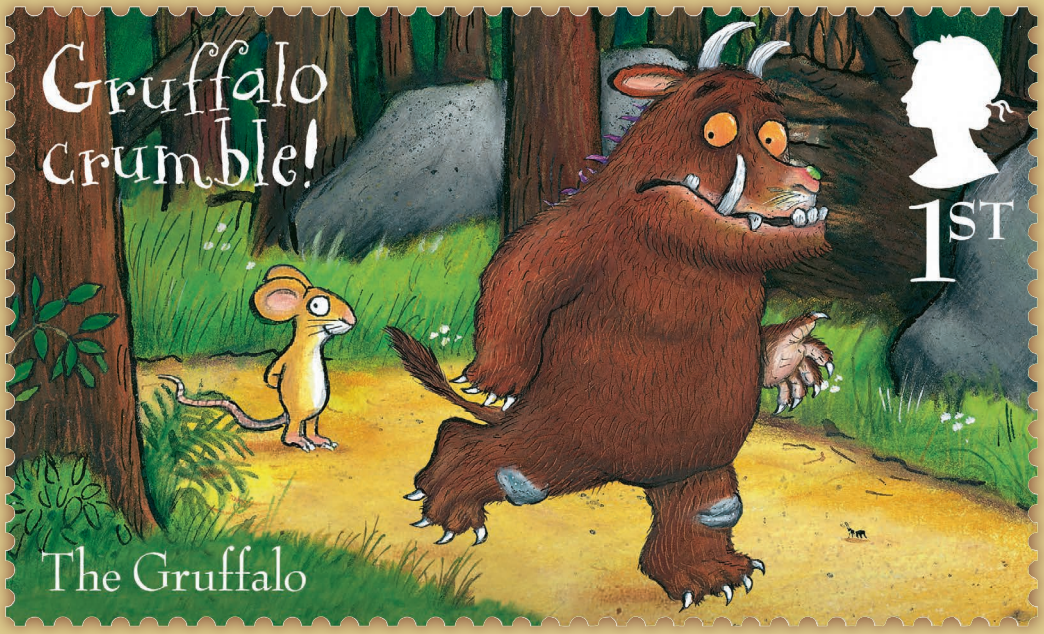
The magazine for collectors of UK stamps

October 2019 | £2.15

Royal Mail

Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 57 No.2



There's a new stamp issue! Why, didn't you know? On the tenth of October, it's The Gruffalo!

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Royal Mail

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Editor Tim Noble, Royal Mail, 185 Farringdon Road, Floor MP-03, London EC1A 1AA ● **Design and content creation** Ian Boardman, Adesso Creative Ltd ● Price £2.15 from Post Office Ltd philatelic outlets or by order from Post Office branches ● **12 months' subscriptions** £20.95 UK and Europe; £26.95 rest of the world. Send subscriptions to Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles, PO Box 1373, Sunderland SR5 9PG, UK or subscribe online at royalmail.com/bulletin ● **Binders** (to hold 24 issues) £8.68 and storage boxes (about 30 copies) £10.16, are also available by post or online ● Copyright and editorial rights are reserved by Royal Mail Group Ltd ● All rights reserved ● Reproduction in whole or parts is prohibited without prior permission of Royal Mail Group Ltd ● **Printed** in Great Britain by Zenith Print & Packaging Ltd ● **ISSN** 0953 8119 ● Royal Mail is a trading name and registered trade mark of Royal Mail Group Ltd. Registered in England and Wales, number 4138203. Registered office: 100 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0HQ ● Stamp images © Royal Mail Group Ltd.

The genius of author Julia Donaldson and illustrator Axel Scheffler are honoured in The Gruffalo issue

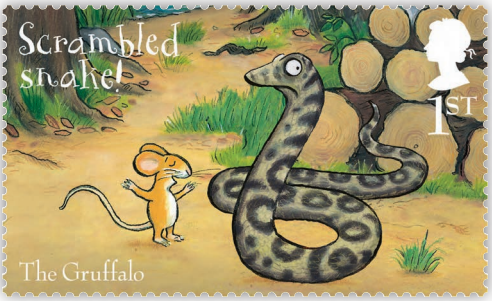


It's now twenty years since *The Gruffalo* picture book first engaged the eyes, ears, hearts, and minds of children. That's not to mention the adult readers who were intrigued by the 'brains versus brawn' plot that had Mouse outwitting the monstrous looking Gruffalo. Its recipe for success was born out of Julia Donaldson's sublime poetic writing and inspired character creation, the latter being brought to life by Axel Scheffler's wonderful illustrations. With over 13 million books sold, translation into 81 languages, and successful stage and screen adaptations, it's fair to say that *The Gruffalo* is one of the best-loved children's titles on the planet.

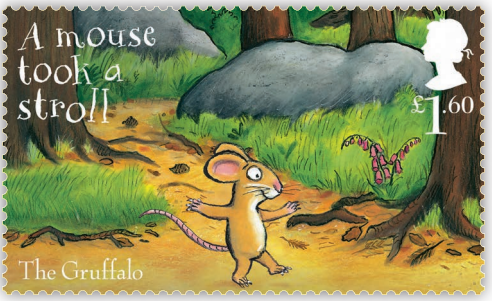
The 32 page book published by Macmillan in 1999 tells a story that is inspired by a Chinese folk tale. In the original version, a little girl walking in a forest chances upon a tiger who threatens to eat her. The girl though outsmarts the tiger by convincing it that she is the queen of the jungle, and scares him away. Donaldson's astute foresight recognised the tale's potential to be developed into a good picture book, however she substituted the girl for a mouse, and the tiger for a monster. This was due to the word 'tiger' challenging her penchant for rhyme. The

Gruffalo – Stamp Specifications

Date of issue	10 October
Number of stamps	Six (3 x 1st Class, 3 x £1.60)
Design	Rose
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	50mm x 30mm
Number per sheet	30/60
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	14 x 14
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA



The Gruffalo – Scrambled snake! – *First Class*



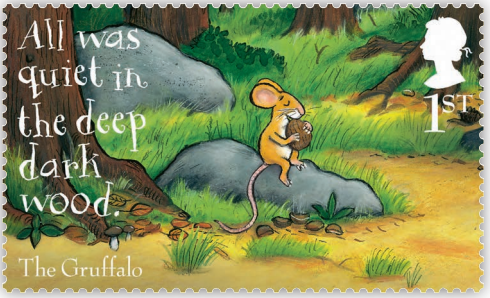
The Gruffalo – A mouse took a stroll – *£1.60*



The Gruffalo – Gruffalo crumble! – *First Class*



The Gruffalo – Roasted fox! – *£1.60*



The Gruffalo – All was quiet in the deep dark wood – *First Class*



The Gruffalo – Owl ice cream? – *£1.60*

reoccurring question 'doesn't he know?' needed to rhyme with a name that ended with an 'o'. Consequently the Gruffalo was born. In addition, many of the Gruffalo's visual features were dictated by word combinations written in rhyming couplets. The original beast (the tiger), was an influencer in the naming of the 'Grrr-uffalo' and ultimately the creation of the grizzly bear-buffalo hybrid.

The Gruffalo Story Mouse walks through perilous, deep, dark woods and encounters a series of potential predators. He cleverly avoids being eaten by a fox, an owl, and a snake by claiming he's about to rendezvous with the Gruffalo (his imaginary beast), whose favourite food is each threatening predator. Having bluffed his way through the episodes, to Mouse's surprise, he encounters the real Gruffalo, who has a fondness for mouse 'on a slice of bread'. When all is looking bleak for Mouse, he manages once more to outmanoeuvre his foe, by contriving to convince Gruffalo that he himself is 'the scariest creature in the wood'. The yarn is then played out with such conviction that the gullible Gruffalo takes his leave. ►

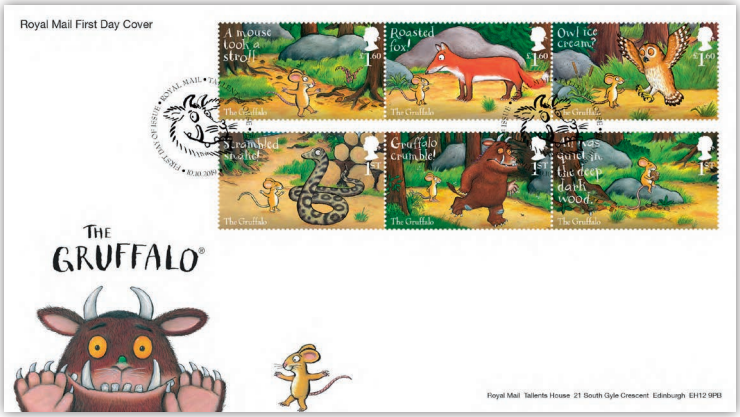
So for First Day Covers featuring Gruffalo and Mouse, send in your orders to Tallents House!

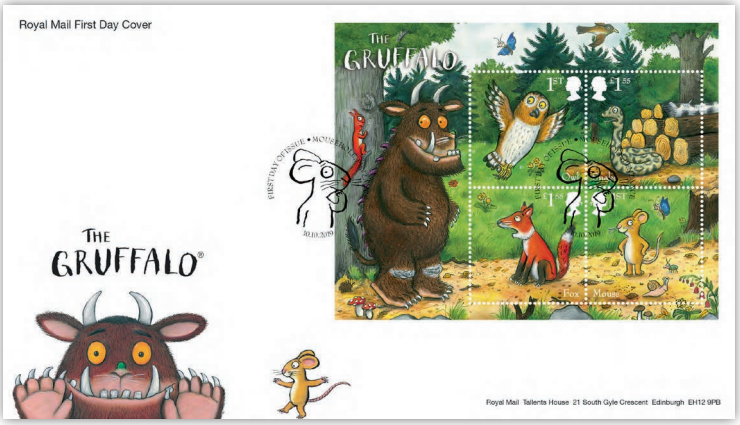
Miniature Sheet stamps:
Owl – *First Class*
Mouse – *First Class*
Snake – *£1.55*
Fox – *£1.55*



Miniature Sheet: Royal Mail commissioned illustrator, Axel Scheffler, to draw a unique illustration of his most popular character of all-time; The Gruffalo. The brand-new, full colour artwork, shows off the Gruffalo and the other characters (Owl, Snake, Fox and Mouse) in a composite artwork. The scene is a synopsis of the main story; with Mouse looking smug, as the other characters react in alarm to the Gruffalo







First Day Cover with Tallents House handstamp and Miniature Sheet First Day Cover with the alternative handstamp that appropriately has the Mousehole, Penzance location



FD1917-TH



FD1917-PL



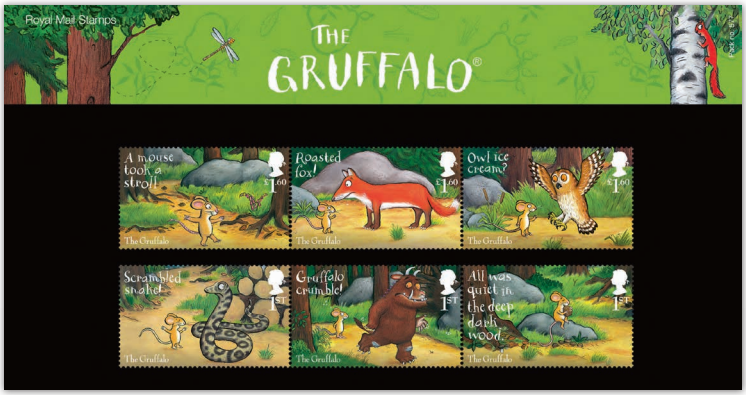
FD1917-NP

The Stamps The two horizontal se-tenant strips of three stamps form a chronological storyboard, following Mouse's hazardous journey. The other characters are introduced individually as the prominent feature on their own stamp. The visual elements and simple text combine to create beautiful cameos of the classic story. No doubt this stamp issue will capture the imagination of younger ones, and perhaps be the catalyst for their pursuit of philatelic interests.

The Author The highly talented prize-winning writer Julia Donaldson was the 2011-13 Children's Laureate. Her picture books include *The Gruffalo's Child*, published in 2004, where the daughter of the Gruffalo ventures through the wood to see if the Big Bad Mouse exists. Julia also ▶

Gruffalo – Miniature Sheet Specifications	
Date of issue	10 October
Number of stamps	Four (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.55)
Design	Rose
Miniature Sheet size	115mm x 89mm
Stamp format	Square
Stamp Size	35mm x 35mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	14.5 x 14.5
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA

The Presentation Pack contains all six Special Stamps and the Miniature Sheet, as well as an exclusive snakes and ladders game, which includes pop-out characters for game participation. The pack also includes an interactive exercise on 'How well you know *The Gruffalo*'

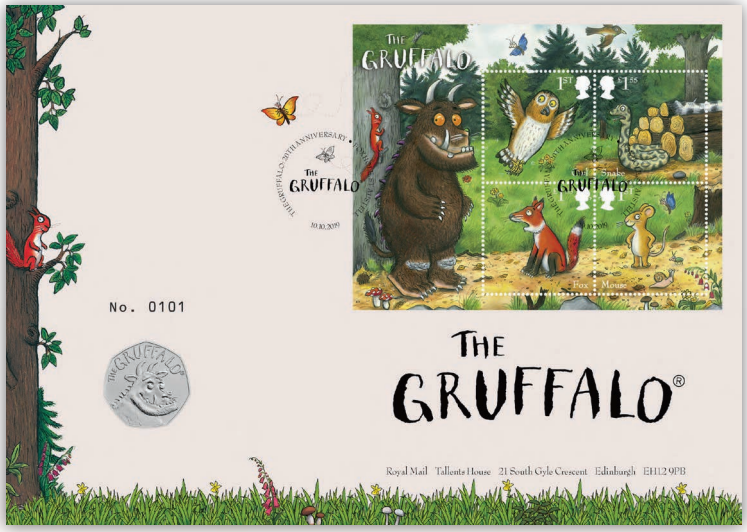




writes fiction including the *Princess Mirror-Belle* series, illustrated by Lydia Monks. Plays and songs are also part of her rich repertoire of works. Julia was awarded an MBE in 2011 for services to literature and earlier this year her status was further endorsed when she was honoured with a CBE.

The Illustrator German artist Axel Scheffler, whose artwork hugely contributed to the success of *The Gruffalo*, has also illustrated novelty titles for younger readers such as *Noisy Farm* and *The*

Gruffalo – Prices	
Set of 6 Special Stamps	£6.90
Presentation Pack	£12.20
Miniature Sheet	£4.50
First Day Cover Stamps	£8.90
First Day Cover Stamp Sheet	£6.00
Stamp Souvenir	£8.90
Stamp Sheet Souvenir	£6.00
First Day Envelope	£0.30
Press Sheet	£79.20
Postcards (6 in set)	£4.95
Generic Sheet	£11.50
Framed Stamps	£29.99
Framed Miniature Sheet	£29.99
Signed Framed Miniature Sheet	£79.99
BU 50p Coin Cover	£17.50
Silver 50p Coin Cover	£64.99



Brilliant Uncirculated Coin Cover

The Coin Cover handstamp acknowledges the 20th anniversary of *The Gruffalo* and has the Foxhole, St Austell location



Bedtime Bear, as well as the *Pip and Posy* series. And do you recognise his illustrative style? It's not the first time that Axel has been commissioned by Royal Mail – the artworks for the 2012 Christmas stamps are also part of his prestigious portfolio ●



Christmas 2012 Miniature Sheet – *The Gruffalo* illustrator Axel Scheffler also produced the artwork for the Christmas 2012 Special Stamps

Article by Ian Boardman

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Castle foundations

The origins of the issue

Mike Roberts's Castle High Values display was the talk of Spring Stampex, the *Bulletin* is proud to feature his works in a three-part series

His Majesty King George VI died on 6 February 1952. It was not long before a paper was prepared by the Director of Postal Services proposing a new complete range of lower denomination stamps; the high denomination stamps being produced afterwards. This was because a new set of high values had only just been introduced in May 1951. In fact the whole process for these new high values ended up taking a further three and a half years, culminating in issued stamps in September 1955 after much changing of minds, two formal competitions for artwork and many further changes.



Photograph by Dorothy Wilding of the new Queen's head as to be portrayed on the new high value stamps

Invitation for first design competition The process started formally with an invitation dated 19 February 1953 to submit designs for four new values. The invitation was accompanied by a comprehensive guide to artists and samples of the current stamps, 2½d (new), and the existing 2/6, 5/-, 10/- and £1 together with a photograph of the new Queen's head (by Dorothy Wilding) as it was to be portrayed on the new stamps. The artists were offered the choice of design formats: upright, horizontal or square. It was stated that only the word 'postage' was to be used in the designs.



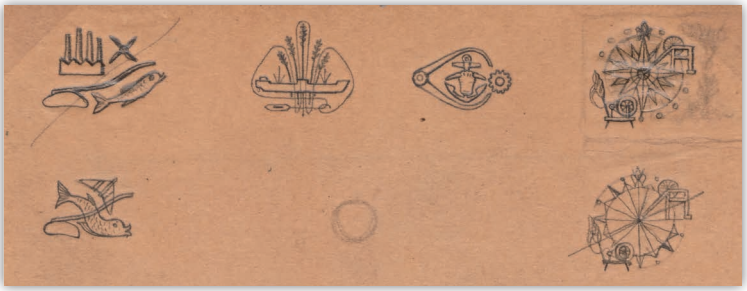
There were 19 different recipients of this invitation which included four printers: Harrison & Sons Ltd, Bradbury Wilkinson Co Ltd, Waterlow & Sons Ltd and De La Rue & Co Ltd. Of these, Bradbury and one of the individual artists declined to participate, but the others collectively submitted some 64 designs. Most of these initial designs can be found in the archives of the Postal Museum but a few are in private hands. Typical ▶



Original artwork by Michael Goaman, produced for the first design competition – a square design for the 2/6 value







Original artwork by Michael Goaman, produced for the first design competition. Thumbnail concepts for industrial, fishery, agricultural and shipping themes. None of the designs found favour with the design committee

of these designs were those submitted by Michael Goaman, who produced six, some of which are illustrated. These show a variety of different subjects including 'Industry and Fisheries', 'Shipping and Agriculture', and 'Compass and Anchor'. Formats included all those suggested.

These designs, along with all those submitted, were considered by the Post Office Advisory Committee (of the Council of Industrial Design) which included the Postmaster General and other senior GPO staff. The verdict was not good and there was no meeting of minds between members of the committee. It was going to be difficult to come up with any common ground which could lead to four new integrated designs. The idea of famous buildings suggested by Mary Adshead seemed to be one of the most popular at this early stage. Another idea was that the new pictorials might be printed in two colours. This did meet with agreement and was pursued later but never came to fruition for technical reasons.

Other original artworks by Michael Goaman, produced for the first design competition



Design for 2/6 value, incorporating agricultural and shipping themes



Designs of the 2/6 value incorporating agricultural, shipping and fishing themes

Invitation to second design competition The effect of these deliberations was a second artist competition. This was greatly restricted to a much smaller group of invitees which included for the first time the eventual design winner, Lynton Lamb. Others invited were Mary Adshead, Sir Muirhead Bone, Stephen Gooden, Joan Hassal and Reynolds Stone. The only printer to be invited was Messrs Waterlow & Sons Ltd. (designer LD Fryer). All parties were asked to produce a separate selection of borders as well as pictorial designs, so a mix and match exercise could be undertaken. By this time, some attractive designs were received which found favour with the design committee and a definite theme emerged.

Progressing the design process Subject to final approval by The Queen, the approved designs included the Tower of London, and the Castles of Caernarfon, Edinburgh and Windsor. Further input from the Home Secretary, who thought Northern Ireland should also be represented, resulted in Carrickfergus Castle rather than the Tower of London being included. Whilst the colours used for the others were to remain as per the

current series, depicting Carrickfergus Castle in green was thought politically unwise; this was therefore changed to brown. This again had a knock on effect of changing the £1 value from brown to black, specifically to that used for the PUC £1 in 1929. Progress was slow but the artists were grouped together to produce final designs for the various values thus: Mary Adshead and Joan Hassal for the 2/6, BS Biro and Lynton Lamb for the 5/-, Sir Muirhead Bone and Reynolds Stone for the 10/- and Stephen Gooden and Waterlow & Sons Ltd for the £1. Lithographed essays were produced of some of the designs and examples are illustrated below. ►







Various essays of the designs from the second design competition, all were unadopted. Left: 2/6, Carrickfergus Castle by Mary Adshead; 5/- Caernarfon Castle by Lynton Lamb; £1 Windsor Castle by Waterlow & Sons designer L D Fryer, produced 6.18 x 3.60 inches. Below: 10/- Edinburgh Castle by Reynolds Stone



In all cases, the stones surrounding the opening were altered slightly, as was some of the foliage. First row: bromides produced that show some differences from the final executions. Second row: Waterlow's final colour proofs. Bottom row: Waterlow's issued stamps

The final design By this time, time had moved on to January 1954 and after further meetings, the final design concepts were agreed using the Lynton Lamb border designs with the various castle vignettes in the centre. Discussion and variations continued during 1954 about the exact vignettes to be used and their position within the frame. Bromides were produced at various stages and examples are shown showing some differences from the final placements.

2/6 value. The Castle was moved down slightly for the final design and some detail was given to the sea in the foreground

5/- value. Differs only slightly from the final design

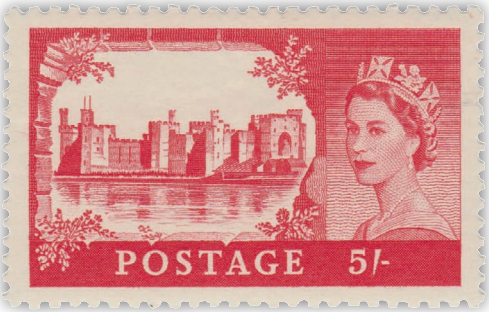












Final approval and issue of the stamps It was still not until April of 1955 that final dies were prepared by Waterlow's and final colour proofs were prepared. The Queen approved these on 27 June 1955 and the stamps were issued in the Post Office in two phases, the 10/- and £1 on 1 September and the 2/6 and 5/- on 23 September 1955. The designs were well received on the whole, although not universally so, but have since become classics of their era, now no longer modern ●

10/- value. The image of the Castle was moved well down in the frame for the final design

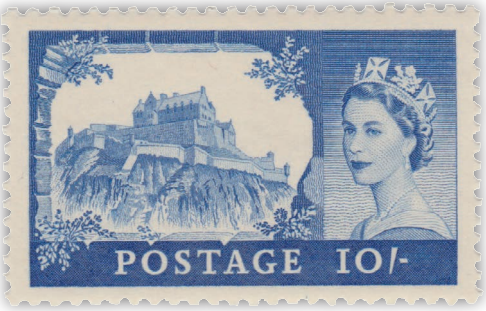


£1 value. Minor alterations to the round tower took place after this











Royal Navy Ships



Mary Rose 1511 – *First Class*
Launched in 1511, the *Mary Rose* famously took part in the Battle of the Solent against one of the largest enemy fleets in English naval history. It was during this battle on 19 July 1545 that the ship sank, with hundreds of sailors drowning and only around 34 of the crew surviving. It is not clear why she sank but an eye witness recalled that the Mary Rose had just fired all of her guns on one side and was in the process of turning round when she sank. The remains of the ship were carefully raised in 1982. Painting by Geoff Hunt



HMS Queen Elizabeth 2014 – *First Class*
One of two new Queen Elizabeth-Class aircraft carriers, the ship was launched in 2014 and is the largest and most powerful warship ever built for the Royal Navy. Capable of carrying up to 40 aircraft, its flight deck spans an area of four acres. She will enter full naval service in 2020. The painting is by Robert G Lloyd, who was specially commissioned by Royal Mail. Robert is a marine artist who is renowned worldwide within the maritime industry and amongst private collectors for his visually stunning and technically accurate maritime paintings



HMS Warrior 1860 – *£1.55*
The first ocean-going, iron-hulled warship, *HMS Warrior* was built to counter armoured French ship *La Gloire – which was* the first ocean-going ironclad. *HMS Warrior* was launched on 29 December 1860 and was the pride of Queen Victoria's fleet. Powered by steam and sail, she was the biggest, fastest and most powerful warship of her day, proving to be the ultimate deterrent. Having been painstakingly restored, she returned home to Portsmouth in 1987 where she serves as a museum ship. Painting by Thomas Goldsworth Dutton

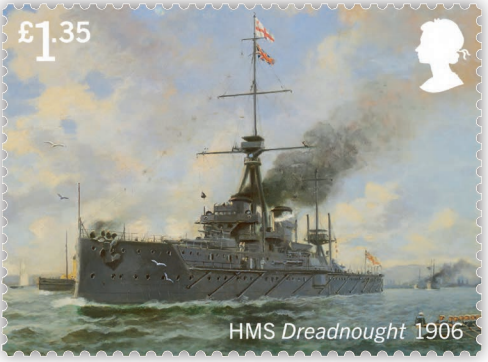


Sovereign of the Seas 1637 – *£1.55*
Sovereign of the Seas was commissioned by Charles I in 1634 and was launched in 1637. She was regarded at the time as the largest ship in the world and was popularly known as the Golden Devil because of her heavy armament and gold ornamentation. The ostentatious decor typified fighting ships of the era, in which monarchs sought to augment their prestige. In 1652 she sank a Dutch warship with a single broadside. Later renamed *Sovereign* and then *Royal Sovereign*, the ship was accidentally destroyed in a fire at Chatham dockyard. Painting by Paul Garnett

Royal Navy's glorious tradition of service to Britain is honoured with stamps featuring ships from the empire's dawn, through to its present day role in the NATO alliance



HMS Victory 1765 – *£1.35*
Launched on 7 May 1765, *HMS Victory* had an unusually long service, leading fleets in the American War of Independence, the French Revolutionary War and the Napoleonic War. In the latter she gained ever-lasting fame as the flagship of Vice-Admiral Nelson in the Battle of Trafalgar, in which the French and Spanish were defeated. *HMS Victory* is now located at Portsmouth Historic Dockyard. As the Flagship of the First Sea Lord (Admiral Tony Radakin), *HMS Victory* is the oldest commissioned warship in the world. Painting by Monamy Swaine



HMS Dreadnought 1906 – *£1.35*
Launched on 10 February 1906, the ship's revolutionary 'big gun' design rendered all other warships obsolete and dominated the First World War era. Powered by Parsons Turbines she was two and a half knots faster than her rivals and carried twice the fire-power of earlier battleships. At the start of the First World War, *HMS Dreadnought* was despatched to Scapa Flow as flagship of the Fourth Battle Squadron of the Grand Fleet and in March 1915 she became the only battleship to sink a submarine in the First World War. Painting by H J Morgan



HMS King George V 1939 – *£1.60*
HMS King George V was launched by King George VI on 21 February 1939 and commissioned into the Royal Navy on 1 October 1940. She was assigned to the Home Fleet at Scapa Flow, which remained its principal base until 1944. As flagship of the Home Fleet she took part in several North Atlantic operations, protecting the Arctic convoys. In 1941, she led the fleet in the attack and sinking of the *Bismarck.* The ship was also involved in the invasion of Sicily and was later redeployed to the new British Pacific Fleet as its flagship. Painting by Robert G Lloyd



HMS Beagle 1820 – *£1.60*
Launched at Woolwich Dockyard, London on 11 May 1820, *HMS Beagle* is famed for taking naturalist Charles Darwin on his first expedition around the world between 1831 and 1836, his five-year trip being documented in his travel memoir, *The Voyage of the Beagle*. She was initially equipped with a 10-gun brig sloop but was refitted and assigned as a surveying vessel because there was no immediate requirement for her as a warship. She was also used by Customs and Excise to counter smuggling on the River Thames before being sold in 1870. Painting by John Chancellor



Royal Navy Quiz

1 In what year was the Battle of Trafalgar?
a) 1805 b) 1810 c) 1815



2 In what year did the *Mary Rose* sink?
a) 1511
b) 1545
c) 1565



3 Where is the Royal Naval Association Head Office based?
a) Portsmouth b) Greenwich c) Devonport



4 Where is Lord Nelson buried?
a) Westminster Abbey
b) Norwich Cathedral
c) St Paul's Cathedral





5 In what year was the Royal Navy Uniforms stamp set issued?
a) 2009
b) 2005
c) 2007

How to enter Please send your answers, with your contact address or phone number, marked 'Royal Navy Quiz', to: Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. Or by email to tim.noble@royalmail.com.

Prizes The first five correct entries drawn after the closing date win the Royal Navy Ships Presentation Pack.

Closing Date 15 November 2019.

July solutions – Curious Quiz 1b 2a 3c 4b 5a.

Winners Mr J Blackledge, Birmingham; Alan Adcock, Kettering; Helen R Richardson, Newcastle Upon Tyne; Zach Bowater, Yarhampton; Mr J Bowater, Kinver; Anthony Everall, Burntwood.

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

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

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

5 October Lichfield Stamp Fair, Boley Park Community Hall, Ryknild Street, Lichfield WS14 9XU, 10am to 4pm, 6 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: John & Jane Rice, 01785 259350, stamps@john-rice-stamps.co.uk.

Leicester Stamp Fair, Derby Room, Holiday Inn, 129 St. Nicholas Circle, Leicester LE1 5LX, 9.30am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: John Suschitzky, 0116 235 0441.

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

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

Beckenham Stamp & Postcard Fair, Azelia Hall, 258 Croydon Road, Beckenham BR3 4DA, 9am to 3pm, 12 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Ray McQuade, 0208 395 9285.

Chichester Stamp & Postcard Fair, Donnington Parish Hall, Stockbridge Road, Chichester PO19 8QR, 9.30am to 3pm. Enquiries: Chris Rapley, 01795 478175.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Kenilworth Stamp Fair, Kenilworth School, Leyes Lane, Kenilworth CV8 2DA, 10am to 4pm, 8 dealers. Enquiries: John & Jane Rice, 01785 259350, info@john-rice-stamps.co.uk.

Telford Stamp & Card Fair, Belmont Community Hall, Tan Bank, Wellington, Telford TF1 1LT, 10am to 3pm, 15 dealers, home-made refreshments available. Enquiries: Richard Camp, 01952 405458, mail@richardcamp.co.uk.

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

Charing Cross Market, (as entry above)



The 2019 Memorial Lecture of the Stuart Rossiter Trust will be given by James L Grimwood-Taylor FRPSL at the new home of the Royal Philatelic Society London, 15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BW, at 5pm on Friday 1 November. The talk is entitled 'The worldwide postal reforms of 1838-50, their origins and consequences, including the spread of other countries' first postage stamps'. Free admission is only by non-transferable ticket on application to Rex Dixon at rexdixon@btinternet.com.

The Ayrshire Philatelic Society is the host this year for the 57th Annual Stamp and Postcard Fair of the South West Scotland Philatelic Societies, to be held on Saturday 5 October from 10am to 4pm. The venue is the Prestwick Community Centre, 50 Caerlaverock Rd, Prestwick KA9 1HR. There will be a range of dealers from across Scotland as well as a Children's Corner. Parking and entry is free, and refreshments will be available.

The Royal Philatelic Society London meetings at 15 Abchurch Street, London EC4N 7BW, in the period under review begin with Edward Klempka FRPSL on Thursday 10 October with a display from 1pm entitled 'Russian Civil War - Foreign Armies Fighting in Russia 1917-1923'. A 1pm display from Dr Patrick Reid FRPSL on Thursday 31 October will cover 'Tasmania', and one week later, at 5pm on Thursday 7 November, 'Egypt : The Hotel Post Offices' will be explained by Richard Wheatley FRPSL with a PowerPoint display. Should you wish to attend as a non-member, then a telephone call during weekday office hours prior to the meeting day to the Adminstration Manager, Jason Webber, on 0207 486 1044, will suffice.

The National Philatelic Society meetings on the First Floor of The Postal Museum, 15-20 Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DA, begin their displays at 2.15pm. On Saturday 12 October, the Czech-born Lindy Bosworth will be showing some aspects of the philately of her nation of origin and how it emerged from the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and was then submerged into Nazi Germany and the Soviet bloc. On Saturday 2 November, the Annual Peter Brack Memorial display and lecture will feature 'Haiti', by Geoff Hannay, who will give insight into the complex history of this Caribbean island.

Cardiff Stamp, Postcard & Collectors' Fair, Cardiff City Hall, King Edward VII Avenue, Cardiff CF10 3ND, 10am to 4pm, 40 dealers. Enquiries: Malcolm Harrington, 01792 415293, malcolm.harrington1@hotmail.co.uk.

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

South of England Stamp & Postcard Fair, South of England Centre, Ardingly RH17 6TL, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Jim Etherington, 01273 471897, sussexphilately@live.co.uk.

13 October Slip End Stamp Fair, Village Hall, Markyate Road, Slip End, Luton LU1 4BU, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845, shawdunton@aol.com.

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

Bristol Stamp & Postal History Fair, Easter Compton Village Hall, Main Road, Easter Compton, Bristol BS35 5SJ, 10am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: Mark Grimsley, 01179 623203, mark_grimsley-stamps@hotmail.co.uk.

18 & 19 October Salisbury Stamp & Postcard Show, Five Rivers Leisure Centre, Hulse Road, Salisbury SP1 3NR, Friday 10am to 5pm, Saturday 10am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: Melvyn Philpott, 01406 350896.

Great Barr Stamp Fair, Collingwood Centre, Collingwood Drive, Great Barr, Birmingham B43 7NF, 10am to 4pm, 14 dealers, full refreshments available. Enquiries: Dave Burnett, 07765 792998.

Colchester Stamp & Postcard Fair, Stanway Village Hall, Villa Road, Stanway, Colchester CO3 0RH, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Peter Nason, 01206 570544, pnason@aol.com.

Charing Cross Market, (as entry on page 51)

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

Brighton Stamp Fair, Church of the Good Shepherd Hall, 272 Dyke Road, Brighton BN1 5AE, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: John Perriman, 01903 244875.

Plymstock - South West Stamp & Postcard Fair, Plymstock Community Centre, The Broadway, Plymstock, Plymouth PL9 7AW, 9.30am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: Rex Eccott, 01288 381489, eccott@gotadsl.co.uk.

20 October Knowle Stamp Fair, Knowle Village Hall, St. Johns Close, Knowle, Solihull B93 0NH, 9.30am to 3pm, 10 dealers, tea, coffee and light refreshments available. Enquiries: Dave Burnett, 07765 792998.

Great Barr Cover Fair of Association of GB FDC Collectors, Collingwood Centre, Collingwood Drive, Great Barr, Birmingham B43 7NF, 10am to 4pm, First Day Covers only, and Association AGM. Enquiries: Richard Park, rjpark@btinternet.com.

Amersham Stamp & Postcard Fair, Jubilee Scout Hall, Rectory Hill, Amersham HP7 0BT, 10am to 4.30pm. Enquiries: David Milton, 01895 637283, david.milton139@gmail.com.

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

Dover Stamp and Collectors' Fair, Stembrook Shopping Arcade, Stembrook, Dover CT16 1PF, 9am to 2pm, 10 dealers, hot & cold refreshments available. Enquiries: Jan & Keith Shepherd, 07729 967206, keithstamps61@aol.com.

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

26 October Montrose Stamp & Postcard Fair, Hillside Village Hall, Dubton Road, Hillside, Montrose DD10 9HB, 10am to 3pm, 6 stamp dealers, tea & coffee available. Enquiries: Chad Neighbor, 01674 832823, chad@cneighbor.plus.com.

Kettering Autumn Stamp Fair, Ise Lodge Community Centre, St. Vincent's Avenue, Kettering NN15 5DR, 10am to 4pm, 8 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Gordon Tregidgo, 01536 746800, sbctreg@hotmail.com.

Ealing Stamp Fair, Ealing Parish Church, St. Mary's Road, Ealing W5 5EU, 9am to 1pm. Enquiries: Tristan Brittain, 07957 158299.

Charing Cross Market, (as entry on page 51)

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

Shoreham-by-Sea Postcard & Collectors' Fair, Shoreham Centre, Pond Road, Shoreham-by-Sea BN43 5WU, 10am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: Janette McCutcheon, 07810 564299, forestfairs.janette@gmail.com.

CORNEX, Millennium Hall, Princess Road, Pensilva, near Liskeard PL14 5NF, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Rex Eccott, 01288 381489, eccott@gotadsl.co.uk.

27 October Sandy Stamp Fair, Scout Headquarters, Sunderland Road, Sandy SG19 1QY, 10am to 3pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845, shawdunton@aol.com.

Bracknell Stamp Fair, Red Cross Centre, 21 Martins Lane, Bracknell RG12 9EN, 9am to 1pm. Enquiries: Tristan Brittain, 07957 158299.

Newhaven Stamp & Postcard Fair, Denton & Mount Pleasant Social Centre, Denton Road, Newhaven BN9 0PX, 10am to 4pm, 7 dealers. Enquiries: Tony Trevis, 07966 151073.

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

1 & 2 November Stafford Stamp Show, Ingestre Suite, Staffordshire County Showground, Weston Road, Stafford ST18 0BD, Friday 10am to 5pm, Saturday 10am to 4pm, 50 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: John & Jane Rice, 01785 259350, info@john-rice-stamps.co.uk.

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

Liverpool Stamp Fair, St. Columba Church Hall, Hillfoot Road, Hunts Cross, Liverpool L25 0NR, 10am to 3.30pm, 7 dealers. Enquiries: Terry Barnett, 01514 862610.

Leicester Stamp Fair, Derby Room, Holiday Inn, 129 St. Nicholas Circle, Leicester LE1 5LX, 9.30am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: John Suschitzky, 0116 235 0441.

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

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

Charing Cross Market, (as entry on page 51)

The Great Britain Philatelic Society meeting in mid-October is a 'North East Group' regional meeting, to be held on Saturday 19 October at the premises of Cavendish Philatelic Auctions Ltd, Cavendish House, 153-157 London Road, Derby DE1 2SY.

A major event for stamp collectors this autumn is the Festival of Stamps held in Banbury, which will feature the Midland Philatelic Federation Autumn Convention and competitions, the Thames Valley Philatelic Federation annual competitions and a stamp and postcard fair with 20 stamp dealers. The date is Sunday 10 November, from 10am to 4pm, with refreshments available. The festival is at the Blessed George Napier School, Springfield Avenue, Banbury OX16 9JD. Additionally, free valuations of stamps and postal history will be available from Midland expert valuer, Tony Lester, during the show.

The Association of GB Cover Collectors is holding its Annual General Meeting at its annual fair on Sunday 20 October at the Collingwood Centre, Collingwood Drive, Great Barr, Birmingham B43 7NF. This society publishes a regular newsletter, and members at the event will be able to purchase a cover to celebrate the 25th anniversary. Enquiries for membership should be directed to Richard Park at rjpark@btinternet.com.

Beckenham Stamp & Postcard Fair, Azelia Hall, 258 Croydon Road, Beckenham BR3 4DA, 9am to 3pm, 12 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Ray McQuade, 0208 395 9285.

Exeter Collectors' Fair, The America Hall, De La Rue Way, Pinhoe, Exeter EX4 8PX, 10am to 4pm, 12 stamp dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Michael Hale, 01749 677669.

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

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

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

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

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

Bilsborrow Stamp Fair, Village Hall, Bilsborrow PR3 0RE, 10am to 3.30pm, 12 dealers, hot and cold food all day. Enquiries: Terry Barnett, 01514 862610.

North Wales Stamp & Postcard Fair, Ysgol Eirias, Eirias Road, Colwyn Bay LL29 7SP, 9.30am to 3pm, 12 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Steve Chapman, 01745 826434, northwalesstampfairs@gmail.com.

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

Charing Cross Market, (as entry on page 51)

Margate Collectors' Fair, Union Church, Union Crescent, Margate CT9 1NR, 10am to 3pm, 20 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Clive Baker, 01843 862707, info@clivebaker.co.uk.

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

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

Banbury Festival of Stamps, Blessed George Napier School, Springfield Avenue, Banbury OX16 9JD, 10am to 4pm, 20 stamp dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: John Davies, 01295 255831, davies1890@btinternet.com.

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

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



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England players congratulating Ben Stokes – *£1.60*



England ICC Cricket World Cup Winners 2019 – Miniature Sheet
Comprising 2 x First Class, 2 x £1.60

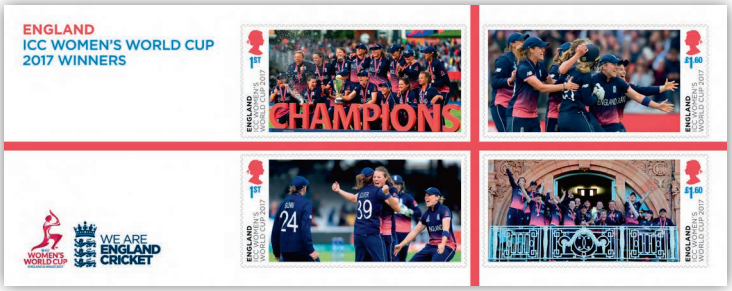


England ICC Cricket World Cup Winners 2019 – Miniature Sheet First Day Cover with the alternative pictorial handstamp

England ICC Cricket World Cup Winners 2019 Presentation Pack. The pack contains both World Cup Winners Miniature Sheets celebrating the England men's and women's ICC Cricket World Cup wins. Presented in an informative, illustrated fold out pack, this is the perfect souvenir of a proud and historic sporting moment. The England ICC Women's World Cup Winners 2017 Presentation Pack is also available housing both Miniature Sheets and content tailored for the women's victory



There is a 28 day extension for personalising First Day Covers



England ICC Women's Cricket World Cup Winners 2017 – Miniature Sheet
Comprising 2 x First Class, 2 x £1.60



England ICC Women's Cricket World Cup Winners 2017 – Miniature Sheet First Day Cover with the Tallents House handstamp



The England team posing for a photo after their victory – *First Class*



England players congratulating Anya Shrubsole – *First Class*



England captain Heather Knight and teammates – *£1.60*



The England side celebrating on the balcony at Lords – *£1.60*

Cricket World Cup Winners (Men's/Women's) Miniature Sheet Specifications	
Date of issue	26 September
Number of stamps	Four (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.60)
Design	Royal Mail
Miniature Sheet size (exc. margin)	192mm x 74mm
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	60mm x 30mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	14.5 x 14.5
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA



FD1918-TH



FD1918-PL



FD1918-NP

Cricket World Cup Winners (Men's/Women's) Prices	
Miniature Sheet (Men's/Women's)	£4.60
Presentation Pack	£10.00
First Day Cover	£6.00
First Day Envelope	£0.30

Machin usages

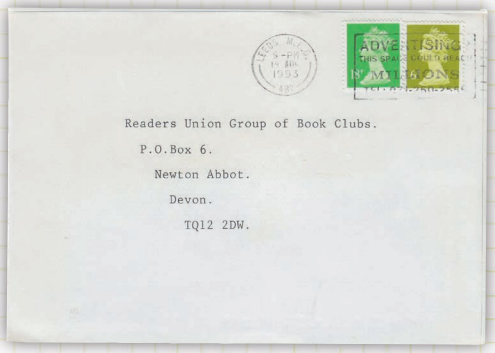
For the final article in this series, the editor is indulging me by letting me return to the topic of stamp usages, as discussed in three articles earlier this year – but this time with specific reference to Machins. (You may have noticed me slipping illustrative covers into previous episodes.) As always, these stamps offer a wide range of possible collecting approaches, and usages can be either a complement to a collection of the mint stamps or a topic in their own right. Covers are often inexpensive when found, even for the rarer items (although it's also possible to get some stiff competition on eBay if other keen collectors spot them as well).

The general idea of this style of collecting is to illustrate the pattern of usage with items that come to hand. Mind you, trying to collect *all* aspects of Machin usage over more than half a century of changes would be quite an undertaking, so you'll probably want to narrow it down a bit, while putting aside anything else of interest that you encounter – which may well lead to forming additional collections, of course. (Well, it does with me, at any rate.) So what follows is a non-exhaustive list of possible approaches that may give you ideas.

'Intended Usages' A natural way to collect the stamps on cover is as items that show what they were issued for. The majority of Machins were in fact actually intended to pay specific rates, so aiming to collect them used on cover on their own ('solo usages') is a very reasonable way of going about things. Inland rate issues will usually be fairly easy to find, but some overseas rate stamps will be tricky, and some stamps will prove difficult for very particular reasons (see below for an example). 'Philatelic' Machins from prestige books will of course be next to impossible to find used commercially, but if you do get lucky and find one it would make a nice page!



13p olive-grey issued for the basic Zone B airmail rate from 20 August 1979 to 3 February 1980 – a short-lived rate. Used here in October 1979 to the Falkland Islands, an unusual destination before the 1982 war

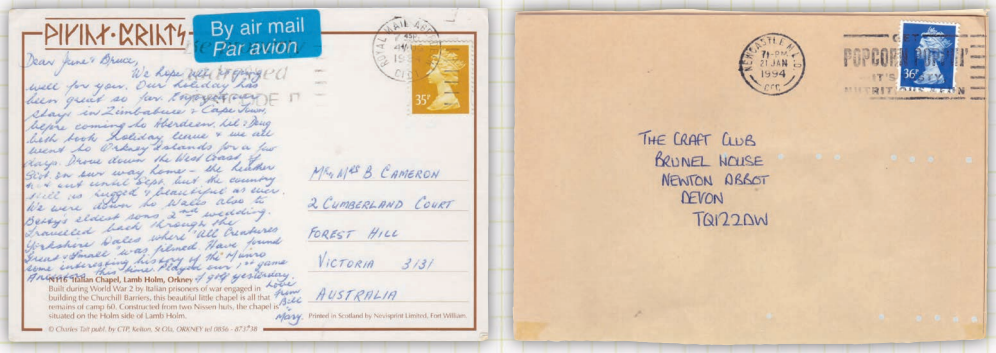


The 6p yellow-olive was issued in 1991 to make up the difference between the new first and second class rates of 24p and 18p. It continued in use for this purpose across rate increases until 1999, when the difference between the rates became 7p

Machins have also been issued to be used in combination with others, so a slight extension of the above is to collect these used in the expected way. There were, for example, stamps issued specifically to make up the difference between the basic first and second class rates – these were of too low a face value to pay a rate on their own, so the way to show them used for their intended purpose is in combination with a 2nd class stamp.

Whether you collect solo usages paying rates other than the primary one is up to you – although 'primary' can occasionally be ill-defined. For example, a 35p yellow with standard perforations was issued in 1991, with the intention that it would pay the second weight step for first class letters in the forthcoming new set of rates. As it turned out, a 36p rate was authorised instead, so the 35p stamp had no particular use except the rather obscure one of the second weight step for overseas surface mail printed papers. If you find an example of *that* solo usage, hang on to it, there probably aren't many about! In the new set of rates of 1 November 1993 the worldwide air postcard rate became 35p, but a version of the stamp with elliptical perforations had already been issued in August – so it's worth checking postcards at this rate to see if by any chance they have the original stamp. A 36p stamp was finally issued at the same time – but now paid only the third weight step for second class mail, and you have to wonder why they bothered. As with other higher weight step stamps, it is itself seldom seen as a solo use.

General Usages Of course, stamps aren't always used on their own, or even in standard combinations, and a general collection can include anything that senders of mail came up with. As noted above, you'll probably want to limit this to a subset of Machins in order to keep things manageable. That could be the issues ▶



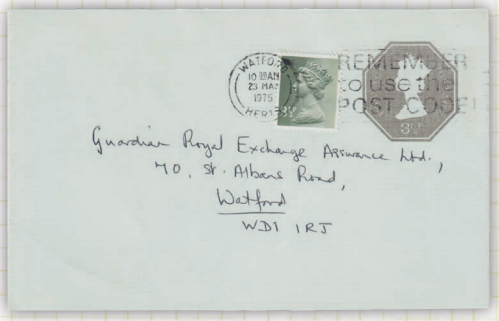
Solo uses of the 35p and 36p stamps. Yes, the former is the elliptical perforation version – I would have liked to illustrate the original type, but I don't have one…

of a calendar time period (e.g. the 1980s), or something defined by the changes in the stamps themselves (e.g. the first set of decimal stamps, or stamps with elliptical perforations, or self-adhesives). It could even be a single denomination – US collector Larry Haber has an exhibit that focuses on the ½p value, which includes both the many forms in which it appeared as a mint stamp, and covers showing it in action. The very lowest values such as this were issued for general purposes to make up odd amounts as necessary, and so appear on a wide range of items.

An alternative is to explore a more general theme bearing on how and why the stamps were used in practice. Inflation in the 1970s and 1980s is one such – like everything else, postal prices went up rapidly following the global oil price shock, and stamps issued for one rate soon became obsolete. There were two increases in 1975 alone, with first class rates going from 4½p to 7p to 8½p and second class from 3½p to 5½p to 6½p! This left stamps in the hands of the public that were no longer sufficient for the original rate, and the period offers plenty of scope for finding combinations of them genuinely used well outside of the normal date range.

An offbeat way to make up the basic all-up rate to Europe of 8p from March-September 1975 – sixteen examples of the ½p. Sent from a travel company to a hotel in Brussels, however, so is not obviously philatelically inspired





3½p was the first class rate from 10 September 1973, then second class from 24 June 1974 until rates increased again on 17 March 1975. That left a lot of old 3½p stamps and postal stationery around to be used up, but conveniently the new first class rate was 7p so they could be used in pairs to pay it.



These very similar-looking covers from a week apart in May 1975 have the 1974-75 one band envelope uprated with the 1973-74 two band stamp and 1974-75 one band stamp respectively (rates had increased before a two band envelope with 3½p impressed stamp was ever issued)

Another good topic from a slightly earlier period is the introduction of decimal currency in 1971, which allows for mixed currency usages, showing how the values of the £sd stamps translated into the new currency after D-Day. (This is one of my collecting areas, which started from a few covers of this kind found in a large box of 1960s/70s material, and just grew from there.) ▶



March 1971: printed stock list and order form sent out to pharmacies in advance of a visit by sales reps, rather unusually in the form of a folded lettersheet. The 4d +1p combination is for the second class rate – a stamp or stamps totalling 4d counted as 1½p in decimal currency



Commercial first day usages are nice things to have when you can find them. This window envelope was sent on the first day of the new set of inland rates of 10 September 1973, with the 3½p basic first class rate made up with the now insufficient 2½p stamp for the previous second class rate used in combination with a 1p

You might also like to consider the groups of stamps described in previous articles. I'm unaware of anyone having put together a collection of the different stamp phosphor types used on cover, but it would be well worth trying. Machin collectors do tend to focus on mint stamps, and postal mechanisation collecting tends towards machine cancellations and the development of automated sorting, so there's space to explore. Likewise, NVIs can give the impression that they haven't changed much over the years, but as previously noted there have been regular small developments, especially on the stamps of the last decade or so with source and year codes in the iridescent security overprints. These can result in unexpected discoveries – for example 'The Sunday Times Wine Club' stamps. Other possibles would be high values (the parcel stamps being a challenge there), stamps from booklets and coils (often issued in se-tenant pairs, and frequently distinguishable by the perforations even as singles), and of course the often neglected regional/country issues, which need love too!



2nd class NVIs with source code 'ROYAL MRIL' (and thus from the 10,000 stamp coils produced for bulk mailers) and year code 'MA10' turned up in kiloware in 2010 from mailshots sent out on behalf of *The Sunday Times* – which was quite a surprise, as they had never previously been recorded and were unknown mint! Complete covers are especially worth keeping an eye out for





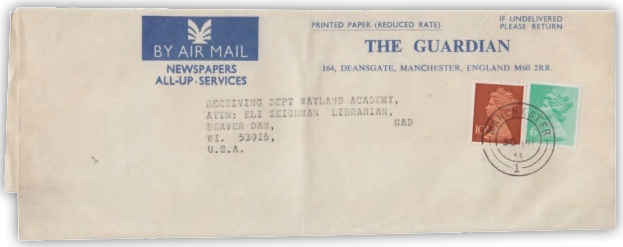
Images: Norvic Philatelics

The 1981 22p blue (Welsh version), issued for the Zone B airmail rate

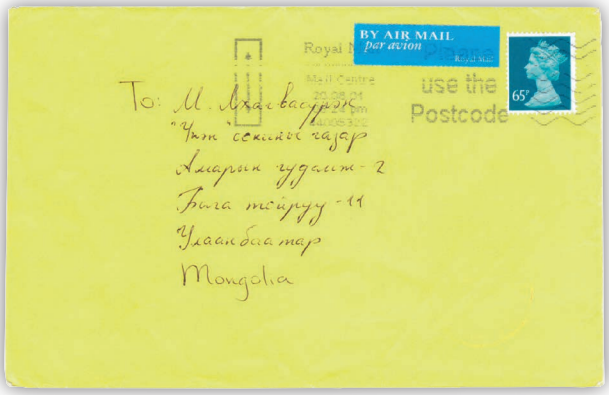
Other Approaches Usage collecting can of course lead to postal history collecting as an occupational hazard. The flipside of the above approaches is a collection by rate. This could be approached by period or by type – e.g. inland rates, airmail rates, registered rates etc. Even a collection of the basic first and second class rates offers a challenge, if you want to bring it up to date – with the growth in use of NVIs, specific denominated stamps have not been issued

for new rates since 2000, so it might take some looking to find covers that actually bear stamps adding up to the amount paid. Higher weight step rates can also be surprisingly tricky to find, because they typically occur on larger envelopes that were not kept. Overseas mail includes services such as printed papers and surface mail, which can be difficult to find as people have long got used to using airmail.

Another popular option is 'destination mail'. It's been said that it can be harder to find mail to some places posted with Machins than it is to find it with Victorian stamps (possibly because much of the latter has already been repatriated over the years). A 'Machins Around The World' collection of mail to as many different countries as possible would thus offer plenty of scope for hunting, and for larger countries you could 'drill down' to their regions (e.g. all 50 states of the USA). It also has the advantage that you can be very liberal about the actual stamps on and dates of the covers! However, even if you



Printed newspaper wrapper for *The Guardian* (with all possible uses listed), used at the special airmail newspaper rate (1975-77 16p fifth weight step to Zone B)



The 65p greenish-blue issued for the 2000-02 second weight step airmail rate (10-20g) to Zones 1 and 2, used here to an unusual destination of Mongolia (addressed with all but the country name in the local Cyrillic script)

don't do this specifically it's always nice to be able to illustrate some stamp or rate with an example to an unusual destination. Or you could just collect anything of interest that catches your eye. This is pretty much what I do!

Final Word The Machins are one of the most long-running definitive series in stamp history, not to mention (in my dubiously humble opinion, anyway) one of the most attractive designs. I hope you've found something of interest in these explorations of things Machin, and can only encourage you to take a further look at them, or indeed at some of the areas that couldn't be included in this short series. Many thanks to all the Machin fans who contributed illustrations and sound advice for these articles ●

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

New Issues and Withdrawals

9 October — **Withdrawal** Curious Customs: Stamp Souvenir.



10 October — **Issue** The Gruffalo: Stamps (3 x 1st Class, 3 x £1.60 – 2 horizontal strips of three). Presentation Pack. Miniature Sheet (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.55). Stamp Souvenir. Stamp Sheet Souvenir. Postcards (11 in set). First Day Cover. Miniature Sheet First Day Cover. First Day Envelope. Press Sheet. Generic Sheet (6 x 1st Class, 4 x £1.55). BU Coin cover. Silver Coin cover. Framed Set of 6 Stamps – UK only. Framed Miniature Sheet – UK only. Framed and signed Miniature Sheet (Limited Edition – UK only).

16 October — **Withdrawal** Harry Potter: Stamp Book (6 x 1st Class).

1 November — **Withdrawal** Christmas 2018: Stamp Sheet. First Day Envelope. Presentation Pack. Postcards. Stamp Book (12 x 2nd Class). Stamp Book (12 x 1st Class). Madonna and Child Generic Sheet.



5 November — **Issue** Christmas 2019: Stamps (1 x 2nd Class, 1 x 2nd Class Large, 1 x 1st Class, 1 x 1st Class Large, 1 x £1.35, 1 x £1.55, 1 x £1.60, 1 x £2.30). Presentation Pack. Miniature Sheet (comprises all Special Stamps). Stamp Souvenir. Stamp Sheet Souvenir. Postcards (9 in set). First Day Cover. Miniature Sheet First Day Cover. First Day Envelope. Generic Sheet. Stamp Book (12 x 2nd Class). Stamp Book (12 x 1st Class).

11 November — **Withdrawal** First World War 1918: Stamps (3 x 1st Class, 3 x £1.55). First Day Envelope. Presentation Pack. Postcards. Prestige Stamp Book. Stamp Book (6 x 1st Class). Generic Sheet. BU Coin Cover. Silver Coin Cover. Gold Coin Cover. Stamp and Poem Souvenir. Framed Stamps.
All First World War stamps and collectibles issued from 2014-2018 will be withdrawn on 11 November



13 November — **Withdrawal** Forests: Stamp Souvenir.



You can order any of the Royal Mail stamp products listed above, by visiting **www.royalmail.com/stamps** or from Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles PO Box 1373, Sunderland SR5 9PG, UK. (Overseas subscribers will need to use a stamp.) Or use the Royal Mail telephone order service on 03457 641 641 (08.30 – 17.00 Monday to Friday). For overseas customers: +44 3457 641 641. Minimum handling charge UK £1.45, Europe £1.55, rest of world (airmail) £2.15.

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