

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The ROYAL MAIL magazine *for stamp collectors*

Bulletin

Volume 37 Number 12

AUGUST 2000 • 85P

Queen Mother's century in stamps • Philately on-line

Royal Mail's series for 2000 continues: Mind and Matter previewed in this issue

The Mind and Matter issue goes on sale 5 September



Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



Cover Wildscreen at-Bristol, featured on the 2nd class Mind and Matter stamp, uses the latest technology to give visitors a close-up view of the natural world. This new issue is previewed on page 368.

Ladybird: Andrew Syred/Science Photo Library

Bureau on the move After 19 years at their current site the British Philatelic Bureau will relocate to new premises in Edinburgh, from 14 August. With effect from this date the following changes will take place.

New address

British Philatelic Bureau, Free-post EH3647, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PE. A mail redirection service will be in force for six months after the move.

UK customer telephone

08457 641 641 (no change).

Customer fax

0131 316 7337 (change).

e-mail address

british.philatelic.bureau@dial.pipex.com (no change).

1 August	Issue Millennium Tree and Leaf stamps and presentation pack
4 August	Issue Queen Mother miniature sheet, presentation pack, prestige stamp book, commemorative document, coin cover and bank note cover (coin and bank note covers available only from Bureau).
4 August	Withdrawal Castle high value stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards (includes £10 Britannia stamp card).
14 August	Issue 150th Anniversary of Public Libraries Act coin cover (available only from Bureau).
29 August	Issue Millennium Mind and Matter stamp cards.
30 August	Withdrawal Stamp books Walsall 4 × 2nd (issued 5 Sep 1998); Questa 10 × 1st and 10 × 2nd (1 Dec 1998); Walsall 4 × 1st and 10 × 1st and Questa 10 × 1st (16 Mar 1999); Walsall 4 × 38p and 4 × 64p (26 Apr 1999) and £1 and £2 machine books (26 Apr 1999).
5 September	Issue Millennium Mind and Matter stamps and presentation pack; retail stamp book containing Millennium definitive and 1st class Stone & Soil and Tree & Leaf stamps.
18 September	Issue Treasury of Trees prestige stamp book.
26 September	Issue Millennium Body and Bone stamp cards.
29 September	Withdrawal N Ireland 38p & 64p; Scotland and Wales 64p stamps; Country pack containing 20p, 26p, 37p & 63p stamps.
30 September	Withdrawal Millennium Stadium Cardiff aerogramme

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The British Philatelic Bulletin is published monthly by Royal Mail, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8HQ. • **Editor** JR Holman • **Price** 85p for single copies, from Post Office Counters philatelic outlets • **Annual subscription** £9.50 in UK and Europe. £13.50 rest of the world. Subscriptions should be sent to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TJ. • **Binders** to hold 24 issues, price £7, available by post from British Philatelic Bureau (address as above). • Royal Mail also publishes the fortnightly *British Postmark Bulletin*, giving details of forthcoming special handstamps. Available on annual subscription from British Philatelic Bureau (address above) UK and Europe £10, rest of the world £21.75. • **Copyright** Unless copyright is attributed to a specific author, any article or feature may be reproduced without formal permission, but acknowledgement should be given to *British Philatelic Bulletin*. Requests to reproduce any copyright articles should be addressed to the Editor, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8HQ. • **Design** by Robert Maude • **Printed** in Great Britain by The White Dove Press • **ISSN** 0953 8119

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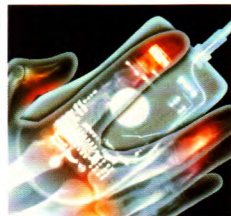
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Stamp scene Forthcoming internationals

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Stampex opening hours

20 Sept	12.00-19.00
21-23 Sept	10.30-18.00
24 Sept	10.30-16.00

Enquiries For further free tickets or enquiries, ring the Stampex office on 020 7490 1005.

Enquiries Stanley Gibbons, 01425 461353.

Autumn Stampex opens its doors at the Business Design Centre, Upper Street, London N1 on 20 September. As well as numerous dealers' stands, Autumn Stampex includes the entries in the national stamp competition. Admission is £3 opening day, £2 other days. A free ticket is enclosed with this Bulletin. For further free tickets or enquiries ring the Stampex office on the number opposite. The Business Design Centre is easily accessible by public transport: a few minutes walk from Angel underground station and served by bus routes 4, 19, 30, 38, 43, 56, 73, and 341 •

Collect 2000 This event, organised by Stanley Gibbons in association with *Collectables* magazine and Collector Café, offers dealers in books, toys, model cars and vans, postcards, memorabilia and much else – indeed as its publicity says, 'uniting the entire collecting industry'. It will be held at the Wembley Exhibition Centre on Saturday and Sunday 9-10 September. Opening hours and admission charges are: Saturday preview 10.00-11.00 (£10), 11.00-18.00 (Adults £4, senior citizens and children over 14 £3); Sunday 10.00-16.00 (£4 or £3). Accompanied children under age 14 will be admitted free. There will be a celebrity opening and guest appearances •

Enquiries British Philatelic Trust, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1M 6PT.

British Philatelic Trust A report of the Trustees for the year ending 5 April 1999 has recently been published. Its activities divide into two types, those that are generated and managed by the Trust itself, and those that are supported by direct grant. A key activity is the provision of a home for the National Philatelic Society and its major library – the most accessible of the three major philatelic libraries in the UK, the others being those of the British Library and the Royal Philatelic Society. Trustees pay particular attention to youth and education. The Trust directly supports 450 school or youth club's stamp societies through provision of 'starter packs', activity material, and educational handbooks. The growth of this activity is rewarding and close communication ensures that the services complement the youth work of Royal Mail and the National Youth Stamp Group. Financial support is provided to the NYSG to assist in its Stamp Active programme, the National Youth Stamp Championships and the annual Youth Officers Conference, along with administrative support. Increased emphasis has been placed on publications and during the year *The Stamps and Postal History of the Tokelau Islands*, by A H Burgess, was jointly published with the Pacific Islands Study Circle. In addition significant progress was achieved on forthcoming books on London Postal History, the RAF Cairo-Baghdad Airmails, a New Zealand Bibliography, and British Aerogrammes.

The Trustees for the year ending 5 April 1999 were: Francis Kiddle (Chairman), Dr Alan Huggins (Deputy Chairman), Brian Asquith, Miss Sybil Smith, Roger Tabor, John Tew, Professor John West, and Richard West. Mr Tew has since been succeeded by Mark Thomson •



Prince William stamps In June we featured the Jersey stamps issued to commemorate the Prince's 18th birthday. We are pleased this month to show the stamps from the Isle of Man, one of which features the young Prince with his great-grandmother •

Societies news The Cumbria Postal History Society was founded in 1991 to promote and encourage the collection and study of the postal history of Cumbria and of Cumbrian postal communications. Its members have compiled and published reference works on the postmarks used in the former counties of Cumberland, Westmorland and the Furness area of Lancashire. A regular journal is also published. Copies of these works are available from the Secretary at a small cost. The Society has over 30 members throughout the UK as well as overseas and meets at least twice a year, usually in Cumbria. Anyone having an interest in the postmarks and postal arrangements of this beautiful part of the UK is very welcome to join •

The GB Decimal Stamp Book Study Circle has published the 1st supplement to the seventh edition of *'The Bookmark' Catalogue*, published 1999. Containing over 600 pages, coverage is extended to include all new issues up to 31 March 2000. All relevant sections have been updated. New sections deal with phosphor displacements and sample books and new reports, covering all issues, are included. The supplement costs £10 postpaid, for priority mailing in Europe £15 or £20 elsewhere in the world. A few copies of the original catalogue are still available – price £59.95 plus postage & packing. This includes the 1st supplement and free membership of the Circle in the year in which the catalogue is purchased.

Hanns Jorg Fasching, Editor of *'The Bookmark' Catalogue and Journal*, has received the ABPS Award of Merit in recognition of his voluntary services to philately. The catalogue has received international recognition and has recently been awarded a large silver gilt medal at Stampex and the National Postal Museum medal. In 1998 Hanns designed and installed the Circle's Internet website (address opposite) •

The Cumbria Postal History Society Contact David Collins, 17 Manor Court, Fulwood, Preston PR2 7DU.

The Bookmark supplement orders and enquiries G Fisk, 4 Gorse Meadow Drive, Barnt Green, Birmingham B45 8XS. The Circle website address is: <http://www/gbdsbsc.kabsi.at>

Cross Post Available to non-members, price £2 from the Secretary, Ray Pottle (details of membership also available): PO Box 40, Uckfield TN22 2SP. Telephone 01825 766546.

The Association of Friends of the National Postal Museum has recently published the Spring issue of its excellent journal *Cross Post*. This contains interesting features on the work of George W Eve (1855-1914), the low value definitives of George VI, the family of Sir Rowland Hill, perfins, and Association souvenirs. Included is a report of the 1999 AGM. The Association's AGM for 2000 will be held at the Phoenix Suite, Mount Pleasant Complex, Phoenix Place, London EC1 on 25 November. The Friends will have a stand at the Glasgow 2000 exhibition, 17-19 November ●

Indonesia at the Balai Sidang Jakarta Convention Centre, 15-21 August

Forthcoming internationals The first of two international exhibitions this month takes place in the Indonesian capital. The exhibition, intended as a philatelic tribute to the 55th anniversary of Indonesia's independence and the new Millennium, is being organised by Pos Indonesia and the Indonesian Philatelists Association. Over 3000 frames will include invited exhibits and entries in 12 competitive classes including Postal History, Postal Stationery, Aerophilately, Astrophilately, Thematic, Maximaphily, Revenue, Youth, Mophila/Open, and Literature ●

Hunphilex 2000 will be held at the Castle of Buda, Budapest, 18-21 August.

HUNPHILEX 2000 Organised by the National Federation of Hungarian Philatelists, the Hungarian Philatelic Scientific Society and the Hungarian Post Co, the exhibition will mark the 1000th anniversary of the founding of Hungary, the adoption of Christianity and the coronation of King Stephen. The exhibition will include all competitive classes recognised by FIP, including youth, literature and an open class ●

Olympihilex 2000 The Sports Stamps Expo, takes place at the AMP Centrepoint Tower, Sydney, Australia, 15-28 September. Enquiries: Secretary-General Olympihilex Telefax +61 2 6295 0318.

OLYMPIHILEX 2000 All over the world there are thousands of Olympic sport philatelists who, through their national associations, belong to the International Federation of Olympic Philately, which was founded by the International Olympic Committee President, Juan Antonio Samaranch, in December 1982. The first Olympihilex exhibitions were held in Lausanne and Seoul in 1985, followed by Rome (1987), Wana (1990), Barcelona (1992), and Atlanta (1996). Competitive exhibits at Olympihilex 2000 will be divided into two classes: FIP and Promotional which cover a wide range – Summer and Winter Olympics, Sports, International Sport Events, World Championships and World Cups, etc. Youth entries can be judged in both FIP and Promotional classes, Literature is confined to FIP judging ●

Euroscout 2000 The Palazzo Bellini, Comacchio, Italy, from 22-24 September. Enquiries: Maurizio Cavalli, via P Bembo No 40, 30172 Mestre (VE), Italy.

EUROSCOUT 2000 will be the biggest scout philatelic exhibition in Europe. It follows similar successful exhibitions in Germany and Austria in 1996 and 1998. Social events and excursions supplement the exhibition during which delegates of scout philatelic clubs will found the new European Federation of Scout Philatelists ●

Lucky winners Mr A Godbold of London SW16 was the winner of two return flights to Genoa, courtesy of Ryanair and two nights hotel accommodation in Genoa, compliments of Marini in the Ryanair/Marini competition held in conjunction with Stamp Show 2000. The six daily Marini album winners were: P Terry of Lanarkshire, A Leguen de Lacroix of Suffolk, A Swann of Croydon, W Colley of Glasgow, R Nowak of West Sussex, and R Burgess of London E1 ●

New SG publications The 2000 edition of the *Great Britain Concise Catalogue* and the 9th edition of the *GB Specialised Catalogue Vol 4 Elizabeth II Decimal Definitive Issues* are now available. The new Concise lists stamps to the Life and Earth set of 4 April. A number of newly discovered errors and varieties are listed, such as 19p Workers' Tale with bronze (Queen's head) and bronze and phosphor omitted and 26p Scientists' Tale in imperf pair. The cover features the 1st class Queen Victoria/Elizabeth II double-head stamp from the 'Special by Design' prestige book issued in February.

The *GB Concise* costs £16.95 from SG, stamp and book shops. The new *Specialised Volume 4* covers all issues to the end of 1999. Owing to the ever increasing number of pages in this volume, it is being offered with and without the booklet section, price £29.95 or £24.95 respectively •

Second World War Experience Centre Geoff Isherwood who supplies most of the items shown in our 'Cover Corner' feature has sent in details of this Centre which aims to save part of our heritage. Year by year, countless letters, diaries and memories from the Second World War period are disappearing, despite efforts by national war collections, local history bodies and regimental museums. The Centre would welcome donations of documents and/or artefacts, offers of written or recorded memories, volunteer work in the processing of original documents, recording of memories and other interesting work. The Centre is a registered charity; its Patrons include Lord Blake, Viscount Cranbourne, Major-General Farrar-Hockley, and Earl Jellicoe •

Orders/enquiries Stanley Gibbons Publications, Parkside, Ringwood BH24 3SH. Mail Order: Freephone 0800 611622 (Monday to Friday 08.30-17.00).

Enquiries and offers of help and donations: Second World War Experience Centre, 6-8 York Place, Leeds LS1 2DS. Telephone 0113 2450475.

Special draw Win signed Jeffery Matthews miniature sheet



WE HAVE the special wallets containing a mint and used Jeffery Matthews miniature sheet for the senders of the first 20 postcards drawn on 31 August. The wallets, launched at Stamp Show 2000, contain a mint sheet and one affixed to a special card and cancelled with the Stamp Show postmark of 22 May. Jeffery Matthews has signed these cards for this special draw.

Simply write your name and address on the back of a postcard and send to: Miniature Sheet Draw, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8HQ •

Machin high values Winners of the draw in the May Bulletin were: H Hartury of Edinburgh, G Bean of Gloucester, Mrs E Rothschild of New Zealand, M Ranawake of London, and C van Gennep, the Netherlands.

Royal Mail news New prestige stamp book



First day covers Royal Mail FDC with pane 4 cancelled by Bureau or Llangernyw postmark, price £2.58 UK (includes VAT), £2.20 overseas (no VAT).



Treasury of Trees prestige stamp book A new prestige book containing Millennium definitives, Welsh country stamps and stamps from the Stone and Soil (4 July) and Tree and Leaf (1 August) sets will be issued on 18 September, price £7.

The book contains five panes as follows. Pane 1: 2 × 65p Tree and Leaf stamps • Pane 2: 4 × 45p Tree and Leaf stamps • Pane 3: 2 × 65p Stone and Soil stamps • Pane 4: first and third rows 1st Millennium definitive, 2nd Welsh, 1st Millennium definitive; second row 2nd Welsh, pictorial label, 2nd Welsh • Pane 5: 4 × 2nd Tree and Leaf stamps.

The book will be printed by Walsall Security Printers yielding new printings of the Millennium stamps. The 65p Stone and Soil stamp in sheets was printed by Joh Enschedé, and the 2nd, 45p and 65p Tree and Leaf stamps in sheets were by De La Rue.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail first day cover envelopes will be available from main post offices, the British Philatelic Bureau, and Post Office Counters philatelic outlets and main post offices about a week before 18 September, price 25p. Orders for serviced covers, prices opposite, must reach the Bureau by 18 September. Alternatively, collectors may send their own stamped covers, on the day of issue, for the Bureau or Llangernyw, Abergele postmarks to: British Philatelic Bureau, Freepost EH3647, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PE, or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Penarth Road, Cardiff CF11 8TA. The outer envelope should be marked 'FD00 03 PSB' (Bureau), or 'FD00 04 PSB' (Llangernyw).

First day posting boxes will be provided at most main post offices for collectors to post covers for the Llangernyw postmark. Sponsored special handstamps will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin*. Any of the stamps in the prestige book can be used, singly or in combination for all first day, philatelic and sponsored handstamps in use on 18 September •



STAMP VARIATIONS From an examination of the proofs of the panes for this book, we note that the 2nd class Welsh country stamp has phosphor band right. This stamp, and the 1st class Millennium definitive are perf 14. Specialist collectors will notice shade and gum differences between the Millennium special stamps in this book and the sheet equivalents. On the 65p Forest for Scotland stamp the silver printing (Queen's head, value and caption) is positioned lower on the book stamp. The phosphor bands on the 65p Groundwork's Changing Places book stamp are vignettted (gradated); they are solid on the sheet stamp. The phosphor band on the 2nd class Yews for the Millennium book stamp is positioned right of centre; it is in the centre on the sheet stamp. Any changes to these notes, following examination of the finished books, will be notified in a further *Bulletin*.

Special retail book A £2.70 stamp book containing a pane of eight Millennium definitives and a pane of one 1st class Stone and Soil stamp and one 1st class Tree and Leaf stamp will be available from the Philatelic Bureau, philatelic outlets and selected post offices from 5 September. The book has been printed by Walsall; previous printings of the Stone and Soil and Tree and Leaf stamps were by Enschedé and De La Rue respectively •

Public Libraries coin cover A cover commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Public Libraries Act will be available from the Bureau from 14 August, price £12.95. This bears three relevant stamps – the 44p from the Citizens' Tale, 26p from Christians' Tale and 44p from Artists' Tale sets – cancelled by a special London postmark. Encapsulated in the cover is the new 50p coin marking the 150th anniversary. The cover is a joint production between Royal Mail and Royal Mint •

Prestige book labels Lionel Jones looks at the labels in the 1990 London Life and 1991 Agatha Christie books

ON LIFE



1ST DAY COVER



The London Life prestige book, issued on 20 March 1990 in the run-up to the Stamp World London 90 exhibition at Alexandra Palace in May, contained panes of definitive, Penny Black anniversary, and Alexandra Palace stamps. One pane included a central label showing the Stamp World exhibition dove logo printed in black, positioned between 15p and 20p definitives – the then current 2nd and 1st class inland rates. These stamps were printed in light blue and black to imitate the Penny Black and Twopence Blue, the 150th anniversary of which was celebrated by the international stamp exhibition. The book was printed by Harrison & Sons Ltd.

The Agatha Christie prestige book, issued on 19 March 1991, proved one of the most popular in the series. No fewer than 13 perforated labels are to be found on the stamp panes and interleaving. They were designed by Trickett & Webb Ltd, together with Tony McSweeney. The illustrations, together with the text, reflect the life and times of Dame Agatha Christie (1890-1976) and some of her more famous novels.

The pva-gummed paper used was supplied by Coated Papers Ltd, and printing was by offset lithography on the Heidelberg Speedmaster sheet-fed press at The House of Questa Ltd. Perforation range between 13.75 and 15.75 •

The Stamp Show 2000 A second report by the Editor

Left to right: a corner of the Royal Philatelic Collections display, children enjoying the Design-a-Stamp area, and from the Royal Collection, a Post Office Mauritius Penny on cover.



STAMP SHOW now seems but a happy memory and, judging by your letters and comments, not just for me. Last month Douglas Myall and myself recorded some of the highlights and in this second report I look at some of the other attractions.

Competitive displays To begin with we should record the major awards in the Competitive Displays. The Grand Prix National, for the best exhibit of Great Britain, went to Patricia Stilwell-Walker of the USA for 'Ireland: Postal History 1661 to the 1890s'. Trevor Davis of GB received the Grand Prix International for the best material from the rest of the world for 'Australian Colonies – Overseas Mails pre-UPU', and Everaldo Santos of Brazil won the Grand Prix d'Honneur, for the best entry in the Championship Class, for his display of the classic stamps of his home country. These three awards were donated respectively by Royal Mail, the British Philatelic Trust, and the Association of British Philatelic Societies.

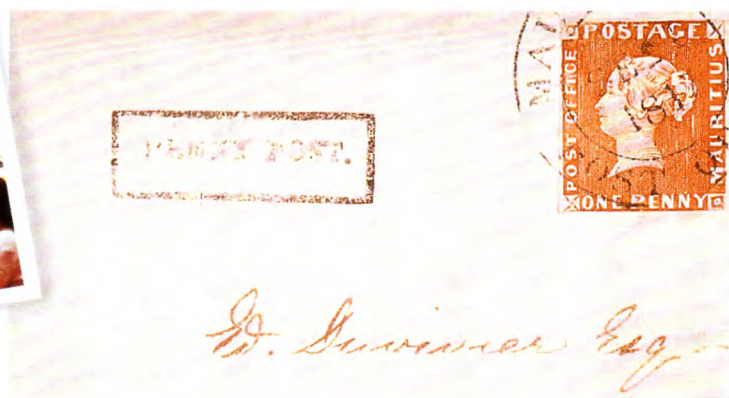
The 22 displays in the FIP Championship Class included entries from three British collectors: Gavin Fryer (Western Europe, 1840-71 – a comparative study of postal rates), Gerald Sattin (Soldiers' Privilege Rates of the British Empire to 1898), and David Springbett (Revenue Use of the Large Nyasaland Key Plate). Sadly there were no displays of British stamps in this class.

There were, however, many entries of British stamps and postal history in the General Competitive Classes. Large gold medals were awarded to R H Champion (Revenue Stamps 1694-

1840), P J Kenton (Mail by 'British' to and from Latin America 1800-80) and G Littaur (Six Centuries of British Postal History 1260-1856). Gold medals were received by: Lady Mairi Bury (Edward VII, 1902-11); 'Engineman' (Victorian Registered Mail); H V Feldman (The Postal Services of London, 1565-1857); O Ffooks (Lilac & Green Issue 1884-6); A Moorcroft (George V Profile Heads 1912-24); R Caversham (The Genesis of Stamps); T Wiseman (Government Stamps and Non-Letter Mail 1883-1904); and P Wood (Troubles and Transition: Ireland 1900-30).

Amongst other interesting GB exhibits were GB Offshore Islands 1660-1890 (J Grimwood-Taylor); Embossed Duty Stamps (E Hoffman); The Maltese Cross (T Pickering); British Empire Exhibition 1924-25 (A Sabey); Pre-decimal Machines, 1967-71 (T Walker); Early TPOs (H Wilson); Mulready Caricatures and Pictorial Off-shoots (J Bohn); George V Downey Head 1/2d (M Jackson); 1 1/2d Letterpress Definitive, 1912-34 (A Jones); Development of Inland Postal Service (H Lush); Irish Postal History to 1900 (W Moore); Victorian Penny Pink postal stationery (I Stevenson); Wilding High Values (D Evans); and Unpaid and underpaid mail (M Pitt-Payne). In the Open Class were Jubilee Reminiscence (J Davies); Greetings Telegram Service (G Leguen de Lacroix); and Coatings of Sterling Machines (R Tibbenham); all of which told an interesting story.

A number of books of British stamps and postal history received awards in the Literature Class: *Letter Receivers of London 1652-1857* (H Feldman),



A History of the Posts in England (P Beale), *GB Specialised* and *Concise* catalogues, *Collect British Stamps* and *Plating of the Penny Black* (Stanley Gibbons), *TPOs of GB & Ireland* (H Wilson), and *Collect British Postmarks* (C Peachey). Most of these titles have been reviewed in this *Bulletin*. The GB Philatelic Society received a large vermeil for its *GB Journal*, and a silver for the Cumulative Index to Vols 21-36. Stanley Gibbons received a silver for *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* which includes many fine features on GB stamps, postmarks and postal history.

The literature exhibits were available at a special stand for visitors to browse through or study. Glenn Morgan, NPS Librarian, who managed the stand, reported that about 65 requests were dealt with each day to see books or journals.

Many of the displays of non-GB material were by British collectors. Amongst those earning top awards were J Dahl (Revenue Stamps of Portugal), R Stevenson (Moreton Bay & Queensland 1850-81), J Campbell (Berlin Packetfahrt Post 1884-1914), A Drysdall (Transvaal 1869-85) and J Minns (British East Africa). The thematic displays included some intriguing material, such as George Guzzio's 'Edward: All For Love', mentioned last month, Joan Murphy's 'From Victoria to Elizabeth II – Enduring Monarchy', Margaret Morris's 'Man and the Whale', and Steve Boorn's 'The Heart is Life' which he started when convalescing from a major heart operation.

The material displayed was of a high standard although some of the displays lacked a presenta-

tional style that made them easy to follow and enjoyable to the visitor. Obviously they were put together to impress the judges but it is to be hoped that at future exhibitions these two groups – judges and visitors – will not be seen as mutually exclusive. Perhaps the FIP would consider awarding more points for Presentation (just 5 points currently) and less to Condition and Rarity (30 points) to make for more interesting and enjoyable exhibits. Otherwise one might question the point of such exhibits at a general show, especially one aimed at attracting more people to the hobby.

Royal Philatelic Collection Visitors to the Royal Philatelic Collection stand were given a well-produced little booklet (written by Richard West who also compiled the Show catalogue and Palmares booklet), which gave a brief history of the Collection and illustrated some of the key items. For GB collectors, the main interest was the section on the Downey and Mackennal heads used for George V definitives. One of the items displayed (and illustrated in the booklet) was of a photograph of the plaster cast of the Mackennal head approved and initialled by the King. The colour trials for the Seahorse high values make a colourful page in the booklet. Elizabeth II material included designs for the Coronation stamps and the rare missing value error on the 1976 13p Roses stamp. The Gems section of the display included Treasury Competition essays, a Penny Black on cover dated 5 May 1840 and the unique cover

bearing an Edward VII 2d Tyrian Plum. Non-British gems included some of the great rarities – the Post Office Mauritius 1d and 2d, British Guiana ‘Cotton Reels’, and Cape of Good Hope triangulars. It was not surprising that there was a steady stream of visitors throughout the Show to see the 82 show cases in this display.

Post Haste! The Post Haste! exhibition summarised the story of the British Post Office over the last 350 years. It used to be a key feature at the former National Postal Museum where it included mail vans, bicycles and other artefacts (a van was included on the PO Heritage stand at Stamp Show). The first section dealt with the postal services before the reforms of the 1840s, then moved on to letterboxes and Anthony Trollope, the PO employee who introduced them; he is of course best remembered as a novelist. Displays included flintlock pistols and a blunderbuss used by mail coach guards, and explained the changes in PO transport – from sailing ship to steam vessel, from the mail coach to railway and motorised vehicles, and the introduction of air-mail. The final section brought the story up to date – looking at developments in modern technology and partnerships with foreign companies to face the challenges of world competition.

Stamp printers All four of our current printers had interesting displays. De La Rue included the fiscal as well as the postage stamps they produce, also a complete sheet of the Edward VII 1½d stamp in unrecorded intense purple and bright green shades – loaned by Trevor Harris of the Hendon Stamp Co. Walsall Security Printers charted the issue of self-adhesive stamps from the ‘free form’ issues of Sierra Leone in the 1960s. Questa, now part of the MDC Group, included the new ‘Picture Postage’ stamps of Canada – users can affix a tiny portrait within the picture frame which bears the country name and value and is a valid postage stamp. Enschedé ran a competition for visitors to judge the number of stamps in sacks as well as providing interesting displays of stamps they have printed for the Netherlands and numerous other countries.

Royal Mail The large Royal Mail stand comprised display areas, a self-service shop and a traditional counter service. The shop proved very popular with the two miniature sheets the best-selling items. Also very popular were the three Show-related prestige books and cylinder blocks already packaged for sale. The staff – from the Bureau in Edinburgh and Stamps & Collectibles’ London headquarters were busy throughout the Show as were their colleagues from the London Special Handstamp Centre on the Cancellations stand where the Show cachet was applied and posting boxes provided for the different cancels. Collectors visiting later in the week were pleased to find they could post covers for any of the individual day Show postmarks. It is estimated that over 50,000 items of mail were either posted at the stand or submitted to the London Handstamp Centre for the various Show postmarks. The wide range of goods on offer in the Collectibles shop impressed many visitors and the packs of four replica Penny Blacks were amongst the best-selling lines. Mugs and plates reproducing classic British stamp designs also sold well.

Publicity Publicity for the Show included posters on underground trains and in the press. The BBC *Blue Peter* programme featured the Smilers stamps and there was a two-page feature on the Show and stamp collecting in *The Times* of 17 May. Several newspapers reported on the novelty of the Smilers stamps but there were few useful reports of the Show itself. John Crace, himself a stamp collector, wrote a rather unhelpful piece in the London *Evening Standard* (24 May) describing his fellow collectors as ‘a sad species, composed mostly of men...’, ignoring the large number of women and children who enjoy the hobby. Few visitors to the Show looked ‘a sad species’ to me!

Royal Mail devoted huge resources – in staff and money – to the Show and both John Roberts, PO Chief Executive who opened the Show, and Mark Thomson, Managing Director Stamps & Collectibles, expressed themselves well pleased with it. Letters about the Show are included in this month’s Postbag; I look forward to publishing further comments in the next few issues ●

Stamps celebrate The Queen Mother's 100th birthday

WE CELEBRATE the 100th birthday of HM Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother with a miniature sheet of four stamps showing four generations of the Royal Family: The Queen Mother; The Queen; The Prince of Wales; and Prince William of Wales. The Queen Mother has featured on numerous stamps from many countries over the years, appearing for the first time in 1932, as Duchess of York, on the Newfoundland stamp below. A selection of other issues is shown on the following pages •





CANADA

95



The Queen Mother's Century Celebrated in Stamps

A book, by the philatelic journalist Peter Jennings and photographer Tim Graham, has recently been published by Sahara Publications. It illustrates in colour many of the stamps featuring The Queen Mother, and photographs of the Royal Family examining the Royal Philatelic Collection at Buckingham Palace. Also shown are proposed designs for Queen Mother stamps by Derek Miller, the designer of over 5000 stamps for 84 countries. An appendix lists Queen Mother stamps by country. Available from Stanley Gibbons and book shops, price £15.95.



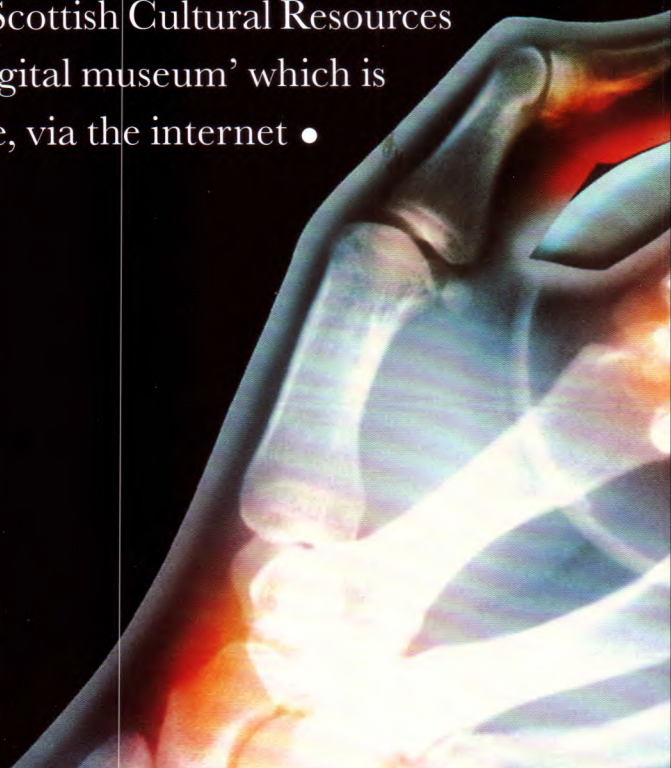
The Queen Mother's visit to the former London Chief Post Office, November 1966, with the PMG, Mr Edward Short. Photograph courtesy Lord Glenamara.

Mind and Matter is the ninth of 12 sets of Millennium issues in 2000, inspired by millennium projects throughout the UK. The 2nd class represents Wildscreen at Bristol, where the latest technology is harnessed to explore the natural world. Learning and the community will be promoted at the Norfolk and Norwich project, featured on the 1st class stamp. Birmingham's Millennium Point, represented on the 45p stamp, explores scientific and technological achievements of past and present in the West Midlands • The 65p value features SCRAM, the Scottish Cultural Resources Access Network, a 'digital museum' which is accessible worldwide, via the internet •



Wildscreen at-Bristol Two major attractions on the city harbourside combine in telling the story of the natural world and our achievements in it. Wildscreen at-Bristol delves into the biodiversity of life, allowing

to walk through the tropical habitat of free-flying birds and butterflies.



The Mind and Matter issue goes on sale at post offices and philatelic outlets on 5 September.



Norfolk and Norwich Project The aim of this Millennium Project is 'A centre of knowledge in the centre of Norwich'. Bringing together several related elements, the scheme looks to the future, and aims to be a gateway to learning and information for the whole community and visitors to the region.



Millennium Point Celebrating the nation's rich industrial heritage, this complex in Birmingham is a centre for advancing the understanding of

explore technological and industrial processes, and research and development will be combined with new learning activities.



SCRAN Multimedia and web technologies have been used to create the Scottish Cultural Resources Access Network, making treasure in Scotland's museums, galleries, libraries, archives and historic sites available to schools and libraries across Scotland, and to internet surfers around the world.





Printer Walsall Security
Printers

Size 37 x 35mm

Sheets 100

Perforation 14 × 14.5

Phosphor One band 2nd class; two bands others

Gum PVA

Gutter pairs Horizontal

2nd W1 black ● W1 orange-yellow ● W1 slate-green ● W1 silver

1st W1 black ● W1 sage-green
● W1 ochre ● W1 gold

45p & 65p W1 silver ● W1 black
● W1 new blue ● W1 magenta
● W1 greenish yellow

Phosphor number W1 all values

Sir David Attenborough added the finishing touches to the rooftop garden of Wildscreen, one of two major visitor attractions for the Bristol project which received a Millennium Commission grant of £44m to revitalise the city's waterfront area. Among computer and video attractions exploring the natural world is a giant IMAX screen showing wildlife films, some in 3D.

Features at the Norfolk and Norwich Millennium Project include a library making use of information technology, a Business and Learning Centre to encourage business in the area, a Learning Shop to give advice on education, careers and training, and a Heritage Centre – all housed within a square, which is intended as a recreational amenity for the community.

Millennium Point in Birmingham comprises three major components: the interactive Discovery Centre, where visitors will experience the technological and industrial processes which shape our world; the Technology Innovation Centre which combines research and development with learning activities; and the University of the First Age, which will provide a new learning experience for up to 90,000 young people in the West Midlands.

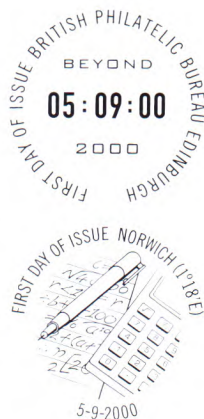
Information and communications technologies offer entirely new opportunities for galleries and museums to reach out to the community. The Scottish Cultural Resources Access Network (SCRAN) creates a multimedia 'digital heart' for Scotland, giving access to hundreds of thousands of images, sound and movie clips.



Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

Future Millennium issues

Body and Bone	03.10.00
Spirit and Faith	07.11.00
Sound and Vision	05.12.00
The Future	16.01.01



FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets about a week before 5 September, price 25p. Orders for FDCs with the stamps cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of the Bureau or Norwich must reach the Bureau by 5 September. Price £2.25 UK (including VAT) or £1.92 overseas (no VAT).

Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: British Philatelic Bureau, Freepost EH3647, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PE, or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, St Stephens Street, Birmingham B6 4AA (Norwich postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FDO025' (Bureau), or 'FDO026' (Norwich). Covers can be posted or handed in at main post offices for the Norwich postmark. A non-pictorial Norwich postmark is also available from the Special Handstamp Centre, request 'FDO026 NP'.

MILLENNIUM PHILATELIC PRODUCTS A Mind and Matter pack and stamp cards will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets. Each of the Millennium packs this year includes a specially commissioned poem. That in the Mind and Matter pack is by Lavinia Greenlaw, entitled *Cast Up*; it explores the concept of the way information is now stored, explained and accessed in the new museums, libraries and 'digital zoos'.

Lavinia was born in 1962 into a family of doctors and scientists, areas she wrote about in her first collection, *Night Photograph*. She spent her formative years in Essex and returned to London as a student. She has been writer in residence at the Science Museum, British Council Fellow in Writing at Amherst College, Massachusetts, and Poet in Residence at law firm Mishcon de Reya. Lavinia reviews for *The Times Literary Supplement*, and has worked widely in schools and education programmes at the Tate Gallery. She received an Arts Council of England Writer's Award in 1995 and the Forward Prize for Best Single Poem in 1997.

Next Millennium issues The Body and Bone set (3 October) features the Body Zone, The Millennium Dome; Hampden Park, Glasgow; the Reviving Spa, Bath; and Centre for Life, Newcastle. Details next month. ●

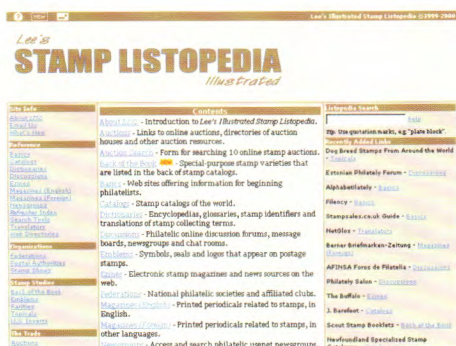
British Postmark Bulletin

Sponsored handstamps for 5 September will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* available on subscription from the Bureau (£10 UK/Europe; £21.75 elsewhere).

For a sample copy write to:
The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8HQ.



Philately on-line What will you find? By Ron Negus FRPSL



Lee's Stamp Listopedia An excellent introduction to the wide scope of existing stamp related websites, Lee's Stamp Listopedia (www.filbert.com) is produced by Jeff Lee. In an overview, he says that 'Listopedia' is a word he made up to describe a 'collection of lists of images, information and links intended to teach, entertain and encourage further exploration of a subject' – in this case, stamps.

Reply to correspondence A reader asks where he can buy programs for inventory keeping and album page design described in my *New Technology for Stamp Collectors*. Most are of US or Canadian origin and available only from the authors by mail order. For detailed information on these programs, authors' addresses and prices, see the Philatelic Computing Study Group website: www.pcsgr.org.

EACH DAY, in countries throughout the world, stamp collectors, philatelic societies, dealers, publishers and auction houses are busy entering information about the hobby on to their own websites. This results in an ever increasing wealth of detail becoming available for collectors at all levels. The problem arises in how to separate out the specific items which interest you from this great mass which exists on the world wide web.

Enquiry programs, called search engines, provide some general level of help in finding what is required. Recent surveys have shown, however, that even the best of these will only retrieve about one half of the total number of sites which make up the web. It is often more productive to begin any search using sites that have classified lists of links to other philatelic websites.

I have mentioned elsewhere Joseph Luft's FIP award winning site, which provides linkages to philatelic resources grouped under the following categories: General, Shows & Societies, Postal Authorities, Country Specific, Downloadable Images, Collector's Pages, Commercial Offerings, Software, and Auctions. It can be found at www.execpc.com/~joeluft/resource.html.

Another particularly good site of a similar type is Lee's Stamp Listopedia Illustrated. This can be located by going to www.filbert.com and then selecting Listopedia from the opening menu at this address. It is produced by Jeff Lee, an amateur collector, who includes links to other sites that he has found useful, well-designed and up-to-date.

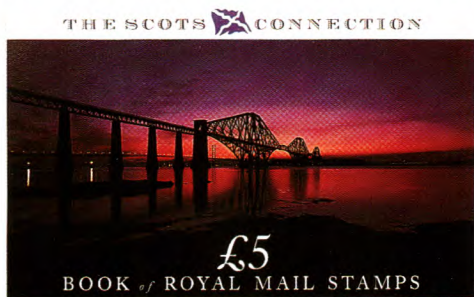
As may be expected, some of his references are concerned with sites that interest collectors of American material, but there are ample links to pages about stamps from other countries as well. Headings are arranged into four main groupings: Reference, Organisations, Stamp Studies and The Trade. This last heading covers auctions. Within these groups there are sub-headings, and a brief description is given of the coverage of each. A useful feature is that, where appropriate, links have been duplicated within sub-headings, so that finding a particular area of interest is made easier even if you are unsure of which broad category you should examine initially.

Whilst the selection of sites is inevitably influenced by Jeff Lee's own interests, they provide an excellent introduction to the scope of stamp related sites that exist. In the sub-heading Topicals, for example, 29 different subjects are covered: these include such diverse themes as Space, Lighthouses, Education, Dogs, and Chess. Other sub-headings (chosen randomly from the full list of 22) point the user to on-line stamp magazines, glossaries of terms, philatelic agency addresses, illustrations of rare and valuable stamps and to sites offering information for beginners.

In the latter category, there is a useful index to the 'Refresher Course' column in *Linn's Stamp News* – articles giving general advice on collecting for beginners. The Listopedia sub-heading provides the titles of all columns since 1977 and selecting any one displays the article in question. ●

Text © Ron Negus 2000

Decimal stamp books 52 Specialist report by D G A Myall

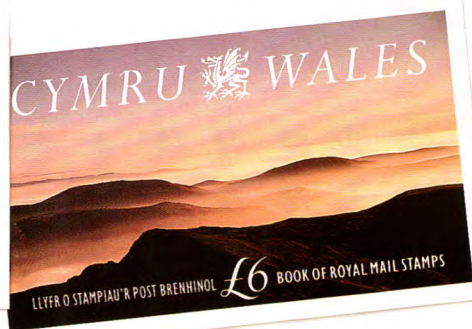


The Scottish, Welsh and Northern Ireland books were the source of many interesting stamps and pane arrangements.

THE FIRST REGIONAL STAMPS, or Country issues as Royal Mail now calls them, were issued on 18 August 1958. The Queen's portrait was based on the Wilding photograph. They continued unchanged after the Machin head was introduced on 5 June 1967, ie, there were no pre-decimal Machin Regionals. Decimal issues appeared on 7 July 1971. By that time only four countries were represented and the Isle of Man stamps ceased after 5 July 1973 when the Manx administration became independent. After that, Country issues were confined to N Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Until 1989, all these stamps were issued only in sheet form. None has ever been issued in coils. Nor, rather suprisingly, has any been included in ordinary, everyday booklets. On 21 March 1989, Scotland stamps were issued in a prestige book, *The Scots Connection*. All booklet Country stamps since then have also been issued only in prestige books and, as is the way of these books, they offer a number of firsts.

The Scots Connection, 21 March 1989 This book contained four panes of stamps, most of them 14p and 19p which met the then current 2nd and 1st class rates. There was also a single Scotland 23p for the 'all up' rate for European letters and cards. This provided the first Country se-tenant vertical pair, with a 19p either above or below it. Another first was the two horizontal pairs with different Country values. Interestingly, both the 14p and 19p stamps appeared in the book in two



forms. The 14p on a pane of six had the central phosphor bar offset to the right, presumably to avoid printing it over the country symbol which might have weakened the signal. The bar on this value on the se-tenant pane was placed at the left, the only source of this stamp. The 19p on the single value panes was on phosphorised paper; the same as the sheet version. On the se-tenant pane, it had two phosphor bars for the first time. To date, this is the only time that all the panes in a book have comprised Country values from a single country.

Cymru/Wales, 25 February 1992 By this time the basic inland letter rates were 18p and 24p and the Wales version of both was included in the book. The 18p stamp, in green, appeared with the central bar offset to the right and in a side bar version. This time the side bar on the 2nd class value stamp was at the right. Following the precedent set in the Scotland book, the 24p 1st class stamp was issued on phosphorised paper and with two bars on non-phosphorised paper. The latter is unique to this book. (The 24p Wales in the Beatrix Potter book had yellow fluor phosphor from bands of different width, and was also unique.)

As well as the two basic values, the se-tenant pane contained a national 33p stamp and two NVIs, one for each class. These provided the first horizontal se-tenant pair comprising a Country and national value as well as the first vertical pairs comprising a Country and an NVI.



From left: the Northern Ireland book; 26p and 37p se-tenant, from the BBC anniversary book; unique Scottish and Welsh 1st

Machins, from *Special by Design*; and 2nd national definitive and 26p Country stamps se-tenant, from *Breaking Barriers*.

Beatrix Potter, 10 August 1993 The basic inland letter rates were still 18p and 24p. One of the panes in this book contained one of each value from each country in a se-tenant pane of six. This provided the first vertical pairs of the same value from different countries.

The difference in the 24p stamps from those in the Wales book has already been mentioned. It applies also to the 18p stamps and to the 24p stamps from the other countries. The 18p stamps had the side bar at the right instead of the left. Thus, all six stamps on this pane are unique to this book as singles.

Northern Ireland, 26 July 1994 Se-tenant pairs have always been a strong feature of prestige books and, as we have seen, the tradition was followed when they included Country stamps. It is not surprising, therefore, that the third of the 'Country' books expanded on the theme. Like the *Scots Connection* book, it contained horizontal and vertical pairs composed of different values from the same country. However, if one includes the label, the number of se-tenant pairs had doubled from seven to 14. The inland letter rates were now 19p and 25p and both were included in the se-tenant pane of nine along with a N Ireland 30p and 41p pre-paying European and world-wide airmail letter rates.

This was the first book to have four different country definitives. One of the panes provided them in a se-tenant block of four.

National Trust, 25 April 1995 The minimum inland letter rates were still 19p and 25p. One pane in the book contained one of each from each country, echoing the arrangement in the Potter book (with different values). Once again, these six values are unique. The 19p Country stamps are the only ones to have side bar phosphor at the right. The 25p stamps differ from the sheet equivalents by having two phosphor bars derived from 9.5mm bands instead of 8mm.

European Football Championship, 14 May 1996 The first class letter rate was still 25p. The pane of nine contained two of this value from each country as well as two national 25p stamps with a label in the centre. This arrangement provided 12 different se-tenant pairs, the maximum possible for a pane of nine. Among these were the first horizontal pairs of the same value but from different countries. The pane also yielded the first Scotland and N Ireland stamps with the national equivalent above or below.

BBC 75th anniversary, 23 September 1997 One of the panes of six repeated the arrangement of two values from each country but this time they were the basic 1st class inland letter stamp, by now 26p, and the airmail postcard rate, 37p. Again, these six are unique as singles. The booklet and sheet versions were printed gravure but by six different firms; the sheet version (and the later booklet 26p stamps in the *Breaking Barriers* book) having

bars printed with a phosphor ink that has a long wave afterglow. An innovation was that the Wales stamps did not have a currency indicator, the letter 'p' having been dropped earlier in the year. This was the first time an NC1 (No Currency Indicator) stamp had appeared in books.

Breaking Barriers, 13 October 1998 One pane of six contained 20p stamps from each country each horizontally se-tenant with a 43p at the right, which pre-paid the basic rate for airmail letters. Another had national 2nd class NV1s with side bar phosphor at the right, horizontally se-tenant with Country 26p stamps. The two panes thus provided the first horizontal pairs of NV1 and Country stamps pre-paying different services and the first horizontal pairs of Country plus national stamps of different values.

Special by Design, 15 February 2000 This, the latest prestige book to be issued, contained a pane of nine Country 1st class NV1s. These are unique in several ways. They were the first Country stamps with the Machin head to be issued as NV1s. (The N Ireland stamp was later issued in sheet form.) The Wales stamp was the first GB 'bi-lingual' stamp to be issued. And, of course, the pane provided the first vertically se-tenant pairs of NV1s from different countries.

The Queen Mother's 100th birthday, 4 August 2000

With this book one might say that the Scots Connection has come full circle. In recognition of 'The Queen Mother's lifelong association with Scotland, stamps in this book will have a strong Scots flavour. It will contain the new Scottish pictorial Country stamps – their first appearance in books.

Conclusion I hope this brief survey will encourage collectors to pay close attention to Country stamps. They are somewhat neglected in my opinion. None of these booklet stamps are particularly scarce and it should be quite easy to put a complete collection together even starting now.

Notably absent from this account is any mention of English Regionals, because there aren't any. I think there should be. One day perhaps? ●

Posting boxes 197



THE FIRST of this month's photographs was submitted by retired postman R W Grant of Hounslow. It shows two well-maintained Elizabeth II boxes in Keswick, Cumbria. Mr Grant noted that all the boxes he saw in the Lake District were 'resplendent in colour'.

The second photo, taken by Asher Jung of Israel, reminds us that British post boxes were introduced during the British Mandate in Palestine. Mr Jung tells us that some are still on the streets accompanied with modern Israeli boxes. The photograph was taken in 1998 in Derech Ha'Atzmaut, formerly Kingsway, the main street in downtown Haifa. British Royal markings have been removed from the box which is labelled in Hebrew and English 'EVERYWHERE EXCEPT HAIFA'. The neighbouring Israeli box is for 'HAIFA ONLY' mail ●

For details of the Letter Box Study Group send a SAE or IRC to the Membership Secretary, Mrs V Scott, 38 Leopold Avenue, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham B20 1ES. The Group produces many interesting publications and postcards.

Old Letter Boxes A new edition of Martin Robinson's popular book has recently been published. This well-written and profusely illustrated book is 'a must' for all interested in the story of Britain's many different types of posting boxes. It is available from bookshops or from the publishers, Shire Publications Ltd, Cromwell House, Church Street, Princes Risborough HP27 9AA, price £4.50 ●



Postbag Letters to the Editor

Stamp Show 2000 This was a very enjoyable event and one cannot speak too highly of the displays and exhibits. The facilities were excellent and a good number of helpful attendants were on hand: special mention for the helpful volunteers on the Information and Collector Centre and staff at the Royal Mail sales area and Post Office Counter (where the Stamp Show 2000 counter handstamps were a pleasant surprise). Whilst careful thought had been put into making Royal Mail's sales areas as customer-friendly as possible, they were unfortunately still congested. I have to admit I was really impressed by the personalised Smilers stamps and other attractions aimed at younger collectors and potential collectors. For us older folk, the provision of plenty of seating areas throughout the hall was especially welcome. Amongst the exhibits it is invidious to pick out individuals but my favourites were in the Championship and Postal History Classes, and the Specialist Societies Display Area was excellent. What a privilege to see the 'Post Office' Mauritius 1d red on cover and 2d blue unused in the Royal and British Library collections. The catalogue makes a memorable souvenir, but what dreary pages of photographs of jury members and commissioners!

As for philatelic souvenirs: the Jeffery Matthews miniature sheet must rank as the duller ever produced; the Queen's Stamps as the ugliest; and the Smilers sheet, although the best of the three, is too large to fit on a standard album sheet. I ordered all these items from the Philatelic Bureau with the idea that I could prepare covers and cards in advance for the multitude of special handstamps. Most didn't arrive until the week after the exhibition, so I spent over an hour buying further supplies and sticking on stamps at the exhibition. Perhaps Royal Mail undertook a more ambitious programme of issues than could be managed by available staff; delays and mistakes by London Special Handstamp Centre (no doubt under great pressure) supports this. I'm sure these frustrations will fade with time, leaving only the memory of so many good things and pleasant experiences. MARTIN ROBINSON, SOUTHAM ●

Stamp Show 2000 I visited the Show on the first two days. The layout was brilliant. The banners over the exhibits was a great idea. Could we have them over the stands? Just the stand numbers would be useful, with perhaps adjoining blocks indicated by arrows? The Queen's collection was 'fab'! One small criticism though – some arrows and '1', '2', '3', etc would have saved hopping from George V to Elizabeth II and then finding oneself in George VI. I noted that Stamp Show was mentioned in the national press as a 'stamp fair' on at the same time as some internet show or something like it. They guessed which was the most successful. The following day there was a photo of the writer holding up a block of four Machins, with tweezers, thank goodness. Must be thankful for small mercies, I suppose, but it was described as an annual event! ERIC TURNER, NORWICH ●

Stamp Show 2000 I like the two Stamp Show sheets, especially the Jeffery Matthews colour palette. Both sheets included the exhibition logo thus making them worthwhile exhibition souvenirs. The third sheet for Stamp World 90 whilst delightful in design failed to mention the exhibition at all! However I do feel it a pity that Royal Mail did not see fit to issue a stamp(s) to promote Stamp Show 2000 as it did the exhibitions of 1970, 1980 and 1990. Best of these was the 1970 Philypia set which included stamps for use on mail within the UK, to Europe and overseas airmail. The 1980 50p stamp would have spread word of the exhibition to few outside the philatelic community; at least the 1990 20p stamp (then 1st class rate) promoted the exhibition to a home audience. H F GREEN, MAIDSTONE ●

Stamp Show 2000 I made three visits to the exhibition and wish I could have gone again as I didn't manage to see everything. It was a great experience – the first international exhibition I have managed to get to. I enjoyed seeing some of The Queen's stamps, getting my photo on the Smilers personalised stamps sheet and talking to staff of

the stamp printers at their stands. Time only allowed me to look at a small number of the exhibits in the competitive displays but I was amazed at the time and effort that must have gone into the preparation and writing-up of the album pages – quite apart from the rarity of some of the stamps I saw. It was quite an eye-opener to see these pages from the albums of top collectors from around the world. I hope to get to some overseas international exhibitions before the next one in London in, I assume, 2010. By then I hope to have improved the writing-up of my own collection even if not to the level of those I saw at Stamp Show. PETER WILLIAMS (age 16), NORWICH •

Stamp books My attention was caught by Ken Marks' letter (June) regarding the positioning of the '1st' value indicator on the Walsall Millennium printings. Initially, I found myself in agreement, and then the special book including two commemoratives arrived with the value very close to the left-hand perforation. On measuring the images to the best of my ability, it appears that there is a somewhat mundane explanation. The images measure the same, the value's position relative to the Queen's head is unchanged – my belief is that it is simply the slight variation of the perforator relative to the sheet, frequently seen in book printings, that has caused the effect. Without the solid colour of previous issues, the illusion is created. There is approx 2mm between each stamp impression, and the 0.9mm (hole 1.3mm ellipse) perforation is aligned to that narrow margin. Close examination of my *Questa* book examples indicate that the image is so far to the right (or perforator to the left) as to have lost the extreme tip of the crown to the perforator!

Regarding the recent £1 and £2 books, Mr Myall refers to the perforations as unchanged. This presumably refers to the usual format of machine vend books, as I believe this to be the first *Questa* gravure printing of the blue 2nd class and flame 1st class with perf 15 × 14 – and therefore two more new stamps for the specialist? Further complicated by short phosphor bands on the top row and overlapping centre band on the second row! K CHEASMAN, WELLINGBOROUGH •



Slania's 1001st You included a short note about Slania's 1000th stamp (Swedish miniature sheet bearing a 50kr stamp) in May's *Late News*. I enclose the 1001st stamp of Polish master engraver Czesław Slania. The Polish Post Office issued a miniature sheet bearing a 1 zloty stamp. JAN SZPYRKA, GLIWICE, POLAND •

Recess printed stamps Your illustration (May *Bulletin*) of Slania's 1000th stamp makes me hope that Royal Mail will commission 'the Master' to engrave some more British stamps. His Rowland Hill and Marconi stamps of 1995 were fine examples of the art of engraving. Could we not have one set of recess printed special stamps each year to remind us what stamps used to be like? There is no comparison between such as the PUC £1, George v Seahorses, 1964 Shakespeare 2s6d and 1966 Westminster Abbey 2s6d and some of the Millennium issues. Colourful they may be but they have little or no dignity – a major requirement of a good stamp in my opinion. JAMES HARRIS, WOKING •

Millennium definitives I was very interested in Douglas Myall's and Ken Marks' comments (June) on the differences between the three printings of this definitive but was surprised that a clear difference between Walsall prints and those of DLR and *Questa* was not mentioned. This occurs at the front of the crown where the Walsall print has a single dark line and the others have two thinner lines. The difference in perforation separates DLR from *Questa*, so the three printings can be readily recognised. Also I was pleased to

note Mr Marks' notes on the shade differences of 19p stamps printed in EME gravure by DLR. The first copies which I obtained in April 1999 from the Bureau have a distinctly brown shade compared with others purchased later which are nearer olive-green, particularly under artificial light. I do not know the cylinder numbers, but from Mr Marks' notes the earlier copies were probably from cylinder 8 and the others from cylinder 9. Does anyone have an explanation for the shade difference? R A HOBBS, NEWARK ●

Collecting in 1953 and today The illustration of the 1953 Coronation FDC (Cover Corner, June) brought back happy memories of my early days of collecting. Like Mr Howden, I addressed a plain envelope to myself, affixed the Coronation stamps and posted it at my local post office.

Fancy covers with a picture of The Queen were available but I then lived in a remote village and it was a long way from a town with a stamp shop that sold such covers. There was of course no Philatelic Bureau then and the hobby has changed considerably over the years – not always for the better. The homely, do-it-yourself FDCs of yesteryear have been largely replaced by some ghastly commercial covers as featured in *Covers Review*. Some of the designs of these covers are so horrible, garish and cluttered I wouldn't want them near my albums. Incidentally, the cost of the Coronation set was 3s 3½d (approx 17p), some 16 times the basic letter rate and the lowest value stamp in the set, 2½d. The latest Millennium sets, however, cost £1.56 – just over eight times the basic second class letter rate, 19p! MRS J MORRISON, SHEFFIELD ●

Cover corner

This cover was submitted by Mr Pradip Jain of India whose display of Indian airmails was included in the Championship Class at Stamp Show 2000.



THIS MONTH'S SUBJECT comprises an important item of postal history – the one recorded cover known to exist carried on the first through flight from Great Britain to India, 13 January 1919. The aviators left Martlesham Heath on 13 December 1918 and after a series of mishaps and forced landing arrived at Bandar Abbas which they left on 13 January 1919 for Karachi. Again a forced landing at Omara (150 miles from Karachi) transferred Major MacLaren and mails to HMS *Britomart* by which they arrived at Karachi on 16

January. The aircraft was named *Old Carthusian* and was purchased with wartime contributions from the old boys of Christ's Hospital.

The OHMS cover was flown from Bandar Abbas to Karachi and registered from there for Tehran bearing circular 'CENSOR 3' mark and three-line special cachet. It is signed by co-pilot Jock Halley, and bears six 1 anna stamps – over weight letter registration charges 2 annas and letter postage 1 anna for weight up to 2½ tola and additional 1 anna for each 2½ tola or part thereof in excess ●

Richard West's column Stamp Magazine's Editor-at-Large meets Anne Dummer, champion of young stamp collectors

EACH YEAR AT THE CEREMONY to present the Rowland Hill Awards, the first category to be announced is that for Youth Work. And each year there are many nominations for this award, over and above the three who are finally short-listed and from which the eventual winner is chosen. The enthusiasm and dedication of all those who voluntarily work in this area, and the encouraging response they receive from those they help, shows that the hobby can still interest the young.

This year the award went to Anne Dummer. Anne has followed a pretty typical stamp collecting path: she collected when young, gave up, only to resume later in life. She joined her local stamp club, at Kettering, but does not consider herself a serious collector – she simply enjoys the fun the hobby brings.

Despite a fairly placid appearance, Anne is a determined lady. She felt that the local stamp club needed a few junior members, so she advertised in a local newspaper. The response was hardly encouraging – just one boy replied. But Anne was not to be deterred. She kept advertising, and soon her initial 'member' was joined by two more.

Then everything started to mushroom. Not from the newspaper ads, although these were maintained, but simply by word of mouth. The first three so enjoyed themselves, they told their friends, who also wanted to 'get in on the act'.

This is not a school-based club; indeed, it meets before the main meetings of the Kettering Stamp Club. This means its members come from quite a large catchment area.

Anne's love of the fun of the hobby is conveyed to the youngsters she encourages. She shows them the basics, but in a light-hearted, hands-on way. She devises many quizzes to help with the use of the catalogue, with handling tweezers, how to mount, understanding watermarks and perforations, and so on.



Her games include trips around the world, or a visit to the zoo, finding appropriate stamps along the way. Familiarity of handling tweezers is encouraged by team games, when stamps are passed from member to member, but only by using tweezers.

It is not all games, however, for Anne also welcomes the occasional speaker to tell her members about other aspects of the hobby. Nevertheless, the games are important. Through them the youngsters earn points which they are able to 'spend' at an auction held at the end of each year.

Of course, in all she has achieved, Anne has received invaluable help. The Kettering Stamp Club meets at a school, which has been very co-operative. The local newspaper gave her the advertisements free of charge. The members of the Kettering Stamp Club have been very supportive. From her efforts, others have been encouraged to form their own stamp groups.

Anne's group has now been in existence for five years, and in those years has attracted about 60 youngsters. Today her membership stands at just over 30, with ages from 6 to 16.

Ever active, she has supported the website of the Kettering Stamp Club with a page devoted to her youth activities: she encourages one of her members each month to contribute something to this page.

Her enthusiasm has seen her invited to join the National Youth Stamp Group, and indeed she has taken on the role of its Press Officer. Wherever the NYSG is active, Anne will play her part, such as at the recent highly successful presence at The Stamp Show 2000, and twice at year at Stampex.

Anne has amply demonstrated that the young are keen to collect; all they need is some encouragement. Anne has shown the necessary determination – hopefully she is an inspiration for others ●

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



May identify The detail is from the 1967 9d Mares and Foals stamp. The winner was Miss L Wisner of Essex.

May knowledge The answers: 1) 1992 Memories greetings stamp (or 25p, 30p or 35p Picture Postcards stamps); 2) 1966; 3) John Norris Wood. The winner: J Lewis of Bolton.

Ten runner-up prizes were sent for each competition.

FIRSTLY, IDENTIFY THE STAMP from the detail above. Send your answer to August *Identify* Competition. Secondly, test your philatelic knowledge by answering the questions below. Send your answer to August *Knowledge* Competition.

- 1 Who designed the 1964 Forth Road Bridge stamps?
- 2 Which set of Millennium stamps features the new Tate Gallery?
- 3 What features on the new (June 1999) Scottish 1st class stamp?

Send your answer (addressed to either the August *Identify* Competition or the August *Knowledge* Competition), name and address on a postcard or back of a sealed envelope to: British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8HQ.

The senders of the first cards drawn in each competition on 15 September will each receive £100. Ten runner-up prizes of presentation packs and first day covers will be awarded in each competition. The competitions are not open to Royal Mail employees ●

Events

12-13 August Portishead 2000 – Bristol & District Federation Convention and Stamp & Postcard Fair at Somerset Hall, Portishead (Junction 19 of M5). Opens 10.00. **Enquiries** K Taplin, 0117 951 4509.

15-21 August Indonesia 2000 international exhibition at Jakarta Convention Centre. **Enquiries** UK Commissioner, A J Brander, 10 Garden Close, East Grinstead RH19 4JS.

18-21 August HUNPHILEX 2000 international stamp show to celebrate the millenary of Hungarian statehood and the adoption of Christianity. **Enquiries** Federation of Hungarian Philatelists, PO Box 4, H-1387 Budapest, Hungary.

30 August-2 September The Picture Postcard Show 2000 at New Royal Horticultural Hall, London SW1.

1-3 September 52nd International Stamp Fair & 39th Europa International Philatelic Exhibition at Riccione, Italy. **Enquiries** Riccione 2000, Palazzo del Turismo, 1-47838 Riccione, Italy.

8-10 September 82nd Philatelic Congress of Great Britain, London. Hosted by the Revenue Society of GB. **Enquiries** Tony Hall, 01438 871676.

9 September Preston & District PS Annual Stamp & Postcard Fair at Canterbury Hall, Preston. 20 dealers. **Enquiries** Paul Gaywood, 01772 713917.

9-10 September Collect 2000 at Wembley Exhibition Centre, London. Celebrity opening, 300 stands. Open 9th 10.00-18.00; 10th 10.00-16.00. Admission charge; accompanied children under 14 free. **Enquiries** Stanley Gibbons, 01425 461353 ●

Late news

Lost at Stamp Show 2000 Reader Scott Thomson reports the loss of a Canada Post Millennium Book and Canada Rural Post Boxes stamps and New Zealand Mystic Spirits and Kiwiana 2000 stamps. Anyone who found these should contact Scott at 52 Aveling Close, Purley CR8 4PW.

Would the gentleman who spoke to Susannah Strettle of Fourpenny Post at the British Philatelic Cover Producers' stand at Stamp Show 2000 and who requested a single stamp (45p featuring the bicycle – he's a keen cyclist) cover for the Stone and Soil issue, kindly get in touch with Mrs Strettle on 0191 262 8844. She has mislaid his name and address •

Bulletin back issues K C Burton has a near complete run of *Bulletins* from June 1968 to June 2000 which he is willing to give to a new subscriber who will pay the cost of carriage. Contact Mr Burton at 23 Abbeygate, Thetford IP24 1AX. Mary Hulin has copies from volume 9 No 7 to vol 36 and offers them free to anyone who will collect from her at Shalmaneser's Palace, Hinksey Hill Top, Oxford OX1 5BE •

Self-adhesive stamps in sheets The rolls of self-adhesive stamps are to be discontinued, to be replaced by 'business sheets' of 100 from 21 August. Like the sheets issued in June 1998, the new sheets will contain four sections – a front panel of four stamps, Royal Mail logo and bar code, and four sections each of 24 stamps. The front panel has been redesigned since 1998. The sheets of 1st and 2nd class XVI stamps fold to form a DL-size sheet. They will be available to businesses from Royal Mail Direct and from main post offices, initially only in Scotland and Northern Ireland and the South East, North Thames, and East Anglia areas. Philatelic sales will be from the Bureau and Post Office Counters philatelic outlets. There will be no first day facilities •

Hats stamp issue The date of issue has been changed to 19 June 2001 to coincide with Royal Ascot •

Wild Peony flower



STEED HOLM

25p

Steep Holm locals New local stamps (local carriage labels) were scheduled to be issued for this island in the Bristol Channel on 21 July. They feature Rare Flora: Wild Leek, Henbane; Wild Peony flower and Wild Peony seedhead. Price £1 per set plus postage 50p UK, £1 overseas from: Mrs J Rendell, 11 Fairfield Close, Milton, Weston-super-Mare BS22 8EA. Remittances payable to Kenneth Allsop Memorial Trust •

Britain's rarest stamp sold An example of the Edward VII 6d overprinted 'I.R.OFFICIAL' was sold in Stanley Gibbons' May Rarities auction for £92,000. This is the only known example in private hands. Only seven other unused examples exist – three in the Royal Collection and four in the National Museum of Ireland •

Seed stamp welcome Scientists at the Royal Botanic Gardens are celebrating after being selected to feature on the 45p Tree and Leaf stamp (1 August). Trevor Butler, of the Millennium Seed Bank team based at Kew's country estate in West Sussex, says: 'This is a great honour and to be featured on the overseas 45p stamp reinforces the world-wide importance of the work here.' The stamp shows fruits of the Norway Maple, photographed by Mike Parsons •

Criccieth Philatelic and Postcard Society Guest speaker on 1 August will be Brian Cartwright from Stanley Gibbons. All welcome to attend at 19.30 at Bishops Rooms next to St Mary's Church. Enquiries: Marion Turner, 01766 590203 •

Alma Lee RDP died peacefully on 3 July. Appreciation next month •

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Notes

(C) = correction
 (L) = letter

Author's names are in italics

April 2000 issue contained a
 supplement: *New Technology
 for Stamp Collectors* by Ron
 Negus. Each issue contained
 a supplement listing
 Commemorative Covers.

POSTMAN PAT LABEL BOOK



See Postman Pat at
the Stamp Show 2000
Earls Court, London
from 22-28 May 2000

For FREE tickets call
0845 072 2000

THE
STAMP
SHOW 2000
EARLS COURT, LONDON 22-28 MAY 2000

Printed by Walsall Security Printers Limited, UK



Postman Pat Label Inside

A Royal Mail pictorial label book, containing 4 × 1st class Millennium definitives and a label featuring the popular children's TV character Postman Pat was issued on 21 March 2000.

The label is designed by Brian Delaney and the bok is printed by Walsall Security Printers

in celebration of the Stamp Show 2000 at Earls Court, London in May.

The book is available from philatelic outlets and the British Philatelic Bureau. Unfolded panes available only from the British Philatelic Bureau.

British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT
UK telephone order line 08457 641 641, overseas +44 131 550 8989



Reference 00-AEA

