The magazine for collectors of UK stamps

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Royal Mail

Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 56 No.9

New Victorian values



We preview the Queen Victoria Bicentenary Special Stamp issue

PRE-DECIMAL MACHINS • WWII POSTAL HISTORY • HARRIER JUMP JET COLLECTIBLES

A philatelic smorgasbord!



Royal Mail will be issuing an Exhibition Sheet to promote the Stockholmia 2019 event that celebrates the 150th anniversary of the RPSL. The sheet comprises 20 definitive Hello stamps with accompanying labels featuring a variety of philatelic items and images that represent the architecture and culture of the host city. Each year the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie (FIP) nominate countries to host world stamp exhibitions to develop philately and promote the stamps of member countries. The event taking place in Sweden is on 29 May – 2 June, for more information visit www.stockholmia2019.se

You can purchase the Exhibition Sheet at **www.royalmail.com** or call **03457 641 641**.

Exhibition Sheet – Specifications	
Number of stamps	20 x 1st Class
Stamp	Hello stamp from the Smilers® range
Sheet Design	Studio Up
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

Royal Mail

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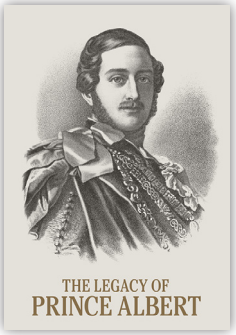


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Stamp Scene As ever, Dane Garrod's diary dates keep us up to speed with all that's happening in the UK's philatelic circles **658**

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Editor Tim Noble, Royal Mail, 185 Farringdon Road, Floor MP-03, London EC1A 1AA ● **Design and content creation** Ian Boardman, Adesso Creative Ltd ● Price £2.15 from Post Office Ltd philatelic outlets or by order from Post Office branches ● **12 months' subscriptions** £20.95 UK and Europe; £26.95 rest of the world. Send subscriptions to Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles, PO Box 1373, Sunderland SR5 9PG, UK or subscribe online at royalmail.com/bulletin ● **Binders** (to hold 24 issues) £8.68 and storage boxes (about 30 copies) £9.95, are also available by post or online ● Copyright and editorial rights are reserved by Royal Mail Group Ltd ● All rights reserved ● Reproduction in whole or parts is prohibited without prior permission of Royal Mail Group Ltd ● **Printed** in Great Britain by Zenith Print & Packaging Ltd ● **ISSN** 0953 8119 ● Royal Mail is a trading name and registered trade mark of Royal Mail Group Ltd. Registered in England and Wales, number 4138203. Registered office: 100 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0HQ ● Stamp images © Royal Mail Group Ltd.

Queen Victoria

Not only a queen but empress, wife, mother and grandmother of the nation

1819
A future queen is born
Alexandrina Victoria, the last of the royal House of Hanover, is born on 24 May at Kensington Palace.

1838
The grand coronation
Aged just 19, Victoria is crowned Queen on 28 June at Westminster Abbey. The five-hour ceremony is indeed grand, though utterly unrehearsed – only Victoria and the Sub-Dean of Westminster know what is planned. Her coronation ring is squeezed onto the wrong finger, causing her pain, and a muddled bishop mistakenly tells Victoria the service is finished, so she has to return to her seat to complete the ceremony.

1840
The royal wedding
On 10 February Victoria and Albert marry in the Chapel Royal at St James's Palace. Clad in a white silk satin dress, finished with Honiton lace, she wears a sapphire brooch, a present from Albert, and bears a wreath of orange blossom, symbolising fertility. Her groom sports a fetching British field marshal's uniform.

The Penny Black
On 1 May, the Penny Black, the world's first postage stamp, bearing Victoria's now-famous profile, is officially introduced (for usage from 6 May).

Surely the most talked about woman in British history; and with 63 years and 217 days on the throne, our longest-serving sovereign before Queen Elizabeth II took up that honourable mantle. Victoria's role in our history is indeed far-reaching and fascinating, presiding as she did over an age of industrial advancement, social change, and the growth of a global empire that transformed Britain into a superpower – with India and much of Africa under imperial rule. No wonder an age was named after her. Yet central to Victoria's own life was her love for Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, which endured after his untimely death. Now, as Royal Mail celebrates the bicentenary of her birth, with a major Special Stamp set, we examine the extraordinary life she shared with her beloved husband, and the life she led without him.

From lonely childhood to teenage monarch Barely 5ft tall and slight as a girl, Victoria had a liveliness and strength of character that made up for her small stature. When aged just ten, she was by told by her governess during a history lesson at her childhood home, Kensington Palace, of her royal role as a princess. Victoria precociously replied in her famously silvery voice: "I will be good." This kind of determination helped her through a lonely, closeted childhood at the palace where often her only company was her governess Louise (later the Baroness) Lehzen of Coburg and her spaniel Dash. (Her mother Victoire, Duchess of Kent and Strathearn, was distant; her father, Prince Edward, son of King George III, had died when she was just eight months old.) Princess Alexandrina Victoria, known as 'Drina', enjoyed French, italian, natural philosophy, history, art and singing. Such



Queen Victoria Bicentenary – Stamp Specifications	
Date of issue	24 May
Number of stamps	Six (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.35, 2 x £1.60)
Design	Webb & Webb Design
Stamp format	Square
Stamp size	35mm x 35mm
Number per sheet	30/60
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	14.5 x 14.5
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA



learning, however, could not prepare her for her accession at just 18 in 1837. At 6am on 20 June, she was woken and told that her uncle King William IV had died, and she was now sovereign. Yet Victoria impressed all by her calm manner when, that same morning, she was conducting her first Privy Council meeting. The young Princess is featured in the £1.60 value stamp: *Princess Victoria aged eleven 1830*.

Royal lovers and a model family Victoria fell head over heels in love with her cousin Albert when he visited the British court in 1839, and proposed to him a mere five days after his arrival. She said of him in her diary: 'Albert really is quite charming, and so excessively handsome, a beautiful figure; my heart is quite going.' Their marriage would be turbulent – Victoria's temper could be uncontrollable, she suffered bouts of depression, and loathed pregnancy – but it was blissful, too. Victoria adored Albert, and despite being initially reluctant for him to become involved politically in her reign, she soon bowed to his worldly wisdom and judgement, allowing him unprecedented access to her meetings with her ministers, and to her dispatch boxes and papers of state. They went on to have no less than nine children, symbolising the epitome of family life to a Victorian society that was obsessed with family values. The wedding of the Royal couple is celebrated on the £1.60 value: *Marriage of Victoria and Albert 1840*.

The Queen and her servant friend It was an extraordinary relationship by any standard: Victoria, Queen and later Empress, and the rough and ready, hard-drinking Highlander John Brown, her faithful servant at Balmoral. Their deep friendship scandalised high society, where rumours swirled of a (never proven) romance between the two. They met when Brown, a Balmoral stable boy-turned-ghillie, was selected to lead Victoria's pony when she was out riding. Albert made Brown Victoria's personal servant in Scotland in 1858 and he soon became her favourite, calling him 'discreet, careful, intelligent, ►

The First Day Cover with the alternative pictorial handstamp. The stamp set comprises three horizontal se-tenant pairs:
First Class – Head and shoulders portrait of Queen Victoria by Heinrich Von Angeli in 1890;
First Class – A painting of Queen Victoria and Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli at Osborne House in 1878;
£1.35 – Painting of Queen Victoria depicted on horseback with servant, John Brown, dated 1876;
£1.35 – Portrait of Queen Victoria wearing the Robes of State dated 1859;
£1.60 – The marriage of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert dated 1840;
£1.60 – Queen Victoria as a young girl with her terrier, Fanny, dated 1830



1846
Corn Laws repeal
Victoria and Albert support the repeal of the Corn Laws, which would help relieve the effects on famine plaguing Ireland.

1848
Chartists alert
Victoria is alarmed by the campaign of the Chartists to win social reform for the working-class, and endorses their repression.

Railway expansion
Britain's rail network now stands at 5,000 miles – compared to just 500 miles of track a decade before.

1851
Great Exhibition
The Great Exhibition opens, and more than six million people visit the show.

1853
Pillar boxes appear
The first pillar boxes appear on the British mainland. They had been initially introduced on Jersey the year before.

1854-6
The Crimean War
During the war, the Queen supervises relief committees for the wounded, and introduces the Victoria Cross medal for bravery.

1861
Victoria bereft
Queen Victoria is left inconsolable when her beloved Albert dies suddenly from typhoid fever at Windsor Castle on 14 December.

1863
All aboard the underground The world's first underground train network, the Metropolitan Railway, opens in London.

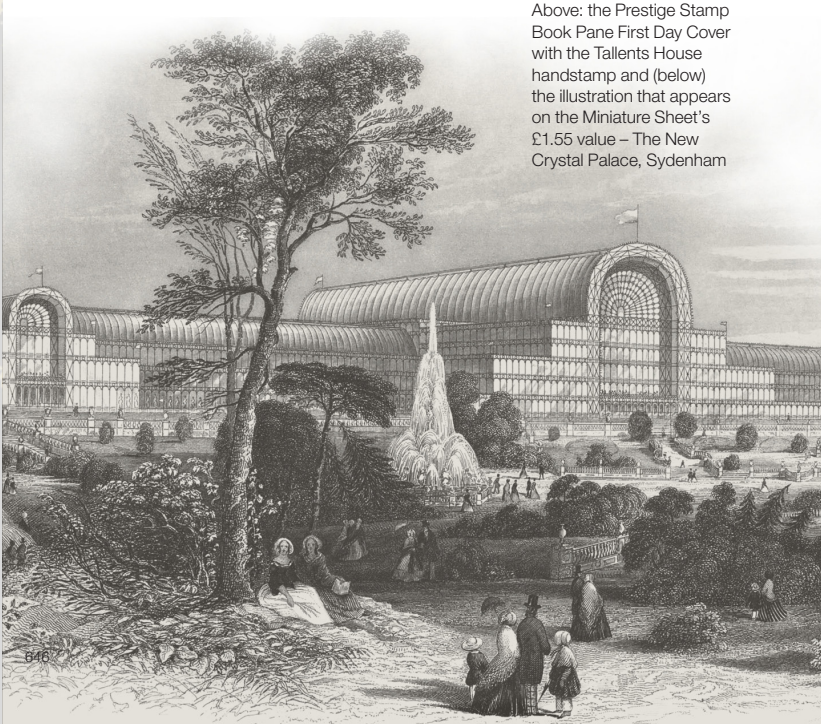
1877
Empress of India
Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli has Victoria declared Empress of India, as part of a strategy to more explicitly associate the monarchy with the British Empire and bind the sub-continent more closely to Britain.

attentive'. After Albert died, Victoria felt lonely and isolated, and the loyal Brown became indispensable in his support, often as her fierce gatekeeper, which annoyed courtiers and other servants alike. The pair remained mistress and servant, yet Brown felt able to chide Victoria, and sometimes called her 'wumman'. Her great affection for Brown is reflected by her instruction to have, upon her death, a lock of his hair and a picture of him placed in her coffin. Victoria is featured on horseback with her close friend and confidant on the £1.35 value: *Queen Victoria with Servant, John Brown 1876.*

Victoria's twilight years Albert's sudden death in 1861 devastated Victoria, and coloured the rest of her life. She spoke of her 'paroxysms of despair' and 'daily, nightly longing to die'. Victoria adopted black attire, withdrew from



Above: the Prestige Stamp Book Pane First Day Cover with the Tallents House handstamp and (below) the illustration that appears on the Miniature Sheet's £1.55 value – The New Crystal Palace, Sydenham





public gaze, memorialising her dead husband for years, which dismayed her subjects. She would sit, surrounded by pictures and souvenirs of their life together, including a photographic portrait of Albert that was taken just after he died. Each night at Windsor Castle, Albert's clothes were laid out for him. In the morning his wash basin was filled with fresh water. Yet even in these later years, public affection for Victoria did not wane. Three million people came to London to cheer her at her Diamond Jubilee celebrations in 1897, proving Her Majesty's popularity. Victoria's very public concern for her troops fighting the Boer War in 1899, when visiting the wounded in hospital, also impressed the British people. A portrait of the elderly Queen Victoria, painted by Heinrich Von Angeli, is featured on the First Class stamp: *Queen Victoria in her later years 1890*.

Albert's extraordinary influence While Victoria's fame and place in history are unquestioned, her consort's importance also cannot be underestimated. Albert was determined to see his adopted country progress and prosper. And so under Albert's influence and patronage, British industry and manufacturing flourished, as did the arts and culture. His brainchild, the 1851 Great Exhibition, featured 14,000 exhibitors marketing British products and technology to the world. Accommodated in the innovative Crystal Palace in Hyde Park (later moved to south London as depicted on Miniature Sheet's £1.55 value: *The New Crystal Palace, Sydenham*), it made more than £24 million in today's money. This helped bankroll the construction of Albert's cultural programme: the Victoria and Albert Museum and the Natural History and Science Museums. His influence extended to politics: calling himself 'her permanent minister', Albert taught Victoria to attend more assiduously to her affairs of state, and attempted to open her eyes to industrial Britain's social iniquity – neither of which she had shown much interest in. Importantly, he steered her Whig sympathies towards Conservatism. ►

The Miniature Sheet First Day Cover with the Tallents House handstamp



FD1817-TH



FD1817-PL



FD1817-NP

1878
Coming of the light
British scientist Joseph Swan produces the first incandescent light in a glass lightbulb.

1899
War in South Africa
The Second Boer War breaks out on 11 October between Britain and the Transvaal and Orange Free State. The suffering of her soldiers distresses Victoria and she begins an intensive round of troop inspections, medal presentations, and visits to military hospitals.

1901
Death of Victoria
Queen Victoria dies, aged 81, on 22 January at Osborne House, Isle of Wight.

Love in the Highlands It was a fairytale castle for fairytale lovers. Balmoral was built in the Scottish baronial style for Victoria and Albert in the Highlands near the banks of the Dee between 1853 and 1856. (In 1853 the foundation stone was laid, on top of a bottle containing a dated piece of parchment signed by the Queen and coins of her reign.) The castle was the only place the couple could express their love for each other in the privacy of a 'normal' family life, a hideaway from their public duties. (The castle illustrated below features on the Miniature Sheet's First Class stamp: *Balmoral Castle, Scotland*.) Yet the place expressed their love for Scotland, too. Victoria adored the country, was a huge fan of Sir Walter Scott, and painted the woods surrounding the castle. As she once wrote in her Highland Journals: 'Scotch air, Scotch people, Scotch hills, Scottish rivers, Scotch woods are all preferable to those of any other nation in the world.' For his part Albert admired the landscape, as it reminded him of Bavaria – and German influences are clearly seen in Albert's designs for the castle. The couple also enjoyed escaping the hubbub of public life by staying at their Isle of Wight residence, Osborne House.



The Miniature Sheet encompasses four stamps: First Class – Model Lodge, Kennington; First Class – Balmoral Castle Scotland; £1.55 – The New Crystal Palace, Sydenham; £1.55 – Royal Albert Hall, London

Background image – Albert Prince Consort © Hulton Fine Art Collection/Getty Images; Model Lodge, Kennington, Private Collection/© Look and Learn/Illustrated Papers Collection/Bridgeman Images; Balmoral Castle, Scotland, Private Collection/© Look and Learn/Bridgeman Images; The New Crystal Palace, Sydenham © Science & Society Picture Library/Getty Images; Royal Albert Hall, London, Private Collection/© Look and Learn/Peter Jackson Collection/Bridgeman Images







The Queen Victoria Bicentenary Issue

This Special Stamp set, released on 24 May, celebrates the bicentenary of the births of both Victoria and Albert. The six-stamp issue charts the life of Victoria from youth to her elderly years. The stamps are complemented with a Miniature Sheet which comprises a further four stamps that celebrate the legacy of Prince Albert. Other items released include a Presentation Pack, Stamp Souvenir, Stamp Sheet Souvenir, Prestige Stamp Book, Press Sheet, Postcards and three Coin Covers – all available at royalmail.com/stamps ●

Queen Victoria by Baron Heinrich von Angeli, Royal Collection Trust/© Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 2019; Queen Victoria with Benjamin Disraeli by Theodore Blake Wirgman © The Forbes Magazine Collection, New York/Bridgeman Images; Queen Victoria on Horseback with John Brown by Charles Burton Barber © The Forbes Magazine Collection, New York/Bridgeman Images; Queen Victoria by Franz Xaver Winterhalter, Royal Collection Trust/© Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 2019; The Marriage of Queen Victoria by Sir George Hayter, Royal Collection Trust/© Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 2019; Queen Victoria when a Girl by Richard Westall, Royal Collection Trust/© Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 2019

Above: the Presentation Pack that houses the three se-tenant pairs of Special Stamps, (above right) the Presentation Pack Outer, (below) the Presentation Pack Inner which focuses on Victoria's personal life, including her childhood, marriage and children



Miniature Sheet – Specifications

Date of issue	24 May
Number of stamps	Four (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.55)
Design	Common Curiosity
Miniature Sheet size	146 mm x 74 mm
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	41mm x 30mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	14.5 x 14
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA













Left: the Prestige
Stamp Book: front cover,
pane one (2 x £1.60, 1 x £1.35 Special Stamps),
pane two (2 x 2p, 2 x 50p Machins), 2 x 1st Class (Penny Black), 1 x 1st Class (Two Pence Blue), 1 x 1st Class (Penny Red), pane three (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.55 (Prince Albert Legacy), and pane four (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.35 Special Stamps).
Above: the Coin Covers' Insert

Queen Victoria Bicentenary – Prices

Set of 6 Special Stamps	£7.30
Miniature Sheet	£4.50
Presentation Pack	£12.60
First Day Cover Stamps	£9.35
First Day Cover Miniature Sheet	£6.00
First Day Cover Prestige Stamp Book Pane	£5.20
Stamp Souvenir	£9.35
Stamp Sheet Souvenir	£6.00
First Day Envelope	£0.30
Prestige Stamp Book	£17.20
Press Sheet	£74.25
Postcards (11 in set)	£4.95
BU £5 Coin Cover	£19.95
Silver £5 Coin Cover	£82.50
Gold £5 Coin Cover	£1,995.00



Left: the Brilliant Uncirculated Coin Cover Envelope. Below: the Coin Covers' handstamp



V&A Quiz

1 On what date did Victoria ascend to the throne?
a) 10 February
b) 24 May
c) 20 June

2 Where did Victoria and Albert marry?
a) St James's Palace
b) Westminster Abbey
c) Windsor Castle

3 What was the name of Victoria's pet terrier?
a) Dash
b) Fanny
c) Alma

4 What opened in 1851?
a) The Metropolitan Railway
b) The V&A Museum
c) The Great Exhibition

5 When did Victoria celebrate her Diamond Jubilee?
a) 1897
b) 1899
c) 1901



How to enter Please send your answers, with your contact address or phone number, marked 'V & A Quiz', to: Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. Or by email to tim.noble@royalmail.com.
Prizes The first five correct entries drawn after the closing date win the Queen Victoria Bicentenary Presentation Pack.
Closing Date 15 June 2019.

February solutions
Stamp Classics
1b 2c 3b 4c 5c 6a
Winners Richard Milner, Falmouth; Mrs Lynn Bowry, Lincoln; Ms Jacqueline Lamont, Nottingham; Dave Dorgan, Bolton; Mr Mike Perry, Taunton.

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

Birds of Prey



They've been released! – The Special Stamps that feature Tim Flach's stunning shots, capturing the grace of British raptors in the latest Royal Mail birds thematic

Complementing the attractive stamp set, is the Presentation Pack which is written by Jemima Parry-Jones MBE, Director of the International Centre for Birds of Prey – who offers wonderful insights into these majestic creatures ●





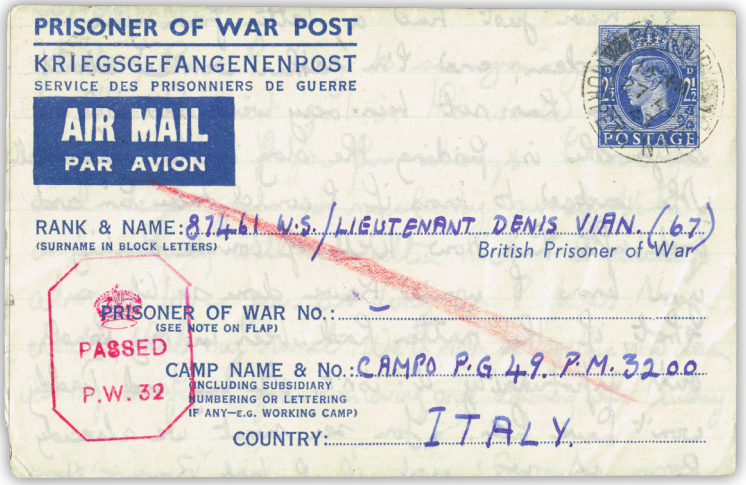


Interned but in touch

In July 1943, news filtered through to British POWs in Italy that Operation Husky had been a success, and that the Nazis had been routed from Sicily, and Mussolini had been deposed. With Allied invasion imminent, optimism of the interned soared with hope that their deliverance was near. However, through a religious BBC radio broadcast, MI9 – the British Directorate of Military Intelligence issued an encoded message that was to cost tens of thousands their early release, and many their lives.

MI9 had been pro-active in helping Allied airmen shot down in Axis controlled territory to return to Britain. Their agents were parachuted behind enemy lines with false papers, money and maps, which were given to downed airmen after collusion with pro-Allied resistance cells. Respect for the endeavours of MI9 were further enhanced by their manufacturing escape aids sent to POW camps. The inventor Christopher Hutton (Clutty to friends) devised ways of concealing various escape aids, such as compasses in pens ▶





This King George VI, 2½d prisoner of war airmail stationery is dated 25 August and post-marked 27 August 1943. This was a tumultuous time – the month that followed the Allied routing of the Nazis from Sicily and 11 days before the Italian armistice. The letter sent from England with British censor is addressed to a POW at Italian camp 49, Fontanellato. The day after the armistice on 9 September the camp was the scene of a famous 600 man 'escape'. The mail was eventually returned to sender on 23 January 1945 following Allied advancements in Northern Italy

The unusual cachet on the reverse that overprints the mauve Italian censor reads: THIS LETTER FORMED PART OF UNDELIVERED MAILS WHICH FELL INTO THE HANDS OF THE ALLIED FORCES ADVANCING IN ITALY. IT IS UNDELIVERABLE AS ADDRESSED AND IS THERE-FORE RETURNED TO YOU.

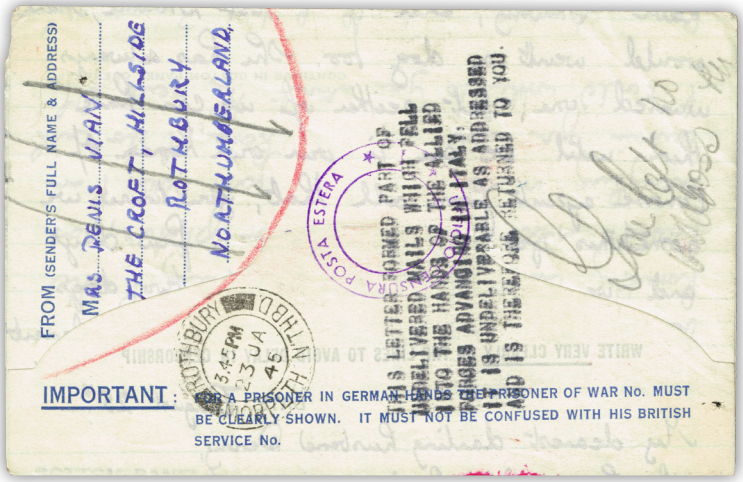


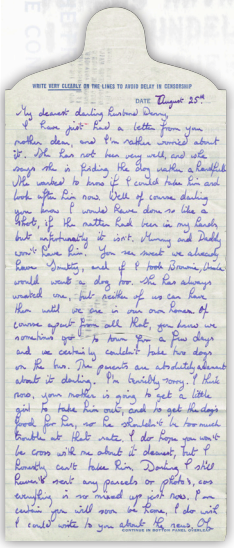
and maps printed on silk in the guise of handkerchiefs. He also designed an escapers' multi-tool with a blade, screwdriver, three saws, a lock-pick, a forcing tool and a wire cutter! The former British stage magician Jasper Maskelyne whose ruses to deceive Axis powers were assisted with his grand camouflage creations, was also employed by MI9 for his genius to create deceptions on a smaller scale, including tools hidden in cricket bats and money in board-games. Despite the much admired endeavours of MI9 to assist POWs, the reputation of the War Office department was heavily sullied by their oversight and directive given to British POWs in relation to the Allied invasion of Italy. The firm advice was to stay put in the camps, and await release, upon what was thought to be the imminent arrival of the Allies.

Unfortunately Hitler's 'soft underbelly' wasn't as soft as anticipated with the Führer ordering German troops from the Eastern Front to Italy to bolster the Axis power's defence. This assisted fierce Nazi resistance on Italy's mainland and helped to severely stifle Allied advancements. Consequently, in September 1943 there was no possibility of synchronisation of the Italian surrender and Allied forces taking over control of the camps. This resulted in Italian commandants and guards simply walking away from confines, giving tens of thousands of British POWs the option of doing the same. Some relished the opportunity, disobeyed orders and left camps – and plotted journeys home. For those that remained loyal to the MI9 instructions that were endorsed by camps' senior British officers, disillusionment was

to follow when the Nazis reached prisons before Allied troops. Approximately 50,000 disenchanted British POWs were subsequently transported, some in packed cattle trains, to worse conditions in camps in Germany and Poland to be interned there until the war's conclusion. An even sadder appraisal of events relates to the fact that up to 80,000 POWs were interned in Italy at the time of the Italian armistice leaving a large discrepancy in the number of POWs safely deported to the German and Polish camps. Post war the MOD estimated that 11,500 of these POWs had successfully escaped back home – leaving large numbers unaccounted for.

Many experiences have been recorded in letters and diaries and subsequently in books and even films relating to the experiences of these escapees. Probably the most broadly documented of these was the 'breakout' from PG 49 in Fontanellato, Northern Italy. The armistice signed in Cassibile, Sicily on 3 September wasn't made public until 8 September and the following day, cognitive of significant local Nazi presence, six hundred British POWs decided that the next camp governors were more likely to be German than advancing Allies. With the blessing of the SBO and Italian Commandant, 600 POWs marched through a gap in the wire fencing previously cut by the




WRITE VERY CLEARLY ON THE LINES TO AVOID DELAY IN CENSORSHIP

DATE August 25th

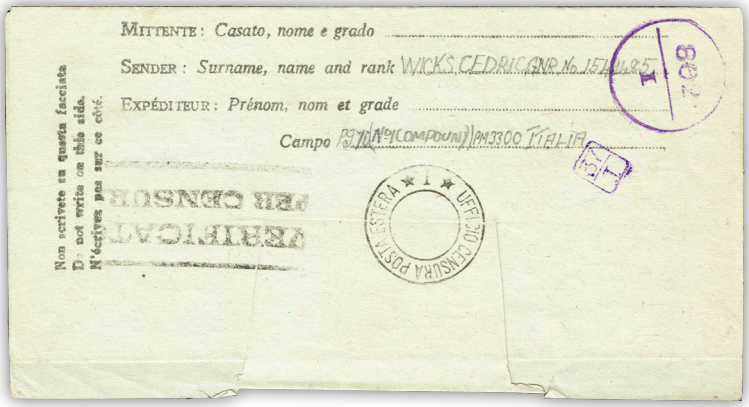
My dearest darling Sentinel Diary

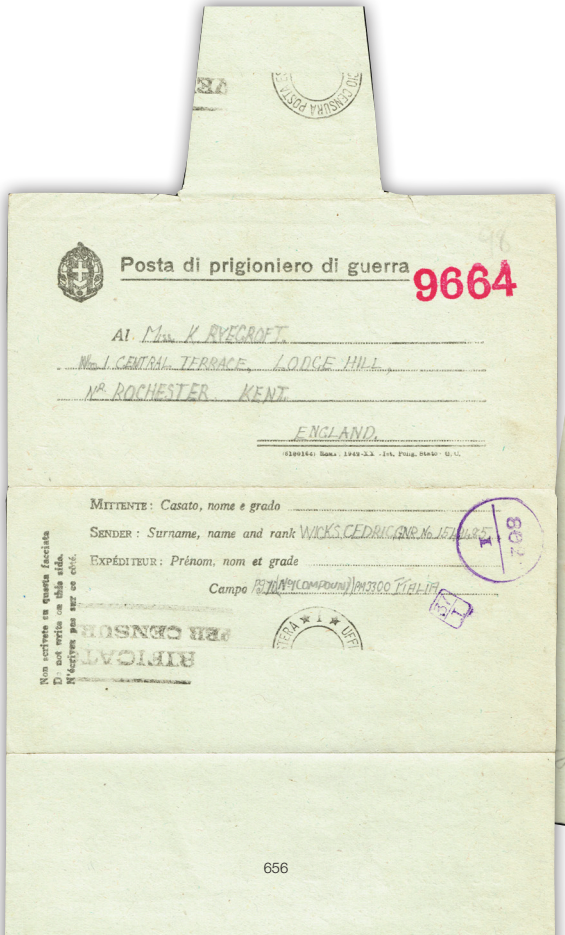
I have just had a letter from you mother dear, and I'm rather worried about it. She has not been very well, and she says she is finding the long winter a handful. She wanted to know if I could take her and look after her now. Well of course darling you know I would have done so like a shot, if the matter had been in my hands but unfortunately it isn't. Mummy and Daddy won't have her. You can count we already have Dorothy, and if I took Bonnie, Linda would want a dog too. She has always wanted one, but neither of us can have them until we are in our own home. Of course apart from all that, you know we wouldn't have her. I'm sure you do. I have always had a very soft spot for your mother, and I'm very sorry for her, but I'm afraid I can't help her. I'm sorry, but I can't help her. I'm sorry, but I can't help her.

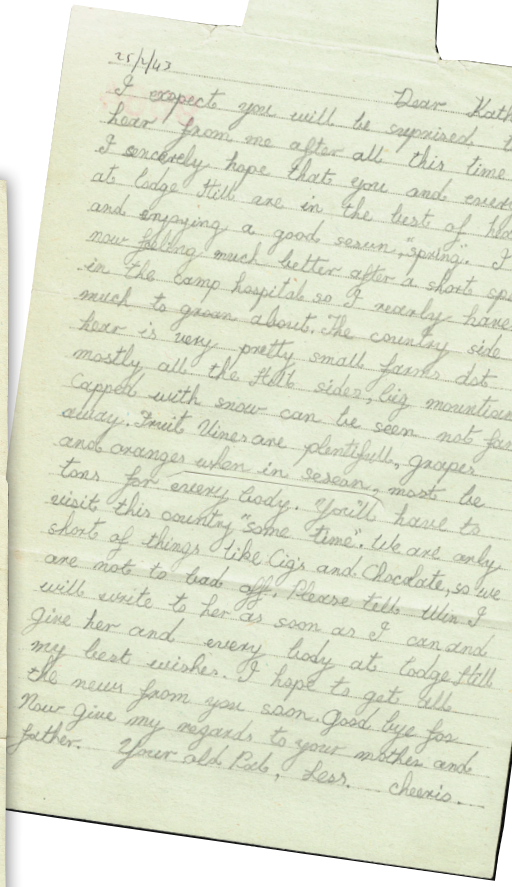
Italians for an unlikely exit. Many stories abound relating the various challenges facing the POWs in their plight to exit from Nazi controlled territory, with the added uncertainties as to the allegiances of the local civilians. For the most part, accounts suggest that the Italian populace demonstrated admirable generosity, hospitality and compassion for British escapees throughout the country. These acts of kindness were particularly laudable given that providing sustenance and sheltering for POWs would cost them their lives if discovered by the Nazis. Post war, beneficiaries of these kind and courageous acts have been irritated by unqualified remarks of Italian cowardice, when it was to many of them that they owed their lives ●

The letter from Rothbury, Northumberland was written by Audrey, the wife of the incarcerated. We've been unable to ascertain information relating to Lieutenant Denis Vian from the War Office but we hope he got to read his wife's touching closing words (opposite) – expressing love and affection at a time of high anxiety, not only for her but all families at home desperate for news of loved ones interned, and those actively serving in expeditionary forces

Cedric L Wicks, served in the Royal Artillery – 274th Light Anti-Aircraft Battery. He fought in the conflict at Tobruk when on 21 June 1942 the British army were defeated by Rommel's Afrika Korps.
On 29 June he was reported as missing and assumed killed in the battle. However better news was reported later in the year when on 24 December he was reported as 'believed prisoner of war' – and indeed he was. In common with thousands of other British troops captured in the North African campaign, Wicks was transferred to Italy for internment. His letter dated 25 February 1943 was sent from the Italian prisoner of war camp 70 at Monturano. Like vast numbers of the British POWs interned in Italy, he didn't break camp when the opportunity arose with the Italian armistice. After the Nazis took control of the camp he was transferred to Germany and he finished his time interned at Stalag 4d, Torgau (Elbe) in Saxony. The camp was liberated in April 1945. Notification of his survival and release were confirmed on 5 June 1945 – a month after the Germans surrendered. The letter adressed to the Lodge Hill Military Camp in Kent received Italian censor cachets, a British censor however has not been struck. The contents of his letter suggest life was relatively good in the camp despite him being hospitalised. Poor health may have accounted for the prison camp he was later confined in at Torgau, which was a repatriation camp for POWs awaiting to be released for home on medical grounds.







An early success of the Allied invasion of Italy was the securing of airfields around Foggia near the Adriatic coast on 25 September 1943. This was of great strategic significance, enabling heavy bombers to reach into the Balkans and southern Germany. However just a few weeks later in October, it was locally, just 50 miles along the coast that utilising these airfields gave Allies an advantage in the war effort – when the aerial support to ground troops ensured victory at the battle of Termoli. In the Spring of 1944 the RAF's No 6 Squadron were assigned to a coastal field near Termoli from which the squadron flew Hurricane Mk.IVs in attacks against Axis ships in Yugoslav harbours. The squadron had previously been engaged in the North African campaign when the Hawker Hurricane took out several Axis tanks to earn 6 Squadron the nickname 'The Flying Tin-openers'. This card sent a year after the battle of Termoli is dated 14 October and was written by Gerry Howson who was a leading aircraftman and flight mechanic. The circular Field Post Office cancel (FPO 217) is dated 18 October 1944 and is tied to the pentagonal, mauve, RAF censor 67 cachet (Colley/Garrard Type R15). This censor was struck at the Termoli Airfield Z42. An additional round, mauve, censor cachet (also with eagle wings symbol) – RAF BASE CENSOR No 6 was applied in Naples on 20 October 1944 before forwarding to England. The message suggests Howson had taken a 'quick holiday' on the Amalfi Coast and thought it a 'charming spot ...for a honeymoon' – perhaps a thinly disguised marriage proposal to Miss Bates of Bromsgrove, Worcestershire! Gerry safely returned to Britain on 20 September 1945 – four months after the cessation of hostilities with Germany.




Amalfi – Panorama dal Porto



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

DIARY DATES MAY 19

4 May Wigginton Stamp Fair, Wigginton Recreation Hall, Wigginton, York YO32 2LL, 9am to 2pm. Enquiries: Mike Lewis, 07742 153669, mikeval9b@yahoo.co.uk.

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

• Sutton Coldfield Stamp Fair, Trinity Centre, Church Hill, off Mill Street, Sutton Coldfield B72 1TF, 10am to 4pm, 10 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: John & Jane Rice, 01785 259350, stamps@john-rice-stamps.co.uk.

• Rawreth Stamp Fair, Rawreth Parish Hall, Church Road, Rawreth SS11 8SH, 10am to 4pm, 10 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Steve Search, 01702 323682, stevesearch@hotmail.com.

• Ruislip Stamp & Postcard Fair, Methodist Church Hall, Ickenham Road, Ruislip HA4 7BZ, 10am to 4.30pm. Enquiries: David Milton, 01895 637283, david.milton139@gmail.com.

• Upminster Stamp Fair, St. Lawrence Church Hall, Corbets Tey Road, Upminster RM14 2AJ, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845, shawdunton@aol.com.

• Charing Cross Market, 1 Embankment Place, Villiers Street, London WC2N 6RH, 7am to 3pm. Enquiries: Bridget Petticrew, 01252 842906, bridget@charingcrossmarket.com.

• Sittingbourne Stamp & Postcard Fair, Carmel Hall, Ufton Lane, Sittingbourne ME10 1JB, 9.30am to 3pm. Enquiries: Chris Rapley, 01795 478175.

5 May Milton Keynes Stamp Fair, The Irish Centre, Manor Fields, Watling Street, Fenny Stratford MK2 2HX, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845, shawdunton@aol.com.

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

• Worthing Stamp & Postcard Fair, Heene Community Centre, 122 Heene Road, Worthing BN11 4PL, 9.30am to 3pm. Enquiries: Chris Rapley, 01795 478175.

8 May Cheltenham Stamp & Cover Fair, St. Andrew's United Reformed Church, Montpellier Street, Cheltenham GL50 1SP, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Mark Grimsley, 01179 623203, mark_grimsley-stamps@hotmail.co.uk.

• Ripley Stamp Club Fair, Village Hall, High Street, Ripley GU23 6AF, 12.30pm to 3.30pm, 10 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Martin Mathewson, 01932 565814, martin.mathewson100@gmail.com.

10 May Strand Stamp Fair, The Galleon Suite, Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, Russell Square, London WC1H 0DG, 9am to 4pm. Enquiries: Kate Puleston, 0208 946 4489.

11 May Norton (Teesside) Stamp Fair, Norton Methodist Church Hall, High Street, Norton TS20 2QQ, 9.30am to 1.30pm. Enquiries: Mike Lewis, 07742 153669, mikeval9b@yahoo.co.uk.

• Liverpool Stamp Fair, St Columba Church Hall, Hillfoot Road, Hunts Cross, Liverpool L25 0NR, 10am to 3.30pm, 7 dealers. Enquiries: Terry Barnett, 01514 862610.
• North Wales Stamp & Postcard Fair, Ysgol Eirias, Eirias Road, Colwyn Bay LL29 7SP, 9.30am to 3pm, 12 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Steve Chapman, 01745 826434, northwalesstampfairs@gmail.com.
• Charing Cross Market, (as entry on page 658)
• Weston-super-Mare - Michael Hale Collectors' Fair, Victoria Methodist Church Hall, Station Road, Weston-super-Mare BS23 1XU, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Michael Hale, 01749 677669.
• 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.
• Hastings Stamp Fair with Postcards, Christ Church, London Road, St Leonards-on-Sea TN37 6GL, 9.30am to 3pm. Enquiries: Chris Rapley, 01795 478175.
12 May Chelmsford Stamp & Postcard Fair, Old Chelmsfordians Club, Roxwell Road, Chelmsford CM1 2LY, 9am to 3pm, 7 dealers, tea and coffee available. Enquiries: Steve Burnell, 01708 229763.
• Maidstone Stamp Fair, Royal British Legion Hall, Hall Road, Aylesford ME20 7NL, 10am to 4pm, 6 dealers. Enquiries: John Perriman, 01903 244875.
17-18 May Salisbury Collectors' Show, City Hall, Malthouse Lane, Salisbury SP2 7TU, Friday 10.30am – 5pm and Saturday 10am – 4pm. 40 dealers. Enquiries: Paul Dauwalder 01722 412100.
18 May Preston Stamp Fair, Barton Village Hall, Garstang Road, Preston PR3 5AA, 10am to 4pm, 12 dealers, hot & cold refreshments available. Enquiries: John Roberts, 07943 174958, john.roberts591@virginmedia.com.
• Charing Cross Market, (as entry on page 658)
• Margate Collectors' Fair, Union Church, Union Crescent, Margate CT9 1NR, 10am to 3pm, 20 tables, refreshments available. Enquiries: Clive Baker, 01843 862707, info@clivebaker.co.uk.
• Dover Stamp & Collectors' Fair, Biggin Hall, Biggin Street, Dover CT16 1BD, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Jan Shepherd, 07729 967206, keithstamps61@aol.com.
• Brighton Stamp Fair, Church of the Good Shepherd Hall, 272 Dyke Road, Brighton BN1 5AE, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: John Perriman, 01903 244875.
19 May Rugby Stamp & Postcard Fair, Benn Hall, Newbold Road, Rugby CV21 2LN, 10am to 3pm, refreshments available. Enquiries: Simon Hemmings, 01455 642248, stamps@midphil.com.
• Amersham Stamp & Postcard Fair, Jubilee Scout Hall, Rectory Hill, Amersham HP7 0BT, 10am to 4.30pm. Enquiries: David Milton, 01895 637283, david.milton139@gmail.com.
25 May Bilsborrow Stamp Fair, Village Hall, Bilsborrow PR3 0RE, 10am to 3.30pm, 12 dealers, hot and cold food all day. Enquiries: Terry Barnett, 01514 862610.
• Great Barr Stamp Fair, Collingwood Centre, Collingwood Drive, Great Barr, Birmingham B43 7NF, 10am to 4pm, 14 dealers, full refreshments available. Enquiries: Dave Burnett, 07765 792998. ►

Events and Meetings

• The meeting of the Great Britain Philatelic Society on Saturday 18 May will be held at the location of the Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY from 11am. This will be the last meeting of the GBPS at this venue, as the 'Royal' is moving to 15 Abchurch Lane during June. The Saturday 18 May meeting will consist of two sessions. At 11am will be the President's Display, where John Davies FRPSL will consider and review 'The Future of Philately in Great Britain', followed at 2pm by Chris Harman RDP HonFRPSL, who will show 'The work of Perkins Bacon - Great Britain and the British Colonies'. Visitors are most welcome to attend. The Saturday 22 June meeting will not be at Devonshire Place, as originally advised in the society's 2018-19 programme guide, due to the move of the Royal Philatelic Society London. Instead, members will assemble at The Dorchester Hotel, 53 Park Lane, Mayfair, for the 11am presentation of the President's Guest, John Horsey FRPSL, on the '£5 Orange', this being the well-known large format GB Victorian stamp. The Annual General Meeting will follow at 2.15pm.

• The annual event known as SWINPEX will be from 10am to 4pm on Saturday 8 June at St. Joseph's R.C. College, Ocotal Way, Swindon SN3 3LR. A large number of dealers stands are a feature of this show, which is a stamp, postcard and postal history fair. There are specialist society meetings and displays, plenty of parking, and refreshments available.

• The May meeting of the National Philatelic Society is at the society's usual venue of the Postal Museum, 15-20 Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DA, where on Saturday 18 May from 2.45pm there will be displays given by visiting society members of the American Stamp Club of Great Britain. Three weeks later, on Saturday 8 June, society President Michael Thompson will give his Presidential display from 2.45pm. Visitors and prospective new members are most welcome with tea, coffee and food being available.

• Northampton Stamp Fair, The Abbey Centre, East Hunsbury NN4 0RZ, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Tristan Brittain, 07957 158299.
• Wanstead Stamp Fair, Our Lady of Lourdes, 51 Cambridge Park, Wanstead E11 2PR, 10am to 3pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845.
• Ealing Stamp Fair, Ealing Parish Church, St. Mary's Road, Ealing W5 5EU, 9am to 1pm. Enquiries: Tristan Brittain, 07957 158299.
• Charing Cross Market, (as entry on page 658)
• Twickenham Stamp Fair, Methodist Church Hall, Percy Road, Whitton, Twickenham TW2 6JL, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: John Perriman, 01903 244875.
• East Malling Stamp Fair, East Malling Village Hall, New Road, East Malling ME19 6DD, 9.30am to 3.30pm, 14 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Mike Thompson, 01474 325507.
• Guildford Stamp & Postcard Fair, Onslow Village Hall, Wilderness Road, Onslow GU2 7QR, 9.30am to 3pm. Enquiries: Chris Rapley, 01795 478175.
• REDEX Stamp Fair, Jubilee Hall, Wesley Building, Wesley Street, Redruth TR15 2EG, 10am to 4pm, 10 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Rex Eccott, 01288 381489, eccott@gotadsl.co.uk.

26 May Peterborough Stamp Fair, Holiday Inn, Thorpe Wood, Peterborough PE3 6SG, 10am to 3pm, 10 dealers. Enquiries: Richard Lewis, 01945 700594, richard@lewis8571.plus.com.

• Stevenage Stamp Fair, Novotel, Knebworth Park, Stevenage SG1 2AX, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845.
• Bracknell Stamp Fair, Red Cross Centre, 21 Martins Lane, Bracknell RG12 9EN, 9am to 1pm. Enquiries: Tristan Brittain, 07957 158299.

27 May Felbridge Stamp & Postcard Fair, Felbridge Village Hall, Crawley Down Road, Felbridge, East Grinstead RH19 2NT, 9.30am to 3pm. Enquiries: Chris Rapley, 01795 478175.

• Aylesbury Stamp Fair, Church of the Good Shepherd, Churchill Avenue, Southcourt, Aylesbury HP21 8ER, 10am to 3pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845, shawdunton@aol.com.

1 June Chester Stamp Fair, Hoole United Reformed Church, Hoole Road, Chester CH2 3AU, 10am to 3.30pm, 7 dealers. Enquiries: Terry Barnett, 01514 862610.

• Lichfield Stamp Fair, Boley Park Community Hall, Ryknild Street, Lichfield WS14 9XU, 10am to 4pm, 6 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: John & Jane Rice, 01785 259350, stamps@john-rice-stamps.co.uk.
• Leicester Stamp Fair, Derby Room, Holiday Inn, 129 St. Nicholas Circle, Leicester LE1 5LX, 9.30am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: John Suschitzky, 01162 350441.
• Rawreth Stamp Fair, Rawreth Parish Hall, Church Road, Rawreth SS11 8SH, 10am to 4pm, 10 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Steve Search, 01702 323682, stevesearch@hotmail.com.
• Ruislip Stamp & Postcard Fair, Methodist Church Hall, Ickenham Road, Ruislip HA4 7BZ, 10am to 4.30pm. Enquiries: David Milton, 01895 637283, david.milton139@gmail.com.
• Charing Cross Market, (as entry on page 658)
• Beckenham Stamp & Postcard Fair, Azelia Hall, Croydon Road, Beckenham

BR3 4DA, 9am to 3pm, 12 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Ray McQuade, 0208 395 9285.

• Redruth - Cornwall Postcard & Stamp Fair, Redruth Methodist Church, Wesley Street, Redruth TR15 2EG, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Doug Luxford, 01736 786284.

2 June Hopton Stamp Fair, Hopton Village Hall, Station Road, Hopton NR31 9BE, 9.30am to 2pm. Enquiries: Terry Allaker, 01502 563759.

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

• Taplow Stamp & Postcard Fair, Taplow & Hitcham W.I. Hall, Institute Road, Taplow SL6 0NS, 10am to 4.30pm. Enquiries: David Milton, 01895 637283, david.milton139@gmail.com.

7 June Strand Stamp Fair, The Galleon Suite, Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, Russell Square, London WC1H 0DG, 9am to 4pm. Enquiries: Kate Puleston, 0208 946 4489.

8 June Norton (Teesside) Stamp Fair, Norton Methodist Church Hall, High Street, Norton TS20 2QQ, 9.30am to 1.30pm. Enquiries: Mike Lewis, 07742 153669, mikeval9b@yahoo.co.uk.

• Middlewich Stamp Fair, Middlewich Community Centre, Civic Way, Middlewich CW10 9BX, 10am to 3.30pm, 7 dealers. Enquiries: Fred O'Reilly, 01226 765069.

• King's Lynn Stamp Fair, Gaywood Church Rooms, Gayton Road, Gaywood, King's Lynn PE30 4DZ, 10am to 3pm. Enquiries: Tony Hender, 01328 829318.

• Charing Cross Market, (as entry on page 658)

• Canterbury Postcard & Collectors' Fair, Westgate Hall, Westgate Road, Canterbury CT1 2BT, 10am to 3.30pm, 60 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Clive Baker, 01843 862707, info@clivebaker.co.uk.

• Bexhill Stamp Fair, St. Martha's Church Hall, Cooden Sea Road, Bexhill-on-Sea TN39 4SL, 10am to 4pm, 4 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: John Perriman, 01903 244875.

9 June Chelmsford Stamp & Postcard Fair, Old Chelmsfordians Club, Roxwell Road, Chelmsford CM1 2LY, 9am to 3pm, 7 dealers, tea and coffee available. Enquiries: Steve Burnell, 01708 229763.

• Uckfield Stamp Fair, Ridgewood Village Hall, New Road, Ridgewood, Uckfield TN22 5TE, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: John Perriman, 01903 244875.

12 June Ripley Stamp Club Fair, Village Hall, High Street, Ripley GU23 6AF, 12.30pm to 3.30pm, 10 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Martin Mathewson, 01932 565814, martin.mathewson100@gmail.com.

• Plymouth Stamp Fair, St. Andrew's Abbey Hall, Catherine Street, Plymouth PL1 2AD, 10am to 2pm. Enquiries: Mark Grimsley, 0117 962 3203, mark_grimsley-stamps@hotmail.co.uk.

13 June Clyst St. George Stamp & Postal History Fair, Clyst St. George Parish Hall, Woodbury Road, Exeter EX3 0RE, 10am to 3pm. Enquiries: Mark Grimsley, 0117 962 3203, mark_grimsley-stamps@hotmail.co.uk ●

• The Midland Philatelic Federation Spring Convention is being held this year on Sunday 19 May at the Rugby Stamp & Postcard Fair, from 10am to 3pm at Benn Hall, Newbold Road, Rugby CV21 2LN. Refreshments will be available for all.

• A profusion of meetings of the Royal Philatelic Society London will be held in May and June, totalling seven in number, though four of these will be in Stockholm during the 150th anniversary celebrations of the society. In London at 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY on Thursday 9 May will be George Størmer FRPSL with a PowerPoint display at 5pm on 'Norway 1855-1868', followed on Thursday 23 May by Freddy Khalastchy FRPSL with 'The Baghdad Overprints and Events Leading to their Issue' - also a 5pm PowerPoint display. The final display during the current 2018/9 philatelic year will be another PowerPoint display at 5pm, this one being on the 'Napoleonic Grande Armée', given by Paolo Bianchi RDP FRPSL. Non-members of the society are welcome as guests, but are required to contact Administration Manager, Jason Webber, on 0207 486 1044 during weekday office hours prior to the meeting day.

Machin history

The Pre-Decimal Machins

For over fifty years, the term 'British definitives' has been largely synonymous with Machins, a remarkable record of longevity that makes the series one of the longest-running in philatelic history. It's extraordinary to note that the first Machin stamps were released in the Summer of Love, not long after *Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* – and like that musical masterpiece, have transcended 'artefact of the era' to reach 'cultural icon' status. This durability owes much to the classically simple design concept, stripping out all ornamentation to leave just the Queen's head and the value. It has proved adaptable to values from ½d to £5, multiple printing processes, and a wide range of technical innovations. All this has resulted in hundreds of basic stamps and thousands of varieties – a large subject! This series of articles, then, will take a look at just some particular aspects of Machins – occasionally from a slightly unusual angle.

The beginning seems like a reasonable place to start, which in terms of issued stamps means the original pre-decimal low value set of 1967-71. These stamps are sometimes overlooked due to the popularity of the decimal Machins, but have many points of interest in their own right – and indeed, have been the subject of an international gold medal winning exhibit by Tony Walker. This article can therefore only offer a brief introduction and try to set them in their historical context.



1961 CEPT, Doves and Emblem, 4d



1963 Lifeboat Conference, 19th-century Lifeboat, 4d



1964 Botanical Congress, Dog Rose, 6d

A New Design The background to the Machin design has been treated in depth in a number of excellent works,[1] so will only be briefly noted here. The impetus for a new definitive design actually originated in the problems that the Wilding head caused for commemorative stamps. As a three-quarter face photographic portrait it tended to draw attention away from the main subject of the stamp, and designers had considerable problems in incorporating it effectively (see examples left) .

Stamps as Technology The new stamps were printed in photogravure by Harrison & Sons, as with most issues from 1934 onwards. However, the Machins also represented a break from previous practice in technical as well as design terms. The use of watermarked paper was discontinued after 127 years, replaced by a new coated paper with optical brighteners added to improve the appearance of the stamps. The gum was also subsequently changed to a synthetic (polyvinyl alcohol, PVA), as supplies of the traditional 'gum arabic' were becoming a problem.

Conversely, stamps printed with phosphor bands were now no longer distributed only where sorting offices had equipment to recognise and process them. From this point, new stamps (including commemoratives) were printed with phosphor in anticipation of developments in the mechanisation programme, regardless of what had yet been installed at any particular office. The bands were there to detect the stamp and 'face' all the letters the same way ready for cancelling, and to help separate 'first class' and 'second class' mail – terms that

1 See for example *A Timeless Classic – The evolution of Machin's icon* by Douglas Muir, British Postal Museum and Archive 2007

in 1967 did not mean the same as today. Historically, the charge for a postal item depended on its type – postcards, printed papers, samples, and newspapers all had cheaper rates compared to regular letter post. 'Second class' mail referred to printed papers (typically bills, circulars, and the like), which could be held back to allow 'first class' mail (anything else) to be dealt with. Stamps for the second class rate had only one phosphor band, all other stamps had two, allowing the machinery to split the mail into separate streams.

This system of charging by contents had become increasingly outmoded given the way inland mail was actually processed, and on 16 September 1968 was replaced by the one familiar today. Any item could now, at the sender's choice, be 'first class' (more expensive) or 'second class' (cheaper but liable to be held back in favour of first class mail), with the same rates regardless of contents. The two band/one band system for first and second class was retained, although the stamps representing them changed (as the Post Office astutely combined a rate increase of 1d in each class with the introduction of the new 'two-tier' system). ►



Arnold Machin 1911-1999

What the phosphor bands were for: Manchester Sorting Office diagram showing how the Automatic Letter Facing equipment fitted into the mail processing system, 1968

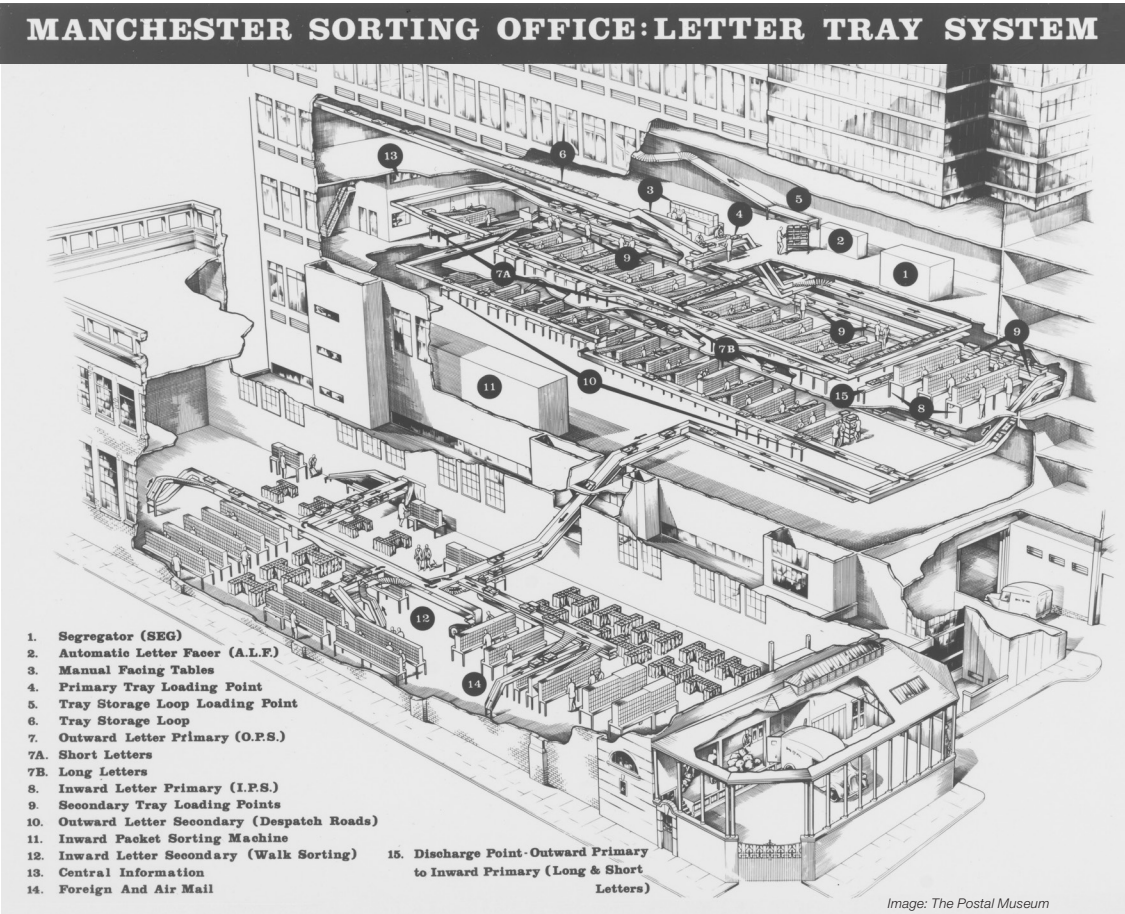


Image: The Postal Museum

Issued Stamps The stamps are catalogued in face value order, but to show developments it's useful to take a look at them in the order they appeared. The first two groups issued covered the values needed for the most important inland and overseas postage rates (see table).

Main basic rates paid by the Machin stamps 1967-71

Value	Rates
½d	Make-up stamp for higher rates
1d	Certificates of posting (per item)
2d	Overseas surface reduced rate printed papers
3d	Inland postcards (1967-68) Inland printed papers (1967-68) Inland newspapers (1967-68) Inland samples (1967-68)
4d	Inland letters (1967-68) Inland second class (1968-71) Commonwealth surface letters (1967-68) Overseas surface printed papers
5d	Overseas surface/Europe all-up postcards Inland first class (1968-71) Commonwealth surface letters (1968-71)
6d	Zone A airmail postcards Zone A airmail printed papers
7d	Zone B airmail printed papers
8d	Zone C airmail printed papers
9d	Overseas surface/Europe all-up letters Zone B airmail postcards
10d	Zone C airmail postcards
1s	Zone A airmail letters
1s 6d	Zone B airmail letters
1s 9d	Zone C airmail letters

Note: Zone A = Middle East and North Africa, Zone C = Far East and Australasia, Zone B = anywhere not in Europe or Zones A/C











The first of four posters announcing the upcoming Machin definitive stamp issues

5 June 1967 – 4d sepia (two phosphor bands), 1s, 1s 9d

The 4d stamp was the priority as it was needed for the inland and Commonwealth surface letter rates (the latter being a hangover from Imperial days, the same as the inland rate 1898–1975). The chosen sepia brown colour with a solid dark background was 'expressly requested' by the Queen, and was deliberately intended to evoke the Penny Black. Unfortunately, just as with the Penny Black the choice of colour would prove to cause operational problems down the line.

The two other stamps issued in this first group were the 1s and 1s 9d. The latter was the first GB definitive of this value (not needed before October 1966, so a Wilding version would have rapidly become obsolete), and the first bicoloured definitive since Edward VII.

Penny Black image: Stanley Gibbons.com

8 August 1967 – 3d, 9d, 1s 6d

The second group followed two months later and rounded out the set of basic rates. 3d stamps from sheets originally had one phosphor band. From September 1968 when it became essentially a make-up rate stamp, it had two – although two-band 3ds had already appeared in se-tenant booklets in April, as no mixed-band cylinder for printing the phosphor ink was available!

The 1s 6d was the only other stamp of the issue printed in two colours, an option very rarely used for the decimal issues. Note that the 9d represented a surface rate – still important in an era when airmail was common, but not yet 'International Standard' (to use the current official term). Letters to Europe went 'all-up' at the same rate as mail to the Continent normally went by air anyway.





5 February 1968 – ½d, 1d, 2d, 6d

The remaining values represented either charges for less-used services, or in some cases simply utility stamps for making up higher rates. The most obvious example of the latter was the ½d. It was the only odd halfpenny value, as by the time it was issued it had already been decided that the halfpenny coin would be demonetised the following year and most rates were set in whole pence in anticipation. This meant that it saw little commercial use. The 1d stamp was more widely useful, but again was largely there to make up odd amounts. A prime use of the 2d was actually for revenue rather than postal purposes, to pay the stamp duty when a receipt was given ►



Commercial usage of the ½d in combination with a 2½d Wilding on a proxy voting authorisation card – possibly someone using up stamps in case they too were demonetised? (As it happened they weren't – odd ½d values could still be used in pairs)





Type I



Type II







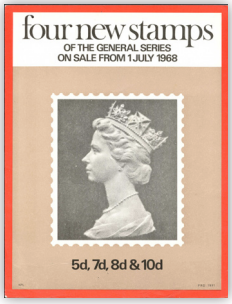




An aggregation of multiples of the 1d from different sources showing the range of shades to be found

Image: Tony Walker

(a legal requirement that had become widely flouted, finally scrapped in 1970). It is also the only value that had its design (as opposed to colour) changed after issue. The first printing cylinder had the value and head set too far to the right (Type I), and this had to be corrected when making later cylinders (Type II). The 1d, 4d, and 6d had the opposite problem – the design was consistent, but they appeared in a range of shades, unusual in a series where colour variation was generally kept to a minimum.



1 July 1968 – 5d, 7d, 8d vermilion, 10d

The final batch of values were issued over a year after the first, and replaced Wildings used with lesser frequency – the 8d and 10d in particular are difficult to find as a solo use on cover or card, especially as the 8d was only on issue for some six months. The 5d would soon see a much wider use, however. The initial plan had been to have the head central and the denomination on the right, but the Stamp Advisory Committee made a last-minute recommendation that the head be moved slightly right to make space for the value on the left. This was the design preferred by the Queen, although not by Machin himself. Postmaster-General Edward Short then decided to use both, with the 7d, 8d and 9d in the original design, the



Postcard dated 17 November 1969 with final trial of the new phosphor coated paper (PCP) stamp. Address is the Post Office R&D department

Image: Scott Kibby

argument being that it would help staff distinguish between denominations. In hindsight the change to value-at-left was a good idea – the value-at-right design makes the denomination appear almost an afterthought, and would not have worked well for stamps with more than one figure of value. At any rate, it was never used again.

16 September 1968 – 4d sepia (one phosphor band)

The rate changes that arrived along with the new two-tier system meant that the 4d had to be re-issued with a single phosphor band. The 5d now shifted from a relatively obscure value to the most important, but needed no change as it had always been printed with two bands. Unfortunately, the phosphor was no use when dealing with the large amount of mail still being sorted by hand, which revealed an unanticipated problem – under artificial lighting the dark 4d and 5d stamps could look very similar, which slowed things down considerably.

6 January 1969 – 4d vermilion, 8d turquoise

The response to this was impressively rapid, and within a few months new, much brighter 4d stamps were issued in the vermilion colour previously used for the 8d. Of course, this meant that the colour of the 8d stamp had to be changed to avoid confusion (having the values on different sides of the head really wasn't going to help much, whatever Edward Short thought). The new 8d was a light turquoise-blue; it was in use longer than the vermilion version, but is still difficult to find used solo.

10 December 1969 – 1s 6d (Phosphorised Paper)

Finally, mention should be made of the first trial of a new approach to incorporating the phosphor – including it as part of the paper on which the stamps were printed, thus producing one broad phosphor signal instead of two narrow ones. The 1s 6d airmail stamp was chosen for this, although there was a kind of inadvertent trial on inland mail when a small run of 5d stamps were accidentally printed on the new paper. This approach would become standard in future years, but that is a tale for another article!

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



Machin Checklist 2018





Game of Thrones Prestige Stamp Book Pane 4



First World War 1918 Prestige Stamp Book Pane 4



Royal Air Force Centenary Prestige Stamp Book Pane 5



Harry Potter Prestige Stamp Book Pane 3

Low-value Stamps

20 March £1.25 Holly Green (DS274A); £1.45 Dove Grey (DS274B); £1.55 Marine Turquoise (DS274C); £2.25 Plum Purple (printer change – DS225NVC); £2.65 Purple Heather (DS274D). *Walsall, Gravure.*

Counter Sheet Definitives

23 May 2p Dark Green (D02); 10p Light Tan (D10); 20p Light Green (D20); £1 Wood Brown (D100); 2nd Bright Blue (SDN2); 1st Royal Mail Red (SDN1); 1st Large Royal Mail Red (SLDN1). *Walsall, Gravure.*

12 September 1p Maroon (D01); 5p Ash Pink (D05); 2nd Large Bright Blue (SLDN2). *Walsall, Gravure.*

4 December 1st Large Royal Mail Signed For Flame/Yellow; Special Delivery 100g Silver/Blue; Special Delivery 500g Blue/Silver). *Walsall, Gravure.*

Prestige Stamp Book Panes

23 January Game of Thrones (YB074)
Pane 4: Machins – 2 x 5p, 1 x 20p, 1 x £1.17;
2 x 2nd Northern Ireland Pictorial Definitives;
2 x 1st Class Game of Thrones. *Cartor, Lithography.*

20 March Royal Air Force Centenary (YB076)
Pane 5: 3 x 2p, 3 x 5p, 2 x £1.17 Machins.
Cartor, Lithography.

13 September First World War 1918 (YB078)
Pane 4: 4 x 1st Class Royal Mail Red Machins;
4 x 1st Class Poppy. *Cartor, Lithography.*

4 December Harry Potter (YB079)
Pane 3: 2 x 1p, 2 x 20p, 2 x 50p, 2 x £1.25 Machins.
Cartor, Lithography.

Retail Stamp Books

20 March Royal Air Force Centenary (UB413)
4 x 1st Class Machins, 2 x 1st Class Special Stamps.
Walsall, Gravure.

11 May Royal Air Force Centenary (UB414)
4 x 1st Class Machins, 2 x 1st Class Special Stamps.
Walsall, Gravure.

26 June Dad's Army (UB415)
4 x 1st Class Machins, 2 x 1st Class Special Stamps.
Walsall, Gravure.

31 July Hampton Court Palace (UB416)
4 x 1st Class Machins, 2 x 1st Class Special Stamps.
Walsall, Gravure.

13 September The First World War 1918 (UB417)
4 x 1st Class Machins, 2x 1st Class Special Stamps.
Walsall, Gravure.

16 October Harry Potter (UB418)
4 x 1st Class Machins, 2 x 1st Class Special Stamps.
Walsall, Gravure.

Royal Mail order numbers (prefixed DS, YB etc)
as given on Tallents House stock lists









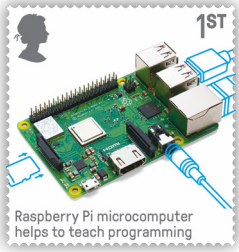


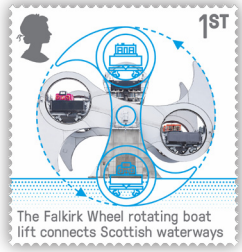


The innovation nation

With the development of steam technology in the latter part of the eighteenth century, and its utilisation propelling a global railway system in the Victorian era, Britain was at the hub of advanced engineering and technology. Likewise in the modern world the country commands international respect for its cutting edge contribution in diverse engineering fields. The Royal Mail British Engineering stamp issue serves to highlight some of these widely acclaimed endeavours that continue to advance travel, communication and better health.

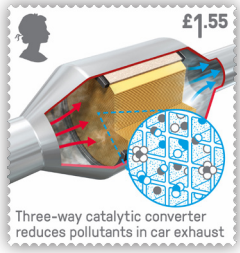
Raspberry Pi
At just the size of a credit card, the Raspberry Pi might be tiny, but with sales of over 20 million these microcomputers have revolutionised education in computer science and programming worldwide. *First Class*





Falkirk Wheel
A collaboration of British engineers and architects produced the world's first and only rotating boat lift, The Falkirk Wheel, joining two major Scottish canals for the first time in 70 years with a phenomenally beautiful structure. *First Class*

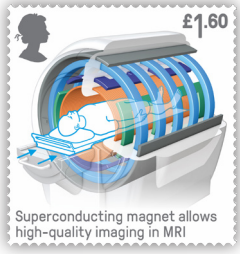
Catalytic Converter
We often hear about poor air quality in our urban centres, but today cars are far less polluting than they were 50 years ago, all thanks to three-way catalytic converters scrubbing car exhausts of harmful gases. *£1.55*





Crossrail
Connecting the suburbs across London in the Crossrail project required 13 miles (21km) of twin tunnels to be bored under the city, navigating existing sewers, Tube train tunnels and building foundations. *£1.55*

MRI Scanner
In the hospital setting, MRI scanners, on which we now rely for routine imaging of our bodies, would not be possible without the work done with superconducting magnets by British engineers at Oxford Instruments. *£1.60*





Bone-graft
Finally, incredible engineered materials that encourage bone growth are used in complex orthopaedic surgeries and have improved the outcomes for hundreds of thousands of patients worldwide. *£1.60*

The Miniature Sheet and Medal Cover also champion British Engineering, with four stamps celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Harrier Jump Jet's introduction to service in the RAF. The iconic aircraft famed for its revolutionary vertical take-off and landing technology is beautifully captured in four modes: short take-off, conventional flight, transition to landing and vertical landing. The stamps and associated products are all available at www.royalmail.com/stamps ●





The Miniature Sheet and (above) the Medal Cover's specific handstamp



Harrier GR3: Short Take-off
First Class



Harrier GR3: Conventional Flight
First Class



Harrier GR3: Transition to Landing
£1.55



Harrier GR3: Vertical Landing
£1.55









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The Medal Cover and Insert Front, Insert Inner and Insert Back. The Insert offers facts about the Harrier's development. There's also a focus on combat operations and activities that the Harriers were engaged in during the Cold War

New Issues and Withdrawals

2 May — **Issue** RAF Centenary: Limited Edition of 100 framed Red Arrows Miniature Sheet signed by the Red Arrows Team. (Available worldwide.)

2 May — **Issue** British Engineering: Stamps (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.55, 2 x £1.60 – 3 se-tenant pairs). Miniature Sheet (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.55). Presentation Pack. Stamp Souvenir. Stamp Sheet Souvenir. Postcards (11 in set). Press Sheet (12 per sheet). Harrier Medal Cover – featuring the Miniature Sheet.



13 May — **Withdrawal** Leonardo Da Vinci: Stamp Souvenir.

19 May — **Withdrawal** The Old Vic: Stamps (2 x 67p, 2 x £1.25, 2 x £1.45, 2 x £1.55). Presentation Pack. Stamp Souvenir. First Day Envelope. Postcards (8 in set).

19 May — **Withdrawal** Owls: Stamps (10 x 1st Class). Presentation Pack. Stamp Souvenir. Postcards (10 in set). Framed Stamps (10 stamps).

19 May — **Withdrawal** The Royal Wedding: Miniature Sheet (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.55). Presentation Pack. Stamp Sheet Souvenir. Souvenir Pack. Press Sheet. Bundle. BU Coin Cover. Silver Coin Cover. Gold Coin Cover.



24 May — **Issue** Queen Victoria Bicentenary: Stamps (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.35, 2 x £1.60 – 3 horizontal se-tenant pairs). Miniature Sheet (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.55). Presentation Pack. Stamp Souvenir. Stamp Sheet Souvenir. Postcards (11 in set). Prestige Stamp Book (pane one: £1.35, 2 x £1.60, pane two: Machin definitives – 4 x 1st Class, 2 x 50p, 2 x 2p; pane three: 2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.55; pane four: 2 x 1st Class, 1 x £1.35). Press Sheet (15 per sheet). BU Coin Cover. Silver Coin Cover. Gold Coin Cover.



29 May — **Issue** 2019 FIP Exhibition – Sweden: Smilers® Sheet (20 x 1st Class).

6 June — **Issue** D-Day: Stamps (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.35, 2 x £1.60 – 3 vertical se-tenant pairs). Miniature Sheet (5 x 1st Class). Presentation Pack. Stamp Souvenir. Stamp Sheet Souvenir. Postcards (12 in set). First Day Cover. First Day Cover Miniature Sheet. First Day Cover Envelope. Stamp Book (4 x 1st Class Machin definitives, 2 x 1st Class Special Stamps). BU Coin Cover. Silver Coin Cover. Gold Coin Cover. Framed Stamps.

26 June — **Withdrawal** Dad's Army: Stamps (2 x 2nd Class, 2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.45, 2 x £1.55 – 4 horizontal se-tenant pairs). Presentation Pack. Stamp Book (4 x 1st Class Machin definitives, 2 x 1st Class Special Stamps). Collector Sheet (10 x 1st Class Dad's Army stamps). Framed Stamps (all 8 stamps framed and signed by the actor Ian Lavender).



You can order any of the Royal Mail stamp products listed above, by visiting **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.) Or use the Royal Mail telephone order service on 03457 641 641 (08.30 – 17.00 Monday to Friday). For overseas customers: +44 3457 641 641. Minimum handling charge UK £1.45, Europe £1.55, rest of world (airmail) £2.15.

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