

BRITISH PHILATELIC

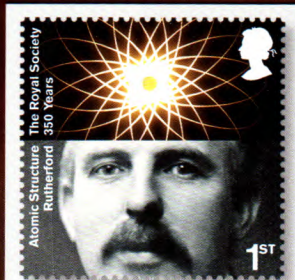
The ROYAL MAIL magazine *for stamp collectors*

Bulletin

Volume 47 Number 6

FEBRUARY 2010 £1.20

Endangered Mammals and House of Stewart previews



The Royal Society: Royal Mail marks 350 years of progress in science with an issue of 10 special stamps – on sale from 25 February.

Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



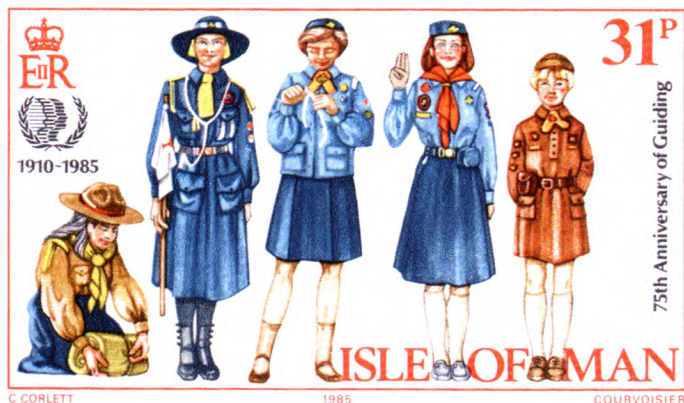
Cover Ernest Rutherford, one of the ten eminent scientists featured in the Royal Society anniversary issue. Portrait by Oswald Birley, 1932 © The Royal Society.

Availability All items available from Royal Mail Tallents House (address below). Selected items are available at Post Office branches and Post Office philatelic outlets at the main post offices in: Bristol, Cambridge, Chester, Colchester, Coventry, Croydon, Durham, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Grimsby, Harrogate, Lichfield, London (Eastcheap & Trafalgar Sq), Norwich, Nottingham, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Southampton (High St and Hedge End), Southend-on-Sea, Stevenage, Stroud, Trowbridge, Truro and York.

Royal Mail Tallents House 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB, UK. Telephone order line (08.30–17.00 Monday to Friday): 08457 641 641; from overseas +44 131 316 7483. Minimum handling charge UK £1.45, Europe £1.55, rest of world (airmail) £2.15. Some products can be ordered on Royal Mail's website: www.royalmail.com/shop

2 February	Issue Girlguiding UK miniature sheet, presentation pack, stamp cards and coin cover
11 February	Withdrawal Darwin stamps, miniature sheet, prestige book, stamp cards and press sheet
12 February	Withdrawal The Mini medal cover
16 February	Withdrawal Definitives without security features: 50p, £1, £1.50, £2, £3, £5, 1st & 2nd standard and 'Large'; High Values and Pricing in Proportion packs
21 February	Withdrawal Robert Burns coin cover
25 February	Issue The Royal Society stamps, presentation pack, prestige book, stamp cards and medal cover
25 February	Issue Olympic & Paralympic Games stamp book – Track Athletics and Basketball stamps and 4 x 1st definitives
25 February	Withdrawal Celebrating England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland miniature sheets, presentation packs and stamp cards
1 March	Issue Wales Castles generic sheet
1 March	Withdrawal Concorde generic sheet
9 March	Withdrawal Pioneers of the Industrial Revolution stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards
11 March	Issue Battersea Dogs & Cats Home stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards
11 March	Withdrawal Theory of Evolution coin cover
23 March	Issue Monarchs House of Stewart stamps, miniature sheet, presentation pack, stamp cards, cachet cover, Kings and Queens Medal Collection No 3

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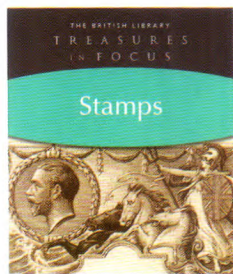
This month The Editor previews this issue

I AM WRITING THIS early in December, although you will not read it until early February. On 7 December the *London Evening Standard* published a piece on stamp collecting which reported that the hobby is showing signs of growth, and that more younger people are taking an interest. This is good news and bodes well, I hope, for the Festival of Stamps events during 2010. The newspaper states that there are 2.5million collectors in the UK (and 50 million worldwide). I wonder how accurate these figures are, but stamp collecting is still a very popular hobby.

The *Standard* stated that the biggest-selling special stamp was the Princess Diana issue of 1998. Not so. Each of the five stamps sold just over 30 million copies. However the 1953 2½d Coronation stamp sold 415 million, the 1937 Coronation stamp 388 million, the 1935 George V Silver Jubilee 1½d 490 million, and the 1929 Postal Union Congress 1½d a staggering 751 million! Those were the days!

In this month's *Bulletin* we preview the House of Stewart and Mammals stamps and the two miniature sheets to be issued for the Festival of Stamps in May. They reproduce George V stamps and I expect will be popular with *Bulletin* readers. More on these next month. JOHN HOLMAN, Editor •

Stamp scene News and upcoming events: Glenn Morgan keeps you posted



Treasures in Focus: Stamps
68 pages, 100mm x 120mm,
softback, laminated cover.

Available in the BL Shop at St Pancras, London, and via the BL website. Visit http://shop.bl.uk/mall/productpage.cfm/BritishLibrary/ISBN_9780712309530

British Library The British Library has published *Treasures in Focus – Stamps*. The Library's Philatelic Collections are the world's largest, most diverse and complete of their kind. They include a wide variety of items: not only postage stamps, but also revenue stamps (both adhesive and non-adhesive), postal stationery, postal history materials, meter stamps, postal orders, paper money and more. About half are from Great Britain. The rest come from the British Empire, British Commonwealth and foreign countries.

A new pocket-sized introduction illustrates some of the unusual and rare stamps in the collections. The text by David Beech, Head of the Philatelic Collections, explains the origin and background to the stamps, and describes how they were produced, and what makes the stamp so uncommon.

Over 1200 copies had been sold within a short time after release, so it is clearly proving to be a very popular addition to this series, which features many other gems from The Library's many collections. I wholeheartedly recommend purchasing this book, especially as it is priced at just £3.99, and that you go and visit the BL to see thousands of stamps on permanent display, including, no doubt, some included within this publication.

If I have one personal concern, it is that around 20% of the pages have black text set against a solid blue-green background, which I found difficult to read, but then I do have poor eyesight. Perhaps surprising for the world's foremost library, there is no title or author shown on the spine •

Festival of Stamps events update Stamp Essex will be held on 5 June, from 10am to 4pm at Charter Hall, Colchester Leisure World, Cowdray Avenue, Colchester CO1 1YH. Admission is free. Among the attractions will be dealers, competitive and invited displays, youth activities, valuations, refreshments and free parking. Access is provided for mobility-impaired persons. An exclusive, limited edition souvenir stamp sheet (presumably Smilers?) will be on sale during the day ●

The 60th East Midlands & East Anglian Philatelic Federation Annual Convention and Stamp Fair will be held on Saturday 21 August at Girton College, Cambridge CB3 0JG between 10am and 4.30pm. Expect to see around a dozen dealers, free valuations, Federation competitions, prize raffle and refreshments ●

Literature stand at London 2010 The National Philatelic Society is organising the literature reading area. Volunteers are now sought to assist staffing the stand between 8 and 15 May, so if you feel that you could assist for one or more 2½-hour slots, I am sure that Simon Richards, the coordinator, would be grateful. I undertook this role at The Stamp Show 2000, and I speak with personal knowledge as to how difficult it is to fill all the slots, so please do not leave it to others ●

Spring Stampex Organised by the Philatelic Traders' Society, Spring Stampex will be held at the Business Design Centre, Islington, London N1, 24-27 February. As usual, entry will be free. Opening hours are: Wednesday 11.30-19.00, Thursday and Friday 10.00-18.00, and Saturday 10.00-17.00. Many dealers will offer everything from classic stamps to new issues, postal history to philatelic accessories.

On the mezzanine floor visitors will be able to see the One-Frame exhibits in the National Competition, and on the Village Green area a display by the South African Collectors Society. The National Youth Stamp Group caters for younger visitors with a range of activities, including a popular Saturday afternoon auction. The Royal Mail stand will offer the full range of current stamps and philatelic products. The Royal Society stamps and prestige book go on sale on the Thursday, when a special Stampex First Day of Issue postmark will be available.

At the information stand as you enter the exhibition you will be able to buy the latest Stampex business customised sheet, which has Antarctica as its theme, and obtain a free exhibition postcard – both of which are now becoming interesting series of exhibition souvenirs. The Business Design Centre is near Angel underground station (Northern line) and there are plenty of eating places nearby. Stampex enquiries: 01252 628006, e-mail info@philatelic-traders-society.co.uk ●

Lighthouse Products The 2010 Lighthouse Products catalogue is now available and this time there is a separate Accessories for Philatelists publication, while numismatic accessories now has its own catalogue. To obtain a copy, or to order online, see the website at the address opposite ●



Literature stand enquiries

Simon Richards, National Philatelic Society, c/o British Postal Museum & Archive, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL.



Lighthouse Products Visit www.duncannon.co.uk

Scottish Congress For more details see the ASPS website: www.scottishphilately.co.uk

Aberdeen Philatelic Society
Further details can be found on the society website: www.aberdeenphilatelic.org.uk

Scottish Congress The 81st Congress of the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies will be held at the Dewar's Centre, Perth on 16-17 April 2010. The Congress is an opportunity to view a wide range of competitive entries and visit up to 150 dealer tables. This year, the Congress will last for two days as it incorporates the Festival of Stamps. Opening times are Friday 16th, 11.00-17.30 and Saturday 17th, 10.00-16.00. The Tom Rielly Display will be given by David Kindley. A civic reception on Friday evening will precede the dinner and award ceremony and signing of the Book of Scottish Philatelists. The event is to be hosted by Aberdeen Philatelic Society, celebrating its centenary. Society members will display their wide and varied collecting interests, and a commemorative cover will be produced ●

THE BRITISH POSTAL MUSEUM & ARCHIVE

The BPMA Freeling House,
Phoenix Place, London WC1X
0DL (near Mount Pleasant).
Phone 020 7239 2570 or see
www.postalheritage.org.uk

British Postal Museum & Archive 2009 was an exciting and productive year for the BPMA. They continue to place access to the unique collections at the heart of the work they do, and have made important steps towards future development.

Just a few of the highlights from last year were: a replica post office and upstairs Museum of the Post Office in the Community at Blists Hill Victorian Town, Ironbridge ● the stamp artwork scanning project to facilitate online and catalogue access to a wealth of philatelic material ● the 'Designs on Delivery: GPO posters 1930-1960' exhibition held at the London College of Communication ● a continuing partnership project with the British Film Institute to re-master and release DVD versions of key GPO films ● publishing deal with Shire Books for a book on post offices ● website development to include a blog, Flickr, and podcasting – almost doubling visitor numbers to the BPMA's online presence ● licensing deals with key partners including Uniqlo fashion retailer, die-cast model manufacturers, and a greetings card producer ● growth in the number of catalogued items, facilitating greater access for researchers.

Significant projects that the BPMA has moved further towards fruition include development of an exciting exhibitions and events programme for London 2010: Festival of Stamps, and progress on property agreement and early stage fundraising planning towards the Swindon relocation.

The extent of progress and achievements last year, together with the hard work of all the staff team, was highlighted in November when the BPMA received the BT Visit London Bronze Award for Accessible Tourism.

Throughout 2010 the BPMA will deliver its most ambitious public engagement initiative to date – London 2010: Festival of Stamps – in partnership with key institutions including the London 2010 International Stamp Exhibition, Royal Philatelic Society, the Association of British Philatelic Societies, and Royal Mail. It will also continue to provide the range of regular events, activities and services that users value so much. Everything the BPMA does aims to give as many people as possible the opportunity to understand and enjoy Britain's postal heritage and to ensure that it continues to meet the needs and interests of all audiences.

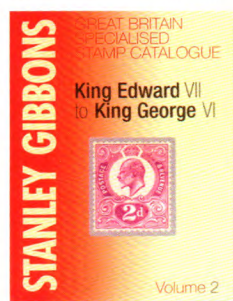
Why not contact the BPMA and support them by attending an event, buying something from the shop, volunteering or making a donation? ►

A Guide to the Museum Collection has recently been published by the BPMA. Compiled by Victoria Heath, with assistance from Chris Taft, Julian Stray and Rebecca Thomlinson, it includes around 75 specially commissioned images of artefacts and other material from the collection. After an introduction, there are sections covering the museum collection – Letter Boxes, Counter Equipment, Furniture, Postal Mechanisation, Weapons, Medals and Awards, Uniforms and Badges, Sent Through the Post, Prints and Paintings, Printed Materials and Stationery, Models and Toys, Transport, Contemporary Collecting and access to the collection. This listing gives an instant ‘feel’ for the extent of the collection, offering something for everyone, surely? The images are accompanied by a lively and informative text ensuring that the story is told without being too detailed, as this is in many ways a sampler of the wonderful collection that spans over 400 years of the history of the posts. The guide is of interest to both the postal history enthusiast and anyone with a general interest in the collection •

New publications Stanley Gibbons has recently published a new edition of its multi-award winning catalogue, *Great Britain Specialised Stamp Catalogue: King Edward VII to King George VI*, which is the standard reference work for specialist collectors of the popular ‘Four Kings’ period of British philately, from 1902–52. Now in hardback, and in a slightly different size, it has been completely redesigned in a clearer style. Background information is given for all issues, with full details of plate markings, sheet arrangements, inks, papers and shades, with helpful guidance on identification. Essays, proofs and colour trials are listed and priced. Many plate flaws are illustrated and priced and numerous shades, not listed in the *GB Concise* catalogue, are also priced mint and used. Detailed listings of control numbers and marginal plate markings are provided for specialists. Booklet panes, postage dues, officials and Channel Islands occupation issues are all fully listed. Appendices cover perforators, booklets, specimen overprints, protective underprints and inland postage rates. Prices are given for mounted, unmounted and fine used examples of 1902 to 1935, and for unmounted and used thereafter. On-cover prices are also given for Edward VII issues •

The 30th edition of *The Picture Postcard Annual* is as fascinating as ever. It is basically a yearly reference book for postcard collectors, but has plenty of articles included and provides many hours of reading. This new edition comprises 104 A4-sized pages, with many in full colour. Among the items of year-long reference value are the postcard dealer directory, a cumulative index to the companion *Picture Postcard Monthly* magazine, fair organisers and auction houses, clubs, events and the postcard scene around the world. Articles include HMS *Rodney*’s Second World War adventure, Suffragettes on cards, Moonlight Sonata, a review of modern cards and Shakespeare’s sixth century, plus much more besides. There is a large cross-over between philately and deltiology (postcard collecting) and most *Bulletin* readers will have at least a few postcards in their home, even if these only comprise the series given away at stamp exhibitions, so I can recommend purchasing this annual. I defy you not to find something of interest within •

Price £5. Available from the Search Room, Freeing House, or by mail from the BPMA, at the address opposite. Add £2 postage fee for postal orders.



Price £39.95 from the Stanley Gibbons shop. Stamp dealers and bookshops should stock it or order it. email orders@stanleygibbons.co.uk or see www.stanleygibbons.com

The Picture Postcard Annual
Price £4.75 (£1 postage UK, £3 Europe, £5.50 elsewhere). Available from: Reflections of a Bygone Age, 15 Debdale Lane, Keyworth, Nottingham NG12 5HT; email reflections@postcardcollecting.co.uk or see www.postcardcollecting.co.uk

Postal Stationery Society

Contact Colin Baker, 4 Greenhill Gardens, Sutton Veny, Warminster BA12 7AY; email colin.baker2@virgin.net

Cricket Philatelic Society

Contact Derek Gallimore, 30 Pinewoods Avenue, Hagley, Stourbridge DY9 0JF, or email derek.gallimore@which.net

British Thematic Association

Write to: Anne Stammers, 40 St Helen's Way, Benson, Wallingford OX10 6SW, or email annies1@btinternet.com

GBCC UK subscription rates are \$35 for members, \$50 for Patrons. For more details see www.gbstamps.com/gbcc or write to Larry Rosenblum, 1030 E El Camino Real, PMB 107, Sunnyvale CA 94087 USA; email lr@gbstamps.com

GBPS Contact Peter Tanner, Highstandings, 13 St Hubert's Close, Gerrards Cross SL9 7EN; email petertannerHS13@talktalk.net

Society journals Issue 52 of the 24-page Postal Stationery Society *Journal* is essential reading for anyone interested in postal stationery. Members clearly enjoy an active group offering meetings at the Royal Philatelic Society in London, or at a regional exhibition such as Worpex, Swinpex and London 2010. This latest issue includes articles on a new Queensland postal card, a strange use of British Field Service post cards, a Victorian reply-paid postcard, illustrated and advertising stationery, and more of interest. All are well illustrated in black and white, with a few pages of advertising •

The January 2010 issue of *Wickets*, from the Cricket Philatelic Society, comprises ten sides of A4 in black and white, and is copiously illustrated. This issue focuses on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, with over half the issue devoted to the 150th anniversary of his birth. Unfortunately, not one of the stamps mentioned depicts him playing the game, and most (all?) appear connected to Sherlock Holmes – hardly a cricket-related theme. Why include Sir Arthur at all? Well, it seems he was a keen cricketer, and between 1894 and 1911 played 10 first class matches for the MCC, and 22 other non-first class matches. One article that amused me must have involved a lot of Bible reading. A humorous collection of (alleged) Bible references to cricket includes coaching advice advising the bowler on how to avoid bowling no-balls: 'Don't delay in following through' (Ecclesiastes 5 v4); and on playing conditions we hear: 'God did send plentiful rain' (Psalm 63, v9). It is good to see that this group does not take itself too seriously and I suspect that all members enjoy the game as much, if not more, than philately •

The December *Themescene*, from the British Thematic Association, contains 24 A5 black-and-white pages (colour is used in some issues). Key items include: Get the Shipping Forecast, about Robert Fitzroy – Darwin's chauffeur; Sing a Few Arias, about Puccini opera; Reach the End of the Line, part three about Britain's railway evolution; and Visit Sweden and Italy, on BTA members at the Rome and Malmo exhibitions. There are five pages of advertising, member news and lots more to interest thematic collectors. It is good to see that two pages of every issue are for young collectors •

The *GBCC Chronicle*, the quarterly publication of the Great Britain Collector's Club, contains 32 pages of roughly A4 sides in black-and-white with colour cover. This group of largely American enthusiasts does well to record so much of interest on the subject of British philately, considering the geographical distance between our two nations. Issue 122 has articles on undelivered Civil War letters from the UK, Penny Blacks, an unusual Supplementary marking, Diamond letter marks, British airmails to China, Regional Machins, postage dues to Cuba, the 1934 1d definitive: proper and improper usages and Mostly Machins, among others •

The *GB Journal* and *GBPS Newsletter*, the two publications of the Great Britain Philatelic Society, offer much to the collector who counts GB among their collecting interests. The latest issue of the *GB Journal* contains features on De La Rue's 10s blues, the 1858-79 1d rose-red plate 77, a new find, and an index to volume 47. The *Newsletter* has shorter pieces on presentation packs, coloured sideways Duplexes, society displays, regional stamps and much other interesting information not to be found elsewhere •

Royal Mail news New definitives • Special issues • New products • BPMA news

New postal rates New rates will come into effect on 6 April. Basic 1st and 2nd class inland rates (standard size to 100g) will increase to 41p and 32p, letters to Europe (up to 20g) will increase to 60p, and worldwide airmail to 67p (10g) and 97p (20g).

New definitives will go on sale on 30 March: 60p emerald, 67p rhododendron, 88p shocking pink, 97p mauve and £1.46 dark turquoise, also new country stamps for the European and airmail rates.

There will also be new overseas stamp books containing four Europe 20g stamps and four Rest of World 20g stamps. These will replace stocks of the current 40g stamps as stocks are exhausted at Post Office branches. The new Europe 20g stamp will be printed in dark green and the Rest of World stamp in purple. As before there will be an ultramarine and red airmail stripe at right.

A new pack will contain the five new definitives plus two 20g overseas stamps and the two Recorded Signed For stamps issued last November. A first day cover will bear the definitives and overseas stamps. A new country pack will contain the eight new stamps. A first day cover for each country will be available bearing the two new stamps. More details will be published here next month •

Special issues There are two issues of stamps this month – a miniature sheet celebrating the centenary of the Girl Guides (2 February) and 10 1st class stamps and a prestige book for the 350th anniversary of the Royal Society (25 February). These issues were previewed here in December and last month respectively. This month we preview the Kings & Queens and Mammals sets, which go on sale on 23 March and 13 April.

The plate numbers and colours of the Battersea Dogs & Cats Home stamps (11 March) are: c2 gold c3 yellow c3 magenta c3 cyan (blue) c3 black c3 phosphor. The sheets are printed 'four up', so there are four plate number positions to collect. Pawprints are printed in all sheet margins.

The issues for 2010 are listed below, with alternative First Day of Issue postmark locations. Please note that the House of Stuart stamps will now be issued in June, and the Children's Books stamps in October. Stamp values and other information will be published nearer the time of issue •

02.02 Girlguiding (centenary): Guide, Blackburn

25.02 The Royal Society (350th anniversary): London SW1

11.03 Battersea Dogs & Cats Home: London SW8

23.03 Monarchs 3, House of Stewart: Linlithgow, W Lothian

13.04 Action for Species 4, Mammals: Batts Corner, Farnham

06.05 Accession of King George V: Sandringham, Norfolk

08.05 The King's stamps: London N1

13.05 Britain Alone (commemoration of 1940): Dover, Kent

15.06 Monarchs 4: House of Stuart: Royal Oak, Filey

27.07 Olympic & Paralympic Games 2: Rowington, Warwick*

19.08 Stage Musicals: Dancers End, Tring

16.09 Great British Railways: York

12.10 Children's Books: Hartfield, East Sussex

02.11 Christmas: Blenheim, Llandoil

Provisional date *



Left: the new Castles Generic sheet to be issued on 1 March, price £8.35.

Below: the new self-adhesive generic sheet now available, price £9.70.



Castles generic sheet The fourth and final sheet in the Castles series features Welsh castles: Caernarfon, Beaumaris, Harlech, Dinefwr, Dolwyddelan, Carreg Cennen, Criccieth, Chepstow, Dolbadarn and Conwy. The sheet was designed by Atelier Works and printed in litho by Cartor. It goes on sale on 1 March, price £8.35 •

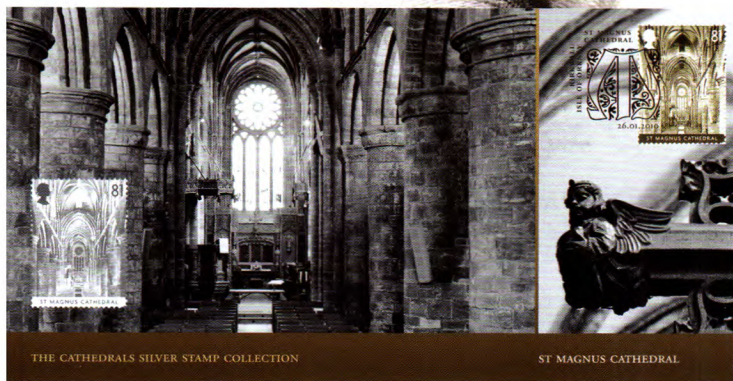
Business Customised and Smilers stamps Ten new stamps designed specifically to meet the needs of customers who order business customised and Smilers sheets are available. The stamps are also available in a gummed miniature sheet and a self-adhesive generic sheet for collectors who do not use the business customised or Smilers services. The miniature sheet was shown here in December (page 106). Prices: £4.58 miniature sheet; £5.10 presentation pack; £9.70 generic sheet; and £4.40 stamp cards set of 11 (10 stamps and miniature sheet).

Smilers sheets, with customers' images on the adjoining labels, can be ordered from Tallents House. Sheets of 10 1st class Cake or Present stamps will cost £7.58 each, and sheets of 20 £13.62 each. Sheets of 10 Europe or Worldwide stamps will cost £9.58 and £13.62 respectively. The handling charge on Smilers orders is £1.45. Order forms are available at Post Office branches, or write to Smilers, Freepost SCO 5817, Edinburgh EH12 9PH, phone 0845 074 2000, or visit website www.royalmail.com/smilers •



Above: the second Games stamp book, to be issued 25 February, price £2.34.

Right: the Darwin coin cover, to be withdrawn from sale on 11 March.



Silver stamps The sixth issue in our silver stamp collection featuring the 2008 Cathedral stamps (left) is now available. It features the 81p St Magnus Cathedral, Kirkwall stamp. Price £24.42.

Coin and medal covers Collectors are reminded that the 'Theory of Evolution' coin cover, bearing the Darwin stamps cancelled by a special Down House postmark, will be withdrawn from sale on 11 March, and the Concorde medal cover on 1 April. These were shown here last February (pages 168-69). The Darwin cover features the famous scientist and a facsimile of his signature. The Down House postmark commemorates Darwin's home from the 1840s until his death in 1882. The cover costs £19.95.

The Concorde cover, marking the 40th anniversary of the first flight of Concorde 001, features the pilot's control panel, and the aircraft on the tarmac after an early test flight. Limited edition of 12,500, price £14.95 •

Stamp books A second Olympic and Paralympic Games stamp book goes on sale on 25 February, containing Track Athletics and Basketball stamps and four definitives. It will be printed by Walsall in gravure, price £2.34.

A new printing of the standard 6 x 1st class book is now available – with an amended website address on the inside front cover •

Stamps for 2012 We are grateful to all readers who returned voting forms from the November *Bulletin*. All 1300 forms went into a draw and 2009 Yearbooks are going to: D Hunt, USA; Mrs R Haigh, Northants; M Rankin, Gloucestershire; L Gent, Cambridgeshire; and A Howletts, Gwent •

Coming off sale A range of definitive stamps comes off philatelic sale on 16 February: 50p, £1, £1.50, £2, £3 and £5, also 1st and 2nd class standard and 'Large' versions. All these stamps are those without the security features introduced in February 2009.

Any remaining stock of the Darwin issue will be withdrawn on 11 February and the Celebrating England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland miniature sheets on 25 February. The Concorde generic sheet comes off sale on 1 March and the Pioneers of the Industrial Revolution issue on 9 March. Order now if you still need any of these for your collection ●

THE BRITISH POSTAL MUSEUM & ARCHIVE

The BPMA Freeling House,
Phoenix Place, London WC1X
ODL (near Mount Pleasant).
Phone 020 7239 2570 or see
www.postalheritage.org.uk

British Postal Museum & Archive On show until April is a special exhibition honouring the eminent stamp designer David Gentleman, who has designed more than 100 issued stamps for Royal Mail since 1962. The exhibition features artwork for many of these and other designs not previously shown in public, and the revolutionary 'Gentleman Album' of 1966, which greatly influenced British stamp design – see articles by Douglas Muir (June 2007 *Bulletin*), and Richard West (June 2009). A new exhibition, Treasures from the BPMA, will be shown from May 2010.

The BPMA is open Monday to Wednesday and Friday from 10.00 to 17.00, Thursday 10.00 to 19.00 and on some Saturdays. See website for dates and for details of lectures and other events. The BPMA contains the collections of the former National Postal Museum and Post Office Archives ●

Submitting covers Readers are reminded that when submitting covers for special handstamps to Royal Mail's Special Handstamp Centres, the outer cover must bear full postage. Mail posted without payment, marked 'Free-post' (which does not apply to SHCs), or sent in the Royal Mail plastic 'see-through' envelopes used for the return of covers to collectors, may be

subject to delay and refusal. Readers are also reminded that covers and cards submitted for handstamping must bear a return address – Royal Mail reserves the right to return any unaddressed items uncanceled. The address can be typed, handwritten (in ink or pencil), rubber-stamped, or by using an address label. However 'Post It' notes should not be used for this purpose as they can easily become detached.

The addresses of Royal Mail's Special Handstamp Centres are shown opposite ●

London Special Handstamp Centre Royal Mail, Mount Pleasant, London EC1A 1BB

Wales & The West Special Handstamp Centre 220-228 Penarth Road, Cardiff CF11 8TA

Scotland & Northern Ireland Special Handstamp Centre Rutherglen DO, Duchess Place, Rutherglen, Glasgow G73 1BT

Northern England Special Handstamp Centre South Shields DO, Keppell Street, South Shields NE33 1AA

Midland Special Handstamp Centre Birmingham Mail Centre, St Stephens Street, Birmingham B6 4AA

Prize draw Win one of three mystery prizes

ONCE AGAIN WE OFFER our popular Mystery Prize draw, with some excellent prizes! To win one of three prizes, send your name and address on a postcard to: Mystery Prize Draw, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ to arrive by 26 February ●

The world of online philately by Glenn H Morgan FRPSL

WITH LONDON 2010: Festival of Stamps already underway and the international stamp exhibition three months away, it is appropriate to publicise the revamped website covering the many events to enable readers to plan their visits. For anyone unfamiliar with what is on offer, it is a year-long programme of exhibitions, activities and events to mark the centenary of the accession of George V, the philatelist king, celebrating stamps, stamp design and postal heritage. The site is divided into six main subject areas, as explained below.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN 2010? Find out about the wide range of exciting exhibitions and events taking place. This is where to go to get details of everything being planned around the UK, as this Festival is not just London focussed.

LONDON 2010 INTERNATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION Taking place once every ten years, this eight-day show during May in London is not to be missed. Download floor plans and leaflets, view the competitive exhibits listing, see what dealers will be in attendance, view lists of jurors, patrons, society meetings and much more besides.

EMPIRE MAIL: GEORGE V AND THE GPO Exhibition at Guildhall Art Gallery with the Royal Philatelic Collection and the British Postal Museum & Archive. This major exhibition will look at the passions of King George V, alongside an extraordinary period of design and innovation in the General Post Office during his reign. An era of conflict and great change, his reign saw the development of a number of communication methods which brought the world closer together.

SPECIAL REGIONAL STAMP SHOWS Find out what shows are near you. There are 18 special stamp shows being organised during 2010 as part of the Festival of Stamps by member Federations of the Association of British Philatelic Societies. Get dates, venues and full details here.

RESOURCES Find out more about stamps, postal history and collecting. This is where to go if you are new or returning to the hobby, want to explore online collections, find teaching resources, encourage young collectors, etc.

PRESS AND NEWS Where to find all the latest news and press releases.

A detailed 'What's on?' calendar for the whole of 2010 is included, ensuring that every event taking place can be seen at a glance on a day-by-day basis, giving you no excuse to miss anything! You can re-style the site to match your interest choosing between 'Stamp Album', 'British Empire' and 'Silver Jubilee', while the whole site is fully searchable.

A Stamp Poll enables you to indicate your level of interest in stamps and, at the time of checking, 65.9% of visitors considered themselves to be a dedicated collector with only 7% claiming never to have collected stamps.

This will be very special year for philatelists, and if you love your hobby, then it is incumbent upon every one of you to support at least one event •



www.london2010.org.uk
The home page of London 2010: Festival of Stamps

British Monarchs Royal Mail's series turns



The stamps and miniature sheet (shown opposite) were designed by Atelier Works and printed in litho by Cartor.

SEVEN STAMPS depicting Scottish monarchs of the House of Stewart go on sale at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and from Royal Mail Tallents House from 23 March.

The stamps, three $\times$ 1st class, two $\times$ 62p and two $\times$ 81p, feature: James I (reigned 1406-37); James II (1437-60); James III (1460-88); James IV (1488-1513); James V (1513-42); James VI (1567-1625); and Mary, Queen of Scots (1542-67). The images of James I, II and III are reproduced from oil paintings on wooden panels by an unknown artist, held in the Scottish National Portrait Gallery. The portrait of James IV is by Daniel Mytens, from the collection of A Stirling of Keir; that of James V by Corneille de Lyon (from a private collection); Queen Mary by Francois Clouet (Royal Collection); and James VI attributed to Adrian Vanson (SNPG). King James VI was also King James I of England, 1603-25.

There will also be a miniature sheet showing St Andrews University (founded in 1412), College of Surgeons Edinburgh (1505), Court of Session (1532) and John Knox (1559 Reformation).

The stamps and sheet were designed by Atelier Works and printed in litho by Cartor. The stamps, 27 $\times$ 37mm, are printed in separate sheets. The miniature sheet measures 123 $\times$ 70mm.

This is the third instalment of the Monarchs series, which began with the Houses of Lancaster & York (February 2008), followed by the Tudors (April 2009). The next issue will feature the Stuarts, from James I of England (VI of Scotland) to Queen Anne, to be issued in June.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Orders for serviced FDCs must reach Tallents House (address below) by the date of issue. Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (for Tallents House postmark), or to the nearest Royal Mail Special Handstamp Centre (Linlithgow postmark) marking the outer envelope 'FD1011' or 'FD1012'. Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for the Linlithgow postmark.

Details of sponsored handstamps will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House (£12.25 UK/Europe; £24.95 elsewhere). For a sample copy write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ. ►

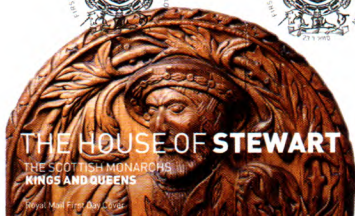
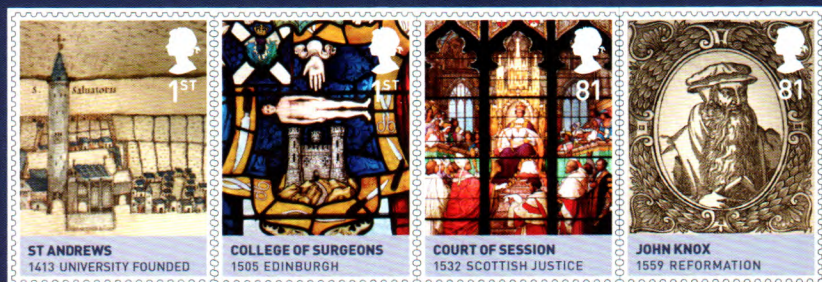
to Scotland and the Age of the Stewarts



Set of stamps	£ 4.03
Miniature sheet	£ 2.66
Pack (stamps & mini sheet)	£ 7.20
First day envelope	£ 0.30
FDC stamps (UK)	£ 5.21
FDC stamps (overseas)	£ 4.44
FDC mini sheet (UK)	£ 3.60
FDC mini sheet (overseas)	£ 3.07
Stamp cards set (12 cards)	£ 4.80
Miniature sheet press sheet	£61.45
Gachet cover	£ 9.99

THE AGE OF THE STEWARTS

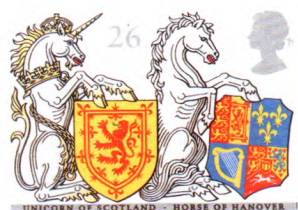
ST ANDREWS 1413		COLLEGE OF SURGEONS 1505		COURT OF SESSION 1532		JOHN KNOX 1559	
JAMES I 1496	JAMES II 1437	JAMES III 1460	JAMES IV 1488	JAMES V 1513	MARY 1542	JAMES VI 1567	



Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbie Road
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Derbyshire
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Royal Mail Tallents House 21 South Gyle Crescent Edinburgh EH12 9PB





House of Stewart This is the first set of stamps to depict Scottish monarchs. Mary, Queen of Scots and Linlithgow Palace featured on a Scottish airletter marking the 400th anniversary of her death in 1987. The airletter was shown in Colin Baker's article in the November 2009 *Bulletin* (p85), and a detail is shown here, at left. Queen Mary also featured on the Scottish National Portrait Gallery airletter of 1989, and a gold enamelled locket set with a cameo portrait of her featured on the Society of Antiquaries airletter of August 1980. James VI featured, as James I of England, on the 26p Christians' Tale stamp in the Millennium series (above). Linlithgow Palace, begun by James I after the previous manor house was destroyed by fire in 1424, was the birthplace of Mary, Queen of Scots. Linlithgow has been chosen for the alternative First Day of Issue postmark for this issue.

The Lion Rampant and Unicorn, as symbols of Scottish Royalty, featured on one of the Queen's Beasts stamps of 1998 (above), the 1958 Scottish 13d regional stamp (and 2008 1st class version), and 28p and 31p Heraldry stamps of 1984 and 1987 (above) Edinburgh Castle and the Palace of Holyroodhouse, homes to Scottish monarchs, have featured on stamps – Edinburgh Castle on high values of 1955 and 1988 (above), and Holyroodhouse on the 1978 10 1/2p Historic Buildings stamp (above).

This is the third set in the Monarchs series, following the Houses of Lancaster & York (February 2008) and the Tudors (April 2009). The next issue, in October, will feature the Stuarts, from James I of England (VI of Scotland) to Queen Anne •

Festival of Stamps New miniature sheets

TWO SHEETS are to be issued for the Festival of Stamps. The first, entitled 'Accession of King George v' will be issued on 6 May, the centenary of the King's accession. It bears a 'double-head' stamp, George v and Elizabeth II, and one showing the two heads of George v used on stamps of his reign. The double-head stamp will also be issued in ordinary sheets. The second miniature sheet, on sale on 8 May, opening day of the London 2010 exhibition, bears stamps featuring the British Empire Exhibition stamps of 1924 (the first GB commemoratives) and 10s and £1 'Seahorse' high values •

The illustrations below are shown at 85% actual size.

BUSINESS DESIGN CENTRE, LONDON 8-15 MAY 2010



L O N D O N 2 0 1 0 F E S T I V A L O F S T A M P S



LONDON 2010 FESTIVAL OF STAMPS



Mammals Continuing the Action for Species



TEN 1st class stamps featuring mammals go on sale at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and Royal Mail Tallents House on 13 April, the fourth in the Action for Species series, following the Birds, Insects and Plants sets of September 2007, April 2008 and May 2009. The stamps depict: a Humpback Whale, Wildcat, Brown Long-Eared Bat, Polecat, Sperm Whale, Water Vole, Greater Horseshoe Bat, Otter, Dormouse and Hedgehog. Designed by Jason Godfrey, the stamps are printed in litho by Cartor.

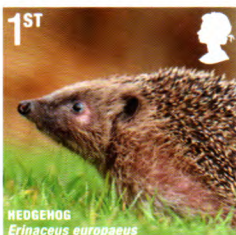
FIRST DAY FACILITIES Orders for serviced FDCs must reach Tallents House by the day of issue. Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (Tallents House postmark), or to the nearest Royal Mail Special Handstamp Centre (Batts Corner, Farnham postmark) marking the outer envelope 'FD1019' or 'FD1020'. Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for the Batts Corner postmark.

For sponsored handstamps and addresses of Handstamp Centres see the *British Postmark Bulletin*, available on subscription from Tallents House (UK/Europe £12.25; elsewhere £24.95). For a free sample copy write to: British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ •



Mammals on stamps Some of the mammals on the forthcoming stamps have featured in previous issues. The Hedgehog and Otter were both shown on the Wildlife stamps of 1977, the Wild Cat was featured in 1986 and 2004, and the Dormouse was included in the Endangered Species issue of 1998 •

series: ten of our most threatened mammals



Action for Species: Mammals prices

Set of stamps	£4.10
Presentation pack	£4.60
First Day Cover envelope	£0.30
Serviced First Day Cover (UK customers)	£5.29
Serviced First Day Cover (overseas customers)	£4.51
Stamp cards set (10 cards)	£4.00



The first day postmarks for Talents House (FD1019) and Batts Corner, Farnham (FD1020).

Presentation pack The pack (left), was written by Dr Pat Morris, author of books on mammals, who has a special-interest in hedgehogs, and printed by Walsall Security Printers.

Mammals of the UK

Sixty-six species of mammals occur in the British Isles, as well as a few free-living domestic animals such as goats and ponies. Of these, nearly half have been introduced from elsewhere in the world, including some of the most abundant, such as the rabbit and grey squirrel. Over two dozen species of whales and dolphins also inhabit British waters. While many are thriving, some of Britain's mammals face uncertain futures, including the ten profiled below.

Wildcat

Felis silvestris

Average weight: 5.5-6.5kg
Total length: 75-100cm
Shy and reclusive, and now confined to the wilder parts of Scotland, the wildcat resembles a tabby cat with prominent black stripes on the body and legs. Its tail is thick and rounded, and is longer than the body. It is a solitary animal, and its diet consists of small mammals, birds, and insects. It is a predator of its prey, and it is a predator of its prey.



Sperm Whale

Physeter macrocephalus

Average weight: 15-40 tonnes. Total length: 10-15m
The sperm whale, with its huge, blunt-ended head, is normally found in deep waters off the west of Britain, but occasionally comes into the sea and gets stranded when the tide goes out. Usually solitary, the sperm whale sometimes lives in small groups. After swimming at the surface for about 10 minutes, it then dives deep for an hour or more to feed, mainly on squid.



Wolverine

Eurasian

Average weight: 15-25kg

Total length: 100-120cm

Shy and reclusive, and now confined to the wilder parts of Scotland, the wolverine resembles a tabby cat with prominent black stripes on the body and legs. Its tail is thick and rounded, and is longer than the body. It is a solitary animal, and its diet consists of small mammals, birds, and insects. It is a predator of its prey, and it is a predator of its prey.

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Humpback Whale

Megaptera novaeangliae

Average weight: 15 tonnes. Total length: 13-15m
This big, black whale with white underparts is the largest whale in the world. It is a solitary animal, and its diet consists of small mammals, birds, and insects. It is a predator of its prey, and it is a predator of its prey.

Hedgehog

Erinaceus europaeus

Average weight: 500-1200g
Total length: 20-25cm
Britain's only native mammal is found throughout the country. It is a solitary animal, and its diet consists of small mammals, birds, and insects. It is a predator of its prey, and it is a predator of its prey.

Dormouse

Eutamias amoenus

Average weight: 10-15g
Total length: 12-15cm
This golden-brown mammal is the only British mouse with a thick bushy tail. It is a solitary animal, and its diet consists of small mammals, birds, and insects. It is a predator of its prey, and it is a predator of its prey.

mammals

Royal Mail First Day Cover

hedgehogs, mainly in Wales and the West Midlands, is found in moor, rain, fens and small fields.

Large-billed insect-eaters in flight or watched from the ground. In summer, females seek out warm places such as bare earth, where, after a 12-day gestation period, they give birth to a single baby each year, rarely a third of its mother's weight.

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Eurothema 2009 Simon Moorcroft reports from the international exhibition in Denmark



The representative of the Netherlands accepts the Team Trophy from Margaret Morris at Eurothema in 2007. The Netherlands has now won on three occasions.

EUROTHEMA 2009, the international thematic exhibition, was held between 6 and 8 November in Roskilde, Denmark, and was held in conjunction with the Danish Forum, the Danish national thematic exhibition. The countries entering this time in addition to the UK, were Belgium, the Netherlands, France, Germany and Sweden. Each country submits a team consisting of up to six people, with each entrant exhibiting between one and six frames. The team with the highest number of aggregate points for a maximum of four members wins the coveted Eurothema Trophy. The exhibition is held bi-annually, the previous one taking place in November 2007 in London. The British team this time consisted of Gary Green, Simon Moorcroft, Bill McKinlay, David Roseveare, Roger Swindells, and Peter Weir.

The exhibition was held at the Roskilde Conference and Sports Centre and was attended by a large number of visitors, many from abroad. The facility was, from the accounts given by those who visited, excellent, as was the organisation, which was of a very high standard throughout. The quality of exhibits submitted was particularly high, with some truly outstanding entries. Judging took place during the first two days of the exhibition, and was undertaken by a jury consisting of one juror from each participating country. The British juror and commissioner was British Thematic Association President John Hayward.

The results for the exhibition were announced at a special Palmares banquet, held on Saturday the 7th. The individual results for the British team were as shown below.

The Netherlands team were overall winners, with a total of 342 points, repeating their success at Eurothema 2007. Although the British team did not win overall, the average points for each exhibitor was higher than in previous exhibitions and the overall standard of all the exhibits was superior compared to previous times.

For many exhibitors, the exhibition offered a chance to explore international exhibiting, while not being subjected to the same level of competition as would be experienced at a full FEPA or FIP exhibition.

Appreciation is due to the Danish organisers for a superb event, and to John Hayward who co-ordinated the British team. For a more detailed breakdown of results, or for more information regarding the British Thematic Association, visit www.brit-thematic-assoc.com •

Bill McKinlay: Gears – the Wheels of Industry, 69 points, Silver Medal • Gary Green: Bee Keeping & the Life of the Honey Bee, 65 points, Silver Medal • David Roseveare: From Grandeur to Gravure, 70 points, Large Silver Medal • Roger Swindells: A Glimpse into the World of Beer, 77 points, Vermeil Medal • Simon Moorcroft: Walking with Destiny, 71 points, Large Silver Medal • Peter Weir: Liquid of Life, 79 points, Vermeil Medal plus a special prize donated by the French Thematic Association

A Guiding Light Karen Foy investigates the story of one of our most famous institutions

Girlguiding UK



ON 2 February Royal Mail celebrates the centenary of the Girl Guides with four colourful stamps in a miniature sheet. This is certain to be a 'must have' for anyone who was once, or still is, involved with one of our oldest childhood organisations.

Although the Guides were established over 100 years ago, this issue has a distinctly 21st century feel, using a modern, yet fun approach to portray some of the many activities enjoyed by today's Girl Guides. Each stamp is dedicated to a specific age group, starting with the 1st class image, where a colourful kite flies high above the youngest members in the 'Rainbow' section. Any girl between five and seven (slightly earlier in Northern Ireland) can join the Rainbows, where the emphasis is on fun, games and learning through activities via the 'Rainbow Jigsaw' programme, which helps develop confidence and a sense of independence before joining the Brownies.

Girls between the ages of seven and eleven can join the Brownies, the female equivalent of the Cub Scouts. Pictured on the 56p stamp, their activities are linked to a series of badges which can be gained for taking part in or carrying out tasks, from collectors and cooks to swimmers and stargazers – the badges gained are often sewn onto their uniform for display.

When the girls outgrow the pursuits of their younger counterparts, they have the opportunity to join the Guides. Working together in Patrols, they elect their own Patrol Leader and plan their activities. Portrayed on the 81p stamp, the Guides have the opportunity to learn new interests and expand their life skills.

For those who have enjoyed their childhood experiences, there's the possibility of continuing their membership into womanhood, up to the age of 26. By joining the Senior Section – the subject of the 90p stamp – there is the prospect of becoming a Ranger or Young Leader working towards adult leadership qualifications and even the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. ►

Young girls, from Delia Smith and Glenda Jackson, to Carole Vorderman and Tanni Grey Thompson, have been attracted to the Guides for generations, and this year the largest female youth organisation in the UK celebrates its 100th birthday in style.

Left to right: current Rainbow (for girls aged 5-7) uniform; a Brownie (for ages 7-10) on a climbing wall; a Guides camp, 1910; Brownies packing bags (bottom centre); and Guides in 1960s and 1970s uniforms. Images reproduced courtesy of Girlguiding UK.

Opposite page, bottom right: a Guides badge of the 1970s (left) and the World Badge of today – this may be worn by all members who have made the Promise.



A picture of the past To understand the attraction, it's worth taking a step back in time to learn how such a popular organisation evolved to meet the needs of modern day Girl Guides. Following the success of the Boy Scout Movement formed by Robert Baden-Powell in 1907, the first rally was organised two years later at Crystal Palace. A small group of girls arrived who represented the huge amount of like-minded females who would love to be given the opportunity to join. Many critics denounced the idea, saying that camping and outdoor pursuits were not suitable pastimes for young ladies of the Edwardian age. However, Baden-Powell began to receive more and more letters from enthusiastic youngsters, and set in motion a plan to form a group called the Girl Guides – asking his sister Agnes to take charge.

By 1918, the scheme was such a success that Baden-Powell's wife, Olave, became involved and was appointed Chief Guide. Originally, the youngest section of girls were called the 'Rosebuds' but disliked their name so much that they asked Baden-Powell to have it changed. They finally settled upon the name 'Brownies' in recognition of the characters in a Victorian book who learn that children can be helpful 'Brownies' – a title the girls thought best described their aims. Guiding soon had international appeal reaching across all cultural backgrounds and, just like their male counterparts, the girls had their own laws and mottos which established them as members and provided recognition across the globe.



Worn with pride Girl Guides wear a wide variety of badges, with each design having its own meaning. Images of these badges have often appeared on various stamp issues. The Guides' symbol is the World trefoil in yellow on a blue background, symbolising the sun shining in a blue sky, signifying that no matter where we are in the world, we all share the same sun; two five-pointed stars represent the Promise and the Law; and a vein in the centre of the design represents a compass needle showing the right way. Although every country has its own version of The Promise, the three trefoil leaves represent the primary aims of carrying out your duty to God and to your country, and to uphold the Guide Law.

The World Badge (shown at far right) also has the three trefoil leaves. Similarly, a three-fingered salute stands for the three parts of the Promise. The left handshake, used as a greeting between Guides, is a symbol that the left hand is nearest the heart and so portrays love and friendship. ►



The Guide Motto is 'Be Prepared', which ensures that the girls are ready to cope with anything that may come their way, whilst here in the UK, 'The Promise' comprises the meaningful words:

*'I promise that I will do my best,
To love my God,
To serve the Queen and my country,
To help other people,
And to keep the Guide Law.'*



Opposite page: a very small selection from the numerous stamp issues devoted to the Girl Guides all over the world.

Below: a Guides badge from the 1970s.

A collector's choice Guiding is practiced worldwide, with associations in UK Overseas Territories such as the Falkland Islands, St Helena and Montserrat, as well as numerous foreign countries where the different languages and cultures offer both learning and teaching opportunities for travelling senior members.

When Juliette Low developed a friendship with Lord and Lady Baden-Powell, they inspired her to bring Scouting to American girls. In 1912, she founded the 1st Girl Guide troop in Savannah, Georgia with just twelve girls and by 1913, after a slight name change, the Girl Scouts of America was born. Juliette was honoured on the first US Scout stamp, issued on her birthday, 30 October 1948 (opposite, far right, second from bottom).

Lady Olave's image was first featured on the stamps of Haiti in 1962 and since then has appeared on numerous commemoratives, souvenir sheets and post cards in recognition of her achievements, on issues from as far afield as Kenya and Belize.

On 24 March 1982 the British Post Office honoured youth organisations with a set of stamps that included the Girl Guides on the 29p value for the first time. Designed by British artist Brian Sanders, the image is perfect for collectors, and clearly shows a Guide and a Brownie with their badges, flags, salute and uniforms of the period. Three years later in January 1985, the Isle of Man followed suit with a special issue of five stamps which solely celebrated the Guiding organisation. The 10M Guide Headquarters of Cunningham House feature on the 11p stamp; the then President, Princess Margaret, appears as the main portrait on the 14p stamp; Lady Olave makes an appearance on the 29p stamp; and on the 31p and 34p issues all guiding age groups are represented alongside depictions of the Guide salute, handshake and badge. Why not look out for the official first day covers, which also show a sketched cachet of the Baden-Powells as well as cancellations in the form of the trefoil badge.

The Guides: did you know?

- Between 1914 and 1918 the Guides introduced a War Service Badge for Guides acting as messengers for Marconi Wireless Telegraphs.
- By 1919 the Guides were also acting as messengers at Versailles for the signing of the Peace Treaty.
- In 1937 Princess Elizabeth became a Guide and Princess Margaret a Brownie. Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother became Patron. In 1952 the Queen became joint Patron alongside the Queen Mother.
- In 1946 the highest award for Guides, the Queen's Guide Award, was introduced.
- In 2002, the Guides launched a new identity – Girlguiding UK, which includes the strapline 'Surprise Yourself'.



If you are considering a Girl Guides thematic, then the website of the Scouts on Stamps Society International – www.sossi.org/girls/guides.htm – ought to be your first port of call. With its huge amount of articles on the topic including detailed information on individual stamps, cachets and first day covers from all around the globe, you're guaranteed to find like-minded collectors who can answer your questions on the various issues.

The centenary makes this an ideal time to seek out new issues, as many countries will be paying their own tributes with philatelic material. Jersey issued five stamps in January 2010, and Canada Post will be unveiling its new issues in June.

So go on... in true Guiding style 'Be Prepared' and 'Surprise Yourself' by amassing a collection which is a genuine part of our childhood heritage and that of many generations to come ●



Posting boxes Photographs by our readers

Readers interested in letter boxes may like to know there is a thriving Letter Box Study Group which produces some excellent publications and postcards. See website www.lbsg.org for further details.

THIS MONTH we show three interesting boxes photographed in Worcestershire by Mr D Bradshaw. The first two are wall boxes set in ornate structures in the villages of Rous Lench (below, top left) and Radford (bottom left), near Evesham. The Rous Lench box was shown on one of the labels in the Posting Boxes generic sheet issued in August 2009. Mr Bradshaw's third photo is of a modern Royal Mail pedestal box at Flyford Flavel; similar to that at Swinthaite, between Leyburn and Aysgarth in North Yorkshire, which was shown here in March 2005 •



A visit to Blists Hill Richard West finds the BPMA's new enterprise is not to be missed

IF YOU ARE planning a special trip in 2010, then a visit to Ironbridge is to be highly recommended. It is a large site (some six square miles), based around the home of the Industrial Revolution in Coalbrookdale, Shropshire, some 300 years ago. Among the attractions are the Iron Bridge and Tollhouse, the Coalbrookdale Museum of Iron, the Broseley Pipeworks, the Jackfield Tile Museum and the Coalport China Museum. It has to be said that it is useful to have a car, both to reach and to travel around the site. The nearest station is Telford Central, about five miles away. Shuttle bus services are provided, linking the attractions at weekends and Bank Holiday Mondays.

However, first stop for most interested in the postal service will be Blists Hill Victorian Town. This re-creation shows what life was like in Victorian and Edwardian times, with the various shops and businesses covering an area of 52 acres. There is a bank where 'current' money can be exchanged to give a better idea of prices in Victorian times. You can visit the grocers, chemist, drapers and outfitters, sweetshop, cobbler, butcher and bakery, in addition to the iron foundry, stables, tinsmiths, brick and tile works, mine, candle factory, blacksmith, school, mission church, blast furnace, and the fairground, and much more (understandably, not all are open every day).

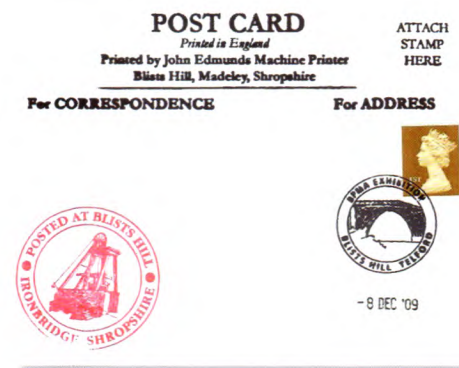
In 2009 a new development was opened, in the form of an additional street, named Canal Street. Among its shops is a post office and stationers, which has been created with the assistance of the British Postal Museum & Archive (BPMA) working with the Ironbridge Gorge Museums Trust. Funding has come from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and from the Wolfson Foundation.

At ground level the building has been made to look like a typical post office and stationers in the Victorian and Edwardian era, complete with a postmaster there to help deal with the public. Upstairs the BPMA, working with Nick Bell Design and The Hub of Birmingham, has created an exhibition titled 'The Post Office in the Community', its first permanent exhibition outside London. The exhibition uses modern techniques in a light and airy setting, in stark contrast to the other 'exhibits' at Blists Hill. The exhibition covers four aspects of the work of the Post Office: counter services over time; carrying the mail; letter boxes; and the Post Office today and in the future.

In the section on counter services, a 'time line' serves to remind how the postal system has developed over the years, and how the services offered by post offices have changed, from the days of telegrams, or buying such items as dog and television licences. Also on show is a model of a Mobile



Exhibition photograph by Chris Taft, BPMA.



The Iron Bridge, Shropshire 1779

Items such as this postcard, 'posted' from the post office at Blists Hill receive a special cachet and handstamp.

Post Office. The section on carrying the mail recalls the days of the Letter Carrier – the name was latter changed to Postman – with a 'hen and chicks' pentacycle and a BSA Bantam motorcycle on display, plus a range of postman's hats. This section also takes a close look at the role the postbus has played over recent years. The section on letter boxes shows how the wall box was developed for use in rural communities, while lamp boxes were introduced for the convenience of those wishing to post letters late at night, and not wanting to have to walk to the nearest conventional letter box. The final section looks at changes taking place within the Post Office today, and the results of opening up the market. In addition to the displays, there are films and audio recordings to be enjoyed, adding to the history of the Post Office.

For visitors who want a philatelic souvenir of their visit, items 'posted' from the post office receive a special cachet, and a special handstamp has also been introduced. Both of these are shown on the reverse side of the postcard, above left ●

Commemorative covers New this month



Chapman & Mitchell Covers A cover serviced on 30 November for Andrew Strauss's Benefit Year, featuring the England cricket team. An England 1st class stamp with Andrew Strauss on an adjoining label are postmarked with a special Andrew Strauss Milton Keynes handstamp. **Price** £15, postage £1.50 ●



Kuzushi Judo Club An Olympic & Paralympic Games cover for Kuzushi Judo Club, Slough bears all 10 special stamps, cancelled with a Kuzushi postmark. Also available with just the single judo stamp. **Prices** £16 with full set, or £5 single stamp. Postage £1.50. Remittances payable to Dominic Reeks ●



GBFDC This Battersea Cats and Dogs Home cover features an illustration of a cat and dog, cancelled Cats and Dogs Home, Halewood, Liverpool. This is probably the largest animal welfare home on Merseyside, and is situated between Liverpool and Widnes. An issue of around 65. **Price** £12 including postage ●

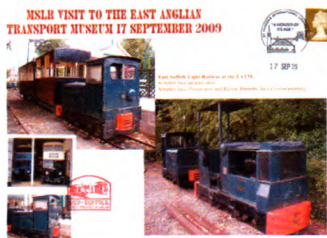


Nene Valley Railway A cover serviced on 3 November bearing a new railway letter stamp showing Christmas on the NVR, together with Royal Mail Christmas stamps. **Prices** £6.50 with full set of Christmas stamps; £3.50 with single stamp. Postage 50p ●



Buckingham Covers The latest edition in the Rail cover series, produced with the Institution of Civil Engineers for the 150th anniversary of the death of the engineer Robert Stephenson, who was ICE President 1856-58. Stephenson designed a number of well-known bridges, including the High Level Bridge at Newcastle upon Tyne, which is featured on the cover by kind permission of the ICE. The cover bears a 1st class stamp and label from Buckingham's

Stephenson Locomotive Society stamp sheet (issued earlier this year), with a Westminster 12 October 2009 postmark. Limited edition of 500 covers. **Price** £8.95 ●



Mid-Suffolk Light Railway 50 covers were issued to mark a visit to East Anglia Transport Museum, featuring East Suffolk Light Railway diesel locos. A Royal Mail 1st class stamp is cancelled by special St Pancras International handstamp of 17 September 2009, and two new MLSR carriage labels are tied by pictorial handstamp. **Prices** cover £3.25; labels £1.50 block of six, £3 A5 sheet, £6 A4 sheet, perf or imperf. Postage 60p. Remittances payable to B R Reynolds ●



M Tanner An Arthur Conan Doyle / W G Grace cover (28 numbered copies) featuring MCC / Conan Doyle versus London Counties / W G Grace at Crystal Palace, and the 1908 London Olympic Marathon Race when Conan Doyle assisted Pietri Dorando (later disqualified). A Conan Doyle 1st class Eminent Britons stamp and a 3p W G Grace stamp are postmarked Eminent Britons / Holmes / Edinburgh 8/10/09. **Price** £15.99, including filler card of overall image. Postcards 60p. Maximum card Conan Doyle stamp / Palace image £10. Postage £1.50. Other Holmes items available ●

Orders and enquiries

Buckingham Covers Warren House, Shearway Road, Folkestone, Kent CT19 4BF Telephone 01303 278137. www.buckinghamcovers.com

Chapman & Mitchell Covers Bletchley Park Post Office, The Mansion, Bletchley Park, Milton Keynes MK3 6EB. Telephone 01908 631797. www.bletchleycovers.com

GBFDC Terry Barnett, The Association of GB First Day Cover Collectors. Telephone 01514 862610. www.gbfdc.co.uk

Kuzushi Judo S M White, 92 Broomhill, Cookham Rise, Maidenhead SL6 9LQ.

Mid Suffolk Light Railway B R Reynolds, 74 Edgecomb Road, Stowmarket IP14 2DW. Telephone 01449 613319, or e-mail barry.reynolds@tiscali.co.uk

Nene Valley Railway (Stamps) Wansford Station, Stibbington, Peterborough PE8 6LR. Telephone 01780 784444.

M Tanner 180 Whitehorse Road, West Croydon CR0 2LA. Fax/Answerphone 020 8684 9757 (for credit card orders only)

Cover producers wishing to announce a recent or forthcoming cover should submit copy of up to 75 words in the style above. The text should briefly describe the cover, state the stamps and postmarks it will bear, and give retail prices and an address for orders and enquiries. Announcements are published on a first-come-first-served basis and may be modified or shortened at the Editor's discretion. Copy for consideration for the April *Bulletin* should be sent to The Editor (address on p163) by 6 February. Copy for May should arrive by 6 March. Royal Mail cannot enter into correspondence or telephone conversations concerning announcements in this Covers section.

Competitions Win a copy of *Artwork*, by David Gentleman



November identify The detail was from the 2006 *Lest We Forget* stamp. The winner was P Benning of Canada.

November knowledge The answers: 1) green and brown (drab); 2) Andrew Ross; 3) 1969. The winner was E Nickell of Northern Ireland.

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

FIRSTLY, identify the stamp from the detail above. Send your answer to February *Identify* Competition. Secondly, test your philatelic knowledge by answering the questions below. Send your answer to February *Knowledge* Competition.

- 1 What is the colour of the current £1 Machin definitive?
- 2 Which set of the Millennium stamps featured a Barn Owl?
- 3 When was the UPU monument in Berne shown on a stamp?

Send your answer (addressed to either the February *Identify* competition or February *Knowledge* competition), name and address on a postcard or the back of a sealed envelope to: British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ. The senders of the first cards to be drawn in each competition on 13 March will receive the David Gentleman *Artwork* book. Runner-up prizes of packs, FDCs or stamp cards will be awarded in each competition. The competitions are not open to Royal Mail employees ●

Events

Until April David Gentleman exhibition at the British Postal Museum & Archive, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1. **Enquiries** 020 7239 2570, e-mail info@postalheritage.org.uk.

1 February - 30 October King George V exhibition at Bath Postal Museum, 27 Northgate Street, Bath. **Enquiries** 01225 460333

24-27 February Spring Stampex. See page 165.

27 March Westbex 2010 at Kennet School, Thatcham, Berks, 10.00-16.00. 24 dealers. **Enquiries** G Stewart 01635 866942.

16-17 April Scottish Philatelic Congress at Dewar's Centre, Perth. See page 166.

5-6 May International Stamp & Cover Show (Philatex Extra) at Lawrence Hall, Royal Horticultural Halls, Greycoat Street, London SW1. 5 May 11.00-19.00, 6 May 10.00-18.00. **Enquiries** 01793 513431, www.stampshows.net

6 May until further notice Treasures of the BPMA exhibition at the British Postal Museum & Archive, London WC1.

8-15 May London 2010 International Stamp Exhibition (Festival of Stamps) at Business Design Centre, London N1.

Festival of Stamps For details of events to be held during 2010 see page 100 of the December 2009 *Bulletin* and page 297 of the June 2009 issue ●

Late news

Festival of Stamps The year-long festival of exhibitions and events kicked off in January. The Festival will show the vital role that stamps play in our lives: as a key part of a nation's heritage they form the world's biggest public art gallery, showcasing a diverse and striking picture of the world.

One of the Festival's first events is Post Abolition: Commemorative Stamps from Around the World (on until 30 June). This new display in the London, Sugar and Slavery Gallery of the Museum of London Docklands shows how the abolition of slavery has been commemorated through the everyday postage stamp.

A display of Philatelic Rarities is on show from this month at the British Library in London, and a display of George V stamps is at the Bath Postal Museum. A Festival highlight will be a major exhibition celebrating the centenary of George V's accession to the throne – Empire Mail: George V and the GPO, at the prestigious Guildhall Art Gallery, in the City of London, 7 May - 25 July. Visit website <http://www.london2010.org.uk> for further details about the Festival of Stamps.

As one of the partners of this year's Festival of Stamps, the Bath Postal Museum is running an exhibition showing how the Post Office played a part in some of the major events of King George V's reign, including the First World War and the British Empire Exhibition. It also covers other aspects such as the development of air mail, and how rising inflation affected the cost of a stamp. The exhibition will be open on every day except Sundays, until the end of October from 11.00 to 17.00. The Museum shares an entrance with the main post office in Bath, at 27 Northgate Street, Bath BA1 1AJ. Telephone 01225 460333, or email info@bathpostalmuseum.org •

London 2010 exhibition tickets The international stamp exhibition, London 2010, part of the Festival of Stamps, opens at the Business Design Centre, London N1 at 10.00 on Saturday 8 May. The exhibition will run until Saturday 15 May, being open from 10.00-18.00 each day, except 15 May when it will close at 17.00.

Admission will be free except on the opening day, when admittance will cost £10 (children who are accompanied by an adult enter free). First day tickets are now available by post – send a cheque drawn in Sterling, payable on a British bank, and made payable to Stamp World Exhibitions, to: London 2010 (First Day Tickets), Suite 101, Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, London N1 0QH. Tickets can also be ordered online, paying by PayPal, at www.london2010.org.uk at £10.50 each (to cover charges).

All tickets must be ordered by 19 April: no requests for advance tickets will be accepted after that date. Tickets will be sent by post on 19 April. Overseas visitors will be sent their tickets on 12 April on payment of an additional £1 for airmail postage. Please provide a clear name and address to which tickets should be sent.

Once tickets have been ordered, no refunds will be possible. Tickets must be presented to gain admission to the exhibition. Tickets may also be purchased at the exhibition on 8 May, subject to availability. Advance ticketholders will be able to enter the exhibition prior to those buying tickets on the day.

If you are visiting the exhibition in May, and are able to spare an hour or two in a good cause, then Stamp Active Network are urgently looking for volunteers to man their stand at the exhibition. The main focus of activities for children will be on Saturday 15 May, but they need people to look after the stand from 8-14 May, particularly on the 8th, 9th and 14th when more children are likely to visit. This will mainly involve giving out leaflets and goodie bags to any visiting children, and receiving any donations of material for their use in promoting youth philately. CRB clearance is not necessary. Their small band of regular volunteers desperately needs extra help to cover the whole period of the exhibition. If you think you can be of any assistance and would like any more information, please contact Dave Armitage by e-mail at davearmitage@btopenworld.com or telephone 01279 503625 •

Historic Pillar Boxes Collection

Royal Mail is pleased to offer these 1/19 scale miniatures of four iconic boxes, cast in pewter and hand finished in the UK.



Science & Arts Used in Edinburgh, Manchester, London and Dublin, only two now survive.

Penfold Our miniature is based on an example in the BPMA, one of the five different styles produced.

Double Aperture This classic design was first made in 1899. Our miniature is a reproduction of a George VI box, only three of which now remain in use.

Airmail Model based on Box 13, which stood outside the London Chief Post Office in King Edward Street, London.

Throughout the UK, the familiar red pillar box is a popular item of 'street furniture', and there is a thriving society whose members study, photograph and record our boxes. Posting boxes featured on stamps in 2002 and again this year.

Science & Arts Designed by the department of that name in 1857, only 50 of these ornate boxes were made • **Penfold** This elegant box, named after its designer J W Penfold, was the standard pillar box of 1866-79 • **Airmail Box** Used from 1930-38 for posting air-mail letters, this was notable for its colour and 'AIR MAIL' plate • **Double Aperture** A classic design with double aperture for letters for London & Abroad and Country, found primarily in large cities.

Order codes and prices Science & Art: VA136, £26.95 • Penfold: VA134, £26.95 • Air-mail: VA133, £26.50 • Double Aperture: VA135, £28.95. **Handling charge** £2.95 UK, £5 Europe, £14 elsewhere



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