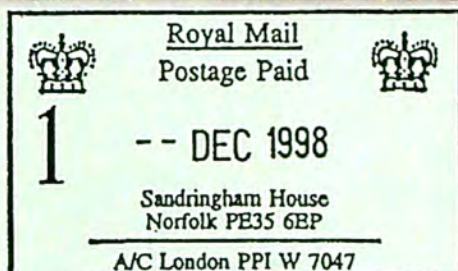
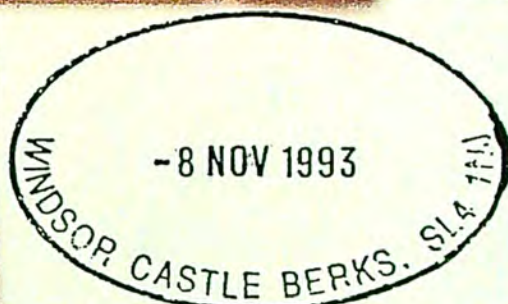
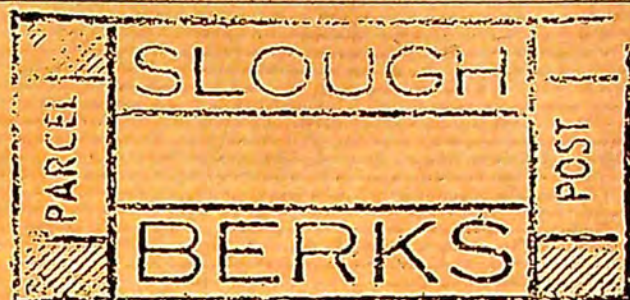
WINDSOR CASTLE, WINDSOR, BERKSHIRE Windsor Castle is an official residence of The Queen, and the largest occupied castle in the world. A Royal palace and fortress for over 900 years, the Castle remains a working palace to this day. Mail from this residence is franked with the blue-coloured first or second class meter franking marking and forwarded to Royal Mail's local Mail Office. As with the Buckingham Palace post, items intended for transmission to Britain and Commonwealth countries additionally bears a machine-applied Royal monogram certifying stamp.

SANDRINGHAM HOUSE, SANDRINGHAM, NORFOLK Built in 1870 by the Prince and Princess of Wales, later King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra, Sandringham was once described as 'The most comfortable house in England'. It has been passed down as a private home through four generations of British monarchs and is now the country retreat of The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh. Following the removal of counter services at Sandringham that had been provided when the Royal Family was in residence, Royal Household mail is now cancelled with one of two Sandringham House postage paid handstamps – either inland or overseas versions. Mail from The Royal Studs and The Estate Office is cancelled with a Pitney Bowes commercial franking machine marking numbered PB712545 and PB307139 respectively.

HIGHGROVE HOUSE, TETBURY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE This house was built between 1796 and 1798 for a local landowner, and remodelled a century later. The Duchy of Cornwall bought Highgrove House on behalf of The Prince of Wales in 1980. The house had been the home of Maurice Macmillan, son of the former Prime Minister Harold Macmillan, for 14 years. When Prince Charles is in residence, mail is franked with a Highgrove House postage paid handstamp, introduced into service on 11 January 2002. There appears to be only an inland version of this handstamp, unlike the other residences where an overseas version also exists. Prior to the introduction of this marking, there had been no means of truly identifying this mail, other than perhaps when the Prince of Wales's feathers design appeared on the rear of an envelope flap and bore a local postmark.

It is hoped that this survey will assist collectors to identify items that they may be unaware of, and therefore are probably missing from their collections. However, it must be stated that the Royal Mail and Royal Household members employed at the Royal residences are extremely busy and cannot, therefore, respond to specific requests for copies of any of the postal cachets or markings recorded here. As a refusal to comply with your request could offend, please approach one of the many dealers in British postal history or ephemera if you wish to own this type of material •

In his next article, Mr Morgan looks at postal arrangements at the Royal residences in Scotland.



If undelivered please return to:
THE ESTATE OFFICE,
SANDRINGHAM,
NORFOLK PE35 6EN



Above: a selection of postmarks used at the Royal residences of Windsor Castle, Sandringham House and Highgrove House. Opposite: postmarks used at Windsor Castle.

It happened in May Four significant postal anniversaries, described by James Mackay

This is a busy month, marking no fewer than four major anniversaries which had a major impact on the postal services. The first of these, a centenary, however, was a negative occasion, as it marks the demise of a service rather than its adoption.

Centenary of the end of official stamps It was on 14 May 1904 that official stamps were withdrawn from use, on the recommendation of a Treasury committee convened in January that year. Three months later it delivered its report stating that the

present array of overprints was undesirable and that the official stamps be abolished and withdrawn from use with the minimum of warning, to prevent any last-minute profiteering. The report was accepted, and instructions were duly issued on 13 May that the stamps were to be withdrawn the following day.

Such stamps had been introduced in October 1882 when they were originally confined to the Inland Revenue. They were extended to government parcels in July 1883, and between 1896 and 1903 they were also provided for the use of the Office of Works, the Army, the Board of Education, the Royal Household and the Admiralty.

From the outset, both the Treasury and the Post Office were concerned that the use of these stamps should be very strictly controlled, and this is borne out not only by the regulations in force throughout that period but also frequent reminders of this in the *Post Office Circular* and the relevant departmental bulletins.

Contrary to speculation by some philatelic writers (and even catalogues) that 'the stamps were on sale to the public for a short time at Somerset House', at no time were these stamps ever on sale to collectors. In fact, the misuse of official stamps (eg pilfering of stocks or the exchange of ordinary unoverprinted stamps for the official stamps) was a serious offence under section 17 (2) of the Stamp Duties Management Act of 1891.

Moreover, between 1895 and 1903 there were several successful prosecutions of civil servants for trafficking in unused official stamps. The case of Regina v Williams, resulting in the conviction and imprisonment of an Inland Revenue clerk in January 1896, led to a distinct tightening-up of procedures, but the tragic incident which sounded the death-knell of official stamps was the trial of Anthony B Creeke and Walter J Richards, and their subsequent imprisonment for dishonestly handling IR Official stamps.

Richards was a senior official at Somerset House, while Creeke was one of the most prominent philatelists of the period and co-author (with Hastings Wright) of the standard work on British stamps. A widely recognised authority on stamps, he had been extremely helpful to the Board of Inland Revenue at Somerset House on numerous occasions and had even received gifts of these stamps through the good offices of Sir John Purcell, the Controller of Stamps. Ironically, when the leak of mint stamps was detected, it was Richards who was appointed to investigate the crime. The resultant trial at the Old Bailey was widely publicised at the time and revealed some ambivalence on the part of senior officials.



The situation was untenable and the simplest solution was to abolish the stamps altogether and extend the use of the medallion 'Official Paid and Crown' device which had been printed on official stationery since March 1903 and thus rendered the official stamps unnecessary. The 1904 *Gibbons Catalogue* included a statement that all unused official stamps, being Government property, could not be dealt in and that Stanley Gibbons therefore did not sell them. Charles Phillips, then head of Gibbons, requested clarification from the various government departments. Acting on advice from the Treasury, they would not acquiesce in the traffic in unused stamps but were not minded to prosecute anyone so doing. The legal position regarding the stamps which had leaked out was therefore left in abeyance.

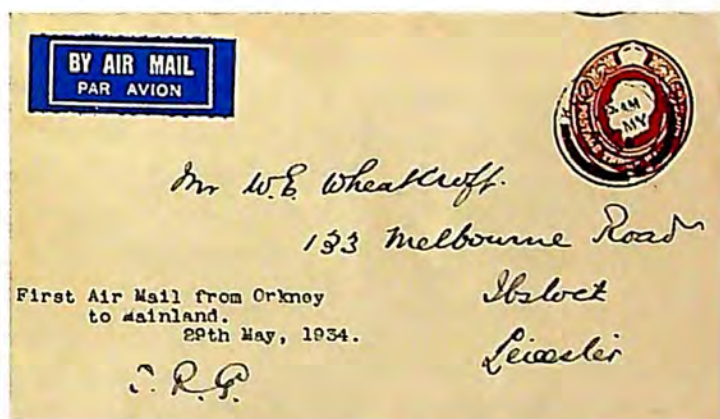
The 70th anniversary of internal air service

On 19 April 1931 Edmund Fresson, piloting a DH Gypsy Moth, arrived at Kirkwall and gave three-minute joy-rides to the public. The following August he returned with an Avro biplane and repeated the performance. On 22 August, he carried his first fare-paying passengers, from Wick to Kirkwall, and, thus encouraged, on 8 May 1933 he established Highland Airways, operating a passenger service between Inverness and Kirkwall using the twin-engined monoplane *Inverness*. Later that year he obtained a contract from *The Scotsman* to convey newspapers to Orkney, and finally, on 29 May 1934 came the contract to carry the mail as well.

This was the first regular internal airmail service in Britain. The local newspaper, *The Orcadian*, produced a pictorial souvenir envelope depicting a monoplane, although the aircraft actually used was a De Havilland Dragon G-ACIT. Mail from Orkney bore the ordinary Kirkwall handstamp, but in addition a two-line cachet 'Kirkwall-Inverness/First Flight' was struck in violet on souvenir covers. A more lucrative contract, for the carriage of airmail between Inverness and Wick, was granted on 1 December 1934 and special 'first flight' covers were prepared by Highland Airways for various stages, including Wick to Kirkwall, and these were backstamped at Kirkwall on arrival.

A plaque commemorating the 40th anniversary of this service was unveiled in 1974 and a pictorial handstamp, showing Fresson's Dragon aircraft, was used on souvenir mail. In 1984 to mark the 50th anniversary a painting showing the historic arrival of the first mail plane was unveiled in the Inverness Museum. On this occasion there were souvenir covers and pictorial handstamps as before, but in addition a Scottish pictorial aerogramme was produced, which linked the 1934 service to the bicentenary of the first manned balloon flight in Scotland two centuries earlier (see illustration on page 281).

Further information can be found in Richard Beith's book *Scottish Air Mails 1919-1979* (1981) and in his article marking the 60th anniversary in the *Bulletin* of May 1994.



A cover carried on the first regular air mail flight, Orkney to Inverness, 29 May 1934, backstamped 30 May (below).



The 30th anniversary of Scottish aerogrammes The origin of pictorial aerogrammes, or air letter sheets as they were first called, goes back to 1963 when two 6d aerogrammes were produced mainly for the tourist market in London, with colour back flaps showing the Tower and Tower Bridge or the Houses of Parliament. Although this was not immediately followed up, it established a precedent for the aerogrammes the following year celebrating the quatercentenary of William Shakespeare. Again, there was no immediate follow-up, although two Christmas aerogrammes appeared in 1965 and this medium has been employed for seasonal greetings ever since.

The notion of creating pictorial aerogrammes with a regional flavour arose in August 1973 when Wales produced an air letter sheet highlighting Snowdonia, and inscribed in English and Welsh. Subsequent Welsh aerogrammes depicted a harp and a coracle (1974) or Penyarreg Dam (1976), but many years would then elapse before any further aerogrammes with a Welsh flavour were produced.

It was left to Scotland to take up this idea and develop it out of all recognition. The first Scottish aerogramme was issued on 15 May 1974 and showed three different scenes. On the address panel there appeared the Jacobite Monument at the head of Loch Shiel, while the vignette on the back panel showed the Ring of Brodgar at Stenness in Orkney. Across the inner flap was a panoramic view of Loch Maree, with Slioch (mountain) in the background. A novelty of this sheet was the use of Gaelic as well as English in the inscriptions.

The following January an aerogramme honoured the birthday of Robert Burns whose portrait appeared on the front with a harvest mouse (alluding to one of his nature poems) on the back, and a scene from his mock epic *Tam o' Shanter* on the flap. Two other aerogrammes that year were aimed at tourists, with scenes in Argyll and Edinburgh respectively.

In subsequent years a wide range of subjects was featured, concentrating mainly on tourist attractions and historic landmarks, such as Edinburgh Castle and the Wallace Monument, but folk festivals (1976), golf (1979), flora and fauna (1981) and highland dress (1982) were other popular subjects. In 1979-80 aerogrammes highlighted the Scottish regiments. In 1983 an aerogramme celebrated the centenary of the Boys Brigade (founded in Glasgow) and this set the trend for later issues which tended to focus on particular anniversaries. These ranged from the 50th anniversary of regular internal airmail flights (1984), Andrew Carnegie (1985) and J M Barrie (1987) to Robert Louis Stevenson (1994) and Alexander Graham Bell (1997). The adoption of the larger format air letter sheet also provided much greater scope for pictorial treatment and a better quality of paper also permitted the greater use of colour images.

The era of Scottish aerogrammes ended in May 1999 with the issue on the Scottish crafts of basket-weaving, shepherds' crooks and Orkney chairs – and even this was actually part of a series on crafts of Britain as a whole. Since then, Scotland has used national aerogrammes. In a way this is a pity, for these attractive items were a valuable adjunct to stamps and went a long way to satisfying a desire in Scotland for a separate philatelic identity.



FIRST FOLD HERE
A CHEUD FILLEADH AN SEO

Siloch and Loch Maree,
Wester Ross

An Sileagach agus Loch
Maruibhe, Taobh Siar Rois



Ring of Brogar, Orkney
Clachan Bhogair, Sian na Clolche, Arcaibh

Sender's name and address
(please print)

By airmail-Aerogramme
Par avion-Aerogramme
Troimh'n phost-adhair/Litir-adhair



And
cont
If it
surc
ordin

Design
Gordon
FIAS

SECOND

Troimh'n phost-adhair/Litir-Adhair

**BY AIR MAIL
AIR LETTER**
PAR AVION AEROGRAMME



Prince Charles Monument, Glenfinnan, Loch Shiel.
Clam-culmhine a' Phrionnsa, Gleann Fhuinnghuin, Loch Seil.

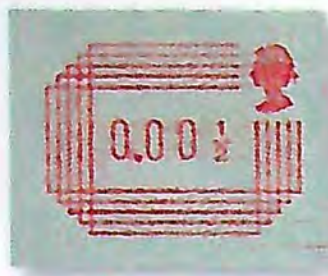


TO OPEN, SLIT HERE

GUS AN LITIR FHOSGLADH
GEARR AN SEO

Scottish aerogrammes: the first in the series (1974), and a commemorative issue to mark the 50th anniversary of the first regular British inland air mail service. Below: 60th anniversary commemorative postmark, 1994.





The 20th anniversary of Frama labels Various experiments with postal labels dispensed by coin-operated machines had taken place since the beginning of the 20th century (including the Wilkinson machine at the London Chief Office in 1912), but a satisfactory solution to the problem of creating a system whereby labels of any value could be generated by a keypad did not emerge until 1976 when FRAMA AG of Switzerland pioneered machines installed in Zurich, Bern, Grindelwald and Geneva. Over the ensuing eight years the Frama system spread to many countries all over the world.

Frama first came to the attention of the British Post Office in the autumn of 1980 at a trade exhibition, where six of its postage meters were demonstrated. These produced an impression of the standard pattern, identified only by the serial numbers 1001 to 1006 below the value. These machines had three value buttons, capable of generating various denominations, using the range of coins up to 50p.

In the interim, the Post Office introduced a service called Post-a-Book, for which self-adhesive labels, designed by Martin Newton, were employed. These bore The Queen's effigy integrated with an octagonal frame of five parallel lines. The numeral '1' (first class) appeared on the left and POST PAID along the foot, printed in red on a pattern of broken wavy lines.

This motif was adapted the following year for the labels dispensed by four Frama machines. In this case the printing was on white labels, without the class of postage or POST PAID, but having the actual value in the centre. On 1 May 1984 the four Frama microprocessor-controlled machines were installed outside post offices in Cambridge, Southampton and Windsor as well as the London Chief Office. (The London machine was shown in the *Bulletin*, October 1995, page 51.) Initially they were programmed to produce labels in halfpenny stages up to 16p, but when the basic first class rate was raised to 17p on 28 August that year, the machines were adjusted accordingly. The demise of the halfpenny at the end of the year led to a revision of the settings so that only labels in whole pence denominations could be dispensed.

The machines were withdrawn from service on 30 April 1985, but packs containing the full range of labels remained on sale at the Philatelic Bureau for a further 12 months. Britain appears to be the only country to have withdrawn machine-vended postal labels. The 17 value was re-issued with a specimen imprint of the National Postal Museum in 1988, visitors to the Museum being able to obtain the labels from a machine on display in the top floor gallery. They were not, however, postally valid. The machine printed the labels in various shades of red, ranging from pink to a dirty red-brown colour.

The normal version of these labels was printed in red on unwatermarked phosphorised paper with a grey-green underprint of broken wavy lines, like the Post-a-Book labels. However, labels on plain white paper are known to have come from the Windsor machine in which an engineer, testing it, had left plain paper by accident. This mistake was speedily rectified, but not before a small quantity of labels was sold and these are now much sought after, as are examples printed on the gummed side •

Work behind the scenes Richard West meets Cyril Macey

CYRIL MACEY is one of those who you often find not at the forefront of an organisation, but performing the essential 'backroom' work. If there is a job to be done, Cyril is usually the one to say 'yes'.

He became aware of stamp collecting thanks to a teacher at school. He was asked to find postmarks from around the UK, and mark on a map where the places were. Regrettably not an exercise one could undertake so easily today, as many place names no longer appear on postmarks. Equally regrettably, few teachers see the benefit of using stamps as part of the teaching process: find stamps from around the world and mark on a map the location of the countries.

A boost to the collection came in the early years of the Second World War. Cyril was in a Scout troop collecting waste paper in a hand cart from the residents of Chiswick. Often stamps were offered, gratefully kept to add to the collection.

One of his best bargains came from those early years of collecting. At the time many newsagents and sweet shops had stamps on sale. He remembers one in Richmond which was selling a stamp from Trinidad and Tobago for 1d, the stamp at the time being catalogued at 5s. Cyril kept returning until he had bought the entire stock of the stamp: the shop owner treated him with great suspicion thereafter.

During the later part of the war Cyril was in a reserved occupation, and so was not 'called up' until 1947, joining the RAF. The small pay packet meant that the collecting had to be curtailed to just Great Britain. After demob, it was back to work, still enjoying the GB collection. Then came two unforeseen influences. He was asked to be the secretary of the social club at work (unpaid, of course, as have been many 'additional' tasks Cyril has been asked to undertake). This involved organising visits to the tulip fields in Holland, and a love of Dutch stamps resulted. Then came an unexpected stop-over in Luxembourg, and another country was added to the collection.



So it remains today, with the three collections. Cyril joined the Netherlands Philatelic Society, and he and his wife have enjoyed many of the week-ends that the Society has organised. One of his proudest moments has been his involvement when the Society provided a special display at Stampex a few years ago.

He has a moan about the exhibits seen at most exhibitions these days:

he feels we have moved too far away from stamps and see far too many covers.

Most of the stamps in Cyril's collection have come from dealers, and the exchange packets which societies circulate. Then Cyril's thoughts started to turn away from stamps, and more to the question of how letters reach their destinations. A notice appeared in the philatelic press announcing that a new association was to be created, of 'Friends' of the National Postal Museum. This appealed to Cyril, so he immediately joined. Later he was persuaded, by two Jeans, Jean Farugia and Dr Jean Alexander, to stand as a member of the Council of the 'Friends'. Cyril agreed, content that the job might simply entail putting out the chairs for meetings.

This has led to greater involvement with both the Museum and, since its closure, the archives and heritage collections. He has helped out at Post Office Archives, finding it fascinating to deal with the various queries that visitors pose. He has been a steward at many national stamp exhibitions, and helped at the internationals held in London since 1980. He well remembers the advice and encouragement he received from the late Leon and Franceska Rapkin. The Queen visited London 1980, and Cyril was there as 'doorman', being advised not to speak unless spoken to. The Queen in fact nodded; Cyril nodded in response, so he is content to say that he is on nodding terms with The Queen. He recalls that for the opening day of Stamp World London 90, the staff of the National Postal Museum were told to be in Victorian dress.

His involvement with the Museum brought him into contact with many of its 'three-dimensional' objects which sadly have not been enjoyed by the public over the years, but which hopefully will be part of the new experience which the recently established Heritage Trust is progressing. This further interest encouraged Cyril to join the Letter Box Study Group. Indeed a book he frequently refers to is that on letter boxes by Jean Farrugia.

Cyril is also very much occupied with the City of Westminster, and in 2000 was invited to sign the Westminster Book of Honour. He is treasurer of his local housing association, and sits on the boards dealing with such aspects as housing, traffic working, crime prevention and organising the annual 'good neighbours' day. At the same time he remains Vice Chairman and events organiser for the Friends of Postal Heritage. Little wonder he has sparse time left for his own collections.

And the hobby's future? He feels it is essential to encourage the young as much as possible, and hopes that when new arrangements for the Royal Mail archives and collections are up and running, there will be ample opportunity to do so •

CYRIL MACEY FACT FILE

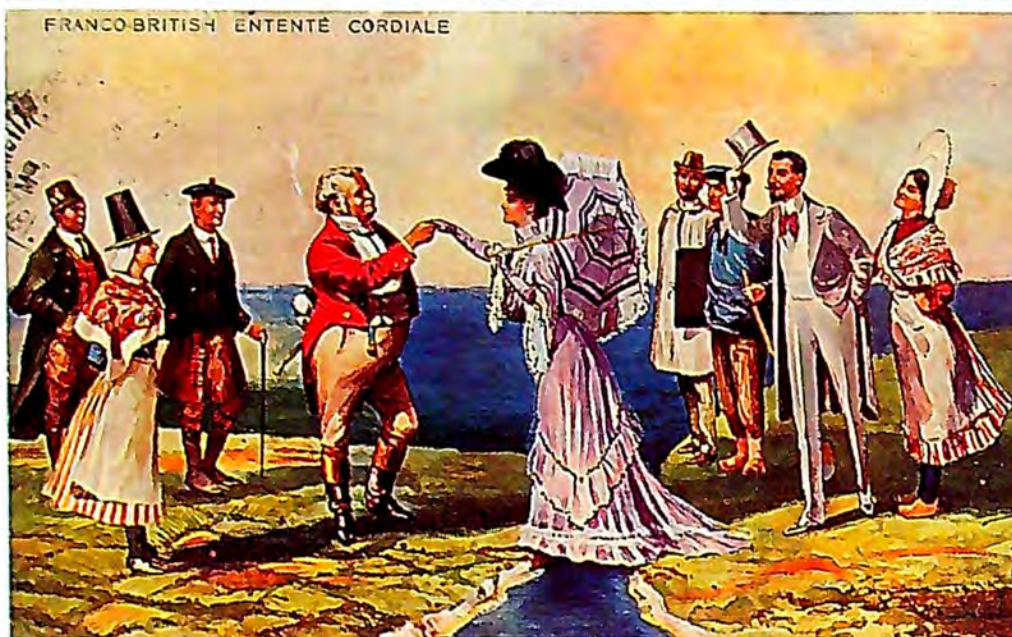
Career His working life started as an apprentice electrician, leading on to pursue the technical development of lighting, working for 50 years for Osram until retirement. For his work on lighting he was awarded the Freedom of the City of London.

Home A Londoner, he now lives in the Bayswater area with his wife Phyllis. They have been married for 53 years and have one son and three grandchildren, including twin grandsons who are each 6ft 7ins tall. Sadly no other family member family collects.

Holidays are taken in the UK, and while not directly hobby related, no opportunity is missed to see a particularly noteworthy letter box.

Hobbies With so much voluntary work undertaken, Cyril has little time for his own collecting, let alone other hobbies. However, he does enjoy photography.

Cover corner An Entente Cordiale card by Robert Phillifent



The card is a Franco-British Exhibition 'official' card and the stamp is cancelled by a 29 September 1908 'Franco-British Exhibition London' datestamp.

THE PICTURE on this Edwardian card is rather allegorical, its intention being to indicate that the Entente was a treaty of friendship between the peoples of the British Isles – stylised representatives of the people of the four nations are shown – and the various peoples of France. It is interesting that it is the figure representative of France – Marianne – who steps across the Channel to

greet John Bull, representing Britain, rather than the other way round. The message says: 'Went on the Flip-flop last night and saw a special display of fireworks in the Stadium'. It is reported that 8 million people visited this exhibition at Shepherd's bush and hence cards, used and unused, are easy to find, although this one is more rarely encountered than most others •

Readers' reports

2003 issues My wife and I have been collectors for collectively over 70 years. We still read the *Bulletin* with interest each month, although we gave up collecting modern British stamps some years ago. During 2003 we kept a record of all the mail we received, recording the stamps used or other means of postage paid. The figures may be of interest to you and your readers. It is interesting that out of a total 728 items, just 100 had special stamps although this reduces to 18 if we exclude Christmas. No stamps were received at all for five special issues: Occasions, Fun Fruit & Veg, Prince William, Transport Toys, or Rugby. The postage labels were used mostly on mail sent by Special Delivery. We also received 62 items posted overseas; 57 bore stamps and of these all but four were special issues rather than definitives. Most were from relatives who use special stamps as they know we are collectors. We look forward to seeing what stamps we receive on our mail during 2004. DAVID PHILLIPS •

Mail received in 2003

Machin definitives	197	Transport Toys	0
Wilding definitives	0	British Museum	1
Country stamps	32	Christmas	82
Total	229	Rugby	0
.....		Pre-2003 special issues	3
Birds of Prey	1	Total	100
Occasions	0		
Secret of Life	3	Prepaid envelopes	0
Fun Fruit & Veg	0	Postage labels	21
Extreme Endeavours	5	Meter marks	30
Coronation Anniversary	2	Paid postmarks	6
Prince William	0	PPIs	342
Scotland	2	Total	399
Pub Signs	1		

Machin colours In my *Bulletin* articles of February 1995 and October 1999 I listed the names that Royal Mail use to describe the colours of Machin definitives issued from 1988 to 1999. Both times I referred to 'the Jeffery Matthews 31 colour range'. To put the record straight, I now write to amend that total to 30. I was wrong to have implied that the colour of the long-running 2nd class NV1 (and also of the 1989 15p) was created by him. This does not alter the official descriptions I listed for these stamps, which were both eventually called Bright Blue, as also used by SG. Nor does it alter the description for the similar 4p re-issued in 1988 with its third colour which was eventually called Light Blue, although SG uses the name New Blue. I say 'eventually' because Royal Mail first gave all three stamps different descriptions. When issued in 1989, the 2nd class/15p were officially called Light Blue, and the still-extant 4p started its life a year earlier with its new colour called Dark Turquoise, which was quickly changed to Deep Turquoise. Ironically my total error is now correct, as a 31st Jeffery Matthews colour (Grey Blue) has since been added and used twice: firstly for the 40p (April 2000 to July 2002) and currently for the £5. Regarding the 2nd class/15p and 4p values, Douglas Myall's *Deegam Handbook* names the colours Light Blue and Cobalt Blue respectively. In my opinion, these are accurate, and better than those used by Royal Mail or SG. Anyone wishing to discuss this subject is welcome to telephone me on 01367 240756. J BIRD, FARINGDON, OXON • The Complete Deegam Machin Handbook (3rd edition) was reviewed here in October 2003. ED

Mystery prize draw Six chances to win a Royal Mail prize

AGAIN WE ARE offering a popular mystery prize draw. Among the prizes are yearbooks and other publications, first day covers, packs, stamp cards and items from Royal Mail's extensive Collectibles range. For a chance to win one of six mystery prizes simply send your name and address on the reverse of a postcard or back of a sealed en-

velope to: Mystery Prize Draw, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ to arrive by 31 May •

Prestige book draw The winners of the *Letters by Night* PSB in the February draw were: K Webb of New Zealand, F Oliver of Sussex, K Gymer of Hertfordshire, W Wong of Middlesex, M Brown of Norfolk, and J Fyfield of Sussex

Competitions Win £200 in two easy-to-enter competitions



February identify The detail is from the 1970 1s6d Architecture stamp (Ulster thatch). The winner was D Connor of Staffordshire.

February knowledge The answers: 1) 1838; 2) Laura Stoddart; 3) brown. The winner was G Zana of Italy.

Ten runner-up prizes were also sent for each competition. Our thanks to all who entered.

FIRSTLY, identify the stamp from the detail above. Send your answer to May *Identify* Competition. Secondly, test your philatelic knowledge by answering the questions below. Send your answer to May *Knowledge* Competition.

- 1 Who designed the 1989 Lord Mayor's Show stamps?
- 2 Which set of Millennium stamps featured a barn owl?
- 3 Where will an international stamp exhibition be held this month?

Send your answer (addressed to either the May *Identify* competition or the May *Knowledge* competition), name and address on a postcard or back of a sealed envelope to: British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ. The senders of the first cards drawn in each competition on 11 June will each receive £100. Ten runner-up prizes of presentation packs or FDCs will be awarded in each competition.

The competitions are not open to Royal Mail employees •

Events

Until 11 January 2005 The Queen's Own: Stamps that Changed the World exhibition (stamps from the Royal Philatelic Collection) at Smithsonian National Postal Museum, Old Post Office, near Union Station, Washington DC. Admission free.

8 May Exeter & District PS Annual Stamp Exhibition and Fair at Priory High School, off Topsham Road, Exeter, 10.30-16.30. Children's corner, club competition entries and displays, 12 dealers, refreshments, prize draw. Enquiries Andrew Pavey, 01392 445194.

8 May Worpex 2004 (Worcester & District Philatelic & Postcard Society) at Oldbury Park Primary School, Oldbury Rd, St Johns, Worcester, 10.30-16.30. 30 dealers, Midland Phil Fed Spring Convention, free car park. Enquiries R Clegg, 01905 640541, or website: www.worpex.com

14-16 May 28th North East Philatelic Weekend at Swallow Hotel, Gateshead. Talks, displays, dinner & raffle. Bookings Miss V Beeken, 0191 386 1931.

15 May GB Philatelic Society displays at British Philatelic Centre, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1. 11.00 – President's Guest; 14.15 AGM; 15.00 Members' displays. Enquiries D Harman, Greylands, Melton, Woodbridge IP12 1QE, 01394 385326.

22-30 May Espana 2004 general world international at City of Arts and Science, Valencia, Spain. See p262 for details.

29 May Yorkshire Philatelic Association Annual Convention at Pudsey Civic Hall, Dawson's Corner, 09.30-16.30. Dealers, competition, displays, car parking, refreshments. Enquiries A Peel, 01924 505724 •

Late news

Royal Mail update Cylinder/plate numbers for the new 40p country stamps (11 May) are: England D1 olive-green D1 silver (dot & no dot), Scotland D1 bright lilac D1 deep lilac D1 silver (dot & no dot), Wales D1 greenish blue D1 deep greenish blue D1 grey-black (dot & no dot), and Northern Ireland D1a black D1a new blue, and D1b D1b. Phosphor D1a/D1b Northern Ireland, D1/D1 dot others. Additional cylinders for the new definitives are D2 (dot & no dot) for the 35p, 39p, 40p, and 43p values and D3 (dot & no dot) for the re-issued 20p – cylinders D1 and D2 are recorded in Douglas Myall's article •

Auction news Bonhams' auction on 16 March included an accumulation of thousands of used 1864-79 1d plates in five albums which realised £1650 (estimate £300-500), and a £5 orange with neat Accounts Office cds which realised £1050 (£700-900). A FDC of the 1966 World Cup and Winners stamps signed by Bobby Moore made £550 (£100-120), and a specialised collection of 1967-70 Machins £650 (£400-500). A collection of Northern Ireland cylinder blocks went for £700 (£340-400) and blocks (Q1Q1, Q2Q2) of the scarce NI 17p type II made £320 each (£200-220). A fine miscut 10p London 1980 booklet, displaying two halves of an 8p stamp made £190 (£100-120). Enquiries: 020 7393 3890 or website www.bonhams.com •

Cavendish's 6 March auctions included a postcard used on 1 September 1894, the first day the PO sanctioned the use of private postcards. Estimated at just £150, it realised £2760. A postcard signed by the founder of the 1911 Aerial Post made £747 (estimate £240). For details of auctions of collections of Uganda (Peter Chantry), airmails (Bill Legg), and British Guiana (Derek Nathan) telephone 01332 250970 or see www.cavendish-auctions.com •

Spink's auction of the Louis Gruin collection of caricatures and illustrated envelopes on 6 May includes an outstanding range of unusual and rare pieces from the time of the 1840s postal reforms. Enquiries: 020 7563 4000 or www.spink.com •

Publications Guernsey Post's 2003 Yearbook includes an introduction by Managing Director Mike Hall, and a short feature on the scenery, consitutional arrangements, culture and tourist attractions of the Bailiwick of Guernsey, which includes the islands of Alderney, Sark, and Herm. Mr Hall records that thanks to new technology, Guernsey Post is 'among the most modern post offices in the world'. There are chapters on each special issue of 2003, with transparent mounts to house the 52 stamps and five miniature sheets supplied. Issues cover Island Games, Memories of the Second World War, Poster Art/Europa, Fishery Protection & Offshore Patrol vessel HMS *Guernsey*, Prince William's 21st birthday, Christmas, and the new £5 definitive described as 'Letters on a stamp on a letter' featuring the alphabet printed in patterned foil and heat-sensitive ink. The book also includes Alderney, with a chapter about the island and views of two interesting buildings, and stamps for the Coronation Anniversary, History of Aviation (one stamp features Concorde), Migrating Birds, and Community Services (Police). The book concludes with useful photographs and biographical sketches of the nine stamp designers. Price £34.86, plus £1 postage, from Guernsey Philatelic Bureau, Envoy House, La Vrangue, St Peter Port, Guernsey GY1 1AB. Website: www.guernseypost.com •

Railfest To mark the 200th anniversary of steam railways, the National Railway Museum is staging 'Railfest' from 29 May to 6 June. The NRM is bringing together a once-in-a-lifetime collection of record-breaking locos along with a carnival of classic funfair attractions, historic train rides and a great Railway Bazaar. Enquiries: 01904 686268 or website www.nrm.org.uk •

Obituary The Letter Box Study Group announces the death of Arthur Hunt, a Group stalwart. Mr Hunt edited its *Newsletter* and ran the mail order service for numerous letter box related items. He was much respected by LBSG members and will be greatly missed •

Beautiful blooms, in all their glory



RHS Medal Cover An evergreen reminder, in a limited edition of 25,000.

Officially produced to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the RHS, this nickel brass medal, produced by Royal Mint, has been designed by Danuta Solowiej-Wedderburn. The insert card takes a brief look at the history of the RHS flower shows and, in a fascinating touch, includes information on medals awarded by the Society. The envelope bears all six RHS stamps and is cancelled with a London postmark in silver ink. Price £13.95 Code AM013.

RHS Prestige Stamp Book Entitled *The Glory of the Garden – a Celebration of the RHS*, this fitting tribute to 200 years of gardening history contains four stamp panes, in unique combinations unavailable elsewhere, including two featuring the new Special Stamps. The book, written by the gardening writer Geoff Hodge, is lavishly illustrated with colour photographs of RHS gardens and reflects the contemporary work of the Society. Price £7.23 Code YB024.

Royal Mail

Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB
Telephone orders: UK 08457 641 641; overseas +44 131 316 7483



Review

The information service *for*
collectors and cover producers

MAY 2004

Special announcement to cover producers The number of requests for announcements in this Review has grown rapidly in recent months. Regrettably we must now restrict announcements to one cover per producer per month •

A G Bradbury On 13 April Royal Mail will issue six stamps featuring Ocean Liners. This issue is to mark the launching of the *Queen Mary 2*, the biggest-ever cruise liner. To coincide with this issue, Adrian Bradbury has produced a limited edition first day cover featuring an early White Star Line poster featuring the *Titanic* – at the time ‘the largest steamer in the world’. A special Liverpool postmark, *Titanic*’s port of registry, has been designed for the cover. The postmark also features a drawing of the *Titanic*. Price £15 or £25 signed by Millvina Dean, *Titanic*’s youngest survivor. These covers can be ordered online at www.bfdc.co.uk by typing *Titanic* into the Quick Search Box •



Orders and enquiries A G Bradbury, 3 Link Road, Leicester LE2 3RA. Telephone 0116 2705367.

M Tanner has, with the skills of artist Sue McEl-downey, produced a full-colour cover featuring all 10 stamps for the Lord of the Rings stamp issue. The 10 stamps are cancelled four times with the Lord of the Rings Stampex pictorial handstamp for 26 February. Artwork features characters from the original stories and each cover comes with a colour filler postcard of the overall cover image. Additional postcards cost 60p each plus 50p postage UK, £1.20 overseas if ordered separately. The cover is limited to just 15 individually numbered copies, priced £16.99 UK/£17.99 overseas postage paid. Mastercard/Visa credit cards are accepted with £1 handling charge. Should readers wish to receive a free ‘Fellowship of the Ring’ postcard (this month only), please quote this editorial when ordering. Enquirers should enclose three 1st class stamps or value for illustrated details of Zodiac/Chess/Alice/12 postcards •



Orders and enquiries M Tanner, 180 Whitehorse Road, West Croydon CR0 2LA. Fax/answerphone 020 8684 9757 (credit card orders only).



Orders and enquiries Philatelic Bureau, BFPO, Inglis Barracks, Mill Hill, London NW7 1PX. Telephone 020 8818 6387.

Forces Post Office The BFPO Philatelic Bureau has recently obtained several postcards which have been and still are being used during the current Operation Telic by serving members of the Armed Forces. These postcards can be purchased from the Philatelic Bureau as a set of five, price £1 or £12 cancelled at different Forces Post Offices. The cancelled set will include an extra card (with poor postmark) to show the picture side. Postage 50p UK/BFPO, 90p Europe, £1.50 worldwide. Remittances payable to Central Bank (BFPO). Monies from the sale of these cards will benefit the Army and RAF Benevolent Funds and the King George's Fund for Sailors •



Orders and enquiries Island of Pabay (Stamps), Broadford, Isle of Skye IV49 9BP. E-mail enquiries@pabay.org

Island of Pabay A new £1 local stamp (local carriage label) will be issued on 1 May, the first in a series depicting Celtic Legends. The stamp design is based on an original painting by the Skye artist Pamela Budge, and features Niamh of the Golden Hair. According to the legend, she chose Oison, son of Finn, chief of the legendary Fenian Warriors of Celtic Ireland, as her lover. The stamp is printed in sheets of 20 on dry-gummed paper. Mint stamps available at face value (postage 50p UK & Europe, £1 elsewhere) and on FDC price £3.50 (postage £1/£2). On the first day cover the Pabay stamp is cancelled with a two-coloured First Day of Issue postmark, and the Royal Mail stamp with a new sponsored handstamp for Pabay introduced that day. The new handstamp will remain in use for a year •



Orders and enquiries Phil Stamp Covers, PO Box 178, Dartford DA2 7YE. Telephone (Steve Oliver) 01322 278674. E-mail sales@philstampcovers.co.uk

Phil Stamp Covers have produced three limited edition covers for the Royal Horticultural Society stamps, miniature sheet and pane 3 from the prestige stamp book issued on 25 May. The illustration shows 'Phil Stamp' and his snail sidekick judging the entries into a local flower show. The covers are cancelled with their 'Chelsea, London sw3', 'Wisley, Woking', or 'Tatton Park, Knutsford' official handstamps. These limited edition covers (only 100 of each) are priced £13.50 each (£12 for the PSB) including postage and packing to any destination. The entire collection can be viewed and purchased at www.philstampcovers.co.uk •

Norvic Philatelics is a newcomer to limited edition first day covers, having started in January 2003. For the Lord of the Rings stamp issue, two pairs of covers have been produced. One pair, illustrated by Romanian artist Mates Laurentiu, shows a pencil drawing of a goblin marauder on one cover, and a dwarven warrior on the other. In contrast to this style the other pair, illustrated by us artist Lori Snowden, employs a different technique of pencil work to illustrate a smoking pipe with a figure appearing through the smoke. Prices: £12.95 for each pair, £25 for both pairs plus £1 postage (recorded delivery charged extra if required) •



Celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of
The Lord of the Rings by J R R Tolkien
NMHRRFTS · PM · PPTMD · FHHMHRFB · PP
PM · FRN · PP · PM · RSH · SB · I · R · R · TETHM



Orders and enquiries Norvic Philatelics, PO Box 119, Dereham NR20 3NY. Website: www.norvic-philatelics.co.uk; e-mail covrev.sales@norvic-philatelics.co.uk

Benham Issued on 16 March, the second stage in the 'British Journey' series depicting the amazing variety of the British landscape, Northern Ireland contains much spectacular scenery from the Mourne Mountains to the Giant's Causeway, lush green pasture land and the waters of Lough Neagh. Benham's coin cover features the Giant's Causeway on the Co Antrim coast and encapsulates the Northern Ireland £1 coin with the flax and crown emblem. The special stamps are cancelled by a pictorial postmark featuring the 'Red' hand of Ulster at Bushmills, Co Antrim. Price £14.95 plus £1.95 postage (product code C04131A, media code BPB0405A). Please quote these codes and mention the *Bulletin* if placing an order •



Orders and enquiries Benham House, Freeport DR175, Folkestone CT20 1BR. Telephone 01303 226777.

Methodist Philatelic Society A cover serviced on 6 January commemorates the 250th anniversary of the starting of work on *Explanatory Notes upon The New Testament* by John Wesley. Wesley finished this task soon after 23 September 1755 and the volume was published in London as a quarto consisting of 759 pages, price 18 shillings (90p). This commemorative cover shows the title page of the book and bears an English 1st class country stamp cancelled with the Royal Mail Bristol pictorial postmark dated 6 January. Price £1.75 plus postage. For details of the Methodist Philatelic Society send a stamped addressed envelope to T R Smart, 11 Northwood Park, Woodlesford, Leeds LS26 8PE) •



Orders and enquiries R J Macmillan, Cluny, 11 Cullaloe Court, Dalgety Bay, Dunfermline KY11 5HW.



Orders and enquiries GB Covers, 102 Regal Way, Kenton, Harrow HA3 0RY. E-mail waldo@metronet.co.uk

GB Covers Hand-made, limited edition, full set official first day covers are produced by the founder and Life President of GBFDC (the Association of Collectors of GB First Day Covers) for Association members. The cover produced for the Christmas 2003 stamps is illustrated with a commissioned painting by Barry Hawkins of Bristol. Strictly limited to 85 signed and numbered copies, a few remain for sale priced at £18 including informative insert, postage and stout packing •

Cover producers wishing to announce a **recent** or **forthcoming** cover should submit typed copy of up to 100 words. Please follow the style above: the text should give a brief description of the cover, state the stamps and postmarks it will bear and give retail price and address to which collectors should send orders or write for further information. Announcements are published on a first-come-first-served basis, and may be modified or shortened at the Editor's discretion. Copy for consideration for the July 2004 *Review* should be sent to The Editor, *British Philatelic Bulletin*, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ by 7 May. Copy for August should arrive by 8 June. The Editor regrets he cannot enter into correspondence or telephone conversations with collectors or cover producers concerning covers announced in this *Review*.