

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The ROYAL MAIL magazine *for stamp collectors*

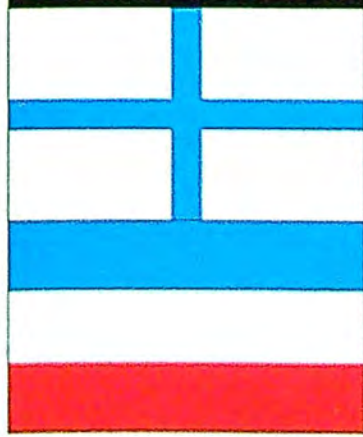
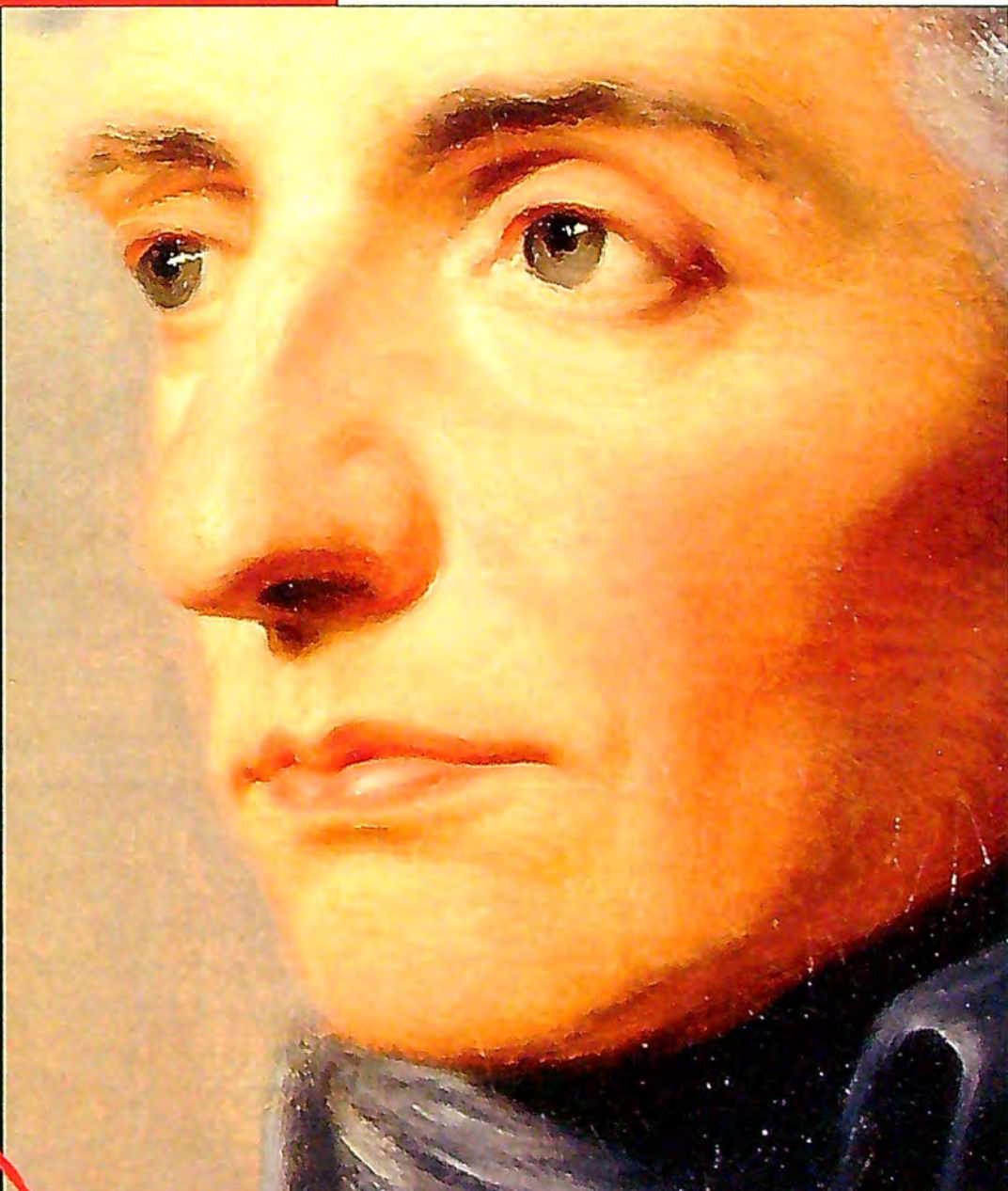
Bulletin

Volume 43 Number 2

OCTOBER 2005 • £1.10

Jeffery Matthews • Stamped
to order • Post Office Tower

TRAFALGAR



The 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar: Royal Mail's commemorative issue of six stamps and a prestige book go on sale from 18 October.



Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



Cover Royal Mail's Trafalgar stamps were previewed in the August *Bulletin*. Throughout the battle, HMS *Victory* flew the two signal flags shown at lower left: 'Engage the enemy more closely'. Portrait by F H Fuger © the National Portrait Gallery, London.

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

Royal Mail Tallents House 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB, UK. Telephone order line (08.30-17.00 Monday to Friday): 08457 641 641; from overseas +44 131 316 7483. Minimum handling charge UK £1.30, Europe £1.55, rest of world (airmail) £2.15. Some products can be ordered on Royal Mail's website: www.royalmail.com/stamps

4 October	Issue Smilers stamps (definitive stamp size) in book of six different designs (self-adhesive).
4 October	Withdrawal Scottish Parliament miniature sheet.
11 October	Issue Trafalgar stamp cards (7 cards: 6 stamps and miniature sheet).
11 October	Withdrawal Crimean War stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards.
18 October	Issue Trafalgar stamps, miniature sheet, pack, prestige book, coin cover, ingot cover and cachet cover.
25 October	Issue Christmas stamp cards (7 cards: 6 stamps and miniature sheet).
26 October	Withdrawal E (European rate) Machin definitive stamp from sheets (issued 5 October 1999).
1 November	Issue 2005 Christmas stamps, miniature sheet, presentation pack, Smilers sheet and stamp books • re-issue (at Post Office branches) of 2004 Christmas airmailers (national and Welsh).
1 November	Issue 2005 Yearpack, Yearbook, Miniature Sheets Yearpack and 2005 Presentation Pack Collection.
1 November	Withdrawal 2004 Christmas stamps, miniature sheet, presentation pack, stamp cards, Smilers sheet, and Royal Mail/Isle of Man joint Christmas cover.
30 November	Withdrawal 1st and 2nd class definitives from coils of 1000 (issued July 2001).
1 December	Withdrawal 2003 Yearbook and Yearpack.

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

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This month The Editor previews this issue



John Holman, Editor

THIS MONTH we mark two important 40th anniversaries – of the opening of the Post Office (now BT) Tower in London, and of the issue of the first stamps by Jeffery Matthews, one of the most distinguished designers of British stamps. The articles, by Glenn Morgan, certainly fill me with nostalgia for the 1960s when changes in stamps were every bit as dramatic as those in sexual and social attitudes. It is also the month we commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar. Nigel Fordham covers the momentous events in his series which started in March and will continue to January when he will describe Nelson's state funeral. A major exhibition on Nelson and Napoleon is now on show at the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich. Thanks to Nigel Fordham and Tempus Publishing, we have books on Nelson and English postal history for our prize draws this month – see page 41 for details.

The articles in this issue cover a wide range of subjects – hopefully something to please all interests. JOHN HOLMAN, EDITOR •

Stamp scene Glenn Morgan keeps you posted on exhibitions, societies and events

Royal Philatelic Society
London Telephone 020 7486
1044. www.rpsl.org.uk

National Philatelic Society,
107 Charterhouse St, London
EC1M 6PT. www.ukphilately.org.uk/nps

British Philatelic Centre 107
Charterhouse Street, London
EC1M 6PT. The nearest under-
ground is Farringdon.

Philatelic Societies news The Royal Philatelic Society London displays this month are The Evolution of Postal Services in the Era of the UPU (Jamie Gough) on the 6th and British Banknotes (Pam West) on the 20th •

The National Philatelic Society is holding Saturday meetings on 8 October (WW1 War Tax and Red Cross overprints display by John Davis), 12 November (Austria (the maritime power) and Balkans by Keith Tranmer) and 10 December (annual competitions) •

On 12 November Redditch Philatelic Society Stamp Fair and the Midland Philatelic Federation and Three Counties Federation competitions will be held at Trinity High School, Easemore Road, Redditch, Worcs •

26 November will see the next Cinderella Stamp Club meeting and dealers' bourse from 10am, with members' displays from 11am and the Glass Slipper Trophy Competition at 1pm. Finally, the AGM will start at 2pm in what promises to be a busy day. The meeting will be held at the British Philatelic Centre (address opposite) •

SCOTEX See www.spta.biz
or telephone A Wishart 01698
356337.

Philatex www.stampshows.co.uk
or telephone 01793
513431.

Exhibitions SCOTEX, the major stamp fair in Scotland, takes place at the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre, Glasgow on 15-16 October. Saturday 11.00-18.00, Sunday 11.00-16.30. Admission free •

The Irish national stamp exhibition STAMPA will be held at the RDS Hall, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4 on 14-16 October. Fax +353-1-4546675 •

Philatex (London International Stamp & Cover Show) will be held at the Royal Horticultural Hall (Lawrence Hall), Greycoat St, London SW1 on 27-29 October •

The second of this year's Thematica exhibitions will be held at Carisbrooke Hall, Seymour Street, London W1 on 25-26 November, admission free. Visitors will receive a souvenir sheet commemorating 40 years of Jeffery Matthews' stamp designs (see June *Bulletin*, page 319). As always there will be plenty of dealers with material for thematic collectors – and others! The venue is a short walk from Marble Arch underground station •

The Salon du Timbres 2006 will take place from 17-25 June 2006. The topic selected will be that of voyages and the French Philatelic Association (FFAP) has been invited to make proposals concerning the competitive part of the exhibition. The show will be held within the Floral Gardens of Vincennes, as was the case in 2004 when the show was last held (see my report, *Bulletin* September 2004). The 79th congress of the FFAP will take place on 18 June in the large room of the Chêne du Roy restaurant, which is also located inside the grounds of the very attractive Parc Floral de Vincennes on the outskirts of Paris. This is an easily accessible venue, usually with a 'road train' that carries visitors from the Métro station at Châteaux de Vincennes to the venue free of charge – which is especially appreciated at the end of a long philatelic day! •

Business customised stamps Royal Mail has produced a new 12-page full-colour brochure giving ordering details for the Business Customised Stamps programme. Prospective customers may request a copy by visiting www.royalmail.com/customised or by telephoning Tallents House on 0131 316 7302. It should be stressed that the brochure is for those businesses wishing to commission stamp sheets, and this publication does not enable collectors to purchase items such as those recorded here. Instead, collector enquiries should be directed at the sellers recorded in these listings and other dealers. Further to my listing in the August issue of the *Bulletin* can be added the following new issues •

Theme	Design	FDOA	Stamp	Quantity	Price	Printer
Football	Liverpool: Champions of Europe	07.05	UF10P	2005N	£22.00	C?
Movies	Hammer Films: <i>Frankenstein</i>	07.05	P10P	1000N	£25.00	C?
Television	<i>Dr Who</i> : The 5th Doctor Peter Davison	07.05	P10P	1000N	£25.00	C?
Television	<i>Dr Who</i> : Latest Series Monsters	07.05	H10P	1500N	£25.00	C?
Philately	Autumn Stampex: Nelson	14.09.05	WE10P	U	£12.00	C?
Comic books	<i>The Dandy</i> : the main characters	09.05	UF10P	1000N	£20.00	C?
Comic books	<i>The Beano</i> : Dennis the Menace and Gnasher	09.05	UF10P	1000N	£20.00	C?

Key FDOA: first day of availability. P10P: Planets stamp x10, portrait sheet format. UF10P: Union Flag stamp x10 in portrait sheet format. WE10P: White Ensign stamp x10 in portrait sheet format. N prefixed by a number: print run of numbered sheet. U: un-numbered sheet. C?: Cartor believed to be printer. Prices quoted are a guide only to current cost.

Stampex Sheets only available from stamp dealers now show is over. Initially sold to visitors for £10, or £1 per single stamp with attached label. Free singles were not given to visitors this time.

Frankenstein and Dr Who £24.95 each + £1.50 1st class postage and packing – The Stamp Centre, 79 Strand, London WC2R 0DE, telephone 0207 240 3778.

Enquiries Liverpool, *Dandy* and *Beano*: Benham, Freepost DR175, Folkestone CT20 1BR. Telephone 08708 500 654 for current prices and availability.

Acknowledgements Thanks to Graham Howard for notifying me of three of these new sheets.

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

Grosvenor Auctions Phone 020 7379 8789 or see www.grosvenorauctions.com

Sotheby's Telephone 020 7293 5000 or see website www.sothebys.com

For details of the Sir Gawaine Baillie collection, see *Bulletin* September 2004.

Cavendish Telephone 01332 250970, or see website www.cavendish-auctions.com

Stuart Rossiter Trust c/o D F Tett, PO Box 34, Wheathampstead AL4 8JY. The Trust has an interesting website at www.rossitertrust.com

Auctions Spink will hold a British Empire auction on 20 October, followed by Stamps & Covers of the World on 8 December, both in London. An auction of Stamps of Hong Kong & China will be held in Hong Kong on 20 November. The Spink sale of 6-7 July comprising stamps and covers of the world and stamp boxes realised a total of £784,723. The 1967 British Flowers 4d se-tenant block of four from the left of the sheet with variety reddish purple omitted realised £420 (estimate £300-£400) and a 1985 *Story of British Rail* £5 booklet with the variety blue omitted from inside front cover realised £70 (£50-£80). An Inland Revenue Official 1884-88 £1 brown-lilac, watermark Crowns, AG, unused (regummed) sold for £2100 (£3000-£3500), while a George V 1/2d very yellow ('Cyprus') green, unmounted mint copy sold for £3800 (£3800-£4200, cat £6500) •

In November Grosvenor Auctions will auction GB including superb covers from the Gavin Fryer collection and the collection of imperforate and perforated 1d reds formed by the late Ken Statham, author of *The Essential Guide to Great Britain 1d and 2d Stars*. Grosvenor's all world postal history and postage stamps sale on 15 July realised £627,482 in total. The sale attracted significant demand for material from the collection of the late Colonel Harvey. The estimate on his France 1876-85 Peace and Commerce unissued 20c blue was £800 to £1,000, but it was knocked down to its new owner for £5881. There was strong demand for the section of Ireland with particular interest in airmails, £941 being paid for a scarce Mollison flight cover bearing the specially overprinted 'ATLANTIC / AIR MAIL / AUGUST / 1932' one shilling •

Sotheby's London will auction the British Africa stamps of Sir Gawaine Baillie in November. This is one of the largest private collections ever assembled, and is being sold in sections. Total realisations are estimated in excess of £11 million. Realisations from the July Sotheby's sale of Australian states and Australian Commonwealth belonging to Sir Gawaine and held in Melbourne exceeded many pre-sale estimates, raising just under £1.4 million. A horizontal marginal strip from the top of a sheet of the 1913 first watermark 3d pale olive green from die one, sold for £64,577 including buyer's premium (against £12,958 estimate), proved to be the star item in the auction •

Cavendish Auctions sale of 22 July contained extensive lots of GB material, as well as worldwide items. An 1882 white paper £5 orange with superb central CREWE / MO & SB cancel, which has a catalogue value of £3500, went for £1500 (estimate £1000), while 15 modern prestige books in an album failed to reach the face value of the stamps •

Stuart Rossiter Trust lecture Peter Ford will be giving the 2005 Stuart Rossiter Trust lecture at 5pm on 28 October at the Royal Philatelic Society, London. The subject will be Philatelic Publishing – now and in the future, and it promises to be a fascinating insight into this important aspect of our hobby. Entry is free, but by ticket only and refreshments will be provided. Tickets are limited and applicants should apply to the address opposite as soon as possible, enclosing a self-addressed stamped envelope •

Win postal history book *England's Mail: Two Millennia of Letter Writing* by Philip Beale was published in June by Tempus Publishing. By the end of July, it was already out of stock at the publishers, but copies will still be available from philatelic (this should be your first choice!) and other book-sellers. This book offers an insight into the use of letters and the social history of the post since Roman times. There are an impressive 16 pages of references, a 10-page bibliography, and a 13-page index that enables readers to get so much more from the book. The author read history at Cambridge, and is President of the Society of Postal Historians and a fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, so it has a fine pedigree. In fact, it is a revised and retitled edition of Philip's earlier work published seven years ago, *History of the Post in England from the Romans to the Stuarts*, which was so well received. A synopsis on the back cover reads: 'from Roman times until the twentieth century, much of the administration of England was carried out through sending letters. In this richly researched and illustrated volume, Philip Beale gives an insight into the use of letters at a time when few could write yet the power of the letter was undisputed.'

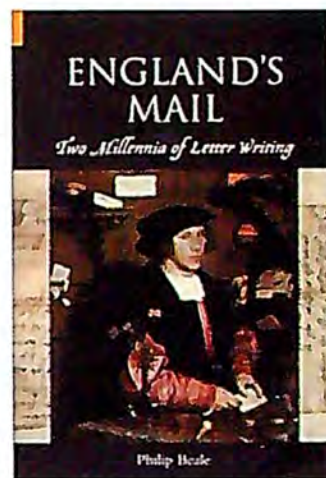
Tempus Publishing has kindly supplied us with a number of copies of this title for a prize draw. For a chance to win a copy send your name and address on a postcard to: England's Mail Draw, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ to arrive by 28 October •

Win Nelson booklet and FDC Our contributor Nigel Fordham has written and published a well-produced booklet, *Nelson, Trafalgar, Glory and Death*. This includes a succinct account of the Battle in which about 450 Royal Navy officers and men were killed and 1200 wounded. Losses and injuries amongst the combined French/Spanish fleet amounted to about 4500 and 2405 respectively. Some eight French and nine Spanish ships were captured but no British ships were lost. Nelson died in the battle but his French and Spanish counterparts fared little better – both died in 1806. Admiral Villeneuve, the French Commander, died from stab wounds in a Paris hotel (his death was declared as suicide by the French authorities), and Gravina, the Spanish Commander, died of gangrene from the wounds he sustained at Trafalgar. The booklet includes a number of fine images from the Royal Naval Museum, Portsmouth, including a portrait of Nelson, a panoramic view of the battle, and contemporary cartoons.

Mr Fordham has generously supplied us with 10 copies of the booklet and FDC of the St Helena Trafalgar stamps for draw prizes. For a chance to win, send your name and address on a postcard (or back of sealed envelope) to: Nelson Draw, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ by 28 October •

SAPO listing The South African Post Office has recently produced a most impressive 78-page A4 full-colour price list. It contains every stamp, sheetlet, booklet, MS, postcard and FDC that they have for sale, with items going back over seven years. This publication must surely encourage greater collector purchases, as every item is clearly illustrated •

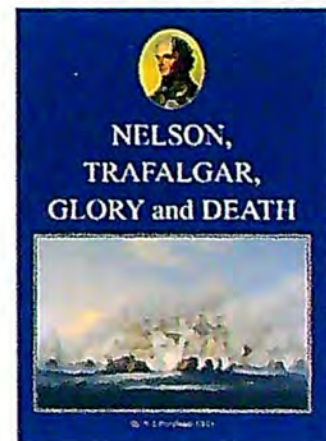
Win a copy in our prize draw



Paperback, 328 pages (eight in colour) 235 x 156mm. Price £19.99. ISBN 0752434918.

Enquiries Tempus Publishing Ltd, The Mill, Brimscombe Port, Stroud GL5 2QG. www.tempus-publishing.com

Win a copy in our prize draw



Available from: NJJF Ltd, 9 Glenwood Road, Stoneleigh, Surrey KT17 2LZ. Price £3.99 (UK postage 50p, overseas £1). Remittances payable to NJJF Ltd.

Enquiries For a copy write to Senior Manager, South African Post Office, Private Bag X505, Pretoria 0001, South Africa or email sa_stamps@postoffice.co.za

Royal Mail news New issues and products



Children's Book Illustrations stamps, shown here at proof stage, at 91% actual size. The issue will be previewed next month.

Special issues The special stamps programme continues this month with the Trafalgar stamps and miniature sheet, and various associated products – they were previewed in the August *Bulletin*. The Christmas set, to be issued on 1 November, was shown here last month.

The first of the 2006 issues will be Children's Book Illustrations. A joint issue with the us Postal Service, the stamps show characters from British and American books: *The Tale of Mr. Jeremy Fisher* by Beatrix Potter, *Kipper* by Mick Inkpen, *The Enormous Crocodile* by Roald Dahl, *More About Paddington* by Michael Bond, *Comic Adventures of Boots* by Satoshi Kittamura, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll, *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle, and *Maisy's ABC* by Lucy Cousins. The stamps will be issued in se-tenant pairs with one British and one us book in each pair. Values will be as above, 68p covering the basic UK and airmail letter rates •

Stamp Ingot orders Tallents House, telephone 08457 641 641.

Stamp Ingots A new series of ingot covers featuring the 1955 Castle high value stamps started on 23 September with the Windsor Castle stamp. This will be followed by the Edinburgh Castle stamp (17 January), Caernarfon (25 April), and Carrickfergus (25 July). The ingot holder bears the corresponding Castle stamp (from the miniature sheet) cancelled by a special postmark for the castle concerned. The front of the covers features a large image of an original 1950s photograph of the castle; the reverse includes a short history of the castle with a detailed specification of the stamps and ingots. Each will be produced in a limited edition of 3000. The ingots cost £24.95 each plus handling charge (order code AH001 Windsor Castle). Collectors placing a regular order for these ingots will receive a free booklet about the Castle stamps, a Castles miniature sheet, and a collection box, sent respectively with the Windsor, Edinburgh, and Caernarfon ingots •



Postmark news Shown above (at reduced size) are the First Day postmarks for the definitive-size Smilers stamps to be issued in books on 4 October. The stamps were shown here in August.

The Bethlehem pictorial postmark for the Christmas issue (p17, September *Bulletin*) is being changed. The new design will be shown next month. •

Coming off sale The Crimean War stamps, pack, and stamp cards will be withdrawn on 11 October; the 2004 Christmas issue on 1 November •

New Royal Mail Collections Two new collections will be available from 1 November. The Special Presentation Pack Collection contains all 13 presentation packs from the 2005 stamp issues contained within a stylish black box embossed in silver with 'Royal Mail', in which the packs can be safely stored. It is an easy way to collect all the packs at once and makes an ideal gift. Price £44.95. The Miniature Sheet Collection comprises a stylishly packaged set of all eight miniature sheets from 2005: Castles definitives, Jane Eyre, Trooping the Colour, Royal Wedding, End of War, London 2012, Trafalgar, and Christmas. The collection is sub-titled 'from Pageantry and Royal Romance to Drama on the High Seas'. Price £22.50 •

British Postal Museum & Archive A new exhibition entitled 'Victorian Innovation' is now on show – see Martin Robinson's article in last month's *Bulletin*. The Museum & Archive will be open on Saturday, on 8 October and 10 December. A number of special events are being held – call 020 7239 2570 to book a place. These include a series of evening lectures: 18 October, The Mail Coach Era (F Wilkinson); 15 November, Designing Stamps (David Gentleman); and 6 December, The Future of The Postal Heritage Trust (Tony Conder). 'Behind the Scenes' Archive Tours will be given on 20 October, 10 November, and 1 December •

Please note: the price of the Definitive Stamp Collection is £28.95, not £28.75 as stated in last month's back cover advert. We apologize for any confusion caused.

The BPMA Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL. Open Monday to Friday 10.00-17.00 (Thursday 19.00). Telephone 020 7239 2570. e-mail: heritage@royalmail.com

The BPMA, run by the Postal Heritage Trust, holds the collections of the former Post Office Archives and National Postal Museum.

Special prize draw

THIS MONTH we have one of the new Definitive Stamps Folders, containing the current range of definitive and country stamps (in presentation packs) to give away to the sender of the first card drawn on 1 November. Ten runners up will be sent packs of definitive and/or country stamps. To enter, simply write your name and address on the back of a postcard and send it to: Definitives Draw, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ •

July draw The winners of End of War coin covers in our July draw were: R Winton, H Zwakhoven, & E Hampton. Runner up prizes of End of War FDCs were sent to: J Fletcher, A Smith, B Jolley, M Regitz, and B Normanton.

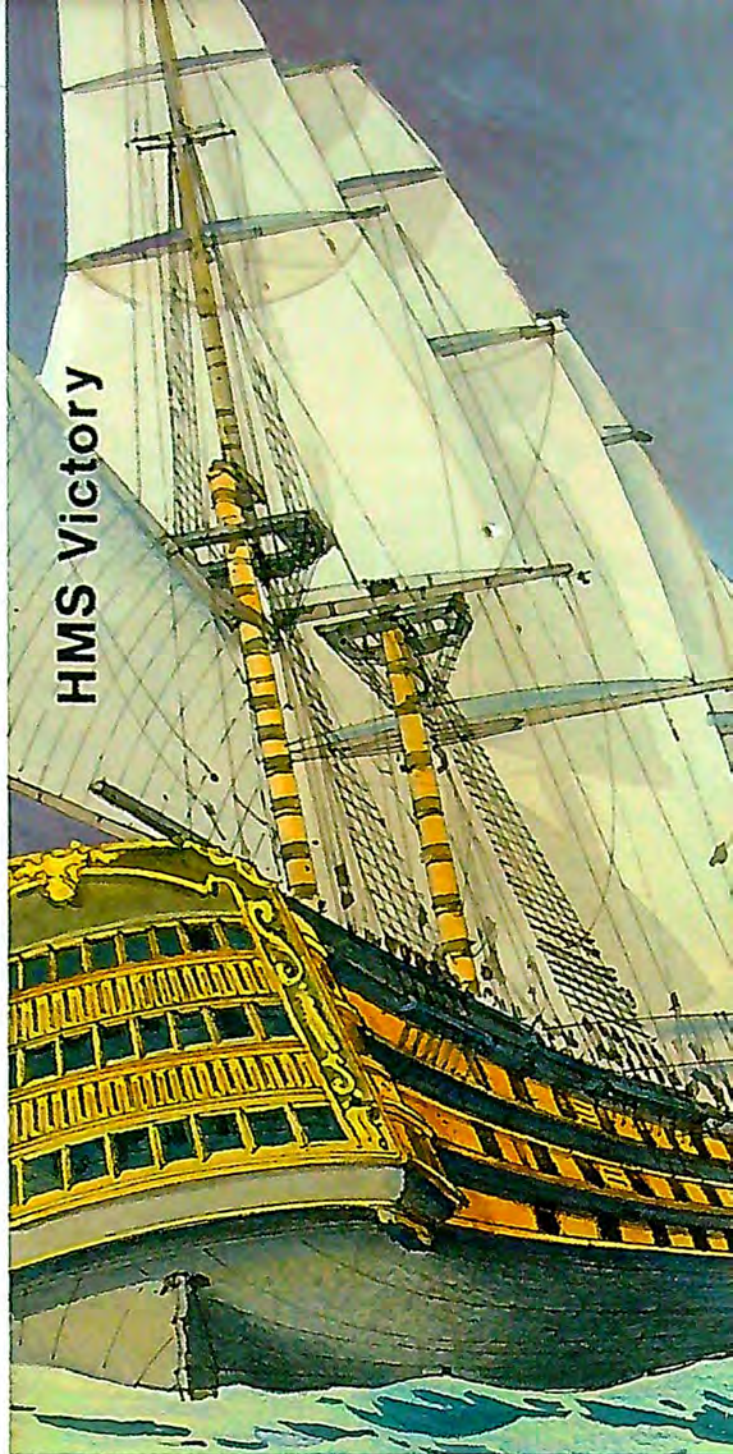
Treasures of the BPMA

by Martin Robinson

On 18 October a set of six stamps will be issued showing a panorama of the battle of Trafalgar. Nelson's *Victory* has made two other appearances on British stamps: on a 1951 2s6d high value, and as part of the 1982 Maritime Heritage set. 1982 was Maritime Heritage Year and also the 200th anniversary of the granting of a charter to the Worshipful Company of Shipwrights, and the Post Office's Stamp Advisory Committee were of a mind to include a set of stamps on a maritime theme in the year's programme. It was suggested that there might be a broad view of the subject, from Henry VIII's *Mary Rose*, due for recovery in 1982, to the Navy's latest aircraft carrier *Invincible*. Another possible approach would be Navy men and the ships associated with them including, of course, Nelson and HMS *Victory*. Some SAC members favoured a contemporary, rather than an historical approach; skills and technological achievement, and a broader view of maritime Britain than just the Royal Navy: warships were perhaps not an appropriate stimulus for tourism.

Designs were commissioned from six artists: Collis Clements, Peter Morter, Marjorie Saynor, Graham Evernden, Dick Davis and Clive Abbott, and BPMA possesses all artwork submitted, both accepted and rejected (as it does for all issues of the present reign) as well as minutes of the SAC's meetings. Most designs showed famous ships like *Mary Rose*, *Victory*, *Warrior*, *Dreadnought*, *Invincible* and *Ark Royal*, whilst Marjorie Saynor featured sailors and their ships (Henry VIII and *Mary Rose*, Blake and *Sovereign of the Seas*, Nelson and *Victory*, Fisher and *Dreadnought*, Mountbatten and *Kelly*). Clive Abbott's broader view included the oil industry, pleasure and leisure, the Navy and safety at sea, shipbuilding, trade and general cargo; and Dick Davis took an original line, illustrating the naval origins of phrases like splicing the mainbrace, learning the ropes and swinging the lead.

Two sets were selected for further consideration, those by Clive Abbott and Marjorie Saynor. There was a sharp division between the majority



of the committee who favoured Clive Abbott's broader approach, and the Post Office's Design Advisor, Barry Robinson, who preferred the historical approach. Considering the stamp issues mentioned at the end of this article, he was probably right in believing that it was the Navy's turn and so, in the end, it proved to be.

There was much further work in refining and perfecting Marjorie Saynor's work and the final set showed Henry VIII and *Mary Rose* of the 16th century, Admiral Blake and *Triumph* of the 17th, Lord Nelson and HMS *Victory* spanning the 18th and early 19th centuries, Lord Fisher and HMS *Dreadnought* of the 19th and early 20th centuries,



and Viscount Cunningham and HMS *Warspite* (a change from the original choice of Earl Mountbatten and HMS *Kelly*) from the 20th century. To bring out the small detail the stamps were printed in a combination of intaglio and gravure by Harrison & Sons on their Jumelle press.

As a glimpse of what might have been, shown above are two pieces of artwork by Peter Morter (left) and Graham Evernden, showing very different impressions of HMS *Victory*. For an insight into the workings of the SAC, see *The Royal Mail Stamp Advisory Committee First Review* (published by Royal Mail, 1993), and *Royal Mail Stamps* by Stuart Rose (Phaidon, 1980) •

It is not surprising that ships and the sea appear often on the stamps of an island nation, including: lifeboats in 1963 • Sir Francis Chichester's *Gipsy Moth IV* in 1967 • Captain Cook's *Endeavour* in 1968 • six vessels from an Elizabethan galleon to *QE2* in 1969 • coastguard in 1972 • explorers in 1973 and again in 1974 • a P&O packet steamer in the UPU Centenary set of 1974 • Turner seascapes in 1975 • sailing boats also in 1975 • the fishing industry in 1981 • Maritime Britain in 1982, and several others.

The British Postal Museum & Archive Open Monday to Friday and selected Saturdays 10.00-17.00, Thursdays until 19.00. Call 020 7239 2570 or see www.postalheritage.org.uk for more details. To make an appointment to view philatelic material call the Curator of Philately, Douglas Muir, on 020 7239 2565.

Friends of Postal Heritage For details write to Mrs Avis Harms, 13 Amethyst Avenue, Davis Estate, Chatham ME5 9TX.

The Battle of Trafalgar Nigel Fordham's continuing series

'My Dearest Angel,

I was made happy by the pleasure of receiving your letter of September 19th and I rejoice to hear that you are so very good a girl, and love my dear Lady Hamilton, who most dearly loves you. Give her a kiss for me. The combined fleets of the enemy are now reported to be coming out of Cadiz; and therefore I answer your letter, my dearest Horatia to mark to you that you are ever uppermost in my thoughts. I shall be sure of your prayers for my safety, conquest and speedy return to dear Merton and our dearest good Lady Hamilton. Be a good girl, mind what Miss Conner says to you. Receive my dearest Horatia the affectionate parental blessing of your Father.'

Letter to Horatia Nelson Thompson (four years old), daughter of Horatio Nelson and Lady Hamilton. HMS *Victory* off Cadiz, 19 October 1805, two days before Lord Nelson was killed.

ON 9 OCTOBER Nelson issued a formal memorandum to his fleet, setting out his battle plans and expectations for Trafalgar: the same plans that he had been explaining to his Captains over numerous dinners and meetings. No one was in any doubt what they had to do.

In basic terms it was expected (correctly) that the French and Spanish ships would sail in line, the standard formation of the day, when they left Cadiz. Nelson's plan was to form two columns, and sail towards the enemy at right angles. Nelson's weather column would cut the enemy's line one third from the front, while Collingwood, his second-in-command, would cut the enemy's line one third from the rear. The British ships would then turn on the enemy rear, overwhelming them whilst their remaining third at the front sailed on, helpless to support their comrades.

Nelson had prepared a well-thought-out plan, and considered recognition vital. It was usual for Admirals of the White, Blue and Red to fly their own coloured ensigns. On the 10th, he ordered that all ships should fly the White Ensign (Nelson was an Admiral of the White). This meant that Collingwood, who was an Admiral of the Blue,



The Battle of Trafalgar, 21 October 1805: Beginning of the Action, by Nicholas Pocock. National Maritime Museum, London.

reaches the fateful days of October, a turning point in history

had to change his blue ensign. All Nelson's ships had been painted in a black and yellow chequered pattern, the bottom of the masts were yellow (the enemy's were all black) and each ship was ordered to fly a 'Union Jack from the foretops.'

Nelson wrote numerous letters at this time. He was concerned that the fleet should be well provisioned, and that ships should carefully weigh and check all produce coming on board ('Penny wise, pound foolish' he wrote). He also instructed his Captains to send him a record of anyone who was killed in the forthcoming battle, so that he could apply to the patriotic fund at Lloyds Coffee House to give help to their relatives.

Meanwhile, the French Commander-in-Chief, Admiral Villeneuve, was in a much more difficult position. Despite having more ships, more guns, and more men, he knew what the Royal Navy was capable of; he also knew the inadequacies of his own fleet, and was in no hurry to leave Cadiz. His mind was made up for him when he discovered that Admiral Rosily was on his way from Madrid with orders to replace him, on Napoleon's orders. Villeneuve at this point realised he must fight or face disgrace.

On the 18th Villeneuve ordered his fleet to weigh anchor, and warned them of Nelson's plan (accurately), writing: 'There is nothing to alarm us in the sight of an English Squadron, their 74s have barely 500 men on board; they are worn out by two years at cruise; they are not braver than us and they have infinitely less motive to fight well, less love of country... In a month we shall be as good as them.' These were the words of a Commander committed to accepting defeat!

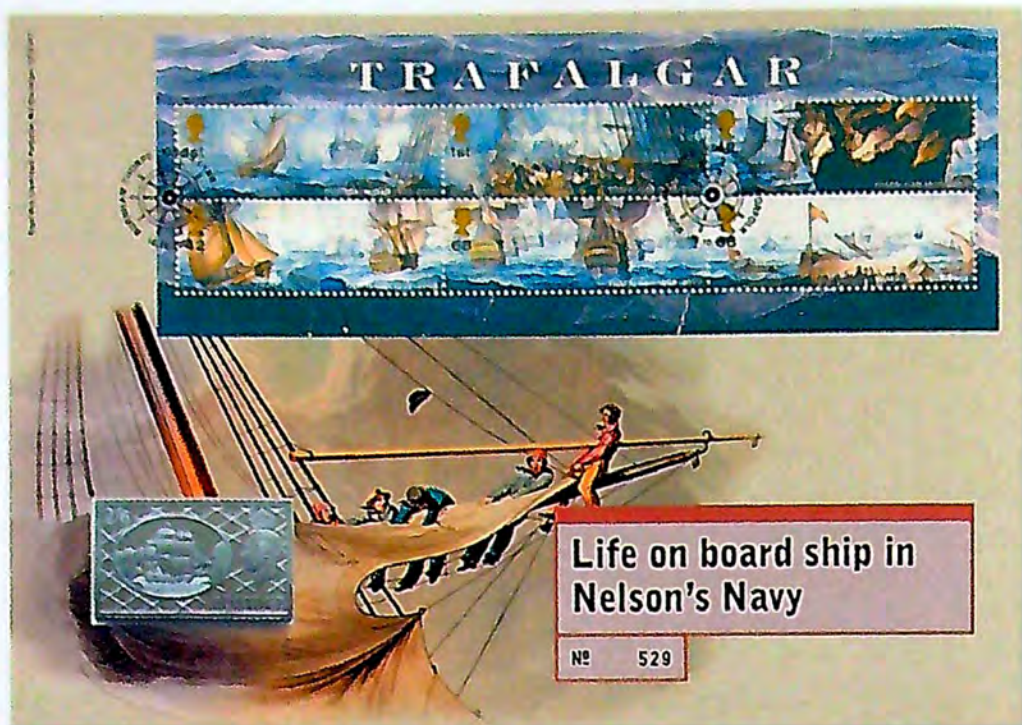
Captain Henry Blackwood and his frigates saw the enemy fleet leaving port on the 19th, and signaled Nelson. At 4am on the 21st, the whole enemy fleet of 33 battleships and five frigates could be seen some 12 miles away. Nelson came on deck dressed in his frock coat, with decorations on the left breast, and was asked to change it to a plain coat. He refused, saying this was what he always wore and his men would expect it. For the first time he did not wear his sword going into battle, leaving it on a table in his cabin.

The 27 British battleships began forming two columns at 6.40 am, and at little more than walking pace sailed towards the enemy ships, which were sometimes two or three abreast.





Above: Trafalgar Day postmarks, 1972 and 1978. Right: Royal Mail's forthcoming ingot cover.



Stirring songs were played by the British ships' bands, hornpipes were danced and a general optimism was everywhere in the British ships. It was not the same in the enemy fleet who, although superior in ships, men and guns waited for the British fleet in trepidation to fall upon them.

Nelson visited all decks of the *Victory*, talking and joking with the men. This was his time. He had been made for it. At 11.45, as the first shots were fired at the British, Nelson made his famous signal 'England expects (originally confides) that every man will do his duty'.

Captain Blackwood left Nelson at around the same time to rejoin his frigate HMS *Euryalus* with Nelson's final words to him, as he climbed down the side of *Victory*, 'God Bless you Blackwood. I shall never speak to you again' ringing in his ears.

Collingwood, at the head of the lee column in the *Royal Sovereign* was the first to crash through the enemy line, at around 12.00. He fired double-shotted broadsides into the 112-gun Spanish ship *Santa Anna*, killing and wounding 400 of her crew and disabling 14 guns. He was soon surrounded by five enemy ships until the British *Bellisle*, *Mars* and *Swiftsure* arrived, with others behind them. The 'pell mell' battle Nelson planned had begun.

At around 1pm *Victory* crashed through the enemy line, between Villeneuve's *Bucentaure* and the *Redoutable*. As the *Victory* passed the *Bucentaure*,

she fired her Carronade loaded with 500 musket balls, and shot through the stern windows of the French ship, followed by a full staggered broadside as guns came to bear, reaping havoc as the shot travelled the length of the French ship. The *Victory* soon found herself locked in mortal combat with the *Redoutable*, very ably Captained by Jean Pierre Lucas, whose intention was to board and take the *Victory*.

At around 1.45, Nelson was shot by a French marksman from Lucas' ship. Mortally wounded, he was taken below as the life-and-death struggle continued around and above him. He died at 4.45 knowing he had won a great victory. The battle finished shortly after 5.00.

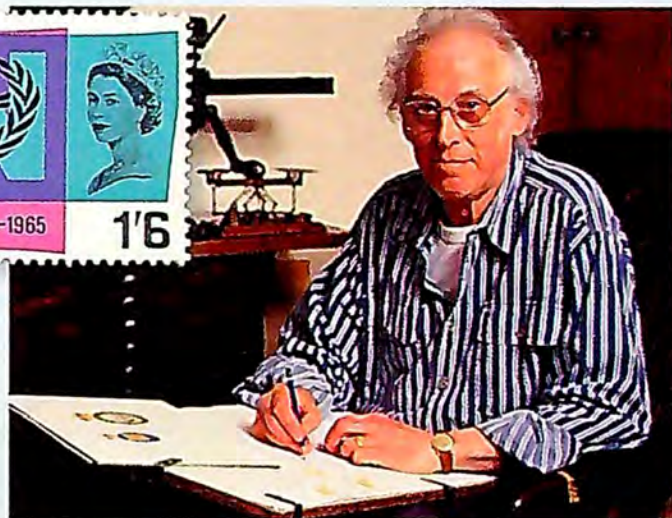
Nelson made two last requests as he lay dying: that Lady Hamilton and his daughter, Horatia, be looked after, and that the fleet anchor following the battle to ride out a bad storm he knew was coming. Neither request was met.

We will see next month the aftermath of the battle and investigate 'Postman Pickle' •

Sea Britain 2005 events in September For further information visit the Sea Britain 2005 website: www.seabritain.com

08.10	Battle of Trafalgar Bicentennial Concert, Bath
14-15.10	Battle of Trafalgar Conference, Portsmouth
to 13.11	Nelson & Napoleon, National Maritime Museum

Jeffery Matthews Glenn Morgan marks an anniversary in an influential designer's career



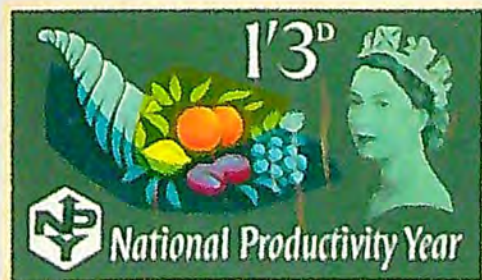
This month marks the 40th anniversary of the first accepted stamp designs by Jeffery Matthews, which were produced to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the United Nations Organisation (UNO) in 1965.

JEFFERY MATTHEWS started his career back in the late 1940s, and he continues to be a major influence in his chosen fields of graphic design to this day. For all but around the first decade of this time there has been an unbroken association first with the General Post Office (GPO), then with the Post Office Corporation and now Royal Mail.

Jeffery had gone into partnership with a friend in 1952, both of them operating as freelance designers, but a few years later this friend was sadly to die in a drowning accident. Jeffery's wife, Chris, was there to step into the professional void created, and worked with him for many years to come.

The register of designers held by the Council of Industrial Design (now the Design Council) resulted in his first stamp commission for the GPO, when in 1959 he was invited to submit designs for the forthcoming Tercentenary of the General Letter Office (GLO) commemorative issue. It was to be some six years though before they accepted an artwork for production (although the GLO stamps were essayed), having previously – and since – been asked to submit designs for different subjects which never resulted in acceptance, as is normal for all artists. This process can be likened to an actor who auditions regularly for parts, but is only accepted every so often. It is not a poor reflection on the actor's work, but simply the desire of the commissioning agent to get a certain type of output.

Artworks had been submitted for the 1961 Post Office Savings Bank, 1962 National Productivity Year (below left), 1963 Paris Postal Conference and the Lifeboat Conference issues prior to the UNO set. Subsequent unaccepted commissions have included the 1968 (below right) and 1969 Anniversaries sets, 1973 Princess Anne's wedding, and the 1975 Charity issue.



Below: some of the definitive and special issues created by Jeffery Matthews. Opposite: the definitive miniature sheet issued for The Stamp Show 2000, illustrating the Jeffery Matthews colour palette, with labels showing a detail of his PO heraldry and his initials.

Style of working This designer still works in the traditional way, hand drawing or painting all the designs he creates, but in 1986, for The Queen's 60th birthday stamps, he broke the mould and, for the first time, used computer technology. This set utilised six images of The Queen (one from each decade) and Jeffery arranged for a computer-literate friend to slowly build the stamps on screen, making design tweaks as he went. He then printed copies of the artwork at life-size and four times up for the benefit of the Stamp Advisory Committee. Despite his total satisfaction with the final designs, he chose not to adopt this method of artwork creation on any later issues.

Special issues Jeffery is perhaps best known for heraldic and royal issues, having produced some of the best designs of the current reign in this regard. When asked by *Stamp Magazine* (March 2004) what his favourite stamp design was, he chose the 1980 Christmas Decorations set, on which 'the only thing that wasn't from my hand was the silhouette of The Queen's head. Also The Queen's Beasts because it was all my design and drawing and harks back to my early interest in heraldry'. He was also pleased with the definitive/commemorative 'Double Head' stamps of 1990 because he was able to bring together two other artists' work (the Penny Black and Machin head designers) from two different eras, creating a classic design.

His most recent addition to our albums was this July, when a miniature sheet for the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War was issued, to an exacting brief. This design was to incorporate five gold definitives in the shape of a letter V (for victory) and the 25p (revalued 1st class)



stamp depicting St Paul's Cathedral, the design of which also included a 'v', but this time in the form of searchlights illuminating a night sky. A contemporary black-and-white photograph together with a border of olive branches running down both sides of the sheet completes this dignified design.

Machins Jeffery has carried out much work over the years to maintain and improve the definitive range of issues, including the National, Country ('Regionals'), 'Double Heads' (marking the 150th anniversary of the Penny Black), 1970 'to pay' labels and the initial self-adhesive stamp (sold in booklets in horizontal format for a trial period only). This work has included drawing fonts and values, finding the best position for The Queen's head and face value within the design, and considering alternatives to the timeless Machin head. So important has Jeffery's work been that even the palette of 33 colours that Royal Mail has at its disposal bears his name. This palette was started in 1984 in order to return to the original Arnold Machin concept of a light tone for The Queen's head on a solid background, because over the years there had been a steady, perhaps unconscious, move away from this ideal.



**THE
STAMP
SHOW 2000**
HARLE QUINN CONVENTION 20-22 MAY 2000

EXHIBITIO



Special stamps Jeffery Matthews has designed, or has been heavily involved with, the creation of the following issues

1965	20th Anniversary of the United Nations Organisation
1968	British Bridges (4d and 1s9d values only)
1972	Royal Silver Wedding Anniversary
1978	25th Anniversary of the Coronation
1978	British Architecture MS (selvedge design work only)
1979	Rowland Hill MS (selvedge design work only)
1980	London 1980 exhibition 50p (counter sheet and MS)
1980	80th Birthday of HM The Queen Mother
1980	Christmas Decorations
1981	Royal Wedding, Charles and Diana
1984	College of Arms Quincentenary
1986	Royal Wedding, Andrew and Sarah
1986	60th Birthday of HM The Queen
1987	Flower Photography (not the photographs)
1987	Tercentenary of the Revival of the Order of the Thistle
1990	Stamp World £1 MS (double head, not selvedge)
1998	The Queen's Beasts

Miscellaneous design commissions Various first day cover envelopes, presentation pack designs, stamp book covers (1978 and 1992) and the Post Office corporate crest (or coat of arms) can all be credited to Jeffery, as can the logo for the London 1980 stamp exhibition, and the logo for the Machin Collectors Club. The first four exhibition sheets for the Thematica stamp exhibitions were not only his artwork, but they also depicted his Post Office commissions and some included unaccepted designs, focusing in turn on Machin definitives, Royal events, Heraldry and this year his 40 years of stamp design. Visitors to Thematica in November will be able to obtain a free copy of the 2005 sheet, subject to stock. See details in Stamp Scene nearer the time.

Jeffery has not exclusively worked for the Post Office, of course, and can be credited with well-recognised work such as the masthead design for *The Sunday Times*. He was also responsible for the

corporate logos of the Central Office of Information (COI), The Inland Revenue via Her Majesty's Stationery Office (HMSO), and Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI), among others.

His entry in *Who's Who* shows that he has also produced coin and medal designs for the Royal Mint, including a 60th anniversary of the end of the war medallion this year (one of the few instances where a 'stamp and medal' commemorative cover is appropriate or justified). He has worked with Reader's Digest, Encyclopaedia Britannica and produced the cover design and lettering for the official 1981 Royal Wedding programme. With recreational interests shown as furniture restoration, playing the guitar, DIY and gardening, it is amazing that he finds the time for work.

It's a family thing The Matthews are clearly a very talented family, with not only Jeffery's late wife, but son and daughter all having an involvement in some aspect of the creative process. Coming from a long line of craftsmen, it was perhaps inevitable, or even pre-ordained, that Jeffery would follow suit. This short celebration of his skills would not be complete without mention of these family members: Chris, Rory, and Sarah Jane.

For many years, Jeffery worked with his wife, who used the pseudonym of Charity Boxall (her maternal grandmother's maiden name) when producing a range of philatelic products for the Post Office, including text for presentation and collector packs. The first collaboration between husband and wife was the British Bridges issue. From here on in it became increasingly difficult for Chris to work on her own commissions, and she turned down work to support Jeffery. (See the December 1994 *Bulletin* for her obituary by Richard West, which includes an extensive account of the major contribution that she had made to special stamp products of the time.)

Rory, a draftsman by profession, first came to the attention of philatelists following the once-secret work which he undertook with his father on the Machin head in the 1980s. This work has only relatively recently come to light, and relates to his redrawing the Machin portrait head in pencil. All viewers had assumed until the revelation that this drawing was a photograph, such was the quality of his imagery.

Sarah is not involved with stamp design, but like her father, brother and generations of their family before her, is a goldsmith and Freeman of the City of London. The Goldsmiths' Company is one of the 12 Great Livery Companies of the City of London.

Recognition It is not surprising that Jeffery's talents have been acknowledged down the years. In March Jeffery and Sarah attended the Rowland Hill Awards lunch, where unbeknown to them both, he was presented with two prestigious awards. The first was the Phillips Gold Medal, named after the great philatelist Reginald M Phillips, whose collection forms the basis of the museum element of the British Postal Museum and Archive. He also instructed that every five years a gold medal should be awarded to the person who has made the greatest contribution to stamp design. The second award was in recognition of 40 years service to the Post Office, and took the form of the Outstanding Contribution Award (so much nicer-sounding than a 'lifetime achievement' award, which seems to imply that there is nothing further to come!).

It is the letter that landed on the mat from Downing Street in late 2003 that has to be the greatest acknowledgement of his talents yet. It contained an invitation for him to become a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in the 2004 New Year's Honours List, citing specifically his 'services to graphic design, particularly postage stamps' (see the August 2004 *Bulletin*, page 360).

Personal favourite My favourite Matthews set is the 1984 College of Arms Quincentenary issue, which was Royal Mail's first in a square format (34.7 × 34.7mm). The overall balance of designs, colours used, typography and white backgrounds all go to make this a stunning set. Shown at right is the artwork (at reduced size) for one stamp in the set. My only slight concern regarding the issue is whether the average person understands what a Quincentenary actually is! For any readers who are still unsure, it is 500 years.

Jeffery Matthews is well respected and a friend to the hobby of stamp collecting, so on behalf of *Bulletin* readers, I send him congratulations, wish him a happy '40th anniversary', and hope there will be more of his excellent stamp designs in the coming years •



Anniversary of the Post Office Tower by Glenn Morgan

IT MAY COME AS A SURPRISE to realise that it is some 40 years this month since the Post Office Tower (POT) opened for use as a major telecommunications centre and became the tallest building in Britain at 620 feet, including mast. Public observation galleries and a revolving restaurant 520 feet above the ground ensured that the Tower (originally to be called the Museum Tower) would become one of London's leading attractions.

Stamps proposed At a meeting of the Post Office Board on 25 November 1964, a stamp issue commemorating the opening of the Post Office Tower was included in the stamp programme for 1965. It had first been suggested back in 1963 that this would be a suitable event to be commemorated by stamps, but uncertainty as to the opening date caused by construction delays meant that it was touch-and-go whether the stamp issue would go ahead or be abandoned. On 23 March 1965, confirmation was received that the Prime Minister would officially open the Post Office Tower for operational purposes on 8 October that year, and that the same date was proposed as the issue date for the new stamps.

Commissioning designs Four individuals (Clive Abbott, Dennis Bailey, Derek Birdsall, Andrew Restall) and two stamp printing firms (Harrison and Sons and Bradbury Wilkinson & Company) were invited to submit two designs of 3d and 1s3d values for this issue by 14 July. The lower value was to show the Tower 'full length' and the higher value was 'perhaps' to show a panoramic view of London with the Tower dominant. These instructions implied that a vertical and a horizontal format were required, as proved to be the final treatment. The designer's and printer's names were to appear as credits at the foot of each design for the first time on British stamps. The GPO supplied reference photographs and construction drawings, to assist the creative process. All artists met the deadline for submission of their work in time for a meeting of the Stamp Advisory Committee (SAC) the following week.

Approvals The SAC favoured the designs by Clive Abbott, considering it to be 'especially good' and three designs were essayed, along with a couple of 'other artists' submissions. In the end the SAC approved Abbott's designs, but also submitted two of David Gillespie's artworks (not received until August, but liked) as a back-up in case The Queen declined approval of the favoured artist. Approval was received from Balmoral, which was just as well because Harrison's had already made their printing cylinders before then, due to time constraints!

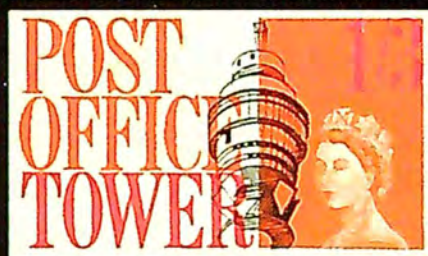
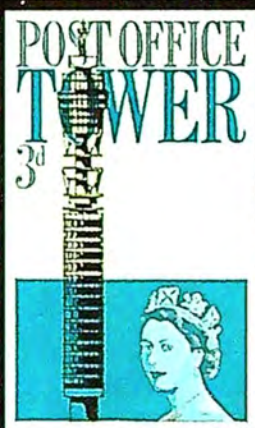
Stamp production Approved essays were supplied to the Post Office Supply Department and Harrison's, who produced photographic negatives for publicity purposes and specially-printed blocks of four stamps for a press showing on 7 September. Meanwhile Clive Abbott had been preparing a first day cover envelope design (200,000 printed by HMSO) and presentation pack (150,000 printed by Harrison's). The stamps were printed without hitch and supplied on time.

Issuing the stamps The Prime Minister, Harold Wilson MP, officially opened the Tower on 8 October and the stamps also duly appeared that day. In accordance with tradition, gift cards bearing mint stamps were sent to various dignitaries from the Postmaster General. The Post Office Tower stamps remained in circulation until 30 June 1966 when they were withdrawn from general sale.

Selling stamps at the Tower A committee was established to consider postal facilities at the Tower and concluded that self-service vending machines would be utilised and that the mail would be date-stamped with a special die saying it was 'Posted at the Post Office Tower'. At one point it looked as if coils, or even booklets, of Post Office Tower stamps would be made available to fit in with the policy of moving away from selling single stamps. Harrison's were instructed to retain the printing cylinders in case reprints were required, but none were ever made.

**Proposed and final designs**

Far left: Bradbury Wilkinson.
Centre and right: Andrew Restall.



Far left: Bradbury Wilkinson.
Centre and right: Dennis Bailey.



Harrison & Sons



Far left, above and below:
Derek Birdsall. Centre and
above: the issued stamps,
by Clive Abbott.



It was eventually agreed that stamps would be available in the following formats: envelopes containing 4 × 3d and 2 × 1s3d Tower stamps sold by machine; presentation packs containing one of each stamp sold by machine; 'j' stamp rolls (480 × 6d) reeled lengthwise, lower end first, to be sold from Post Office vending machines which were to be adapted to take these rolls; and commemorative envelopes, Tower issue, unstamped for sale in the Post Office shop.

When the Tower was opened to the public on 19 May 1966, the stamps were available in the first two formats outlined above only. The envelopes containing four 3d stamps and those with two 1s3d stamps were sold at their face value, ie 1s and 2s6d respectively, while packs were sold at face value plus 1s.

With decimalisation due in 1971, consideration was given to producing the stamps with decimal face values also; this was not pursued, of course, largely due to the additional pressure it would have placed on Harrison's.

New Philatelic Counter? Vending stamps at the Tower was proving to be a big success, with sales set to continue indefinitely, but from July 1968, only phosphor stamps were to be made available from the self-service machines.

Amazingly by our standards today, the sale of packs was not possible in the shop (only from a machine) due to objections by the Union of Postal Workers (UPW), as the staff at the Tower were of the wrong grade to sell stamps!

If a full-scale Philatelic Counter were to be installed then there would be no objections because it would ease congestion at King Edward Street, be of service to one million visitors to the Tower every year and presumably have the appropriately graded staff. In the end, the space constraints, Decimalisation and the 1971 closing of the Tower to members of the public meant that these plans were to be abandoned, but not before searching for nearby accommodation to house the counter.

Sales figures This was an unusual issue, in so far as sales are concerned, because the stamps were available at the Tower long after they had been

withdrawn from Post Offices and the Philatelic Bureau. This naturally resulted in far higher sales figures than was normal, as they made excellent souvenir purchases by visitors to the Tower – especially the vended presentation packs, as your writer well recalls on his visit.

Gibbons catalogues state the following figures: 3d ordinary 51,291,120, phosphor 4,274,880; 1s3d ordinary 5,722,320, phosphor 1,107,480; Packs 25,060 (ordinary and phosphor stamp versions combined).

It is believed that stocks sold at the Tower are excluded from these total sales figures, and BPMA records indicate that total quantities issued from the self service machines at the Tower were: 3d 3,039,480; 1s3d 630,720 and that all presentation packs were sold. These figures are slightly questionable, although believed to be fairly accurate, due to the faulty reporting of volumes for a period and a lack of knowledge regarding the split between the ordinary and phosphor versions sold at the Tower.

Philatelic collectibles The ordinary and phosphor mint stamps, packs, FDC and commemorative envelopes with slogan die have been described previously. Additional items include cylinder blocks (1A1B1C) in dot and no dot versions, traffic light blocks and several minor varieties on both values. The 3d ordinary exists with the olive-yellow Tower totally or partially missing, inverted watermarks occur, and misplaced or missing phosphor bands. A pre-release occurred at Aish, Devon on 4 October (covers known?). Spare imperforate Imprimatur were made available at an auction held by the National Postal Museum.

The Post Office Tower, still one of the tallest buildings in London, was an interesting building project and stamp issue which both captured the public's imagination and did much to dispel the image of an old-fashioned Britain •

Bibliography

Special Stamp Issue No 37: Opening of the Post Office Tower, 8 October 1965. Compiled by A D Griffiths (unpublished history held at British Postal Museum & Archive)

British Postal Museum & Archive File Post 60/72 MKD/AN/590

Stamped to order Part 2, by Colin Baker

Registration Collectors of postal stationery see many registered envelopes impressed with one or more of the normal stationery stamps. Much less common are those envelopes carrying the proper registration stamp. No such STO envelopes were created in the reigns of Victoria or Edward VII, but a few are known carrying either George V or George VI stamps. In the present reign philatelic dealers began to create registration envelopes, as completely new items or by adding stamps to PO envelopes. It's worth looking out for these in dealers' boxes. You never know what might turn up.



Parcel post labels The introduction of the parcel post in 1883 gave rise to a new type of STO stationery, the parcel post label. Some firms found it more convenient to have their own labels printed and stamped. It also made the theft of postage stamps by their staff much more difficult. However, these were not that popular since most firms would have needed at least half a dozen different value labels to satisfy the various parcel post rates. As with newspaper wrappers, parcel labels tended to be discarded along with the wrappings, and relatively few have survived.

An example of the registration die used on a STO registration envelope. (Actual-size detail from the envelope shown on page 57.)

Lettercards By the early 20th century, lettercards had been added to the stationery range available to the public. At first there seemed little demand for private lettercards. After all, these cost the same to post as a letter, yet provided a limited writing area. However, in George V's reign they proved ideal for simple questionnaires and colourful advertisements. By the time that George VI stationery stamps were ready, the country was involved in the Second World War, and STO lettercards fell from favour once again.

Airletters The PO prepaid airletter was introduced in 1943 and was very popular with the public, with its 6d postage rate but ample writing area. It cost roughly half that of the cheapest rate for ordinary letters sent by air, yet it was large enough for all but the most prolific correspondent.

No George VI STO airletters are known, and it was not until 1957 that the first privately produced airletter appeared. The reason for this long delay was that PO airletters cost only 6d to buy, and they would have cost more to produce privately. That is until the philatelic world realized that private airletters could be sold at an inflated price to collectors. The first of these was produced in 1957 and was impressed with the George VI 6d die as the corresponding Queen Elizabeth die was not then available. From then on a huge range of prepaid private airletters appeared, using privately manufactured unstamped sheets or unstamped Forces Air Letter sheets, or being created from scratch. There were even a few commemorative airletters. All were then submitted for impressing with stationery stamps.

Articles by Colin Baker about illustrated postal stationery were published in the *Bulletin* in October and November 2004 and January 2005.

Opposite page From top: a private airletter, designed by Jennifer Toombs for the Royal Wedding; a parcel post label used by the philatelic dealers Whitfield King; a registered envelope showing the special registration die used on a STO registration envelope – almost certainly a philatelic item; a GV reply card, stamped only for the outward journey; and a printed matter card, as used extensively in the 1950s and 60s to advise that a company representative would call.

Collectors should be aware that some producers created 'rarities' by marking a small number of air letters as specimens, or by varying the printing layout. Air letters are one of the items of postal stationery that have not seen a rebirth from the 1990s onwards. No doubt the minimum order of 10,000 and lack of a STO stamp has not encouraged any philatelic dealer to take the plunge.

A rebirth of the STO scheme During the first half of the 20th century the use of stamped to order stationery by commercial organisations gradually declined. Franking machines had been introduced which meant there was no longer the need to guess which pre-stamped envelope should be used and plain envelopes could now be stamped once they were sealed. The business reply service started in April 1932 allowing firms to pay the return postage for orders and enquires without the need to send out pre-stamped stationery. By 1952 much of the STO work undertaken by the PO was entirely of a philatelic nature, with dealers and collectors striving to create more and more obscure items. The PO decided that enough was enough, and the service ended on 31 October 1973. Or did it?

Although the STO scheme was supposed to have come to an end in 1973, a few STO envelopes are known from 1979 onwards using the octagonal Machin design. These can be distinguished from the PO issues by their size and colour. There may be more out there that have simply not been identified to date, so it's worth looking in dealers' 'junk boxes' just in case.

Having restarted the scheme in 1987 the PO announced that it would allow business users to have their own style and size of envelopes pre-stamped with either the 1st or 2nd class Machin postage paid device. This could be printed in several colours, as the user required. The PO did not announce that the Welsh language for 'Post Paid' could also be incorporated into the symbol, but there are examples of these in existence today.

The STO scheme for business users continued in 1995 with the introduction of the new postage paid symbol with the words 'Postage Paid' (twice) in a circle around the Machin head. This could also be printed in several colours depending on the requirements of the user, and once again a Welsh version was available.

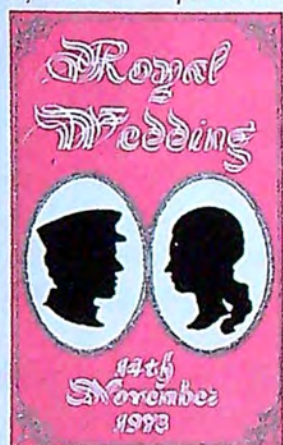
The facility to have STO items prepared was not just restricted to envelopes, for a few postcards and lettercards are also known with the 1995 postage paid device. Considering that the normal minimum STO order is now 10,000 I ask myself the question of where all the examples have disappeared to, as relatively few seem to come into the hands of collectors!

So this is the story of the first 150 years of stamped to order stationery. No doubt it will continue for many years to come.

Finally, collectors can sometimes find it is difficult to differentiate between the many STO and PO items, although with practice the two can usually be identified. The colour of the paper or card used, size of the finished items and the shape of the flaps are all tell-tale signs indicating whether an item is a PO or private issue. However, the subject is too extensive to go into in detail in a general article like this •

Postal Stationery Society
Enquiries to: Colin Baker, 4
Greenhill Gardens, Sutton
Veney, Warminster BA12 7AY
or see www.postalstationery.org.uk (This site was reviewed in Philately On-line, February 2004.)

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Handwritten notes and signatures.

Mainly Machins Specialist collectors report by D G A Myall

The Modern British Philatelic Circle By the time you read this the Modern British Philatelic Circle (MBPC) should have been born. It will be, however, no mewling infant struggling to speak or stand, as it will be formed by the merger of two well-established groups for collectors: the Great Britain Decimal Stamp Book Study Circle (GB DSB SC) and the British Decimal Stamps Study Circle (BDSSC). Their members have been asked to approve the forming of the new Circle at their AGMs. The GB DSB SC conducted a postal vote of its members and the outcome is already known, since more than 50% of the poll cards have been returned, showing that over 90% of the votes are in favour of the proposal.

The GB DSB SC was formed in July 1971 by four collectors to study all aspects of decimal stamp books. Its first President was the late Len Newbery, my predecessor in writing a regular column for the *Bulletin*. I became its Editor and produced *The Bookmark Journal* in its early years, and six editions of *The Bookmark Catalogue*. The *Journal* has been published for an interrupted 34 years, and a seventh edition of the *Catalogue* was published in 1999 with a Supplement in 2000. A new *Catalogue* for self-adhesives will be published soon, written by the present Editor, Graham Eyre.

The BDSSC was formed in 1974 to study all aspects of decimal stamps that did not come from books. I was President for its first 17 years. From its formation to the present time it has published a regular Newsletter as well as over 100 articles called 'Guidecs' (your 'Guide to the Decimals') on all aspects of stamp production. It also published the *Guidec Specialised Catalogue* but this is no longer in print having been replaced by my *Complete Deegam Machin Handbook* in 1993.

Both Circles have been very well run by dedicated and knowledgeable Committees and their combined experience will give the new group a sure foundation. A new written constitution has been drawn up and approved. The coverage of the MBPC will not be limited to the decimal era nor to Machins. Its area of interest will start with the Wildings of 1952, and if there is sufficient

interest will also include special issues. The word 'modern' in its title is intended to indicate this broad compass.

All existing members of the two existing Circles will automatically become members of the new one. If you are not a member but would like to join or have more information, contact A J Wilkins, 3 Buttermere Close, Brierley Hill, West Midlands, DY5 3SD. The annual subscription is an incredibly low £8 to any address in the world, but overseas members should add £4 for airmail.

'Pictorial' Machins In my article for the March 2004 *Bulletin* I wrote about the use of the Machin head on definitives of Hong Kong from 1992 to 1997. Hong Kong is not the only country which has placed this famous icon on its stamps. Some countries, such as Antigua & Barbuda, Gibraltar, Guernsey, the Isle of Man and the Cayman Islands, have used the head as the major or dominant part of the design. Others have used it in a subordinate manner to accompany designs associated with the country's heritage or activities, or to commemorate events of world interest such as the London 1980 exhibition.

In all, twelve Commonwealth or former Commonwealth countries have used the head in such a manner. They are: Antigua, Ascension Island, Bahamas, Bermuda, British Antarctic Territory (BAT), British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT), Fiji, Gilbert Islands (Kiribati), Guernsey, Hong Kong, Norfolk Island and the Solomon Islands. Most of the stamps were special issues but a few were pictorial definitives. Among the subjects dealt with are: playing cards and the postal service (Bermuda), corals, sea shells and insects (BIOT), maps (Bermuda, Guernsey, BIOT, and Norfolk Island), paintings (Caymans), cricket and other games (Fiji), birds, butterflies, fish and flowers (the Solomons), Christmas and other festivals (Antigua, Fiji, Solomons), armorial bearings and royal effigies (Guernsey). Most of the special stamps were issued in sets of four, and eight of these were also issued in the form of a miniature sheet. Apart from these sheets, the complete listing comprises



Examples of 'Pictorial Machins' – a few of the 178 examples the author has identified.

only 178 stamps, making it fairly easy to compile a colourful sideline collection under the heading of 'Pictorial Machins'.

Space does not permit a complete list here, but I will supply one in reply to e-mail requests sent to: deegam@btopenworld.com or on receipt of a stamped and addressed envelope sent to me at: 2 Elizabeth Avenue, Bridport, Dorset DT6 5BA. There is one set I must tell you about as it has caught my fancy. The Gilbert Islands, now called Kiribati, issued a set of four on 6 December 1976 which is called simply 'Artefacts' in catalogues. In fact its theme is the traditional kit of a Gilbertese warrior. And what a marvellous collection it is. The 5¢ stamp pictures a helmet made from a porcupine puffer fish. The 15¢ shows a dagger made from the business end of a swordfish. The 20¢ features a fighting gauntlet embedded with sharks' teeth. The 35¢ shows a full suit of body armour made from coconuts. The four stamps also exist as a miniature sheet and this has a picture of a warrior kitted out with the full set. He looks so strange and fearsome that I imagine all his enemies fled at the sight of him.

From where do you obtain your stamps? This must depend on whether you collect mint or used (or both). A good source of used stamps in bulk is known as kiloware (because it is often sold by weight). This can be obtained from charities and dealers. The stamps are usually sold 'on piece', ie, still attached to a piece of envelope. Depending on how much of this is still there, you can expect around four stamps per gram of kiloware. Collectors usually soak the stamps off, but there are a couple of things to bear in mind before giv-

ing Machin kiloware this treatment. Many of the stamps have phosphor overprints to aid mechanical sorting of the mail. Water adversely affects some of the phosphor inks or coatings used, and may make it difficult to identify the stamp. If a lot of stamps are soaked together, sufficient may come off and then adhere to other stamps to create spurious 'all-over' phosphor varieties. The other factor is that part of a dated postmark may be on the paper removed by soaking and a potential clue to its identity may be lost. My advice is to keep the stamps on paper and to trim round them before adding them to your album. If you prefer to soak, then Machin self-adhesives have a double layer of gum to facilitate their removal without damage.

My best find from kiloware was an example of the 1st class NV1 'disability' stamp – the subject of an interesting article by Glenn Morgan in the *Bulletin* of June 2004. Although never issued, 10 examples are known to collectors – eight mint, and just two in used condition.

If you collect mint stamps, there are several ways of doing this. The most obvious, if you live in the UK, is your local post office, and most postmasters or postmistresses will be helpful if you become a good regular customer in their office/shop. If you are going to ask them for cylinder blocks or something out the ordinary, it is best to choose a quiet period – not a busy pension day! The main post offices in about 30 towns (listed on the inside front cover of the *Bulletin*) provide a philatelic outlet and usually stock most of the items available from Tallents House. These outlets are normally part of a postshop and staff deal with general as well as philatelic sales.

All Royal Mail stamps and philatelic items are available from Tallents House in Edinburgh and a stock list is produced six times a year. Tallents House will supply cylinder blocks of six stamps from their stocks but cannot supply specific cylinder numbers, or dot and no dot variations. The cylinder blocks are cut across the left sheet margin. They are unable to supply cylinder books as separate items; books are supplied as taken from packs as received from the printers.

If you want more specialised material, you will need to join a specialist society and acquire items either through the auctions or by purchase or ex-

change with other members with duplicates for disposal. Talking to and corresponding with like-minded collectors is an excellent way of picking up new information and tips, as well as material.

Another way is to enrol in a dealer's specialised new issue service for Machin and country issues. Obviously you have to pay more than face value for the stamps, but you are paying for the dealer to do all of the hard work. Most of these dealers produce detailed price lists.

If you are a serious collector you will probably want to use all these sources of supply; it is unwise to put all your eggs in one basket •

Readers' reports

Peter Mansfield writes concerning the article on the 4d Carmine of 1855 in the July Bulletin. In June 2000 the Revenue Society published my booklet *De La Rue's QJ Revenue Heads*. Its main purpose was to draw attention to stamp engravings based on the work of another sculptor, a Mr Theed, for all the Revenue stamps from 1870 on (including the 1d purples listed by Gibbons as F18-F23). But I did also refer to Joubert's taking over the engravings of Revenue stamps from W Thompson in 1854 – unlike Thompson, Joubert had trained as a metal-engraver – and on the two Joubert heads used by the Board of Inland Revenue for fiscal stamps between 1854 and 1875. Only the second of these (Joubert 2) was used for postage stamps; and you have ample illustration of Joubert 2. As regards Joubert 1, the article refers to a 'head on an oval ground' which 'may be the head of which a recess die proof... is in the R M Phillips collection'. The Joubert 1 was used on three Revenue stamps: the Foreign Bills series, 1854 to 1870; the Admiralty Court series, from 1854 to 1875; and the Draft & Receipt 1d from 1854/1855 to 1860. Following the engraving of the Postage 4d however, the authorities came to prefer the Joubert 2 head for fiscal use also; it first appeared on the Chancery Court series from May 1856. It was used on all subsequent Revenue issues until the introduction of the Theed head in 1870; in Ireland it continued in use on the Ireland Petty Sessions stamps until 1902 •



Joubert 1 head on Revenue stamps: Draft & Receipt 1d, 1856 (left) and Foreign Bill (of exchange), 1857. Reproduced from colour prints supplied by Mr Mansfield.

Colin Peachey comments on Cover Corner in the August Bulletin. The valuation (£15 to £40) given for the Eddystone Lighthouse postmark was in British Postmark Society's *Special Events Postmarks of the United Kingdom*, published in 1991. It is likely to be worth double that now. A new edition of this book is now in preparation and when published, prices will reflect the current market. The date of introduction of the postmark was reported in *Special Events Postmarks* as 30 May 1891. I have an example dated 8 May struck in bright blue and one of 29 May in black. It is possible the 8 May date was in error for 8 June, but the card is addressed, and there is nothing obviously false about it. My 8 May date was recorded by Peter van Gelder in 'Postal Stationery Matters' in *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, December 1999 •

Philately on-line Ron Negus re-visits the Heritage website



I HAVE reported on the Royal Mail Heritage website in three of my previous columns (see the July 2001, May 2003 and March 2005 *Bulletins*). On each occasion, the name of this unit of the Royal Mail has been different, and now it has changed once again. The current title is The British Postal Museum & Archive (or BPMA). This new name was introduced after the two former departments of the Royal Mail Group plc were combined and set up to operate as a separate charitable trust in March 2004.

The creation of the trust allowed changes to be made in the organisation that were not possible whilst the units were integral parts of Royal Mail. The ultimate goal of the now independent charitable trust is to establish a new permanent home which will provide greatly improved access to the Museum & Archive collections.

Improving and expanding the coverage on the website has been an important aspect of the work for the small administrative team employed by the charity. A firm of web designers has been employed to assist with this, and the initial results of their work began to appear in Spring 2005. Each page on the new website carries the BPMA logo and its associated byline 'Our history through the post'. The basic site now has a very clean and uncluttered appearance, and the navigation aids on each page are simple and easy to use.

Users need to be aware, however, that the simplified appearance is deceptive, and the amount of detail contained on the overall site is considerable. I recommend you click on the 'Sitemap'

www.postalheritage.org.uk The team responsible for this site welcomes feedback from users and provides a page for e-mail comments under the 'Contact Us' heading. A postal address and telephone number are provided here as well.

keyword to be found on the upper right hand corner of the home page. This will display a contents list grouped into main and sub-sections that is an excellent summary of the information available. Selection of any of the headings here will take you directly to the appropriate page.

Whilst the design of pages and the typography have been modernised, the actual structure and content of the pages on the site remains primarily the same as described in my last review in the March 2005 *Bulletin*. Work has continued, however, on providing online access to the catalogue of holdings.

A description of what has been done in this regard can be found by selecting the 'Catalogue' navigation tab on the home page. This reveals the welcome page to the online catalogue: on this a further tab is provided, which is headed 'Download Guides and Help sheets'. Choosing this tab provides the necessary link to the 'Cataloguing Annual Review', which is a 13-page illustrated report (in pdf format) that explains progress on this important project.

This reports that as at May 2005, the online catalogue contains about 13,000 entries. Work is continuing to convert another 54,000 entries from an existing database into the format required for online access. Another download link is provided to the 'Guide to the Royal Mail Archive', another pdf file which contains the 212-page listing describing all the main POST classifications.

A great deal of effort is being expended to improve the facilities on this site and it is well worth adding to your Favourites list, and returning for a regular visit. The BPMA have also provided a page on the site which visitors can complete to order copies of their newsletter by e-mail. This provides regular updates on all their activities and is free •

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



July identify The detail was from the St Paul's Cathedral stamp in the End of the War miniature sheet. The winner was D V Knight, Dorset.

July knowledge Answers: 1) John Gibbs; 2) Tudor Crown; 3) 1966. The winner was K Boyce, South Australia.

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

FIRSTLY, identify the stamp from the detail above. Send your answer to October *Identify* Competition. Secondly, test your philatelic knowledge by answering the questions below. Send your answer to October *Knowledge* Competition. The competitions are not open to Royal Mail employees

- 1 Who designed the 1989 Games & Toys stamps?
- 2 What do the initials BPMA stand for?
- 3 In which year was Tennyson shown on stamps?

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

Events

1 October Kent Federation of Philatelic Societies Autumn Rally and stamp Fair at East Malling Village Hall, East Malling. Refreshments, free car parking, dealers. Enquiries M Thompson, 01474 325507.

1 October Welsh Philatelic Society meeting at Oswalds, Bangor. Enquiries Marion Turner, 2 Coed Y Glyn, Gellilydan, Blaenau Ffestiniog LL41 4EL.

2 October Association of GB FDC Collectors Cover Fair at Moat House Hotel, Southern Way, Harlow, 10.00-16.00. Enquiries T Barnett, 7 Mackets Lane, Hunts Cross, Liverpool L25 0QA.

8 October Letter Box Study Group meeting. Bretton Baptist Church, Copeland, South Bretton, Peterborough, 10.00-15.00, AGM at 11.00. Enquiries Helen Crabtree, 01536 762127. E-mail publicity@lbsg.org

14-16 October Stampa (Irish national stamp exhibition). See page 36.

15 October Thatcham & District PS Stamp Fair at Memorial Hall, Bath Road, Thatcham, 10.00-16.00. 11 dealers, free parking. Enquiries 01635 866942.

15-16 October Scotex 2005, Glasgow. See p36.

22 October Hampex, convention of Hampshire Philatelic Federation, Wickham Community Centre, Mill Lane, Wickham, Fareham, 10.00-16.30.

28 October Stuart Rossiter Trust lecture. See p38.

27-29 October Philatex at Royal Horticultural Hall, Greycoat St, London SW1. Thurs 11.00-19.00, Fri & Sat 10.00-18.00. 110 dealers. Enquiries 01793 513431 or see www.stampshows.co.uk

29 October North West Federation Convention and Annual Stamp Fair at Canon Slade School, Tonge Moor Rd, Bolton, 10.00-16.00. Dealers, free entry, free parking. Enquiries B Fielding, 01204 307252 •

Late news

Royal Mail update A Definitive Stamp Collection, shown on the back cover of last month's *Bulletin*, and new definitive packs are now available. In the low value definitives pack, the 1st and 2nd NV1 stamps, also the Europe (to 40g) and Worldwide (postcard and to 40g) stamps have blank white backing paper attached, having been specially printed from coils. The postcard stamp in this format was included in an earlier pack, but the two 40g stamps supplied as singles or in packs were previously on backing showing part of the stamp book covers. This is the first time the 1st and 2nd class stamps have been made available with this backing. The 1p-£1 stamps are printed by De La Rue, the five NV1 stamps by Walsall. The Definitives Collection comprises seven packs, including one containing the four 42p country stamps printed by Walsall.

Please note that the 1TV Smiler sheet was printed by Walsall and not Cartor as stated previously, and that there are no cylinder books for the new small size Smilers stamp book due on 4 October.

The Stanley Gibbons catalogue supplement in the September issue of *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* lists the new 42p country stamps. It does not distinguish between printings (Walsall and De La Rue) of the England, Wales, and Scotland stamps, although a footnote states that there were two printers. However the 42p Northern Ireland stamps are deemed to be sufficiently different to warrant separate catalogue numbers - N198 (Walsall) and N198a (DLR). The colours are given as black and new blue (for both printings) and orange-yellow (Walsall) or greenish yellow (DLR). The overall effect is that the DLR printing appears somewhat darker than its predecessor •

Judging seminar A National Philatelic Society seminar on Saturday 15 October will provide an opportunity for local and federation judges to brush up their skills, and for prospective judges to acquire points towards accreditation. The day-long seminar will be at the offices of Grosvenor Philatelic Auctioneers, 399-401 Strand, London WC2 and led by Alan J Griffiths, a national and

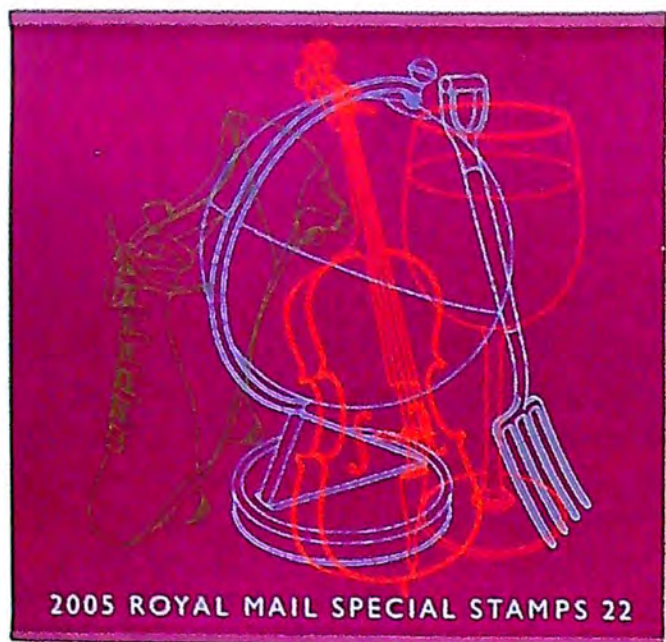
international accredited judge and recent recipient of the ABPS Congress Medal. The price, including coffee and lunch, is £8 for NPS members, £10 for others. Places are limited and the deadline for application is 1 October 2005. Contact Christopher Oliver, National Philatelic Society, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1M 6PT; see website www.ukphilately.org.uk/nps or telephone 020 7490 9610. Other enquiries about the NPS to Peter Mellor, Honorary Secretary; telephone 020 7490 9610 or e-mail nps@ukphilately.org.uk •

Publications The 2006 edition of the Stanley Gibbons *Commonwealth & British Empire Stamps 1840-1952* catalogue is due shortly, price £44.95, also a St Helena & Dependencies catalogue. Gibbons has, due to popular demand, re-launched its New Oriel and New Utile albums. Orders/enquiries: Stanley Gibbons Ltd, Parkside, Ringwood BH24 3SH, UK telephone number 0800 611622 •

Changes at the Philatelic Trust Brian Trotter has been appointed as Chairman of the British Philatelic Trust in succession to Francis Kiddle, who remains a Trustee. Mr Trotter was appointed a Trustee two years ago, and has been involved in the refurbishing of the Trust's British Philatelic Centre, in Charterhouse Street in London. Two Trustees have resigned - Sybil Smith and Michael Pitt-Payne, and are succeeded by Alan Moorcroft and John Pattullo. Mr Moorcroft is well-known in philatelic circles, as Vice President and Treasurer of the Royal Philatelic Society London and as a collector of George V stamps (about which he wrote in the *Bulletin* July-November 2001) and Channel Islands postal history. Mr Pattullo, Chief Accountant for Ronly Holdings Ltd, is interested in a number of sports as well as collecting Bordeaux wines, but there is no mention in the Trust press release of any of his philatelic interests. Profiles of Mr Trotter and Mr Moorcroft were published here in February 2005 and December 2001. For information about the Trust write to: British Philatelic Trust, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1M 6PT •

Gifts for Christmas

Royal Mail collections and books make ideal gifts for collectors and non-collectors alike

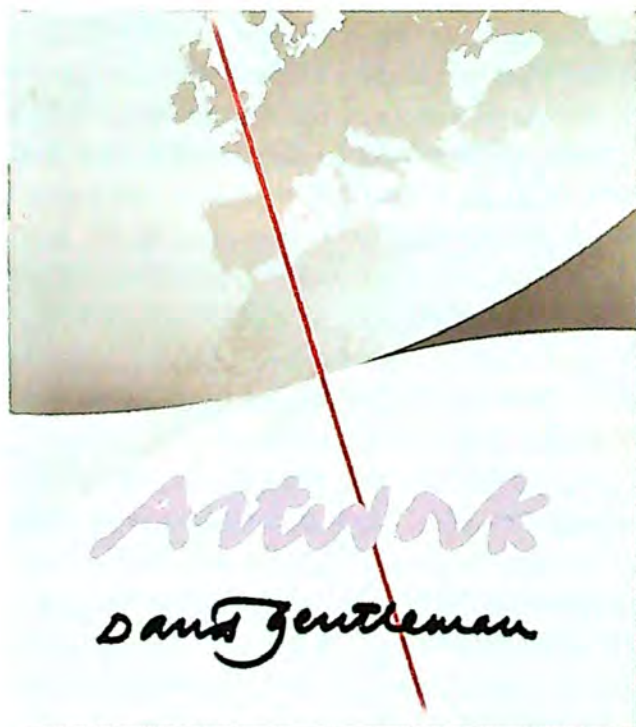


Yearbook The 2005 Yearbook is set against many original works of art by artists such as Peter Blake. Each chapter tells the story behind the stamp issue and contains mounts in which to place the stamps. Price, including all the 2005 special stamps, £39.95 standard version, or £75 for de luxe leather bound version. Available 1 November.



Yearpack The 2005 Yearpack contains all the year's special stamps. Price £34.95. Available 1 November.

Artwork by David Gentleman: a major work by one of Britain's best-known stamp designers. Price £27. Available now.



Royal Mail

Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB
Telephone orders: UK 08457 641 641; overseas +44 131 316 7483. Internet orders: www.royalmail.com/stamps

Handling charges: Yearpack
£1.30 UK, £1.55 Europe, £2.15 rest of world; others £2.95 UK, £5 Europe, £14 rest of world



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Review

The information service for
collectors and cover producers

OCTOBER 2005

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

GB Covers Hand-made, limited edition, full set official FDCs are produced by the founder and Life President of the GBFDC (the Association of Collectors of GB First Day Covers) for Association members. Their cover for the End of War stamp issue is illustrated with a dramatic anti-war painting by Damien Keith Brown. Limited to 60 signed and numbered, a few remain for sale to the public at £19.75 including informative insert, postage and packing •



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

Civil Defence Association have produced a series of limited edition covers for the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. All the designs include flags, and most utilise personalised 'Smilers' stamps. Events featured are VE Day (8 May), the CD Stand-down parade in Hyde Park (10 June), publication of the book *A Brief History of Civil Defence* (3 July), National Remembrance Day (10 July), first public performance of the recently re-discovered CD March *Come if ye Dare* since 1968 (10 July, signed by the conductor Lt Col G A Kingston), vJ-Day and Stand-down of the part-time members of the

NFS (15/18 August, double-dated), and Volunteers' Day (1 October). Single covers £6 each, set of seven £40, all postpaid UK. Remittances payable to Civil Defence Association •

60th Anniversary of the CD Stand-Down Parade

10 June 1945, Hyde Park, London

in the presence of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth



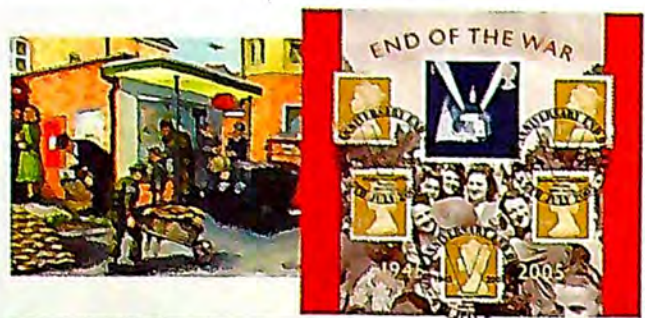
Orders and enquiries The Secretary, CDA, 24 Paxton Close, Matlock DE4 3TD, telephone 01629 55738

Phil Stamp Covers The cover for the Trafalgar stamp issue depicts 'Admiral Phil Stamp' frustrated with his crew for not having any pennies for the telescope – a lack of change which may well have influenced the conflict. The cover is cancelled with their official 'Portsmouth' hand-stamp. Limited edition of 100 numbered copies, price £13.95 postpaid worldwide. Phil Stamp Covers can be viewed and purchased online at www.philstampcovers.co.uk •



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

Bletchley Park Post Office This cover evokes a sense of the way Bletchley Park PO might have looked at the end of the Second World War, although it did not exist until the GPO took over the site in 1946. During the war years it operated as a mailroom for the code breakers with the under-cover address POM Box 11, Bletchley – Britain's 'secret post office'. The End of War miniature sheet has been cancelled using BEPO's 'Victory' handstamp in a v formation. Limited edition of 300. Price £12.50 plus postage •



Orders and enquiries Bletchley Park Post Office, The Mansion, Bletchley Park, Milton Keynes MK3 6EB. Telephone 01908 631797. Website www.bletchleycovers.com

Mid-Suffolk Railway Museum 25p carriage labels issued on 30 May mark re-enacted scenes from the 1953 film *The Titfield Thunderbolt*. The labels feature vintage rail and road transport. Sheets of six/12 are £1.50/£3 plus 50p UK postage, £1 overseas. Covers serviced with two labels tied by pictorial Brockford Station datestamp with pictorial SmartStamp printed on label, affixed to cover and tied by a Brockford Station datestamp are £3.25. Remittances to B R Reynolds •

MID-SUFFOLK LIGHT RAILWAY 30.05.2005

The Titfield Thunderbolt
Track and reproducing
scenes from the famous
comedy film of 1953
The Titfield Thunderbolt



Orders and enquiries B R Reynolds, 4 Chandlers Walk, Stowmarket IP14 2DT, Telephone 01449 613319.

Benham This cover in the 'Our Island's History' series commemorates the Battle of Trafalgar. A stamp and label from the limited edition Trafalgar 200 stamp sheet bear a London wc cancellation for Trafalgar Square on the bicentenary date of the battle. It is one of a series of six covers on events in Nelson's life. Please ask for full details of the series when ordering. Price £5.95 plus £1.95 post & packing. Please quote media code BPE0510A, product code GBC051 and mention the *Bulletin* when ordering •



Orders and enquiries Benham House, Freepost DR175, Folkestone CT20 1BR. Telephone 08708 500 654.

Talylllyn Railway The Tywyn Wharf Station and Narrow Gauge Railway Museum was opened by TRH The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall on 13 July. To mark this occasion, the Talylllyn Railway Letter Service produced a cover, carried on the special train from Wharf to Aberynolwyn. The cover shows the new station (May 2005), and the railway letter stamp shows the station in the late 1950s. The stamp is cancelled by a special 13 July Wharf station cancel and the Wales 1st class stamp by the Chester N Wales packet datestamp. 200 covers were carried. Price £3.50 postpaid •



Orders and enquiries The Postmaster, Talylllyn Railway, Wharf Station, Tywyn, Gwynedd LL36 9EY.

Adrian Bradbury has produced a cover featuring Admiral Nelson with scenes from the Battle of Trafalgar in the background. He has also sponsored a Trafalgar Square special handstamp featuring a portrait of Nelson. A number of covers have been signed by Lord Walpole, President of the Nelson Society; Nelson's mother, Catherine Suckling was related to the Walpole family. Price £15 or £25 signed, prices postpaid worldwide. Order online at www.bfdc.co.uk – type 19302 in the Quick Search Box. For other Nelson covers, click the Nelson thumbnail on the home page •



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

Bluebell Railway Two 25p railway letter stamps, issued on 30 July, feature the *Blue Circle* loco at the Railway in 2004. The stamps were designed by Edwin Craggs, using photographs by Tony Pearce, and printed in sheets of four (two se-tenant pairs) by Walsall. Sheets are available at £1. FDCs serviced with special Sheffield Park station cancel on the Bluebell stamp and sponsored East Grinstead handstamp on the Royal Mail stamp, price £3.50. Also available on two first day maximum cards at £2 each (unused cards 30p each). Postage 40p or send 9.5 x 7in stiffened stamped envelope. Remittances to P A Forrestier Smith •



Orders and enquiries Bluebell Railway Letter Service, 64 Gordon Road, Carshalton SM5 3RE. E-mail blumailat64@aol.com

Wildlife Habitat Trust raises funds to acquire land for shooting or nature conservation. This year their UK Habitat Conservation Stamp features a painting of Smew by Tim Hayward. Available at £5 (£5.50 in collector's card or £30 for sheet of six with decorative border) or on FDC tied by cachet and with Royal Mail stamp cancelled by special handstamp, price £15. UK postage 35p individual stamp, 50p collector's card, sheet or FDC; overseas add one-third to orders up to £50 or one-fifth over £50. For details of other cards and products enquire to the address below •



Orders and enquiries Wildlife Habitat Trust Conservation Stamp, Marford Hill, Rossett, Wrexham LL12 0HL

M Tanner offers a cover limited to 20 numbered copies, with a colour filler postcard of the cover image. The six British motorcycles stamps are cancelled twice by a Sheen Road, Birmingham Motorcycle pictorial handstamp of 19 July. Photographic cover artwork features a Triumph x75 Hurricane and a Triumph Sloper. Price £15.99 postpaid UK, £16.99 overseas. Visa/Mastercard accepted with £1.50 handling charge. Additional postcards 60p each plus additional postage of 60p UK or £1.20 overseas if ordered separately •



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

Cambridge Stamp Centre There were numerous special charter flights during Concorde's illustrious career, but her first flight to Billund in Denmark was particularly special for the 60 children travelling there on 5 July 1985. Billund is known to millions of children around the world as Legoland. This new Cambridge cover features archive photographs from the Billund trip. The cover's illustration shows Concorde G-BOAF at Billund Airport, with a photograph of a Lego model of Concorde being demonstrated to SFO Christopher Orlebar. The cover bears a special pictorial postmark for the anniversary date of the flight and is signed by Christopher Orlebar, who was on the flight. Price £24.95 plus postage •



Orders and enquiries Cambridge Stamp Centre, 9 Sussex Street, Cambridge CB1 1PA. Telephone 01223 363980. e-mail sales@cambridge-covers.co.uk

HMS Victory official covers Buckingham Covers has produced four different envelopes and sponsored three special Royal Mail postmarks for the Trafalgar stamps on 18 October. Cover 1 has the six stamps postmarked Portsmouth with official Victory cachet, price £8.95 or £19.95 signed by the Captain of *Victory*, Lieutenant Commander F Nowosielski MBE. Cover 2 has the miniature sheet with a different Portsmouth postmark and cachet, price £8.95 or £22.95 signed by Admiral Sandy Woodward. Cover 3 is postmarked at Chatham (where *Victory* was built), price £8.95 or £19.95 signed by Anna Tribe, a direct descendant of Nelson. There is also a fourth cover for the prestige book, price £34.95 the set. Mention

the *Bulletin* when ordering, and they will include a free Nelson cover. Postage, packing and insurance £1.65. All major credit cards accepted •



Orders and enquiries Buckingham Covers, Church House, 136 Sandgate Road, Folkestone CT20 2BY. Telephone 01303 850688. E-mail Buckingham@internetstamps.co.uk

Veterans Charities Consortium Number 16 in the 'Heritage of Britain' series is the Battle of Northampton. The Trooping the Colour stamps have been cancelled with a special Forces Post Office handstamp (BFPS 2831) of 7 June 2005, the 545th anniversary of the battle. The covers have been flown over the site and details of the battle are enclosed. Price £6.50 plus 50p postage. A few are signed by the Lord Lieutenant, High Sheriff, and Deputy Lieutenants of Northamptonshire •



Orders and enquiries Group Captain W S O Randle, 60 Shelveys Way, Tadworth KT20 8QF.

Cover producers wishing to announce a **recent** or **forthcoming** cover should submit typed copy of up to 100 words. Please follow the style above: the text should give a brief description of the cover, state the stamps and postmarks it will bear and give retail price and address to which collectors should send orders or write for further information. Announcements are published on a first-come-first-served basis, and may be modified or shortened at the Editor's discretion. Copy for consideration for the December 2005 *Review* should be sent to The Editor, *British Philatelic Bulletin*, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ by 7 October. Copy for January should arrive by 7 November. The Editor regrets he cannot enter into correspondence or telephone conversations with collectors or cover producers concerning covers announced in this *Review*.

Additional Stamp Issue To commemorate England winning the Test Match Series (The Ashes), a souvenir miniature sheet will go on sale at selected Post Office branches, Tallents House, and Post Office philatelic outlets on 6 October. This will contain two 1st class and two 68p stamps featuring scenes from the Test Series. The sheet, price £1.96, measures 115 x 89mm, and will be printed in litho by Cartor Printers. The stamps were designed by Why Not Associates.

A Royal Mail first day cover envelope will be available (25p) as will a presentation pack (£2.50). No stamp cards will be produced.

First Day of Issue postmarks will be available for Tallents House (FD0541) and London SE11 (FD0542). Covers for these postmarks may be submitted until 3 November. Serviced Royal Mail FDCs can be ordered from Tallents House until 3 November, price £2.72 UK, £2.32 overseas. Please state if Tallents House or London SE11 postmark required.



THE ASHES ENGLAND WINNERS 2005