BRITISH PHILATELIC

Bulletin

The magazine for collectors of UK stamps

VOLUME 55 NUMBER 6 | FEBRUARY 2018 | £1.95

RAF set preview • Lunar New Year Sheet • Wildings special

WINTER HAS COME

AND SO HAVE THE *GAME OF THRONES*™ MEDAL COVERS



COLLECTOR ALBUM



Pride of place

Stunning stamps deserve handsome albums and Royal Mail has the perfect selection of products to keep your collection in pristine condition.

We offer a range of high-quality albums, binders and slipcases tailor-made to protect whatever you collect – from First Day Covers and Miniature Sheets to Presentation Packs, Smilers®, Coin Covers and more.

For example, the specially designed Royal Mail PSB album shown above has 'Royal Mail Prestige Stamp Books' inscribed in silver and comes with ten protective sleeves that will hold 20 books. Each sleeve has a dedicated strip at the top so that you can insert a printed label giving the name of the book displayed and other pertinent details.

Find the Prestige Stamp Book Album and the rest of the range at www.royalmail.com/albums •

Above: the Prestige Stamp Book Album costs £16.99

To order: contact Royal Mail at the address or phone number on page 192 or order online at www.royalmail.com/albums. Additional Leaves are also available, in packs of ten



Contents



Your Special Stamps preview The RAF Centenary issue salutes the plucky pilots and planes defending our skies since 1918 **164**

Stamp Scene *Bulletin*'s resident expert Dane Garrod reveals the best events both big and bijou for discerning GB stamp collectors **168**

Island news Glorious new pictorial stamp issues from the island bureaux, including their Spring Stampex special editions **173**

Royal Mail update Tony Devine describes the improved stand appearing at Spring Stampex and offers a quick Post & Go round-up **174**

Terrible tales We reveal the horror stories of violence, vengeance and vendettas behind a selection of *Game of Thrones*™ Special Stamps **176**

Game changers The magical Medal Covers accompanying the new *Game of Thrones*™ issue will transform your collection **180**

Born to be Wilding Frank Walton begins a new series on the first EII definitive stamp series, 1952-1967 **182**



This is a mutt-buy You will want to collar the Lunar New Year of the Dog Sheet **186**

Sheets to melt your heart Valentine's Day offer **188**

Cool courage The cover hailing female troops crossing Antarctica **189**

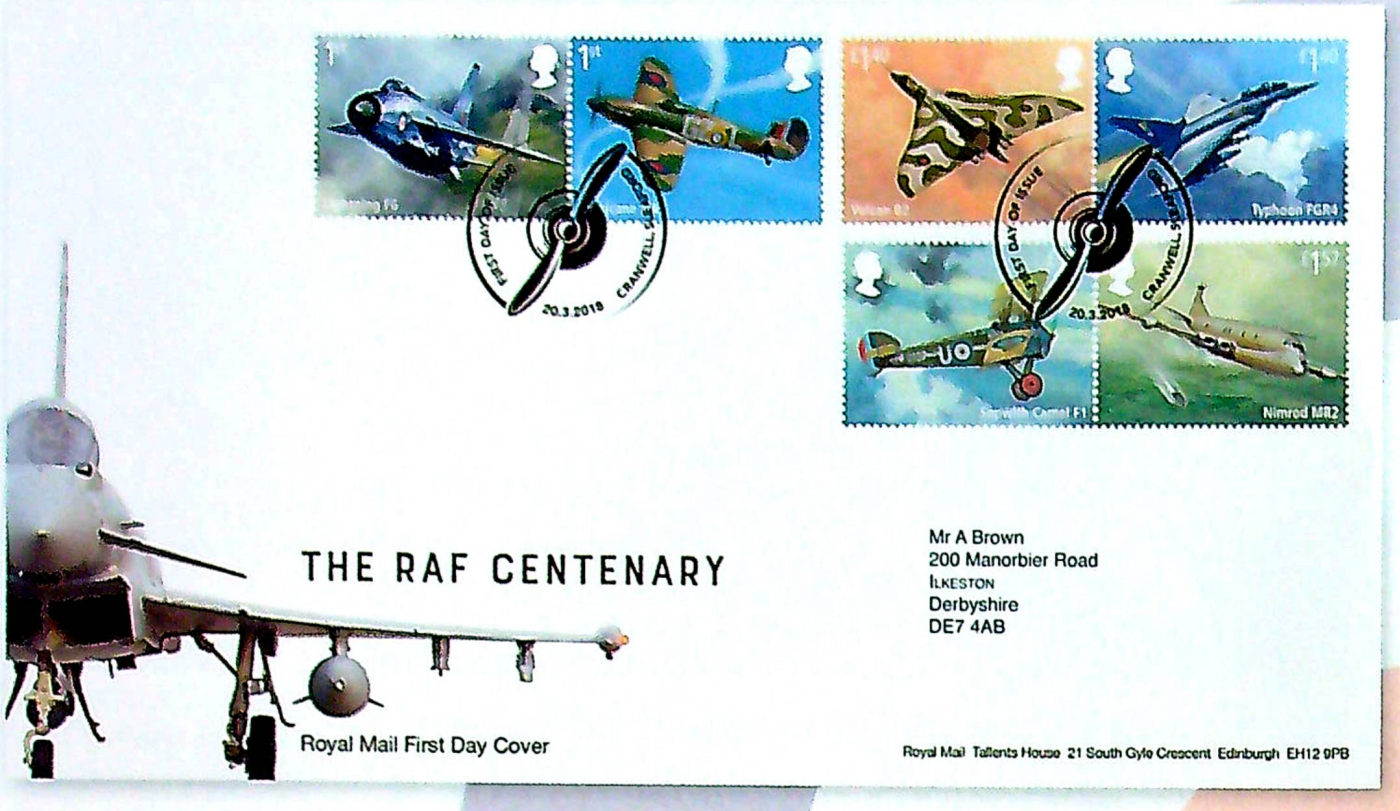


Naughty and nice quiz Sort the goodies from the baddies among mythical characters on Special Stamps **190**

Issues and Withdrawals Dates of new releases and your chance to grab current issues before they leave the shelves **192**



Royal Mail Editor Tim Noble, Royal Mail, 185 Farringdon Road, Floor MP-03, London EC1A 1AA ● **Publishing Editor** Kate Shaw, 26 Throgmorton Street, London EC2N 2AN ● Price £1.95 from Post Office Ltd philatelic outlets or by order from Post Office branches ● **Twelve months' subscription** £18.95 UK and Europe; £24.95 rest of world. Send subscriptions to Royal Mail Tallents House (address above) or subscribe online at www.royalmail.com/bulletin ● **Binders** (to hold 24 issues) £8.50, and storage boxes (about 30 copies) £9.95, are also available by post or online ● Stamp images © Royal Mail. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or parts is prohibited without prior permission of the Editors ● **Printed** in Great Britain by Zenith Print & Packaging Ltd ● **ISSN** 0953 8119 ● Royal Mail is a trading name of Royal Mail Group Ltd. Registered in England and Wales, number 4138203. Registered office: 100 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0HQ



Flying in next month A striking March issue of Royal Mail Special Stamps and a Miniature Sheet marks the centenary of the Royal Air Force

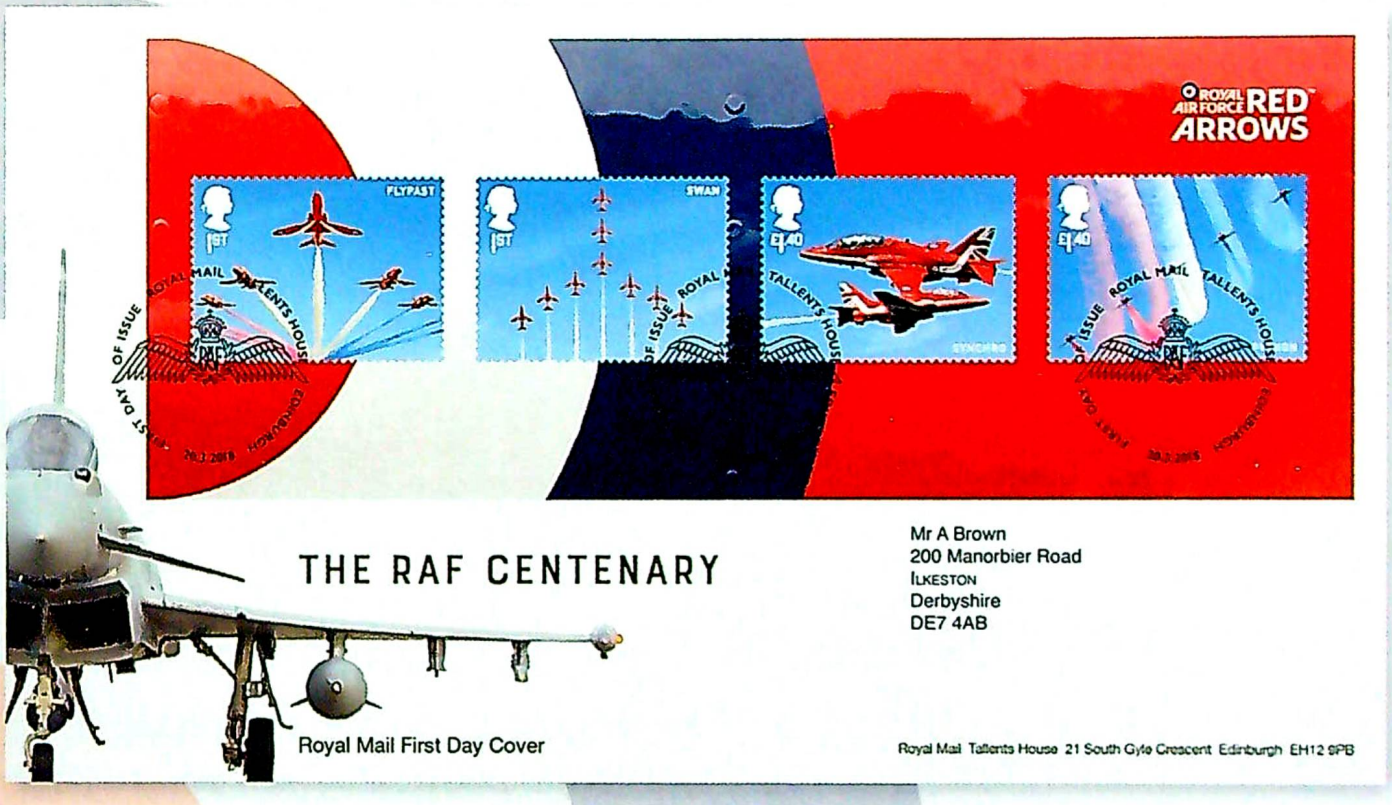
A top-flight stamp set salutes the aircrew and aircraft of the RAF in the 100th anniversary year of this legendary fighting force. The six-stamp RAF Centenary issue features legendary aeroplanes from the First World War to the present day. A Miniature Sheet pays tribute to the RAF's Red Arrow aerobatic team. The issue is available in three First Day Covers, with a Tallents House, alternative pictorial and alternative non-pictorial handstamp. Accompanying the issue is a Presentation Pack, Prestige Stamp Book, Limited Edition Prestige Stamp Book, two Retail Stamp Books, a Stamp Souvenir, Stamp Sheet Souvenir, Press Sheet, Framed Stamps, Postcards, and four Coin Covers. The Special Stamps and the Miniature Sheet are out on 20 March. The Red Arrows Retail Stamp Book is released on 11 May, and the RAF Centenary Coin Cover is issued on 17 September.

RAF Centenary Special Stamps – Specifications

Date of issue	20 March
Number of stamps	Six
Design	Royal Mail Group Ltd
Illustrations	Michael Turner
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	41mm x 30mm
Number per sheet	30/60
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	14.5 x 14
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA

Stamp by stamp The issue comes in three values: two First Class, two £1.40 stamps, and two £1.57 values.

Hurricane Mk I The Hurricane is credited with winning the Battle of Britain, accounting for 55 per cent of German losses, and was the RAF's principal single seat night fighter facing German bombing





FD1805-PL



FD1805-TH

Three postmarks are available for the Special Stamp and Miniature Sheet First Day Covers. The Talents House postmark comes with an illustration of the RAF Pilots' Wings. The two alternative postmarks bear the location Cranwell, Sleaford, home to the Royal Air Force College. The pictorial version shows a picture of an aircraft propeller. See page 167 for details on how to get your First Day Covers. To keep up to date with the latest postmarks, see the *British Postmark Bulletin* online at: www.royalmail.com/postmarkbulletin.

raids in 1941 and 1942. Hurricanes also saw action in the defence of Malta, North Africa and the Far East. First Class

Lightning F6 The Lightning represents the fastest British-made fighter of all time, being the first supersonic aircraft to enter RAF service (in 1959). It featured two Rolls Royce engines in a unique 'stacked' configuration and its power allowed for take-off and a rate of climb faster than any other jet. Later variants, including the F6, were capable of twice the speed of sound. The Lightning was the RAF's principle interceptor for 20 years. First Class

Vulcan B2 The Vulcan is the iconic delta wing bomber and a major UK engineering triumph. Designed as a high altitude bomber, it entered service in 1956 and was withdrawn in 1984. It was part of the V-force, whose aircraft were designed to carry Britain's nuclear deterrent. The more powerful B2 entered service in 1960. When the nuclear deterrent passed to the Royal Navy's submarines in 1969, the role of the Vulcan became one of a tactical bomber. It was called into action in the Falklands conflict of 1982. £1.40

Typhoon FGR4 This state of the art fighter is the current principal aircraft defending UK skies and increasingly deployed in overseas activity. It is a multi-role fighter, ▸

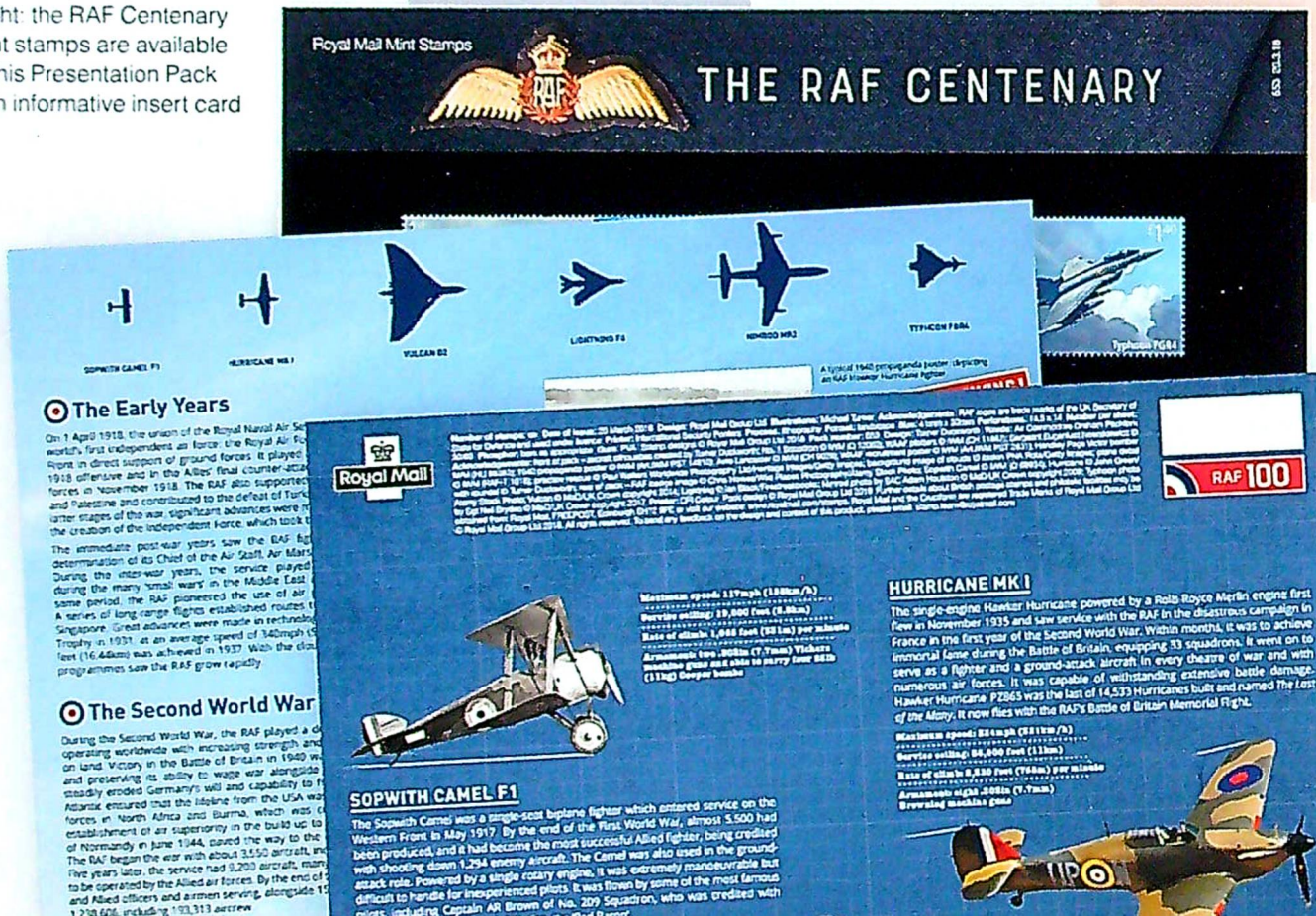
RAF Centenary – Prices	
Special Stamps	£7.24
Miniature Sheet	£4.10
Special Stamps First Day Cover	£9.11
Miniature Sheet First Day Cover	£5.34
Prestige Stamp Book First Day Cover	£3.48
RAF Centenary First Day Envelope	30p
Red Arrows First Day Envelope	30p
Prestige Stamp Book Cover Envelope	30p
Stamp Souvenir	£9.11
Stamp Sheet Souvenir	£5.34
Presentation Pack	£11.85
Prestige Stamp Book	£18.69
Limited Edition Prestige Stamp Book	£45.00
Postcards (11 in set)	£4.95
RAF Centenary Brilliant Uncirculated Coin Cover	£45.00
Red Arrows Brilliant Uncirculated Coin Cover	£17.50
Red Arrows Silver Proof Coin Cover	£67.50
Red Arrows Gold Proof Coin Cover	£840
RAF Centenary Retail Stamp Book	£3.90
Press Sheet	£63.14
Framed Stamps	£29.99

first deployed to the RAF in 2003 and first saw active service in Libya in 2011. It can fly at up to 55,000 feet and at Mach 1.8. At full strength the RAF will operate 160 of these aircraft. £1.40

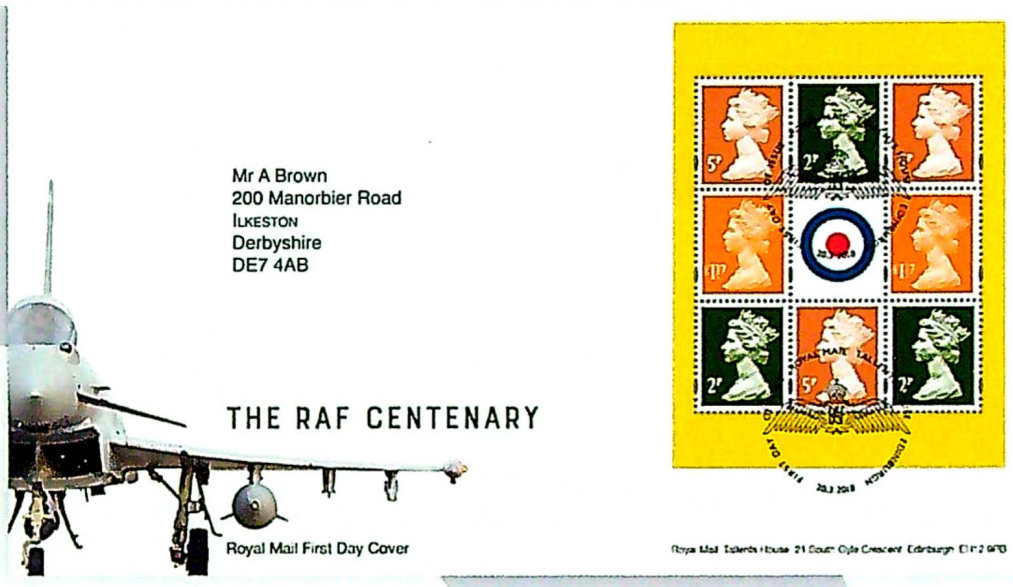
Sopwith Camel F1 The F1 is the best known and most successful Allied fighter and scout aircraft of the First World War, though it was difficult to fly and required huge skill. Credited with shooting down almost 1,300 enemy aircraft, the Camel was also successful as a ground attack plane. Squadrons of Camels were also important for home defence, protecting cities from Zeppelin raids. £1.57

Nimrod MR2 The Nimrod was introduced in 1969 for maritime patrol, surveillance and anti-submarine roles. Sophisticated radar and electronic surveillance equipment was housed in the Nimrod's extended nose and tail. The upgraded MR2 entered service in 1979 and was deployed in the Falklands and in the Gulf War. Its enhanced capabilities also permitted search and rescue operations. The Nimrod was retired from service in 2010. £1.57

Miniature Sheet The four stamps of the striking Miniature Sheet come in two values, First Class and £1.40. They celebrate the RAF Red Arrows Aerobatic Team, which has been performing displays since 1965, and feature some of their most extraordinary



Right: the RAF Centenary mint stamps are available in this Presentation Pack with informative insert card





Orders for Serviced First Day Covers must reach Royal Mail by 20 March. Customers may send stamped envelopes on the day of issue to Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles, PO Box 1373, Sunderland SR5 9PG, UK. Order all items in the issue from this address, by calling 03457 641 641 or +44 131 316 7483 from overseas (08.30 to 17.00 Monday to Friday), or by visiting www.royalmail.com/stamps. Please quote the *Bulletin* code 18BUL02. A second RAF Centenary Retail Stamp Book will be issued in May

manoeuvres. One of the premier aerobatic teams in the world, comprising 120 personnel including pilots, engineers and support staff, the Red Arrows are based at RAF Scampton in Lincolnshire.

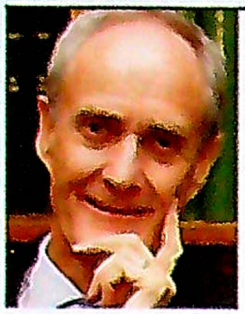
Also in the issue is a beautiful Prestige Stamp Book (details in next month's *Bulletin*) and an illustrated Presentation Pack that contains the Special Stamps and the Miniature Sheet. The Pack has been written by Air Commodore Graham Pitchfork, who was a navigator in the RAF for 36 years and eventually became Director of Intelligence at the Ministry of Defence. Air Commodore Pitchfork has penned an overview of the RAF's history from its inception in 1918 to the present, including its key contribution during the Second World War, its activities during the Cold War, and its current role defending the UK and providing humanitarian aid after natural disasters. There is also a brief overview of each of the aircraft featured on the stamps, including key performance statistics •

Discover more of the RAF's intriguing story with a background feature appearing in your March edition of Bulletin

Above: First Day Cover with the Definitives pane from the RAF Centenary Prestige Stamp Book, the insert card of the Red Arrows Miniature Sheet

RAF Centenary Miniature Sheet – Specifications

Date of issue	20 March
Number of stamps	Four
Design	Turner Duckworth
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	41mm x 30mm
Miniature Sheet size	192mm x 74mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	14.5 x 14
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA



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

Society meetings

3 February • **London** National Philatelic Society, The Postal Museum, 15-20 Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DE. Display at 2.45pm by Nick Martin on Belgium, preceded by Members' Auction at 12.50pm, refreshments available. Enquiries: Allen Wood, nps@ukphilately.org.uk.

10 February • **Kent** Federation of Philatelic Societies' Spring Rally and AGM, Langley Park Boys School, Hawksbrook Lane, South Eden Park Road, Beckenham BR3 3BP, 9.30am to 4pm, 18 dealers, refreshments, free admission and car parking. Enquiries: David Rennie, 020 8778 7001, davidjrennie@ntlworld.com.

16 February • **London** Great Britain Overprint Society. Meeting at Stampex (address below) at 2.30pm. Members' displays. All visitors welcome. Enquiries: Tony Stanford, 01628 482270, tonystanford@btopenworld.com •

Stamp fairs



3 February • **Beckenham** Stamp and Postcard Fair, Azelia Hall, Croydon Road, Beckenham BR3 4DA, 9am to 3pm, 12 dealers, refreshments. Enquiries: Ray McQuade, 0208 395 9285. • **London** Charing Cross Market, 1 Embankment Place, Villiers Street, London WC2N 6RH, 7am to 3pm. Enquiries: Bridget Petticrew, 01252 842906, bridget@charingcrossmarket.com. • **Haywards Heath** Postcard & Collectors' Fair, Clair Hall, Perrymount Road, Haywards Heath RH16 3DN, 10.30am to 4pm, 25 dealers, free car parking, refreshments available. Enquiries: Rosemary Shepherd, 01892 662132. • **Leicester** Stamp Fair, Holiday Inn, St. Nicholas Centre, Leicester LE1 5LX, 9.30am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: John Suschitzky, 0116 235 0441. • **Rawreth** Stamp Fair, Rawreth Parish Hall, Church Road, Rawreth SS11 8SH, 10am to 4pm, ten dealers, refreshments, free car parking. Enquiries: Steve Search, 01702 323682, stevesearch@hotmail.com. • **Redbourn** Stamp Fair, Redbourn Village Hall, 63 High Street, Redbourn AL3 7LW, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Graham O'Hara, 07710 683122. 08712004950.

4 February • **Bedford** Stamp Fair, St. Mark's Church Hall, Calder Rise, Bedford MK41 7UY, 10am to 4pm, 11 dealers, free car parking. Enquiries: Paul Harris, 01623 621143 • **Wolverhampton** Stamp Fair, Bradmore Social Club, 60 Church Street, Wolverhampton WV3 7ER, 9am to 3pm, eight dealers, free car parking, Social Club bar available. Enquiries: John Coaten, 07808 864297.



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

10 February • **Bromley & Beckenham** Stamp and Postcard Fair, Langley Park Boys School, Hawksbrook Lane, South Eden Park Road, Beckenham BR3 3BP, 9.30am to 4pm. Enquiries: David Rennie, 020 8778 7001. • **Cardiff** Stamp, Postcards and Collectors' Fair, Cardiff City Hall, Cardiff CF10 3ND, 10am to 4pm, 40 dealers. Enquiries: Malcolm Harrington, 01792 415293, malcolm.harrington@hotmail.co.uk.



• **Canterbury** Postcard and Collectors' Fair, Westgate Hall, Westgate Hall Road, Canterbury CT1 2BT, 10am to 3.30pm, free admission. Enquiries: Clive Baker, 01843 862707, ukoldpostcards.com. • **Cardiff** Stamp, Postcards and Collectors' Fair, Cardiff City Hall, Cardiff CF10 3ND, 10am to 4pm, 40 dealers. Enquiries: Malcolm Harrington, 01792 415293, malcolm.harrington@hotmail.co.uk. • **London** Charing Cross Market, London WC2N 6RH, see 3 February. • **Derby** Stamp Fair, Nunsfield Community Hall, 33 Boulton Road, Alvaston, Derby DE24 0FD, 9.30am to 4pm, seven dealers, free car parking and admission, refreshments from 12pm. Enquiries: Kevin Johnson, 07808 665472. • **Teddington** Postcard and Stamp Fair, Teddington Baptist Church, Church Road, Teddington TW11 8PF, 10.15am to 4pm, six stamp dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Martin Thompson, 01372 725883. • **Thatcham** Stamp and Postcard Fair, Thatcham Memorial Hall, Bath Road, Thatcham RG18 3AG, 9.30am to 2.30pm, ten dealers, free admission, refreshments available. Enquiries: Paula Cant, 01256 415699, paula@paulacantstamps.co.uk.

11 February • **Bristol** Stamp & Postal History Fair, Easter Compton Village Hall, Main Road, Easter Compton, Bristol BS35 5SJ, 10am to 3.30pm, free car parking. Enquiries: Mark Grimsley, 0117 962 3203, mark_grimsley-stamps@hotmail.co.uk. • **Chelmsford** Stamp and Postcard Fair, Old Chelmsfordian Club, Roxwell Road, Chelmsford CM1 2LY, 9am to 3pm. Enquiries: Steve Burnell, 01708 229763. • **Wokingham** Stamp Fair, St. Crispin's Centre, London Road, Wokingham RG40 1SR, 9am to 3pm. Enquiries: Tristan Brittain, 07957 158299.

17 February • **Hull** Stamp Fair, St. James Centre, 169 First Lane, Hessle, near Hull HU13 9EY, 9.30am to 4pm, five dealers, free parking and admission, refreshments available. Enquiries: Kevin Johnson, 07808 665472. • **Montrose** Stamp and Postcard Fair, Hillside Village Hall, Dubton Road, Hillside, Montrose DD10 9HB, 10am to 3pm, six stamp dealers, free parking, refreshments available. Enquiries: Chad Neighbor, 01674 832823, chad@cneighbor.plus.com. • **Preston** Stamp Fair, Barton Village Hall, Garstang Road, Preston PR3 5AA, 10am to 4pm, 12 dealers, refreshments, free car parking. Enquiries: John Roberts, 07943 174958, john.roberts591@virginmedia.com • **London** Charing Cross Market, London WC2N 6RH, see 3 February. • **Exeter** – Michael Hale Collectors' Fair, The America Hall, De La Rue Way, Pinhoe, Exeter EX4 8PX, 10am to 4pm, 12 stamp dealers, free parking, refreshments. Enquiries: Michael Hale, 01749 677669.

18 February • **Dronfield** Stamp Fair, Coal Aston Village Hall, Coal Aston, Dronfield S18 3AY, 9.30am to 4pm, ten dealers, free parking and admission, refreshments available. Enquiries: Kevin Johnson, 07808 665472. • **Slip End** Stamp Fair, Village Hall, Markyate Road, Slip End, Luton LU1 4BU, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Graham O'Hara, 07710 683122.



24 February • **Bilsborrow** Stamp Fair, Bilsborrow Village Hall, Bilsborrow PR3 0RE, 10am to 3.30pm, up to 17 dealers, hot and cold food all day. Enquiries: Fred O'Reilly, 01226 765069.

24 February • **Morley** Stamp Fair, St. Mary's Hall, Commercial St, Morley LS27 3HZ, 9.30am to 4pm, 15 dealers, free parking and admission. Details: Kevin Johnson, 07808 665472. • **London** Charing Cross Market, WC2N 6RH, see 3 February.

1 March • **Rugby** Stamp and Postcard Fair, Rogers Hall, Deerings Road, Hillmorton CV21 4EN, 9.30am to 3pm, free admission and car parking. ▸

refreshments. Enquiries: Simon Hemmings, 01455 642248, stamps@midphil.com. • **London** Charing Cross Market, London WC2N 6RH. • **Beckenham** Stamp and Postcard Fair, Azelia Hall, Croydon Road, Beckenham BR3 4DA, 9am to 3pm, 12 dealers, refreshments. Enquiries: Ray McQuade, 0208 395 9285. • **Leicester** Stamp Fair, Leicester LE1 5LX, see 3 February. • **Rawreth** Stamp Fair, SS11 8SH, see 3 February. • **Haywards Heath** Postcard & Collectors' Fair, Clair Hall, Perrymount Road, Haywards Heath RH16 3DN, 10.30am to 4pm, 25 dealers, free parking, refreshments. Enquiries: Rosemary Shepherd, 01892 662132.

4 March • **Wolverhampton** Stamp Fair, Bradmore Social Club, 60 Church Street, Wolverhampton WV3 7ER, 9am to 3pm, eight dealers, free car parking, Social Club bar available. Enquiries: John Coaten, 07808 864297. • **Milton Keynes** Stamp Fair, Novotel, Saxon Street, Leybourne Court, Milton Keynes MK13 7RA, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Graham O'Hara, 07710 683122.



7 March • **Bexhill** Philatelic Society Stamp & Postcard Fair, St. Martha's Church Hall, Cooden Sea Road, Bexhill-on-Sea TN39 4SL, 2pm to 4pm. Enquiries: Ray Burnett, 01424 214294, rayburnett@hotmail.com.

10 March • **Grampian** Postcard Club Annual Fair, Garioch Heritage Centre, Loco Works Road, Inverurie AB51 4FY, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Chad Neighbor, 01674 832823, chad@cneighbor.plus.com. • **Liverpool** Stamp Fair, St. Columbia Church Hall, Hillfoot Road, Hunts Cross, Liverpool L25 0ND, 10am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: Fred O'Reilly, 01226 765069. • **Derby** Stamp Fair, Nunsfield Community Hall, 33 Boulton Road, Alvaston, Derby DE24 0FD, 9.30am to 4pm, seven dealers, free parking and admission, refreshments from 12pm. Enquiries: Kevin Johnson, 07808 665472. • **Langdon** Stamp Fair, Methodist Church Hall, High Road, Langdon Hills SS16 6EX, 9.30am to 3pm, eight dealers, free parking and admission, refreshments available. Enquiries: David Church, 01268 543371. • **London** Charing Cross Market, 1 Embankment Place, Villiers Street, London WC2N 6RH, 7am to 3pm. Enquiries: Bridget Petticrew, 01252 842906, bridget@charingcrossmarket.com. • **Folkestone** Stamp Collectors' Fair, Trinity Church Hall, Sandgate Road, Folkestone CT20 2UQ, 9am to 1.30pm, free car parking and admission. Enquiries: Peter Barrett, 01304 829827.

11 March • **Chelmsford** Stamp and Postcard Fair, Old Chelmsfordian Club, Roxwell Road, Chelmsford CM1 2LY, 9am to 3pm. Enquiries: Steve Burnell, 01708 229763. • **Wokingham** Stamp Fair, St. Crispin's Centre, London Road, Wokingham RG40 1SR, 9am to 3pm. Enquiries: Tristan Brittain, 07957 158299. • **Cheltenham** Stamp Fair, St. Andrew's United Reformed Church, Montpellier Street, Cheltenham GL50 1SP, 10am to 4pm, free admission. Enquiries: Mark Grimsley, 0117 962 3203, mark_grimsley-stamps@hotmail.co.uk •

Major UK philatelic events in 2018

Spring and Autumn Stampex will be held from 14 to 17 February (as detailed above) and from 12 to 15 September, both at the Business Design Centre in Islington, London. The 89th Annual Scottish Philatelic Congress will take place at The Dewars Centre, Perth, on 15 and 16 April, and the Irish national stamp exhibition, Stampa, will be held at the Griffith Conference Centre, Dublin, from 5 to 7 October.

The 100th Philatelic Congress of Great Britain will be at The Jurys Inn

at Gateshead Quays from 26 to 29 July, and further details of this event will be available soon. Enquiries: Gerald Marriner, 0116 240 2064, gerald.marriner@gmail.com •

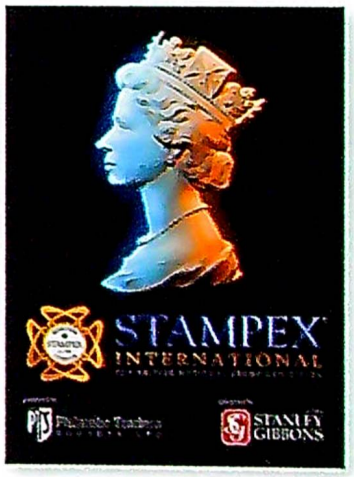
International events

The two major international displays of the next six months are in Israel and Iceland. From 27 to 31 May will be the ISRAEL 2018 World Stamp Championship, a specialised exhibition under FIP patronage covering Traditional, Postal History, Modern Philately and Literature, with 1,000 frames. The UK commissioner is Simon Richards, 07713 684263, simon@sidebell.co.uk.

In Iceland from 8 to 10 June will be NORDIA 2018 Gardabaer. This is a multinational event with United Kingdom exhibits invited. The UK commissioner is Mike Smith, who can be contacted at mikesmith.philatelist@gmail.com for further details •

Stampex this month

14-17 February ◆ **London** Spring Stampex 2018, Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, Islington, London N1 0QH. Wednesday 11am to 7pm, Thursday and Friday 10am to 6pm, Saturday 10am to 5pm, free admission, restaurant facilities. Nearest tube station: Angel, on the Northern Line of London Underground. Enquiries: Deborah Gooch, exhibiting@abps.org.uk.



This is a full national exhibition which includes an invited special display by the Channel Islands Philatelic Society in about 60 frames of 16 sheets each, as lead contributor. In total at Stampex there will be over 220 frames of top-quality material on show. As regular visitors will be aware, the range of exhibits covers all the philatelic classes of Traditional, Postal History, Aerophilately, Thematic and Open Class, as well as an Ephemera class which is being trialled on an experimental basis. An innovation is that the 30-year-old standard display frames have been replaced by brand-new frames better suited for easier viewing.

Also at Stampex will be Stamp Active, the youth activity where new and young stamp collectors are encouraged to take part in various activities, so that they enjoy seeing and handling a wide variety of stamps and learning about them. On the Saturday will be the light-hearted auction run for children and junior collectors. More details of the whole event can be found at the organisers' website – thephilatelictraderssociety.co.uk/stampex •

Machin Collectors Club

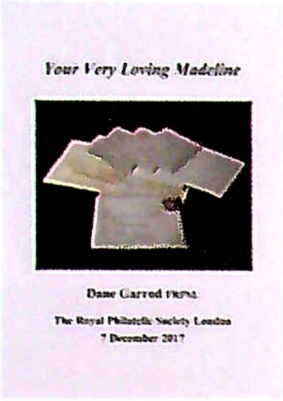
The annual meeting of the Machin Collectors Club will be on 18 March at Dunchurch Sportsfield and Village Hall, Rugby Road, Dunchurch CV22 6PN from 9am to 3.30pm. There will be four registered dealers and up to 20 other tables with items of interest, as well as free car parking and full refreshments at this meeting, which is open to all collectors. Enquiries: Melvyn Philpott on 0140 635 0896, or visit www.machins.org •

Great Britain Philatelic Society

For those who live in the North, an initial regional meeting of the Great Britain Philatelic Society (GBPS) has been arranged at Elvington Village Hall, Main Street, Elvington YO41 4HG on 3 March. The meeting runs from 10am to 4.30pm with a full programme designed to attract new ▸

members who find that GBPS meetings are often too far away for them to travel. If you would like to attend, or participate with a display, contact John Sussex on 01759 302 663 or by email to johndc.sussex@btinternet.com •

Royal Philatelic Society, London



The Christmas meeting at 'The Royal' included mince pies and singing, led by the President Patrick Maselis, ably assisted by Graham Winters. The presentation that followed was somewhat different. Entitled 'Your Very Loving Madeline', it was social and postal in context, but with the usual display sheets and PowerPoint presentation supplemented by two-minute introductory and summary visual-audio displays. Recorded live, it can be watched on YouTube by those wishing to see an innovative approach to philatelic display and presentations.

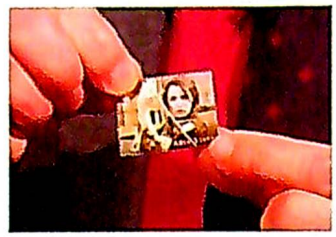
It is with great regret that we advise of the recent sudden and unexpected death of Maurice Flack, known for his welcoming skills at Devonshire Place and stamp events, as well as his warm humour. Maurice was a man known for getting things done, at the RPSL, at Stampex and at events within the Kent Federation. With all sincerity we say – he is missed •

New stamp set's TV role









The *Games of Thrones*™ set starred on BBC One's *Graham Norton Show* recently when actress Maisie Williams was presented with the stamp bearing her character Arya Stark. Handing over the First Class value, Norton announced: 'It's very rare that we have a guest who is on a stamp. Look at that, Maisie Williams is on a stamp!' She said: 'I've not actually seen this yet' as fellow guests Tom Hanks and boxer Anthony Joshua looked on. Joshua declared: 'It's a collector's piece,' and Hanks joked: 'In America you have to be dead to get on a stamp! Was your character killed?' Williams replied: 'No' and Norton quipped: 'Not yet!' •

Special Stamp-related exhibitions



The first government Act to include voting rights for women, albeit with restrictions concerning age and property ownership, was passed on 6 February 1918. Royal Mail is marking its centenary with Votes for Women Special Stamps, launched at Stampex. An exhibition entitled Votes for Women is running until 6 January 2019 at the Museum of London.

Another centenary Special Stamp issue – out next month – celebrates the Royal Air Force, which evolved from the amalgamation of the British Army's air arm, the Royal Flying Corps, with the Royal Naval Air Service, on 1 April 1918. This centenary is marked at the RAF Museum at Grahame Park Way, London NW9 5LL with numerous displays exploring the first 100 years of the service •

Feedback welcome

Great care is taken in the research and compilation of these stamp events, but if you find any error, whether it be an address, telephone number, or similar, Stamp Scene compiler Dane Garrod would like to hear from you. Please email him on dane.garrod5@btinternet.com, or call 01235 524422 •

Island news

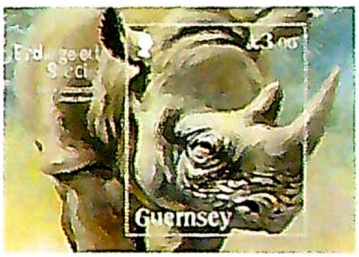
Guernsey This is a rather busy month for the Guernsey bureau with no less than four launches on the same day – including a Stampex release.

The Bailiwick Flowers, Black Rhinoceros and 50th Anniversary of the Wombles issues, and a Valentine's Stampex sheet, are all released on 14 February.



Six exquisitely illustrated stamps make up the Bailiwick Flowers Post & Go stamps, showing some of the Bailiwick of Guernsey's most beautiful blooms – including the Guernsey Lily and Dwarf Pansy.

The Black Rhinoceros miniature sheet features a single £3 stamp bearing a painting of this rare creature, which is the 12th species in Guernsey's Endangered Species series.



The six-stamp Wombles set celebrates their creator Elizabeth Beresford, who based a number of the characters for her books on members of her family. Alderney, Madame Cholet's assistant, was named after the Channel Island where Beresford spent the latter years of her life.



Guernsey Post's Valentine's Day exhibition sheet very apt launch date is also the opening day of Spring Stampex in London. The sheet features two 59p values illustrated with The View from the Lover's Chair, a work by 19th century Guernsey artist Paul Jacob Naftel that shows a scene on the island's south coast. Details and orders: www.guernseystamps.com.

Jersey The six-stamp Visiting Naval Vessels issue pays tribute to the Royal Navy ships that drop anchor at the Jersey Boat Show every year. Released on 14 February, the set includes a frigate, a destroyer, and a number of patrol and training craft that have visited the event in the past.



Out on the same day is the Jersey Seasons: Spring issue, which in eight landscape stamps reveals magnificent views of the island as it emerges from winter. Scenes include a wood bristling with daffodils, waves breaking on the shore and sunlit hills. Details and orders: www.jerseystamps.com.



Above: Guernsey's fascinating February issues

Left: Jersey Post's Seasons and Visiting Naval Vessels

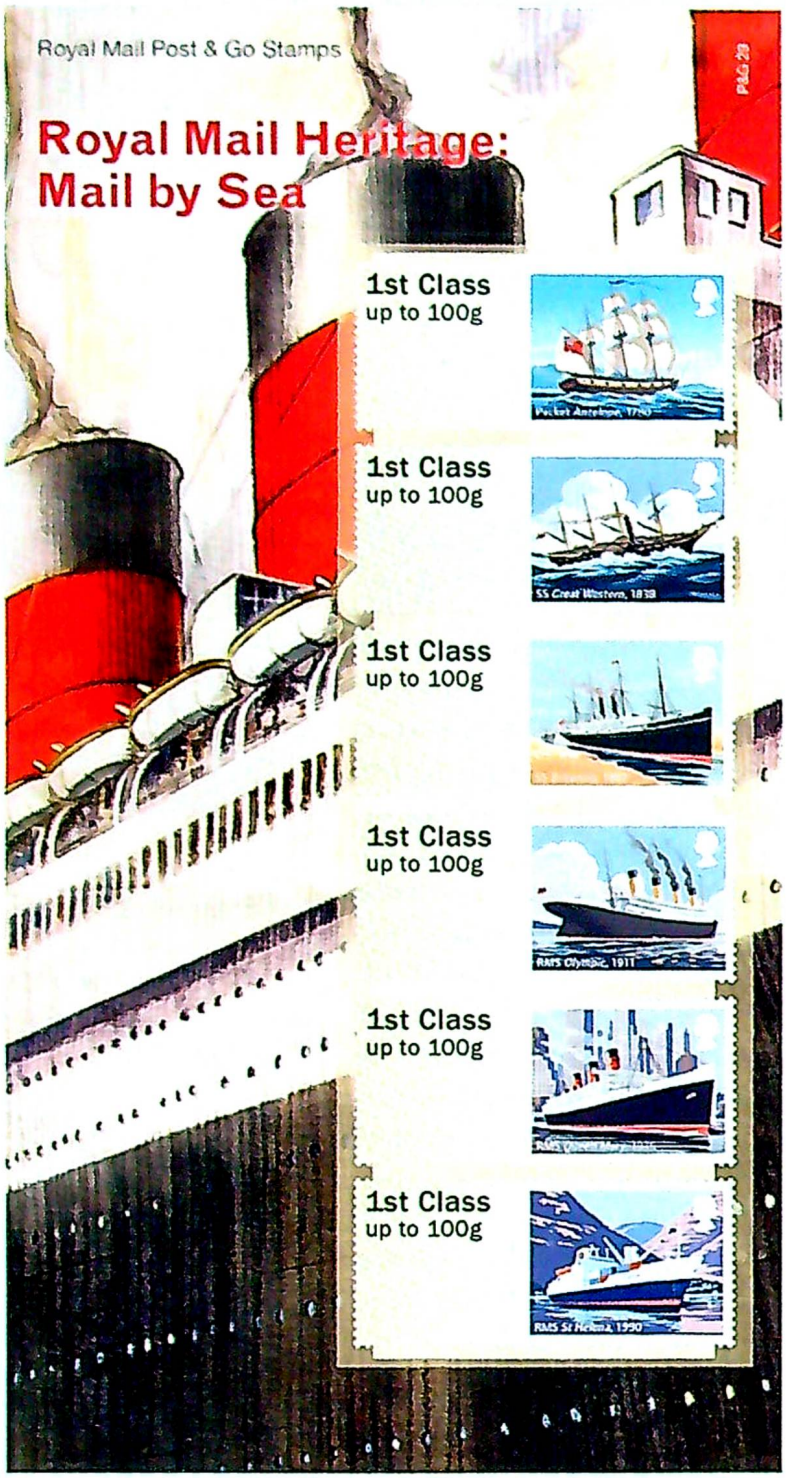
Below: IOM Post celebrates the Manx author Hall Caine

Isle of Man The Hall Caine issue marks the literary genius of a Manx author whose novels were adapted to become some of the most important films in the early days of cinema. The Film Adaptations of Hall Caine set's six stamps showcase some of Sir Thomas Hall Caine's books made into Hollywood movies, including The Christian and The Manxman. Details and orders: www.iomstamps.com •





Royal Mail at Stampex Tony Devine from Stamps and Collectibles shows how the new Royal Mail Stampex stand will improve your visit and explores the latest Post & Go sets – from mail ships to TV sorcery



There is plenty on offer from the Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles team at Spring Stampex with an improved stand and an exciting Post & Go launch featuring classic British mail ships on the first day of the country's biggest philatelic show.

The new modular stand with display cabinets for stock make for a much more attractive philatelic offering. The full range of Royal Mail Definitives will be available, as will the viewing and inspection area at the back of the stand for bulk buyers.

Also making life easier for Stampex visitors is Royal Mail's packaging service: collectors who purchase large or bulky products such as albums and frames from the Royal Mail stand will receive free postage and packaging. Products will be posted on to customers to save them carrying items around Stampex and having to transport them home.

While the new stand is being trialled, there will be no Royal Mail Post & Go kiosks and no Post & Go overprints available at Spring Stampex, which takes place at the Business Design Centre in Islington, north London. However, hand stamping at the event can be posted in the Royal Mail letter box on the stand, and customers' covers and cards will be posted on to their address after the show. There will be no Stampex exclusive souvenir overprint at Stampex, because the Special Stamp issue that coincides with the event, Votes for Women, does not feature a Miniature Sheet. Finally, there will additional card terminals to meet increasing demand for card payments.

All in all our new Stampex stand will be quite different for both our customers



FD1803-PL



FD1803-TH



FD1803-NP

and those of us working on the stand, so please do bear with us. We are very excited about our new stand design as it provides us with more flexibility to take Stamps and Collectibles to more events, following our highly successful appearances at Star Wars Celebration 2016 in London Excel, and Star Wars Celebration 2017 in Orlando Convention Center. And now, with *Game of Thrones*™ added to *Star Wars*™, who knows where 2018 will take us…!

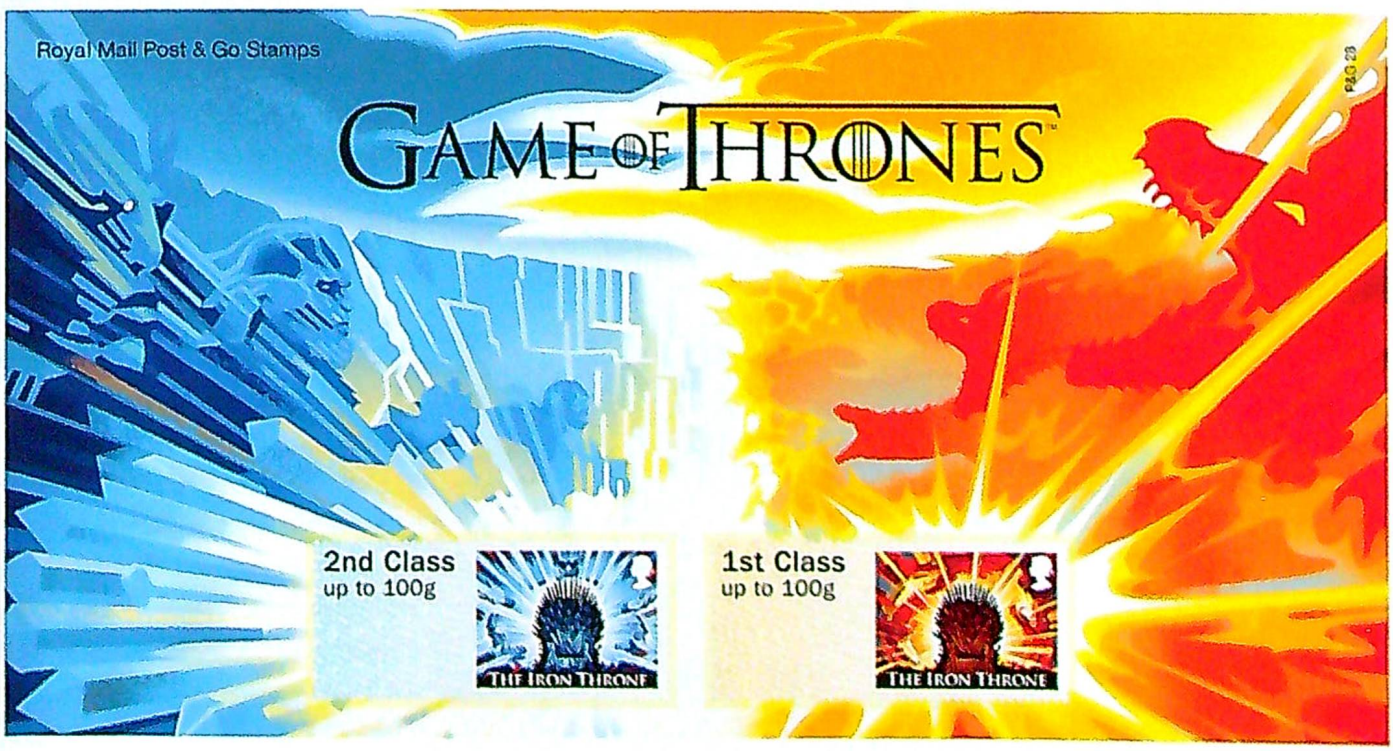
Above: the Royal Mail Heritage: Mail by Sea special postmarks available for first day of issue

Below Collectors Pack containing the two Post & Go designs released as part of the *Game of Thrones*™ issue

Post & Go news The elegant Royal Mail Heritage: Mail by Sea Post & Go set is released on the first day of Spring Stampex (14 February) at the Royal Mail stand. The *Game of Thrones*™ Post & Go stamps, out since 23 January, are also available at Stampex. This is the first time there has been a Post & Go set coordinated with a Royal Mail special issue.

The *Game of Thrones*™ Post & Go stamps can be purchased from the self-service machine at The Postal Museum in London.

Royal Mail's celebration of HBO's hit TV series includes a new design format for the Post & Go Collectors Pack (shown below). Previews of the Mail by Sea and *Game of Thrones*™ issues are in January's *Bulletin* •



Turn over for more Game of Thrones™

Gloriously gripping, grittily grimdark*

Gut-wrenching global TV phenomenon *Game of Thrones*™ is certainly not for the fainthearted: its graphic portrayal of violence and sex is well known. Less well-known is what the conclusion of this gritty epic will be. That is because the show is based on the fantasy novel series *A Song of Ice and Fire* by George R R Martin, and Martin has only completed the final books in time for the eighth season of the television show to air in 2019.

So it will be a year before fans know if the show's leading players, now starring in a Royal Mail stamp set, can bring a new age of peace and justice to their war-torn world. While we wait for revelations, Andrew Neish explores some of the complex characters (archetypal heroes do not exist in *Game of Thrones*™) of Martin's creation – as well as the stamp issue's Prestige Stamp Books and Medal Covers on page 180.

Of the ten highly complex characters portrayed in the Special Stamp set, we have chosen two from the Lannister family and two from the house of Stark, to give a flavour of the rich plotting represented by each stamp.

The *Game of Thrones*™ Miniature Sheet features the show's equally frightening non-human creatures – read about them on page 178.

Love them or hate them, the new *Game of Thrones*™ stamps will appeal to millions, so surely they are good news for the hobby – what do you think? We would love to hear your opinion. Email us at: rmbulletin@rocketmail.com.





Cersei Lannister

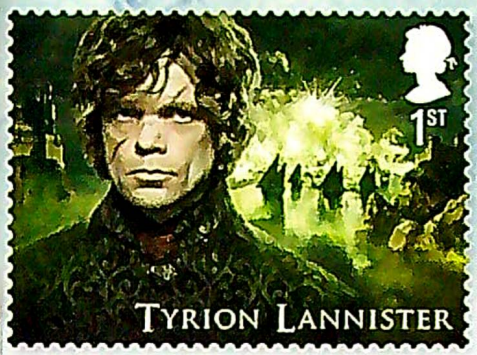
Need to know Cersei is the widow of King Robert Baratheon, but he was not the father of her three children. That honour goes to her twin brother Jaime, with whom she had a long-standing incestuous relationship. Now all the offspring are dead, and Cersei sits on the Iron Throne in King's Landing, the capital of Westeros. She is determined to see off all other contenders.

In her own words 'I don't care about making the world a better place. Hang the world,' declares Cersei and that just about sums up her attitude to murder, slaughter, and staying on the Iron Throne.

Low point Cersei's youngest child, Tommen, killed himself after finding out that his wife Margaery had been killed in an explosion at the Sept of Baelor, caused by Cersei herself.

High point Cersei organised the Sept attack to eliminate her enemies and ensure she ascended the Iron Throne and crowned herself Queen of the Seven Kingdoms. So every murder has a silver lining, even if your son is collateral damage •

*'Grimdark' is the term used to describe the genre of doom-laden, violent fantasy fiction set in a dystopian world full of amoral characters so brilliantly captured by George R R Martin



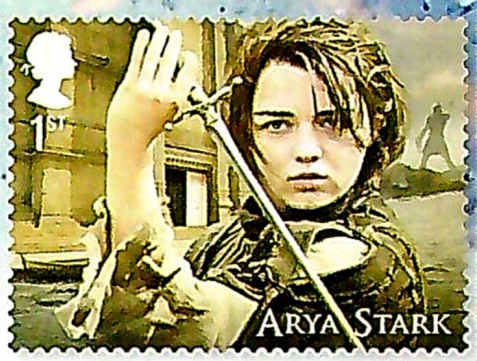
Tyrion Lannister

Need to know The youngest of the Lannisters, Tyrion has spent most of his life alienated by his powerful family, who did not appreciate his shrewd political mind. Imprisoned after being wrongly convicted of poisoning his nephew King Joffrey at his wedding reception, he later managed to escape thanks to his brother Jaime.

In his own words 'I don't want to destroy our family. I never have.' That is what Tyrion *says*, but he does not always practise what he preaches...

Low point Tyrion kills his father Tywin, the richest man in Westeros, after he discovers he has been sleeping with Shae, Tyrion's former lover.

High point Having fled King's Landing, Tyrion goes up in the world by making his way to Meereen, the greatest city in Slaver's Bay, and becoming right-hand man to Meereen's ruler Daenerys Targaryen •



Arya Stark

Need to know The youngest daughter of Eddard and Catelyn has sworn revenge after much of her family were wiped out. Left virtually alone in the world, she felt obliged to leave family seat Winterfell and find refuge in the Free City of Braavos.

In her own words 'The world doesn't just let girls decide who they want to be,' Arya once said, and she set about proving she was as good as the boys, preferring to learn the skills of combat than the art of being a lady. To this end, Arya trained with the Faceless Men at Braavos.

Low point It has to be losing her mother and father, brother Robb and aunt Lysa Arryn – giving her a list of targets upon whom to seek revenge.

High point Her very bloody campaign to avenge her family. She executes Petyr 'Littlefinger' Baelish for killing Lysa, after her sister Sansa sentenced Baelish to death. Lord Walder Frey killed Robb and Catelyn at his daughter's wedding. Bad mistake. Arya served Frey a pie made from his sons before slaughtering him •



Sansa Stark

Need to know Sansa has had a tough life: Eddard Stark's oldest daughter was held in King's Landing by the Lannister clan after her father's murder. Initially naive and trusting, she was continually abused there by her former fiancé Joffrey Baratheon.

In her own words 'I'm a slow learner, it's true. But I learn.' And learned she has, mastering how to play the Game of Thrones by observing the devious Petyr Baelish at work.

Low point On top of her family being murdered, Sansa had a disastrous marriage to Ramsay Bolton and suffered greatly at his hand. And she has also has often been on the run, fleeing both King's Landing and the Eyrie during her adventures.

High point Sansa bounced back by reuniting with her half-brother Jon Snow, winning back her ancestral home Winterfell in the Battle of the Bastards, and taking the title of Lady of Winterfell • ▹

The Night King and White Walkers

Need to know The mysterious, evil Night King has the power to resurrect, and so has raised an army of the dead to battle against the living. He has advanced from his domain in the north and breached the Wall – the last line of defence against the Night King's forces flooding into Westeros.

Loyalties The terrifying White Walkers take their orders from the Night King. They are immune to all weapons except ones made from Valyrian steel and dragonglass •

Giants

Need to know Giants roaming the wilderness beyond the Wall were once a common sight but their numbers have shrunk. They mainly keep to themselves unless they are provoked.

Loyalties The giants have fought alongside the wildlings in the Battle of Castle Black, where their king Mag the Mighty perished in the tunnel running through the Wall. Another giant called Wun Wun fought on the side of Jon Snow, but was killed by Ramsay Bolton who shot him through the eye with an arrow •

Direwolves

Need to know Direwolves are bigger than normal wolves, and their story is intertwined with that of the Stark family: fittingly the Stark children came upon a litter of direwolf puppies to keep as their own.

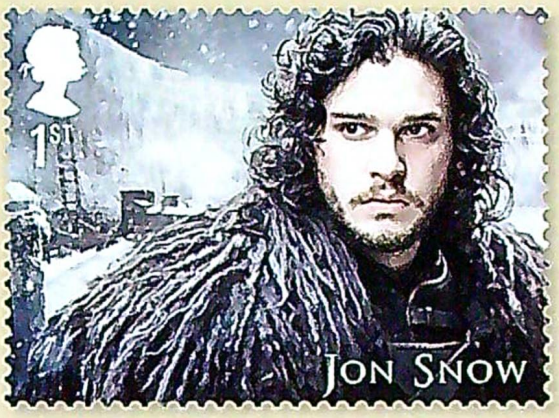
Loyalties The direwolf is the symbol of the House of Stark, and encapsulates the challenge for the Stark siblings: they are stronger as a pack than as individuals •

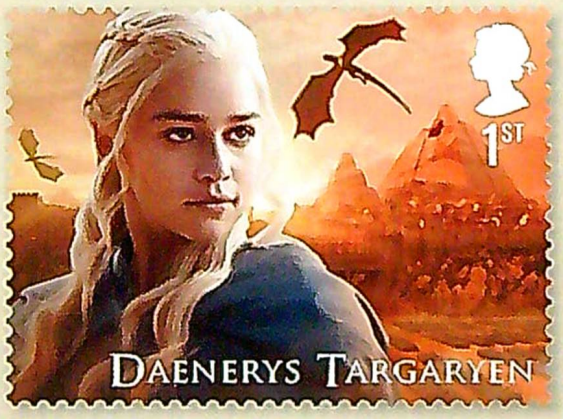
Dragons

Need to know Dragons were absent from the continent of Westeros until Daenerys Targaryen was given three dragon eggs as a wedding present. When her husband Drogo dies, she puts the eggs on his funeral pyre and they hatch into splendid dragons.

Loyalties Daenerys is known as the Mother of Dragons. She flew with her dragon Viserion to save Jon Snow when he ran into trouble with the army of the dead – and she was shattered when Viserion was killed by the Night King •







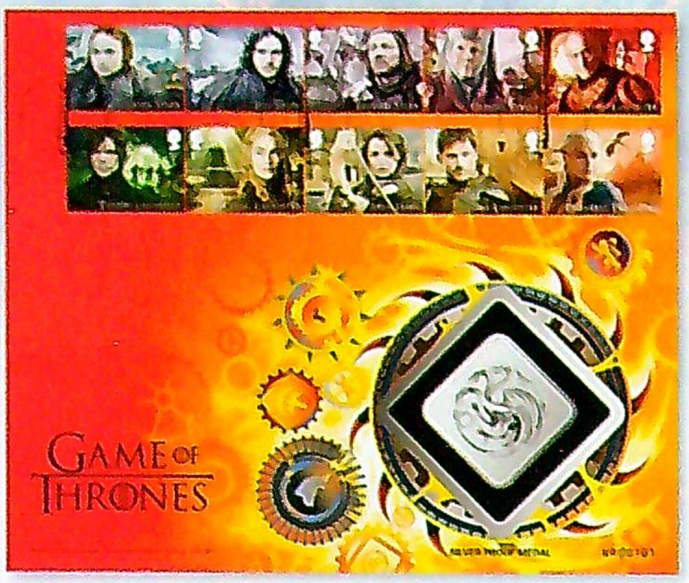
Leading lights?

In villain-infested *Game of Thrones*™ everyone has a dark side. The nearest you will get to heroes are Jon Snow, whose stamp stars on our front page, and Daenerys Targaryen.

Daenerys has earned her position of power by enduring hardship and suffering, and winning the hearts of the people with her vision of a more just world. Jon Snow is a natural leader who values truthfulness, and has been crowned by the people 'King of the North'. Hoping to persuade her to help him battle against the evil forces beyond the Wall, Jon has offered 'Mother of Dragons' Daenerys Targaryen the support of the north.

Many people watch the show retrospectively, so without spoiling the surprises of the latest series, let us just say things have got very interesting between these major players. Out of all the characters, they seem to have the most potential for good, and theirs is a very powerful liaison •







Mythical medals and panes





Gain a thrilling insight into the dark, dangerous world of *Game of Thrones*™ with the issue's intriguing Prestige Stamp Book and Medal Covers.

The beautifully illustrated 24-page Prestige Stamp Book takes you on an intimate tour behind the scenes of the global television hit. It looks at iconic elements of the sword-and-sorcery saga, including the Red Fort, the Iron Throne, and the origins of King's Landing, and filming locations across Northern Ireland, Croatia and Iceland. Also under the spotlight are costume design, the creation of the dragons using CGI technology, and various battles from the show.

The Prestige Stamp Book also features full sets of both the Special Stamps and the Miniature Sheet, as well as an exclusive definitive pane. Its four panes, shown right, bear the various stamps as follows:

Pane 1: 6 x 1st Class (Sansa Stark, Jon Snow, Eddard Stark, Tyrion Lannister, Cersei Lannister, Arya Stark): £3.90

Pane 2: 4 x 1st Class (Olenna Tyrell, Tywin Lannister, Jaime Lannister, Daenerys Targaryen): £2.60

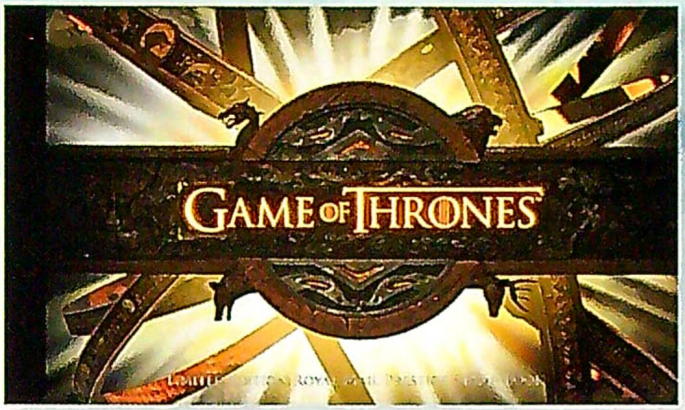
Pane 3: 4 x 1st Class (Night King and White Walkers, Giants, Direwolves, Dragons): £2.60

Pane 4: 2 x 1st Class (*Game of Thrones*™ Definitive), 2 x 2nd Class (Northern Ireland Country Definitive), 2 x 5p, 1 x 20p, 1 x £1.17: £3.89

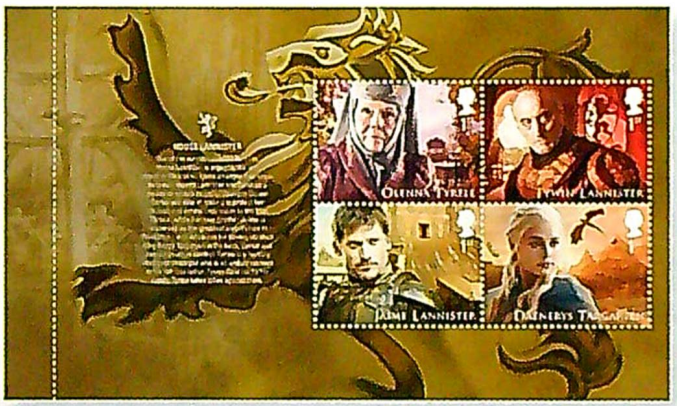
A Collector Edition Prestige Stamp Book comes in a limited run of 2,000 and is packaged in a bespoke leather folder.

Game of Thrones™ Medal Cover – Specifications	
Diameter	40mm
Weight	39.40g
Material	Alloy: cupro-nickel
Quality	Brilliant uncirculated
Medal design	Royal Mint Coin Design Team

There is a Cupro-nickel and Silver Proof Medal Cover for both the Special Stamp issue and the Miniature Sheet (pictured above). The Special Stamps Medal Cover opens out to reveal a specially commissioned illustration of a Westeros family tree with cunningly hidden badges of the warring *Game of Thrones*™ dynasties.











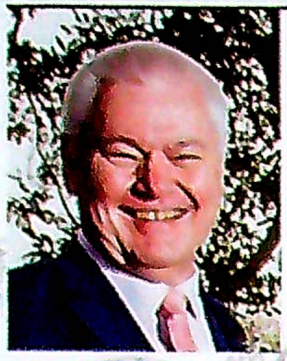
The unique diamond-shaped medal sports the dragon symbol of the House of Targaryen.

Inside the Miniature Sheet Medal Cover is an illustration of three leering Direwolves overlooked by the dreaded Night King. The medal, also diamond-shaped, bears the Direwolf symbol of the Starks.

Special handstamps are shown on the opposite page. Both Medal Covers are numbered limited editions of just 25,000 each •

***Game of Thrones*™ Prestige Stamp Book – Specifications**	
Number of stamps	Five
Value of stamps	1st Class
Design	GBH
Stamp format 1	Olympic Landscape
Stamp size 1	60mm x 30mm
Stamp perforations 1	14.5 x 14.5
Stamp format 2	Definitive
Stamp size 2	20mm x 24mm
Stamp perforations 2	15 x 14
Miniature Sheet size (exc. margin)	192mm x 74.25mm
Miniature Sheet size (inc. margin)	204mm x 74.25mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	As above
Phosphor	Bars
Gum	Self-adhesive

Acknowledgements: Game of Thrones® Series titles and artwork © 2018 Home Box Office, Inc. All rights reserved. HBO® and related trademarks are the property of Home Box Office, Inc. Digital image enhancement: Smoke & Mirrors London Printer: International Security Printers Process: lithography Format: landscape Size: 41mm x 30mm Perforations: 14.5 x 14 Number per sheet: 25/50 Phosphor: bars as appropriate Gum: PVA Stamp format © Royal Mail Group Ltd 2018 Pack number: 551 Design: GBH Illustrations of locations: Katherine Baxter Words: Sarah Hughes Acknowledgements: Game of Thrones® Series titles and artwork © 2018 Home Box Office, Inc. All rights reserved. HBO® and related trademarks are the property of Home Box Office, Inc. Printer: CPI Colour Pack design © Royal Mail Group Ltd 2018 Further details about British postage stamps and philatelic facilities may be obtained from: Royal Mail, FREEPOST, Edinburgh EH12 9PE or visit our website: www.royalmail.com/stamps Royal Mail and the Cruciform are registered Trade Marks of Royal Mail Group Ltd © Royal Mail Group Ltd 2018. All rights reserved. To send any feedback on the design and content of this product, please email: stamp.team@royalmail.com



Wildings 1952 to 1967

Queen Elizabeth II: first definitive issues

In the first part of a new series Frank Walton RDP FRPSL provides a fascinating insight into the wonderful variety of Wilding material available to stamp researchers and collectors

What are Wildings?

The term 'Wildings' has been used by collectors for many decades to describe the British definitive stamps that feature The Queen's portrait that was derived from a series of photographs taken by the famous photographer Dorothy Wilding. The image of Her Majesty's head appeared on a series of small-format definitive stamps from December 1952 until their replacement in 1967 with the first stamps designed by Arnold Machin. The same head design was used on the Castle high value definitive series, regional stamps and also on some commemorative issues, but these are outside the scope of this series of articles.





Imprimatur copies of the first two denominations that were issued on 5 December 1952

Background to the issues

In the autumn of 1951, GPO officials started to consider what would happen when King George VI, who had been in ill health, was succeeded by his daughter. This work resulted in a paper entitled 'Initial Steps to be taken in connexion with new issues of Postage Stamps', written by S W Day. This defined the sequence in which denominations would be issued, how designs would be sought, and also the breadth of products to be created – coils, booklets, stationery and so on.

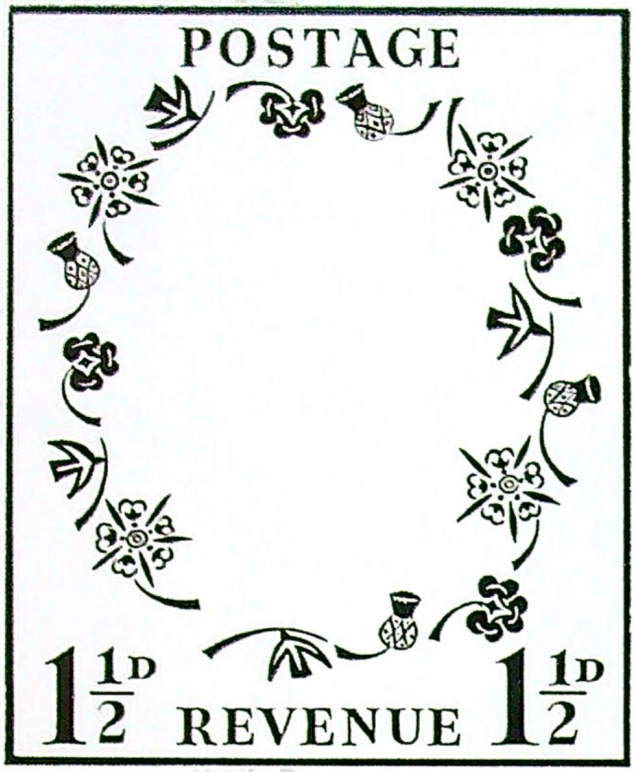
The document was filed, but was drawn upon rather more quickly than had been anticipated following The King's death on 6 February 1952. As early as 13 February, the Postal Services Department (PSD) approached The Queen's Private Secretary, Sir Alan Lascelles, to commence planning the new stamps. It had already been arranged for Dorothy Wilding, a successful and well-known London photographer, to take a series of portraits of Queen Elizabeth II on 26 February 1952. The PSD had briefed Wilding that it required photographs that could be used for printing by the photogravure process. The instructions were very precise, detailing that 'it was undesirable to have heavy shadows on one side of Her Majesty's face and that top lighting, which threw shadows on the eyes, should be avoided'. A series of review meetings were held, and these resulted in another photographic session by Dorothy Wilding on 15 April 1952. It was images from this session that were used ultimately for the issued stamps.



Photographic print of the Dorothy Wilding portrait used for the first Queen Elizabeth II definitive stamps (Reference P 10520; Crown Copyright)

Development of the designs

While the central photographic portrait was being perfected, the Post Office established a list of artists to be invited to submit designs for the new stamps. After several iterations, it was finally agreed that designs would be sought from Mary Adshead, Edmund Dulac, John Fairleigh, Abram Games, Joan Hassall, Enid Marx, Percy Metcalfe, Victor Reinganum, John Stobie and Lancelot ▸





Above: two examples of 1½d Wilding essays produced in 1952

Thornton. These artists would be paid for their submissions, and it was made clear that any further artists could provide designs, though they would not receive payment. The design brief insisted that the photographic portrait of The Queen would be the central feature, but also that it was eminently desirable to include the four national floral emblems of rose, shamrock, thistle and daffodil. The words POSTAGE and revenue POSTAGE and REVENUE must also feature.

The winning Wilding designs

Ultimately 75 designs were submitted for consideration from the above named artists, and also from employees of the printers Harrisons, De La Rue, Waterlows and Bradbury Wilkinson.

An advisory panel was established to consider all aspects of the designs, including their suitability for production and operational use; after a series of panel meetings the 75 designs were whittled down to 19, then to nine and finally, on 23 July 1952, the final five designs were selected.

There was a desire to issue two commonly used values before the end of 1952, so the final choices for the 1½d and 2½d were recommended on 6 October 1952, and received approval from Buckingham Palace the same day. Harrisons had been selected as the printer, and they began work immediately with a target release date of 8 or 12 December 1952 – in time to allow members of the public to use the new stamps on their Christmas mail. In the end, the release deadline was beaten and the two stamps were issued on 5 December 1952.

Further consultations were needed to decide

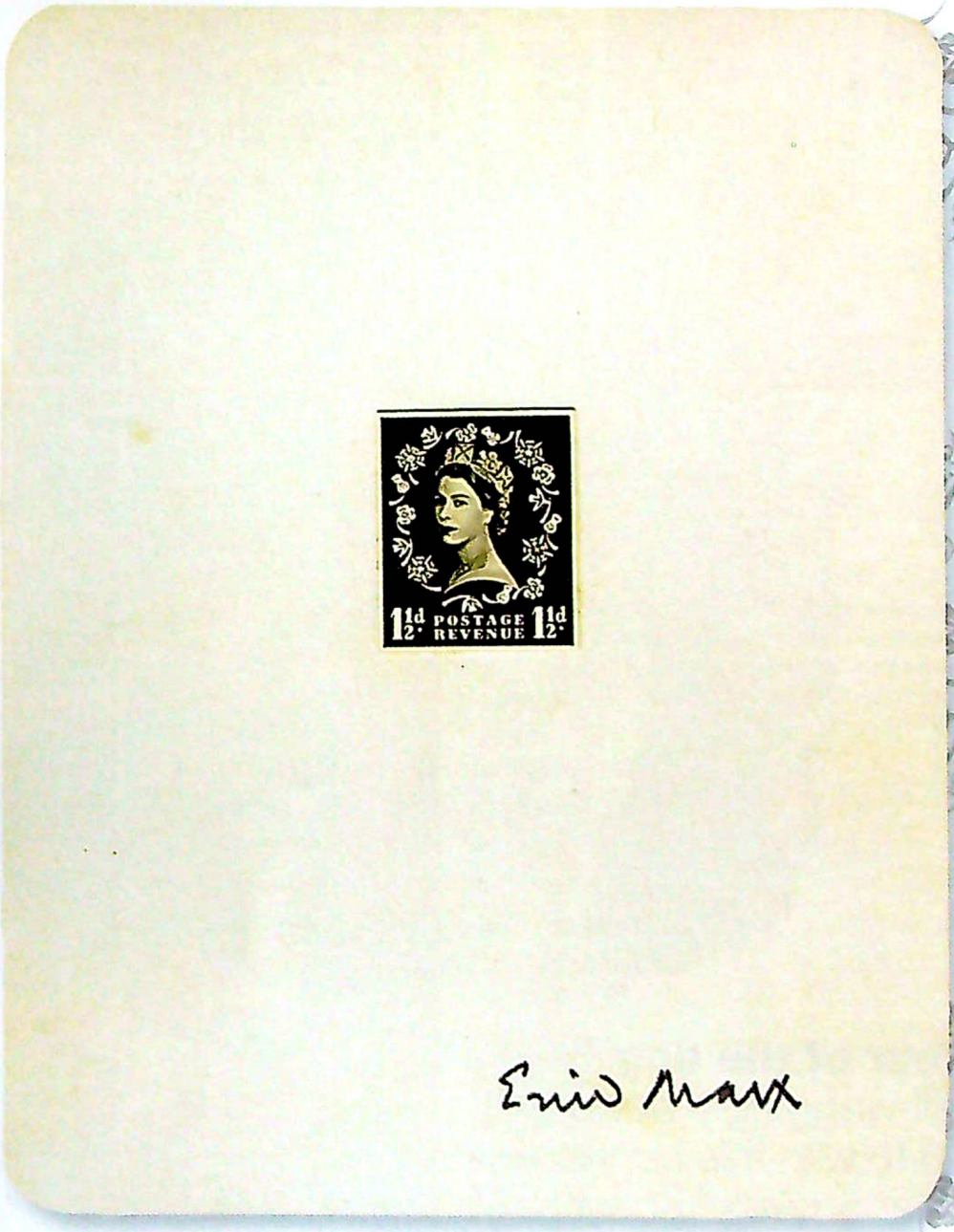


Design No. 830A
'Royal Bouquet'



Design No. 832B
'Imperial Lace'

Two rejected designs by Enid Marx, each mounted on card and dated 25 June 1952



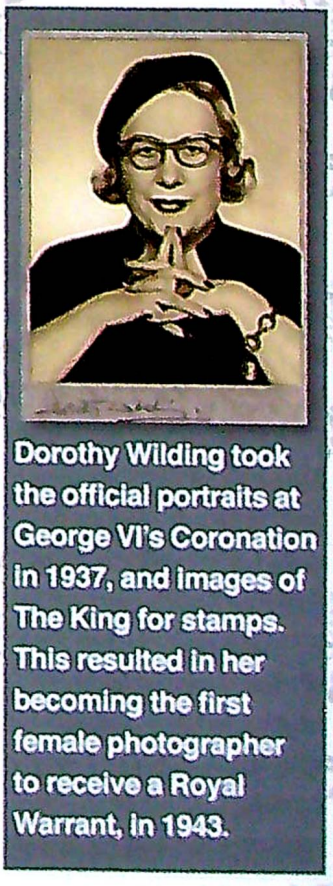
Left: a Wilding definitive design by Enid Marx mounted on card and bearing her signature

which denomination was to be assigned to which value for the remainder of the series. This took some weeks to conclude, but the final attributions were:

½d, 1d, 1½d, 2d	Enid Marx
2½d, 3d, 4d (later 4½d)	Michael Farrer-Bell (of Harrisons)
5d, 6d, 7d	George Knipe (of Harrisons)
8d, 9d, 10d, 11d	Mary Adshead
1s, 1s 3d, 1s 6d	Edmund Dulac

Next month I will give an explanation of the process of creating printing cylinders for the Wildings, together with a summary of paper, watermark, perforations and phosphors used •

Acknowledgements *'The Wildings: The First Elizabeth II Definitives', British Philatelic Bulletin Publication No. 9, Royal Mail, 2002. 'QEII Definitives: Low Value Wildings 1952-64' by Giles Allen. Unpublished stamp history written for the National Postal Museum, 1995. Philatelic items shown are from the author's collection. Stamp images © Royal Mail Group.*



Dorothy Wilding took the official portraits at George VI's Coronation in 1937, and images of The King for stamps. This resulted in her becoming the first female photographer to receive a Royal Warrant, in 1943.

Dorothy Wilding chromotone print on tissue and card mount, 1950s © Wilding Hustler and Georgina Hustler / National Portrait Gallery, London



Above: artist Rebecca Sutherland, as featured in a *Bulletin* Designer Profile (January 2017 edition). Her charming and characterful paper cut-out designs appear on all of Royal Mail's Lunar New Year Sheets – so far comprising the Dragon in 2012, Snake in 2013, Horse in 2014, Sheep in 2015, Monkey in 2016, Rooster in 2017 and the Dog for 2018



Year of the dog Have a tail-waggingly wonderful 2018 with this Lunar New Year Smilers® Sheet

Year of the Dog Smilers© Sheet – Specifications	
Number of stamps	20
Stamp range	Firework stamp from the Smilers©
Sheet design	hat-trick design
Sheet format	Landscape
Stamp format	Definitive
Stamp size	20mm x 24mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	15 x 14
Phosphor	Bars
Gum	Self-adhesive

Toast the Chinese new year this month with a striking stamp sheet to mark the season. The Lunar New Year of the Dog Smilers® Generic Sheet comprises 20 Fireworks Smilers® definitive stamps with illustrated labels alongside, set on a richly illustrated background.

On the stamp labels are images of celebrations taking place across the UK in Belfast, Cambridge, Chatham, Glasgow and Newcastle. The labels also feature lanterns at a Chinese temple, and pussy willow and cherry blossom – traditional decorations in Chinese homes during new year festivities.

The Smilers® Sheet has been produced by leading creative agency hat-trick, which commissioned artist Rebecca Sutherland to create dazzling paper

cut-outs of dogs in a variety of poses to make a border around the stamps. Traditional elemental symbols also feature in the form of cut-out dogs on the central labels, representing water, wood, fire, earth and metal.

The Year of the Dog begins on 16 February and ends on 4 February next year. According to tradition, those born under this sign tend to be honest, faithful, smart and straightforward, and possess a strong sense of responsibility.

This is the seventh in a series of 12 Royal Mail Generic Sheets marking the Lunar New Year, all of which have been illustrated by Rebecca – her Year of the Rooster Sheet is pictured right (see Vol 54, page 145, for a Designer Profile of Rebecca and her cut-out work). The Year of the Dog Smilers® Generic Sheet costs £13.30 and is available at www.royalmail.com/stamps •



READER OFFER



Double the stamp love Big-hearted cover king Adrian Bradbury has a two-for-one reader offer on these St Valentine's Day sheets

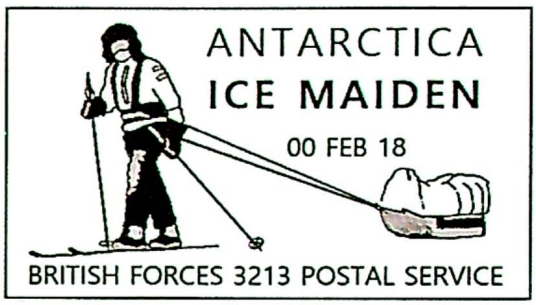
BFDC Ltd
3 Link Road
Stoneygate
Leicester
LE2 3RA
www.bfdc.co.uk/val

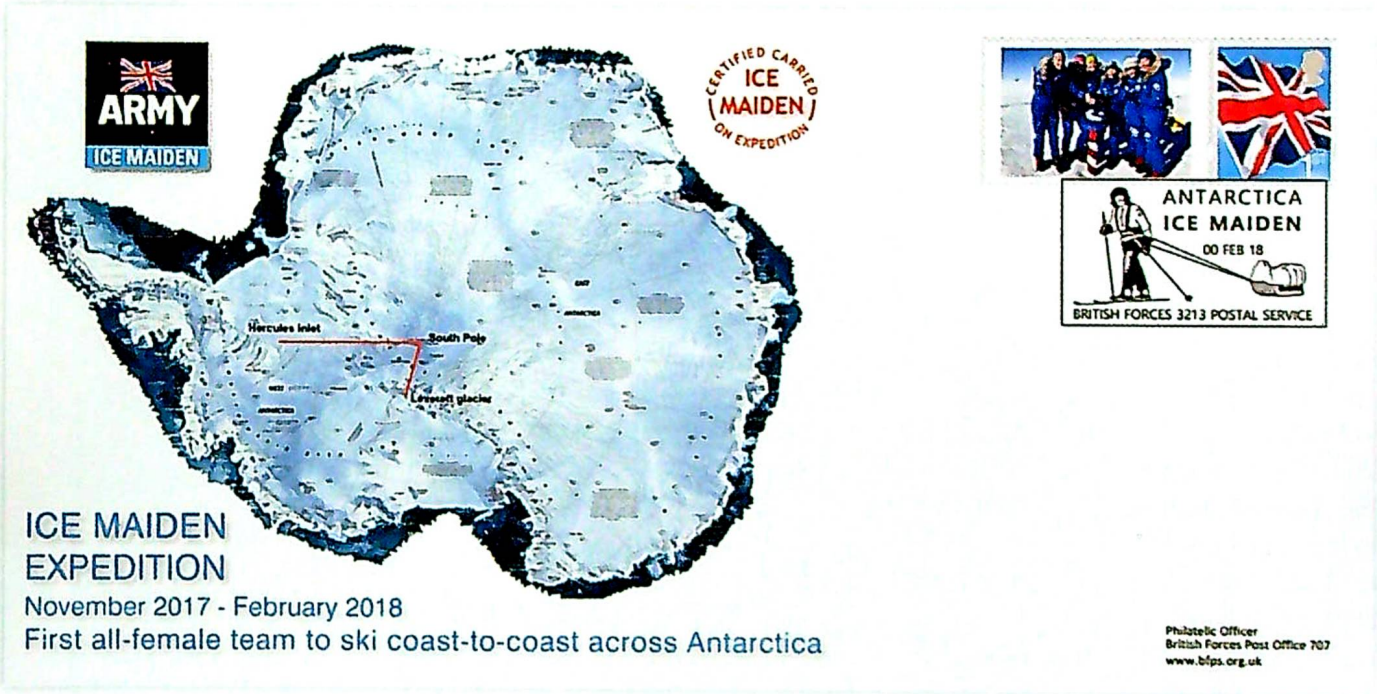
Fancy creating a philatelic cover with a personal touch? You can check out special handstamps at www.royalmail.com/postmarkbulletin

Set your philatelic pulse racing with two Valentine's sheets for the price of one from Adrian Bradbury of British First Day Covers (BFDC). Together the sheets would normally cost you £58 but both are yours for just £25 with our exclusive offer available only to *Bulletin* readers – a 56 per cent saving on the original price.

Each sheet features ten First Class Smilers® stamps with labels showing images from Victorian Valentine's cards. The sheets are also beautifully illustrated with icons of romantic Victoriana, including lovers smelling roses, blizzards of bouquets and a gallery of love hearts.

One of the sheets offers a concise history of the St Valentine's Day celebration; it points out that the occasion takes its name from early Christian martyrs called Valentine, and was established by Pope Gelasius I in 496 AD. The sheet explains that St Valentine's Day first became associated with romance among Geoffrey Chaucer's circle in the Middle Ages, when the idea of courtly love flourished. You can order the sheets online using the dedicated BFDC web link on the left •





Hail the Ice Maidens This cool cover salutes a brave band of female soldiers as they finish an epic journey across the icy wastes of Antarctica

The latest cover from the British Forces Philatelic Service (BFPS) celebrates the triumphant conclusion of a gruelling 1,700km trek by an all-woman expedition of British soldiers. The women, dubbed the 'Ice Maidens', will be the first female team to complete a coast-to-coast ski journey across Antarctica. The cover shows the women's route from the Leverett Glacier via the South Pole to the Hercules Inlet, which they are due to reach this month after setting off on 'Expedition Ice Maiden' in November.

Featuring on the cover is a Personalised Smiler® stamp bearing a photo of the skiing team. It will be cancelled with the special BFPS handstamp number 3213 bearing the words 'Antarctica Ice Maiden', a graphic of a soldier on skis pulling a pulk (a type of sled), and the date the expedition ends in February – which is, of course, yet to be determined.

Visit www.bfps.org.uk/shop to purchase your cover – the price is £7.50 (UK/BFPO p&p free). A number of limited edition covers have travelled with the women, and cost £20. You can also order the cover by post by sending a cheque payable to 'BFPS CIC' to the address on the right •

BFPS
The Old Post Office
Links Place
Elie
Fife
KY9 1AX
www.bfps.org.uk/shop



NAUGHTY AND NICE QUIZ

The *Game of Thrones*™ special issue has inspired us to create a quiz with stamps featuring fantastical characters – naughty villains and nice heroes – from literature, cinema and TV. Answer these questions for your chance to win a Presentation Pack…

Naughty

1 Evil emperor Palpatine, gurning on a First Class value from the 2015 *Star Wars* set, has another name. What is it?
a Darth Sidious
b Darth burger
c Mr Darthy

2 This sinister sorceress stirs up trouble for the court of King Arthur in the 2011 Magical Realms stamp. Name the villain, please.
a Morgan Freeman
b Morgan le Fay
c Morgan Stanley

3 A very naughty person indeed keeps an eye on his domain from behind these forbidding walls in the Lord of the Rings issue of 2004. What is he called?
a Sidney
b Sandie
c Sauron

Nice

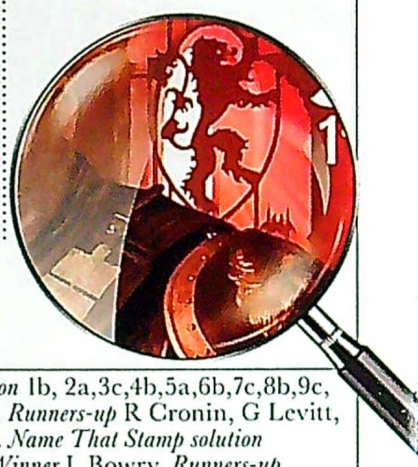
4 This colourful 2007 Harry Potter stamp shows hero Harry on the front cover of *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*. What ancient practice was the substance 'philosopher's stone' used for?
a Alchemy
b Voodoo
c Double glazing manufacture

5 Honourable Eddard Stark, appearing in the *Game of Thrones*™ set, served his friend Robert Baratheon in a very important role. What was his job title?
a Director of Human Resources
b Chief Executioner
c Hand of the King

6 Tricksy Tinkerbell darts across the Second Class value in the 2002 Peter Pan issue. In J M Barrie's original novel, what did Tinkerbell enjoy mending?
a Mobile phones
b Pots
c Vintage postal vans



Name That Stamp From the detail shown below, identify the issue and the year it was released.



How to enter Send your answers, along with contact address or phone number, marked 'Bulletin Naughty and Nice Quiz' and/or 'February Name That Stamp', to Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB or by email to rmbulletin@rocketmail.com.
Closing date 15 March 2018.
Prizes The first correct entry for each puzzle drawn after the closing date wins a *Game of Thrones*™ Presentation Pack.

December Bumper Quiz *Solution* 1b, 2a,3c,4b,5a,6b,7c,8b,9c, 10c,11b,12a. *Winner* I Bowater. *Runners-up* R Cronin, G Levitt, A Adcock, M Dungate,C Bird. *Name That Stamp solution* Arwen Wilson, 7 November. *Winner* L Bowry. *Runners-up* M McCarten, E Bowater, M Smith, J Wilkes, A Bridgeman.

Rules and regulations 1 Promotions are open to all readers aged 18 and over, except employees of Royal Mail Group Ltd, their business associates and immediate families. 2 Responsibility cannot be accepted for entries which are incomplete, damaged or not received for any reason. Proof of posting is not proof of receipt. 3 Prizes must be accepted as offered; they are not transferable and there are no cash alternatives. 4 Winners are notified within 28 days of closing date stated. 5 For prize draws where readers must answer a question, winners will be the senders of the first correct entries drawn at random by an independent person after the closing date. 6 Promoter's decision on any aspect of the promotions is final. No correspondence will be entered into. 7 Entry implies acceptance of these rules. 8 Prizes are subject to suitability and availability. The promoter reserves the right to a) substitute a prize of equal or greater value if circumstances so demand and b) to suspend or cancel or hold void any of the competitions or prize draws at any time without notice. 9 Winners' names are available 28 days after closing date; send an SAE to The Editor.



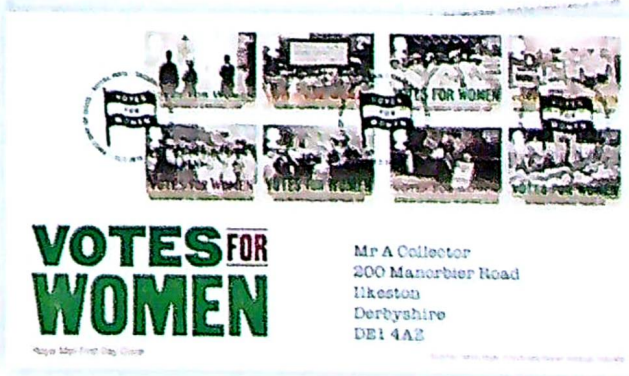
See you at Stampex

Spring Stampex is at London's Business Design Centre from 14 to 17 February. Free entry, new issues and unique postmarks – a firm favourite for UK collectors

Spring Stampex opens this month on Valentine's Day, so why not come and share the stamp love...

- As part of the Royal Mail 500 celebrations, new Post & Go's are issued on 14 February with the theme of Mail by Sea (see preview in January's *Bulletin*).
- Catch the launch of the Votes for Women stamp issue on the Thursday, with opportunities for some unique FDCs.
- Stampex organisers are also releasing a special limited edition Smilers® Sheet and limited edition postcard.
- With more than 100 stands, stunning displays, thought-provoking society meetings, young collectors' area and more, Stampex has something for everyone – so we hope to see you there!





Royal Mail stamp issues and withdrawals

6 February — **Withdrawal** 65th Anniversary of the Accession of HM The Queen: £5 Large Sapphire Blue Machin Definitive, Presentation Pack.



7 February — **Withdrawal** Christmas 2017: Stamp Souvenir, Stamp Sheet Souvenir.

14 February — **Issue** Royal Mail Heritage – Mail by Sea: Post & Go Stamps (6 designs). Details: page 133. Collector Strips available at Spring Stampex.

14 February — **Issue** Racehorse Legends: Framed Stamp and Stamp Enlargements. UK only. Details: March *Bulletin*.

15 February — **Issue** Votes for Women: Stamps (2 x 2nd Class, 2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.40, 2 x £1.57 in horizontal se-tenant pairs), Presentation Pack, Postcards (8 in set), Stamp Souvenir, Coin Cover.



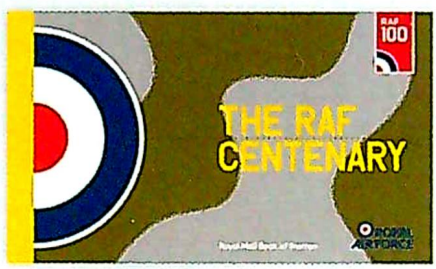
15 February — **Withdrawal** Windsor Castle: Stamps (3 x 1st Class, 3 x £1.52), Miniature Sheet (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.33), Presentation Pack, Prestige Stamp Book, Press Sheet (16 Miniature Sheets), Stamp Book, Postcards (11 in set).



20 February — **Withdrawal** Platinum Anniversary Royal Wedding: Stamp Sheet Souvenir.

28 February — **Withdrawal** Songbirds: Stamps (10 x 1st Class in 2 x se-tenant strips of 5), Presentation Pack, Postcards (10 in set).

20 March — **Issue** RAF Centenary: Stamps (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.40, 2 x £1.57 in 3 horizontal se-tenant pairs), Miniature Sheet (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.40), Stamp Souvenir, Stamp Sheet Souvenir, Presentation Pack, Prestige Stamp Book, Limited Edition Prestige Stamp Book, Press Sheet, Stamp Book, Postcards (11 in set), 3 x Coin Covers, 4 x Framed Stamps – UK only (Preview: page 164, Background feature in April *Bulletin*).



Order all philatelic items, including the stamp products listed above, at www.royalmail.com/stamps or from Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles PO Box 1373, Sunderland SR5 9PG, UK. (Overseas subscribers will need to use a stamp.) Telephone order line (08.30 to 17.00 Monday to Friday): 03457 641 641. From overseas: +44 131 316 7483. Minimum handling charge UK £1.45, Europe £1.55, rest of world (airmail) £2.15. Please quote 18BUL02, the *Bulletin* media code. Selected items are available at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets at main post offices.

5 014721 146294 >

FSC MIX FSC® C019670

Information about Royal Mail products is the latest available at the time of going to press. Royal Mail is not responsible for opinions and information provided by independent writers in this publication.

Royal Mail

The cruciform and the colour red are registered trade marks of Royal Mail Group Ltd, © Royal Mail Group Ltd 2018, all rights reserved. All stamp images © Royal Mail Group Ltd.
Any use of stamp images must be cleared with the Royal Mail Intellectual Property department – see www.royalmail.com/intellectual-property.