BRITISH PHILATELIC
Bulletin
The magazine for collectors of UK stamps
VOLUME 54 NUMBER 8 | APRIL 2017 | £1.95

JR Holman – Spring stamping
• Finlandia Exhibition Sheet



Racehorse Legends

PAINTINGS BY MICHAEL HESLOP

PREVIEWS
Songbirds





60 YEARS ON
Machin anniversary

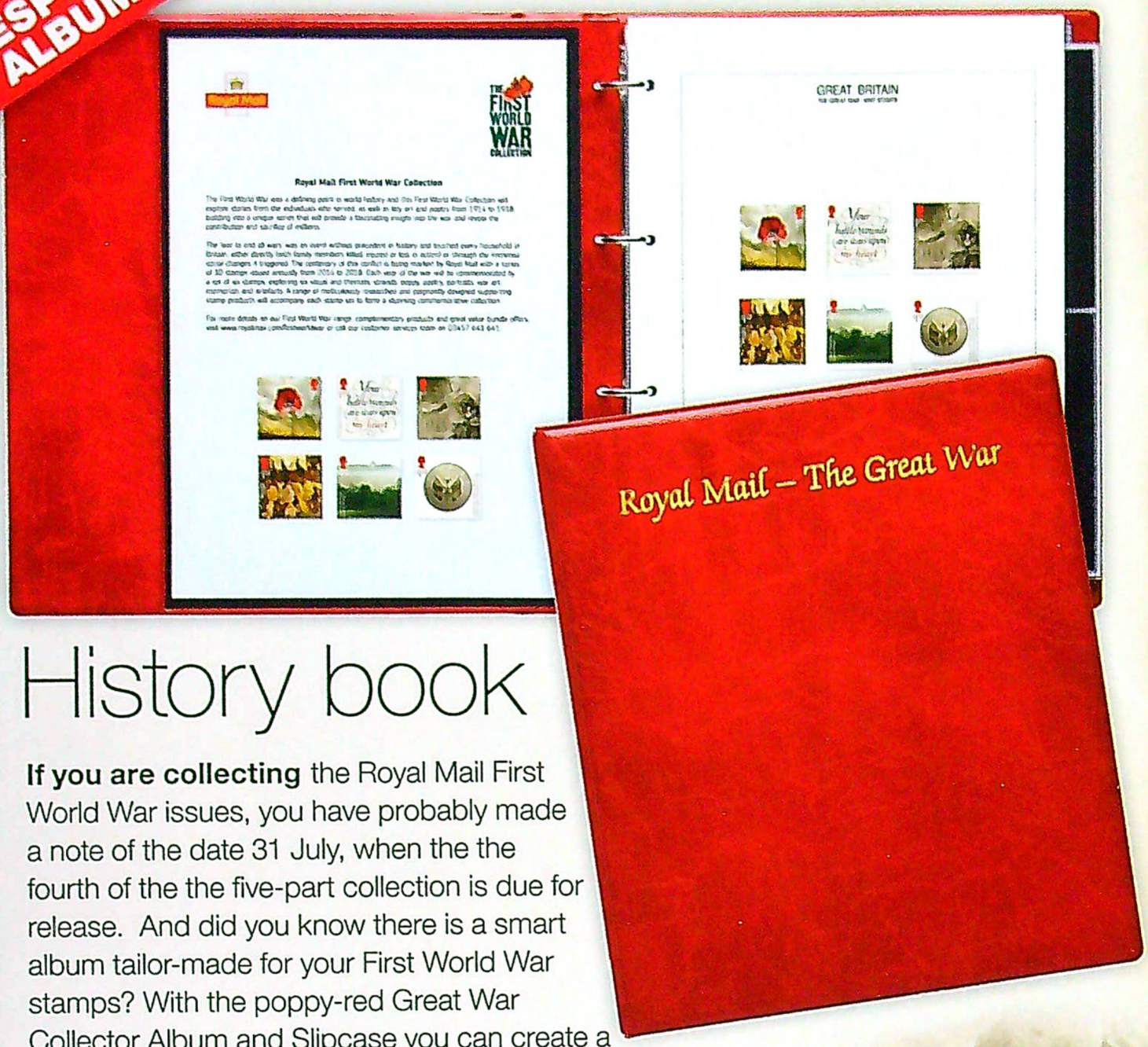
Stamp of Significance





WIN Medal Cover+
luxury hotel break

BESPOKE ALBUM



History book

If you are collecting the Royal Mail First World War issues, you have probably made a note of the date 31 July, when the the fourth of the the five-part collection is due for release. And did you know there is a smart album tailor-made for your First World War stamps? With the poppy-red Great War Collector Album and Slipcase you can create a self-contained commemorative collection and keep it in pristine condition.

The special Collector Album will hold and display the entire five-year series of Royal Mail stamps, First Day Covers, Presentation Packs, Prestige Stamp Books, Postcards and Coin Covers being issued to mark the centenary of every year of the First World War from 1914 to 1918.

To order: contact Royal Mail at the address on page 236 or order online at. www.royalmail.com/firstworldwar. Simply type in Collector Album with the product code PA777 in the search box. The album and slipcover costs £24.99. Media Code 18BUL01 •

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● **Royal Mail Editor** William Doherty, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB ● **Publishing Editor** Kate Shaw, 26 Throgmorton Street, London EC2N 2AN ● **Price** £1.95 from Post Office Ltd philatelic outlets or by order from Post Office branches ● **Twelve months' subscription** £18.95 UK and Europe, £24.95 rest of world. Subscribe online at www.royalmail.com/bulletin or write to Royal Mail Freepost, Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles, PO Box 1373, Sunderland SR5 9PG, UK. Overseas subscribers will need to use a stamp, as freepost is for UK only ● **Binders** (to hold 24 issues) £8.50, and storage boxes (about 30 copies) £9.95, are also available by post or online ● Stamp images © Royal Mail. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or parts is prohibited without prior permission of the Editors ● **Printed** in Great Britain by Zenith Print & Packaging Ltd ● **ISSN** 0953 8119 ● Royal Mail is a trading name of Royal Mail Group Ltd. Registered in England and Wales, number 4138203. Registered office: 100 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0HQ

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Beak performance Tune in to the sound of our feathered friends with the chirpy new Songbirds stamp set released next month

HERE IS A PHILATELIC FEATHER in your collector's cap... the Songbirds issue is set to hit an appealing note when it comes to explaining the melodic beauty of Britain's dawn chorus. Ten stamps feature some of the nation's favourite birds, including the wren, song thrush, cuckoo, skylark and nightingale, beautifully illustrated by leading wildlife artist Federico Gemma.

Songbirds Special Stamps are to be issued on 4 May, in the week leading up to International Dawn Chorus Day, which falls this year on Sunday 7 May. Available with the issue is a Presentation Pack and set of Postcards.

Stamp by stamp The ten Songbirds stamps all come in First Class values.

Great Tit / Parus major Great tits are among the first birds to welcome spring and they do so with various distinctively strident songs. The most common consists of loud, much-repeated syllables, sounding like 'teacher-teacher-teacher'.

Wren / Troglodytes troglodytes The wren is the most common of UK breeding birds. Its song has astonishing volume; it hardly seems possible for such a small creature to make such a din – a dry and rattly sound, usually with a prolonged trill at the end.

Songbirds Stamps – Specifications	
Date of issue	4 May
Number of stamps	Ten (se-tenant strips of 5)
Stamp design	Osborne Ross
Illsutration	Federico Gemma
Stamp format	Square
Stamp size	35mm x 35mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Number per sheet	25/50
Perforations	14.5 x 14.5
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA

Willow Warbler / Phylloscopus trochilus With a tendency to announce the arrival of high spring, the willow warbler offers a song that is a soft, lisping descent down the scale, much repeated and with subtle variations.

Goldcrest / Regulus regulus Goldcrests are our smallest birds (along with the Firecrest) and have a thin little song to match their size – a pretty trickle of golden notes most often heard coming from the top of a conifer tree.



Skylark / Alauda arvensis Hanging high in the air, the skylark sends down an endless song of dazzling scope and range. More than most birds, skylarks are capable of singing continuously for extended periods. Although hard to spot on the ground, they are easy to identify in 'song flight'.

Blackcap / Sylvia atricapilla Singing a fruity, fluty song of prolonged grace and tunefulness, blackcaps have often been billed as Britain's champion songsters, subtler and even more melodic than nightingales.

Song Thrush / Turdus philomelos Song thrushes are mad about repetition; they take a phrase, run through it two or three times, then come up with another and repeat that, often singing from a high, exposed perch.

Nightingale / Luscinia megarhynchos Nightingales may sing at night but they also sing all day. Their call is a crescendo of whistles, a deep throbbing drumming and snatches of pure melody.

Cuckoo / Cuculus canorus Arriving here for a six-week frenzy of sound from late April to early June, cuckoos sing their famous two-syllable song that carries for miles. Our cuckoo population has declined markedly in recent years.

Yellowhammer /Emberiza citrinella Often seen perched in a hedgerow and singing away, the yellowhammer offers a few chattering syllables, followed by a brief and much-repeated phrase that sounds like 'bread-bread-bread-bread-cheeeeese'. ▸

Songbirds – Prices	
Mint Stamps	£6.50
First Day Cover	£8.22
First Day Envelope	30p
Stamp Souvenir	£8.22
Presentation Pack	£7.00
Stamp Cards	£4.50



FD1712TH



FD1712PL



FD1712NP



Above: the Songbirds Presentation Pack carries all ten stamps and contains expert information written by Simon Barnes

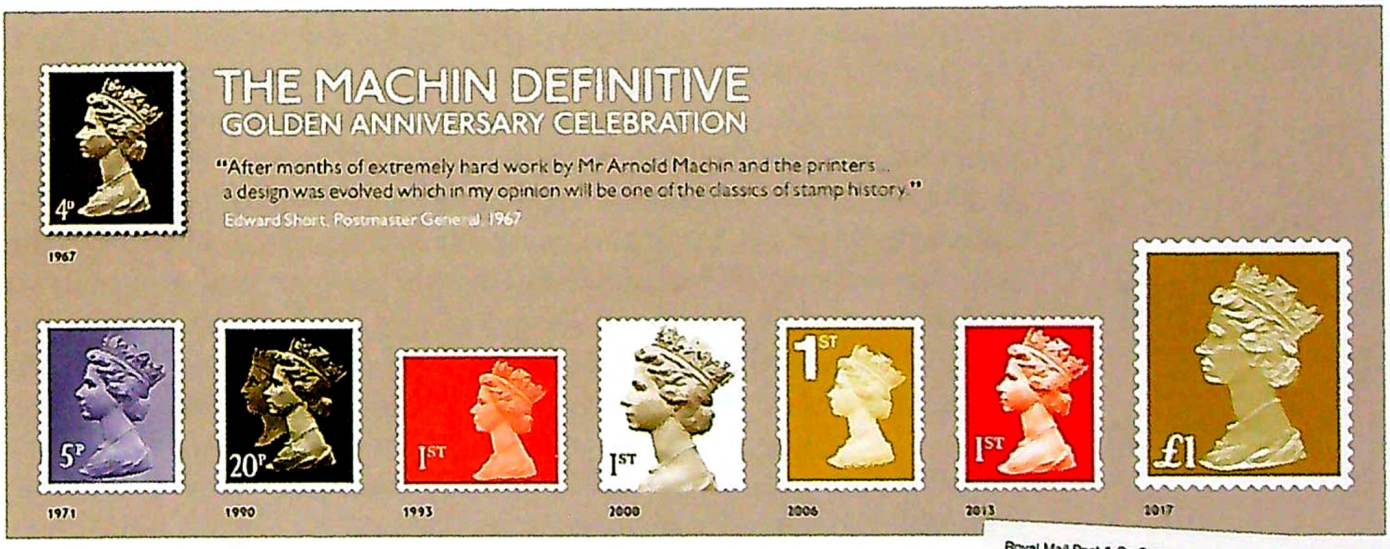
Below: First Day Cover with special Tallents House postmark. All alternative postmarks are shown on the previous page

Accompanying this issue is a beautifully illustrated Presentation Pack, written by wildlife author and birdwatcher Simon Barnes, that reveals the story behind every bird and its distinctive song.

Orders for Serviced First Day Covers should reach Royal Mail by 4 May. For the Tallents House, Edinburgh postmark, customers may send stamped envelopes on the day of issue to Royal Mail, Tallents House at the address on page 256. Please quote the *Bulletin* media code 17BUL13 with your orders. The Tallents House postmark shows an illustration of a bird singing while perched on a branch. Two alternative postmarks have the place name Warbleton, Heathfield; the pictorial version also features a drawing of a songbird •







Above: two Miniature Sheets will mark the 50th anniversary of the Machin design, along with a Prestige Stamp Book, Show Souvenirs, Bespoke Sheets, Press Sheets and a Medal Cover – find full details in your May edition of *Bulletin*, a month in advance of this very special issue



Royal Mail News The golden anniversary of the Machin stamp is to be celebrated in philatelic style in June. Here is an early glimpse

It was on 5 June1967 that Royal Mail issued the first of the new style definitive stamps featuring the classsic portrait of The Queen designed and sculpted by Arnold Machin. Since that day 'Machins' have remained a collector's favourite.

In next month's *Bulletin* you can read the philatelic Preview of the suite of Royal Mail stamp products to be issued on 5 June this year, to mark the 50th anniversary of the much-loved Machin. Meanwhile we are able to bring you an early flavour with the illustrations on this page – of two Miniature Sheets (above) and the intriguing Post & Go Collector's Packs (right) •

Land of a thousand lakes

Russell Hawkins reports on the Royal Mail Exhibition Sheet marking next month's international exhibition in Finland, where UK collections are among the key displays



Above: Finland's first stamp – the 5 kopek issued in 1857, showing the Arms of the Republic. Its design will be echoed in of one of Finnish Post's special miniature sheets going on sale on the first day of Finlandia 2017

PHILATELISTS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD are looking forward to the global stamp collecting extravaganza in Finland which takes place next month. Each year the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie (FIP) nominates countries to host World Stamp Exhibitions to develop philately and promote the stamps of member countries. In 2017 the nominated hosts are Melbourne, Australia and Tampere, Finland. The Finlandia 2017 event will be staged in two venues – the Tampere Hall and the Postal Museum in the Museum Centre, Vaprikki.

To promote and celebrate Finlandia 2017, Royal Mail is issuing a bespoke Exhibition Sheet on 24 May, the first day of the five-day event. The Sheet comprises 20 'Hello' stamps set within a background illustration of Tampere by night and attached to labels portraying different aspects of the architecture, landscape and cultural heritage of the city (see opposite page for technical details). Among the subjects are Tampere City Hall, Tampere Theatre, the medieval Cathedral, Natural History Museum, the Observation Tower by Lake Näsijärvi, the Pyynikki observation tower, and Northern Lights.

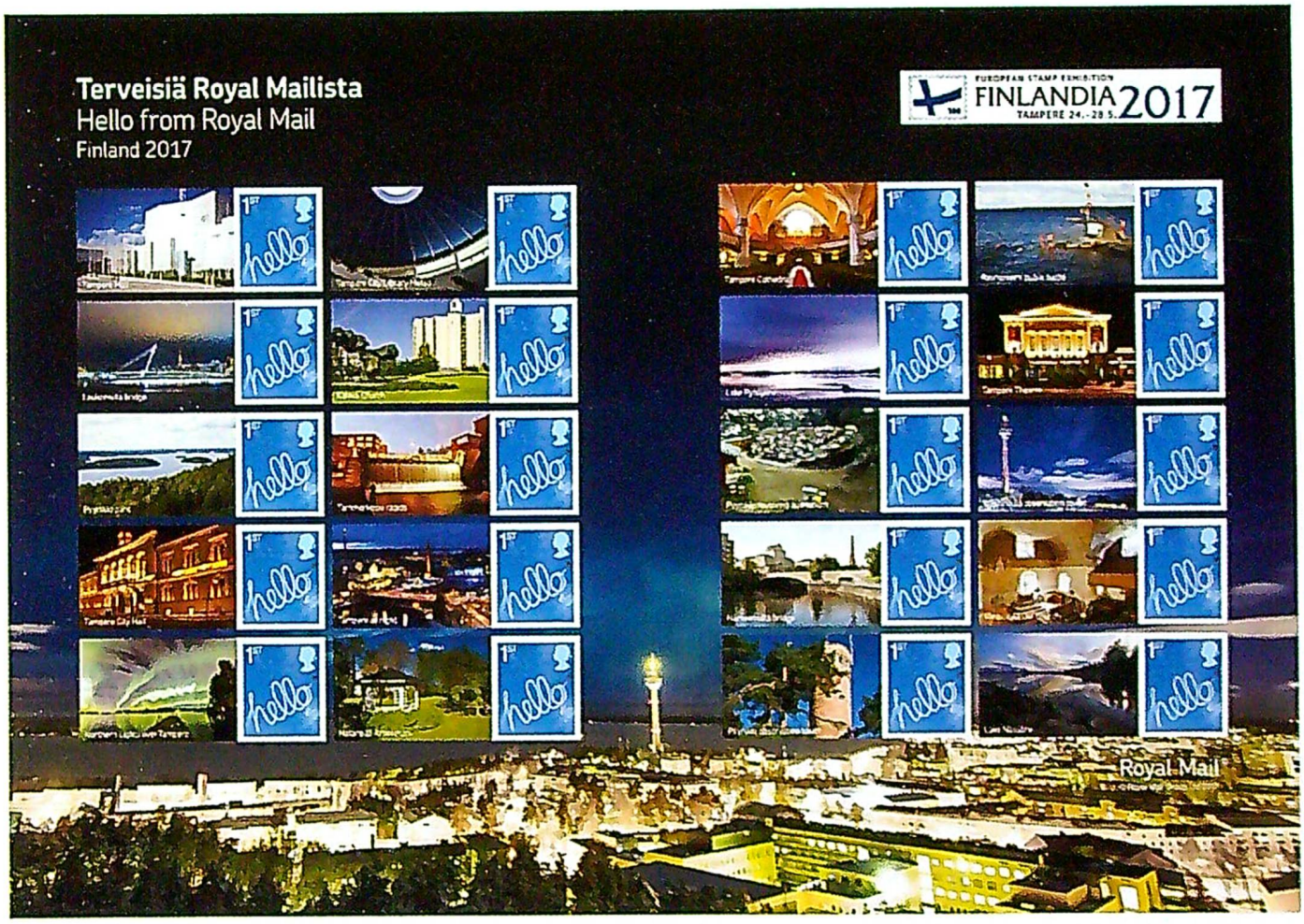
Exhibition themes Each day of Finlandia 2017 has a different philatelic focus:
Wednesday 24 May Agathon Faberge
Thursday 25 May Centenary of Finland becoming an independent state in 1917
Friday 26 May The City of Tampere
Saturday 27 May Moomins and Families
Sunday 288 May Postal Museum and Postcrossing.

A 'Remarkable Adventure' exhibition for children age 5 to 12 will show images of Finnish stamps featuring animals, vehicles and sports. This exhibition can also be seen at the Postal Museum from 9 June to 29 October 2017.

Invited exhibits include material from the Bank of Finland Museum and five major private collections. The UK will be well represented – material from the collection of HM Queen Elizabeth II, including the first stamps issued in the world, will be on show. This exhibition from the Royal Philatelic Collection will feature rare essays and proofs of the first stamps ever issued and postal stationery from 1839 to 1840.

There will also be some 'superstars of philately', such as the blue unused Two Pence Post Office Mauritius stamp from 1847 and the Bermuda Postmaster Provisionals from 1848 to 1854. The most notable among the later acquisitions is the Kirkcudbright Penny Black first day cover, which bears ten Penny Blacks, the largest known group of Penny Blacks on a first day cover. And in the weeks running up to the Finlandia 2017, from 28 April, the Royal Philatelic Collection items will be exhibited for the first ▸

Stamp images: Royal Mail and Finnish Post. Alamy



time in Finland, at the Museum Centre. Michael Sefi, Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection, will give a lecture on the material on 24 May.

Rarities exhibited from the Finnish Postal Museum's own collections will include Finland's first stamps, the 5 and 10 kopek stamps issued in 1856, as well as pieces of postal stationery, which preceded these stamps and were issued from 1845. Some of the exhibits are unique and others so rare there are only a very few examples in the world.

The Finnish Post Office (Posti) will issue two miniature sheets on the opening day, one showing two of the first Finnish stamps (Arms of the Republic) issued after independence in December 1917; the second sheet will include an embossed stamp with foil and lacquer coating.

Terveisiä Royal Mailista-Hello From Royal Mail Finland 2017 Exhibition Sheet Technical Details

Date of issue	24 May
Number of stamps	20
Stamp	Hello Smilers® stamp
Sheet design	Studio Up
Sheet format	Landscape
Stamp format	Definitive
Stamp size	20mm x 24mm
Printer	International Security Printing
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	15 x 14
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	Self-adhesive
Price	£12.50

Two Post & Go machines at the exhibition will offer the Machin and Union Flag Post & Go designs with a special 'Finlandia 2017' overprint – also available by mail order from Tallents House.

Finlandia 2017 follows other major exhibitions of the same name held in Helsinki in 1956, 1988 and 1995 •

Visit www.finlandia2017.fi for full details and news updates.



Stamp Scene John Holman keeps you posted on events and activities in the philatelic world

UK diary dates

30 March-2 April Melbourne 2017 Melbourne 2017 FIAP International Stamp Exhibition, Caulfield Racecourse, Melbourne, Australia.

7 April Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, London WC1H 0DG, 9am to 4pm. Admission free. Enquiries: Kate Puleston 020 8946 4489, www.stampshows.net.

8 April National Philatelic Society meeting. 'An Excellent Afternoon's Entertainment' display by Christine Earle and Patrick Reid. The Welsh Centre, Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8UE. Display 2.45pm, preceeded by Members' Auction at 12.50pm. Enquiries: Peter Mellor 01582 762284.

8 April Telford Stamp, Card & Coin Fair, Belmont Hall, Wellington Centre, Telford TF1 1LU, 10am to 3pm. Free entry, good range of stalls. Enquiries: B Hemmings 01694 720192.

21-22 April Scottish Philatelic Congress, Dewar's Centre, Glover Street, Perth, PH2 0TH. Hosted by the Lanarkshire Philatelic Society, 50 years old this year.. The Tom Riley Display will be given by Professor Iain Stevenson. A bespoke Congress cover and special handstamp commemorate the Cameronian Regiment in 1917, and the postcard shows famous people born in Lanarkshire.

Royal Mail is providing Post & Go machines and a special Congress overprint will be used. For more information see www.scottishphilately.homestead.com.

22 April GB Philatelic Society display at Royal Philatelic Society, 41 Devonshire Place, Marylebone, London W1G 6JY. 'The Maltese Cross: Its Use and Abuse, Replacement and Late Use' (Howard Hughes, 11am), GB used in Malta (Martin Lloyd, 2.15pm). Enquiries: www.gbps.org.uk; email membership@gbps.org.uk.

5 May Strand Stamp Fair, see 7 April above for details.

13 May National Philatelic Society display at Welsh Centre, Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8UE. Display 'The Motor Car to 1970' by Anthony Miller, 2.45pm. Members' Auction from 12.50pm. Enquiries: Peter Mellor 01582 762284.

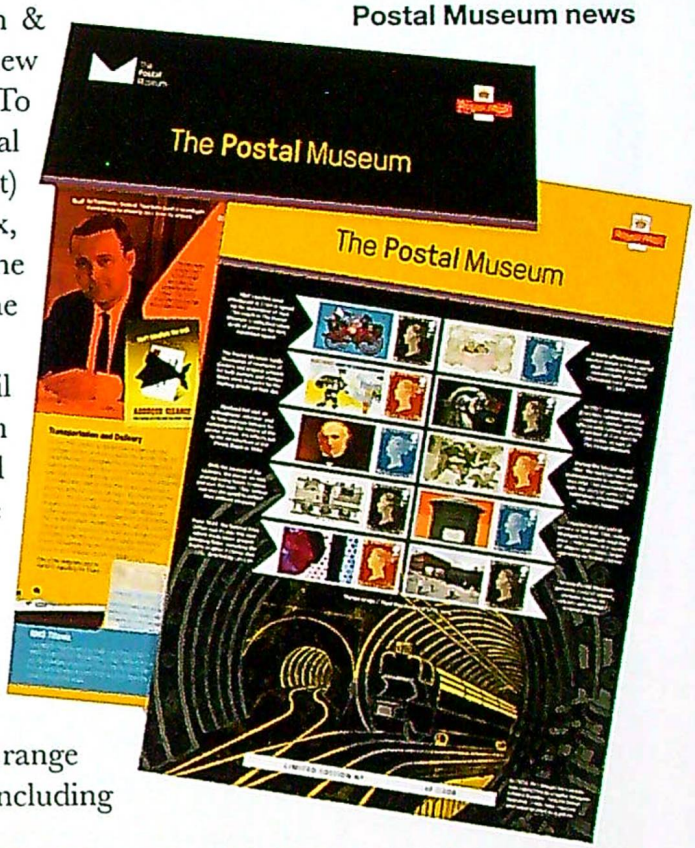
20 May GB Philatelic Society display at Royal Philatelic Society, 41 Devonshire Place, as above. 'GU Used in GB, Pre-1840 to 1940' (James Grimwood-Taylor, 11am), 'The British post Office and the Environment' (Jeremy Piercy, 2.15pm). Enquiries: www.gbps.org.uk; email membership@gbps.org.uk.

24-28 May Finlandia 2017 exhibition, Tampere, Finland, billed as the largest philatelic exhibition in Europe this year. See page 238.

Later this year Midpex is at Warwickshire Exhibition Centre, Leamington Spa on 8 July; the 99th Philatelic Congress of GB will be held in Cardiff, 27-30 July; Stampa (Irish national stamp exhibition) is on 6-8 October in Dublin.

Further major international exhibitions will be held in Bandung, Indonesia, 3-7 August; Brasilia, Brazil, 24-29 October, and Monaco from 30 November to 2 December). Details will be given in your *Bulletin* nearer the dates• ▸

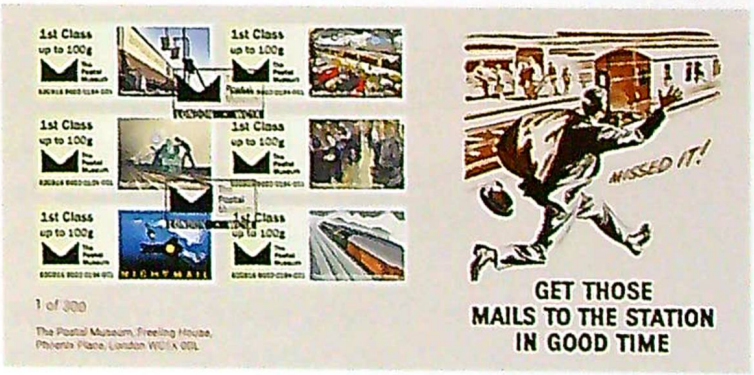
Postal Museum news



The Postal Museum (formerly British Postal Museum & Archive) is now closed to the public and will reopen in new premises nearby in mid-2017 (date to be announced). To mark the occasion, Royal Mail has produced a special Postal Museum Smilers® Commemorative Sheet (right) which will be issued on the first day of Autumn Stampex, 13 September (this date has been changed from the one reported in the philatelic preview on page 188 of the February edition of *Bulletin*.)

Staff continue to deal with telephone and email enquiries, while the Museum website shows progress in the construction of the new museum and the Mail Rail experience. Visitors will be able to take a 15-minute journey in specially constructed trains on part of the former Post Office Underground Railway, opened in 1927, which carried mail beneath the streets of London until 2003. An article on this railway was published in the *Bulletin* of July 1966.

The online Postal Museum shop offers a wide range of cards, DVDs, CDs, gifts and philatelic items, including the bespoke Postal Museum Post & Go covers facilitated by the introduction of the Post & Go self-service machines on site. For example, the Post & Go Mail Rail first day cover (right), comes in a numbered limited edition of 300 with the Museum logo on the tariff overprint and on the special postmark. At the time of our going to press it was still available online at https://shop.postalmuseum.org ●



Stamp-related exhibitions

Special stamps issued on 2 September 2016 commemorated the 350th anniversary of the Great Fire of London. There is still time (until 17 April) to visit two related exhibitions – 'Fire! Fire!' at the Museum of London and 'Out of the Fire' at St Paul's Cathedral. Visit www.museumoflondon.org for further information and to book tickets. Admission to 'Out of the Fire' is included in general admission charge to St Paul's.



Royal Mail issues stamps commemorating Pink Floyd in January 2011 and July 2016. "The Pink Floyd Exhibition: Their Mortal Remains', at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, 13 May to 1 October 2017, is described as 'an unprecedented, innovative and multi-sensory journey through Pink Floyd's extraordinary worlds, chronicling the music, design and staging of the band, from their debut in the 1960s through to the present day'.



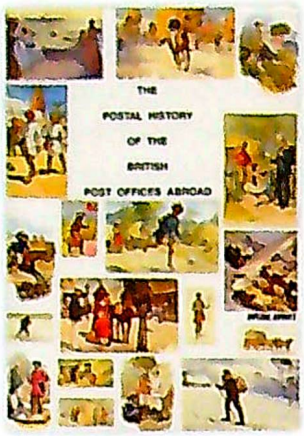
The Ancient Britain stamp set issued in January this year included an image of the 11,000-year-old Star Carr headdress, found at the mesolithic site at Seamer near Scarborough. It is now on display (with four headdresses never before seen in public) at the Yorkshire Museum. Details at www.yorkshiremuseum.org.uk ● ▸

Obituary
Ted Proud



Photograph courtesy of Chris King

Edward Wilfrid Baxby Proud, always known as Ted Proud, who died in February, age 86, will be best-remembered as the author (and co-author) of numerous books on postal history. These include *1840 One Penny Black Plates* (2nd edn, 2015), four volumes on *British Maritime Postal History*, and a three volume *History of British Army Postal Services*. Other titles include *Postal History of Aden & States up to independence*, *British Post Offices in the Far East* (1991), *Postal History of the Occupation of Malaya and British Borneo 1941-1945* (with M D Rowell, 1992), *Postal History of Uganda & Zanzibar* (1993), and Postal History of British Mediterranean (3 volumes).



Mr Proud established postal history dealers and publisher Proud-Bailey Co Ltd in 1961, and signed the Roll of Dinstinguished Philatelists in 2008 ●

RPSL news

The Royal Philatelic Society London announces that its Museum and Archives, at 41 Devonshire Place, London W1, is now designated as 'The Museum of Philatelic History'. By clarifying the purpose of the Museum in this way, the Society wants to bring it to the attention of a wider public and to encourage more visitors and researchers to take advantage of its extensive collections of artefacts and records. The Society also wants to encourage collectors and societies to see the Museum as a natural repository for relevant material in need of a permanent home. The change of name also differentiates the Museum from other philatelic institutions with different functions.

For further information about the Museum of Philatelic History, contact the Curator, Wesley Tierney, at museumarchives@rpsl.org.uk or on 020 7486 1044. He will be delighted to welcome visitors by appointment. Mr Tierney recently joined the staff at the Royal as Curator, replacing Mark Copley who has moved on to another post in the museum world. Mr Tierney has worked in several museums with an aeronautical focus, including the Shuttlewoireth Collection of Veteran Aeroplanes and the Brooklands Trust.



A comprehensive display and presentation of The Postal Stationery of the Orange Free State was given to the members of The Royal Philatelic Society London on 23 February by Michael Smith (left).The reaction of the audience to the superb presentation was best summed up by Lars Engelbrecht, giving the vote of thanks. In the collection formed by Michael over more than 30 years is found 'all the key items, and yet he still manages to find new material'. It is, continued Lars, 'one of the most beautiful exhibits, one which has been meticulously arranged'.All the material has been brought together as a result of thorough researched, and carefully annotated, despite the complexity of distinguishing between many of the dies ... everything shown was of the highest quality.

Those wishing to visit The Royal Philatelic Society London at 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY, or be a guest at one of its meetings, are asked to contact the Administrative Office (020 7486 1044) ●

Spring workshops

While online study programmes and virtual classrooms appear to be available in all manner of subjects, we are happy to announce that the Robert Murray Stamp Shop is holding another series of its popular Stamp Workshops this month and in May, in Edinburgh – and in person.



The Workshops are all led by Robert Murray, who has more than 40 years full-time experience in the stamp business, and is also a collector. The workshops cover a variety of stamp-related topics, from very general to quite specialised, as listed below. Workshops are limited between six and ten participants, depending on the subject, and booking is essential. The cost of tickets is a modest £9 or £12 each. In the past, when some subjects have sold out quickly, it has been possible to add dates for extra workshops to meet popular demand.

Says Robert Murray says 'I hope *Bulletin* readers will consider signing up for one or more of my workshops. I'm always keen for our customers to be as well-informed as possible, as well as enjoying their hobby. One of my pleasures as a stamp dealer is being able to share information and enthusiasm with collectors who can then enjoy stamps even more.'

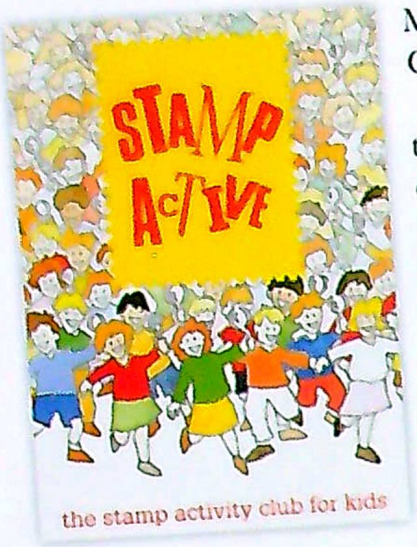
Wednesday 26 April, *So You Think You Know The Basics?* 3pm ,1½hrs, £12.
Wednesday 26 April, *Watermark Workshop* 7pm, 1hr, £9.
Friday 28 April *How Stamps are Printed* 3pm, 1hr, £9.
Friday 28 April *Common UK Problems* 6pm, 1½hrs, £12.
Saturday 29 April *Don't be Fooled by Fakes & Forgeries* 10am, 1hr, £9.
Saturday 29 April. *Valuing a Stamp Collection* 6pm, 1hr, £9.
Friday 12 May *Understanding Colours* 3pm, 1hr. £9.
Friday 12 May *So You Think You Know The Basics?* 6pm,1½hrs, £12.
Sat 13 May *Watermark Workshop 10am*, 1hr, £9
Sat 13 May *Investing in Stamps* 6pm, 1½hrs, £12.

For more details and to book, see www.stamp-shop.com, email murray@stamp-shop.com or telephone either 0131 552 1220 or 0131 478 7021 •

Young Collector of the Year nominations

Out there somewhere is the Young Collector of the Year. Can you help to find him or her? Each year Stamp Active selects one young collector to receive the Anne Dummer Trophy, an important award,sponsored by Midpex in memory of Anne Dummer, a former organiser of Kidstamps.

The Trophy is awarded to a youngster who has contributed to the wellbeing of the hobby, not necessarily by winning competitions or having a wonderful collection but by helping others in the hobby, assisting in the running of their club in any way and by sharing with others their enthusiasm for collecting. ▸





The Young Collector of the Year 2016 was Natalia Miskiewicz, pictured right with Royal Mail's Fraser Chisholm at last autumn's Stampex.

If you know of anyone that you feel is deserving of this award, please email: stampactive@btinternet.com, sending a short description of how they meet the criteria. The award will be announced in time for a presentation at Autumn Stampex. The winner receives a trophy and a special gift.

The Stamp Active Network is in urgent need of more helpers to support its programmes. In particular, we need an individual to assist with fund-raising and another to help develop the website. Help is always needed at the Kids Zone at Spring and Autumn Stampex in Islington. Even if you feel you can only spare an hour or two, this will be greatly appreciated. If you can help in any way, email davies1890@btinternet.com or telephone 01295 255831 ●



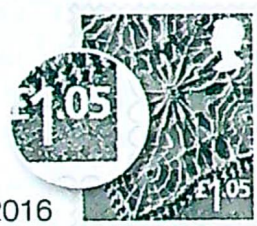
Record-breaking mosaic Officers from the Guinness World Records attended last month's Southern England Stamp Show at the Farnborough Leisure Centre to measure the stamp art shown above, created by Peter Boyd. At 27m x 9m the massive mosaic succeeded in breaking a world record previously held by a group of people in Malaga, Spain, who used 230,000 stamps to make a 17.5m x 12.58m in 2015 piece.

The photograph above was taken by a drone camera at Farnborough. Previously it had been almost impossible to photograph the mosaic in its entirety., because of its size. For the artist, the mosaic represents a ten-year labour of love using 528,220 stamps and immeasurable resources of patience and precision. Our congratulations go to Peter Boyd! (See also page 213 March *Bulletin*) ●

Country font change Here is the reason for the change of the type font used on Country Definitives issued on 21 March: as part of an ongoing review of the entire suite of Country Definitive products, Royal Mail has started to standardize the typography across this series to bring it in line with the current Machin definitive. First and Second Class Country Definitives will also be updated when stocks are next required ●



2017



2016

New from the islands



Jersey Post Eight ancient artefacts discovered in the Bailiwick of Jersey feature in a fascinating set of stamps issued by Jersey Post on 11 April. 'Jersey has some of the most important archaeological sites in Europe,' explains James Dann, Philatelic Researcher at Jersey Post, 'and in recent years, archaeologists and even members of the public have been fortunate to unearth some fascinating objects including Celtic and Roman coin hoards, French and Celtic jewellery and weapons and tools spanning thousands of years.'

Seven of the eight artefacts shown on the stamps are now in the care of Jersey Heritage, a local charity that protects and promotes Jersey's rich heritage and cultural environment. They are on display either at La Hougue Bie Museum in the east of the Island or the Jersey Museum in the Island's capital, St Helier. The St Lawrence Pillar, which appears on the 73p stamp, can be found in St Lawrence Parish Church. This stamp carries the logo of SEPAC (Small European Postal Administration Cooperations).

Further information: www.jerseystamps.com. Jersey Philatelic Bureau, Freepost JE793, Jersey Post, Jersey JE1 1AF, +44 (0)1534 516320 ●

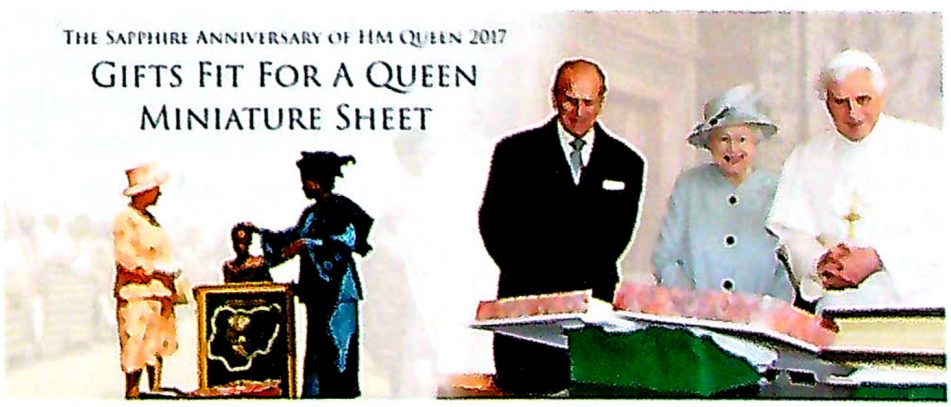
Guernsey Post's next issues will be Europa – Castles on 4 May and Handcrafts (SEPAC series) on 24 May.

Further information: www.guernseystamps.com. Guernsey Philatelic Bureau, Freepost GU267, Envoy House, La Vrangue, Guernsey GY1 5SS. Email philatelic@guernseypost.com. Phone +44 (0)1481 716486 ●

On 6 February the **Isle of Man** Post Office issued six stamps and a miniature sheet to commemorate 65 years since The Queen's accession – The Sapphire Anniversary of HM Queen – The Globetrotting Queen. The stamps show Her Majesty on visits to Australia (1954), Isle of Man (1979), Tuvalu (1982), India (1983), China (1986), and Canada (2010). The miniature sheet stamp (right) shows HM being presented with Canadian Mounted Police horse Burmese which she rode at Trooping the Colour 1969-86. Four stamps were issued on 13 February for the 150th anniversary of the First Open House of Keys Elections.



Also part of The Sapphire Anniversary issue is the 'Gifts fit for a Queen' miniature sheet, shown right. Further information: www..iomstamps.com. Isle of Man Stamps and Coins, PO Box10M, Douglas, Isle of Man IM99 1PB. Phone 01624 698430 ●



Racehorse Legends

This month's impressive stamp parade features paintings by Michael Hislop in the great tradition of equine portraiture

The thunderous boom of galloping hooves, the electrifying cheers of the crowd, the thrill-a-second charge down the final furlong – all the excitement of top-level horseracing is captured by leading equestrian artist Michael Heslop.

The West Country-based painter's work is admired and collected by top sportsmen and sportswomen across the world, and prestigious corporate clients include KPMG. No wonder Michael's rich oil paintings are such a safe bet for articulating the exhilaration of racing in the action-packed Racehorse Legends issue out on 6 April.

Apart from the stars on these stamps, Michael has painted all the great horses and riders, including Best Mate, Sea The Stars and Secretariat, Lester Piggott, Frankie Dettori and John Francome. He also enjoys painting the giants of golf, with Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus, Lee Trevino and Tiger Woods among his subjects. Michael has lectured at Falmouth School of Art, and worked in Stockholm as resident artist for Studio Frank.

In portraying on canvas the sleek lines of a racing legend at full gallop, or depicting the determination on a star jockey's face, Michael's work eloquently tells the dramatic story of racing.

And to help him tell the story of the Racehorse Legends here are a few words from some of their 'connections', leading figures from the world of racing who share their memories of these celebrated steeds.

FRANKEL



'No one will ever compare to Frankel, as every moment spent on his back was a special moment. He had an enormous amount of ability; he just dominated simply because he was far superior to everyone else. He had a lovely temperament and was just very professional in every way. He was such a quick learner, I'd just push a button and he'd go. There was never once a time when I thought he'd lose.'

Frankel's jockey Tom Queally

2000 Guineas Stakes Newmarket, 30 April 2011
Jockey: Tom Queally **Trainer:** Sir Henry Cecil
Owner: Khalid Abdullah

KAUTO STAR



'Kauto Star was a superstar. He gave me some of the best days I'll ever have as a jockey. –without a doubt the best chaser I've ever ridden – a horse in a lifetime. Just look at his record – simply one of the greatest jump horses in history.'

Kauto Star's jockey Ruby Walsh

Cheltenham Gold Cup Cheltenham, 13 March 2009
Jockey: Ruby Walsh **Trainer:** Paul Nicholls
Owner: Clive D. Smith

ARKLE



'Nothing can reduce the awe I still feel for the phenomenon that was Arkle – so far ahead of his contemporaries, they had to frame handicaps "with and without Arkle".'

Racing commentator Brough Scott
Cheltenham Gold Cup Cheltenham, 7 March 1964
Jockey: Pat Taaffe **Trainer:** Tom Dreaper
Owner: Anne, Duchess of Westminster

RED RUM



'He loved Aintree, and revelled in the challenge, and was a complete professional, a great character. He was a horse with a great charisma, like I have never seen in any other horse. He loved people and people loved him. The old lad was magic. There was, and always will be, only one Red Rum.'

Red Rum's trainer Ginger Mccain

Grand National Aintree, 2 April 1977
Jockey: Tommy Stack **Trainer:** Donald 'Ginger' McCain
Owner: Noel Le Mare

SHERGAR



'Not only was he a fantastic racehorse, which everyone knew, but he also had a fantastic temperament to go with it. I owe a huge debt to him. To this day he was the best racehorse I ever rode.'

Shergar's jockey Walter Swinburn

The Derby Epsom Downs, 3 June 1981
Jockey: Walter Swinburn **Trainer:** Sir Michael Stoute
Owner: H.H.the Aga Khan

DESERT ORCHID



'He was a great character, who never knew when he was beaten and never had an injury until he retired. He was a great jumper, who had guts like a lion. You could ride him like you were driving a car, just ask him to go faster or slower.'

Desert Orchid's jockey Colin Brown

Cheltenham Gold Cup Cheltenham, 16 March 1989
Jockey: Simon Sherwood **Trainer:** David Ellsworth
Owner: Richard Burridge

BRIGADIER GERARD



'He was good looking, perfectly built, and with a real character. Brigadier Gerard was a brilliant miler and could get a mile and quarter standing on his head. What a horse!'

Brigadier Gerard's jockey Joe Mercer

2000 Guineas Stakes Newmarket, 1 May 1971
Jockey: Joe Mercer **Trainer:** Dick Hern
Owners: John and Jean Hislop

ESTIMATE



'She's full of guts, very courageous and she relaxes so well in races, which makes her a good staying filly.'

Estimate's trainer Sir Michael Stoute

Gold Cup Royal Ascot, 20 June 2013
Jockey: Ryan Moore **Trainer:** Sir Michael Stoute
Owner: HM The Queen



SPECIAL STAMP GALLERY OF HORSES ▸

Royal Mail archive selection: horses

1966



1



2



3



4



5



6



7

1976



8

1978



9



10



11



12

1979



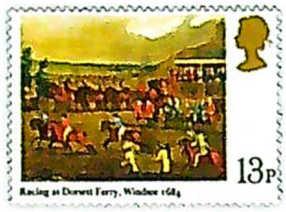
13



14



15



16

1980



17

1984



18



19



20



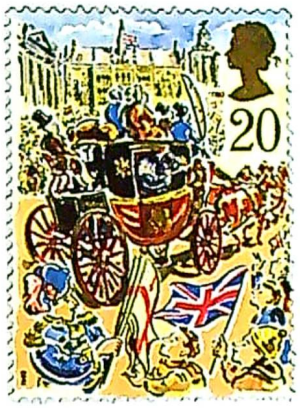
21



22

1966 900th Anniversary of the Battle of Hastings 1,2,3,4,5,6,7 Warrior horses in battle – Scenes from the Bayeux Tapestry. **1976 500th Anniversary of William Caxton/British Printing** 8 William Caxton on horseback. **1978 Horses** 9 Shire Horse, 10 Shetland Pony, 11 Merlyn Cymreig Welsh Pony, 12 Thoroughbred. **1979 Horseracing Paintings, the Bicentenary of The Derby** 13 Saddling Mahmoud for The Derby 1936, 14 The Liverpool Great National Steeple Chase 1839, 15 The First Spring Meeting, Newmarket 1793, 16 Racing at Dorsett Ferry, Windsor, 1684. **1980 150th Anniversary of Liverpool and Manchester Railway** 17 Horsebox and Carriage Truck near Bridgewater Canal. **1984 Bicentenary of the First Mail Coach Run, Bath and Bristol to London** 18 The original Bath Mail Coach of 1784, 19 An Attack on the Exeter Mail 1816, 20 The Norwich Mail in a Thunder Storm 1827, 21 The Holyhead and Liverpool Mails 1828, 22 The Edinburgh Mail Snowbound in 1831. **1989 Lord Mayor's Show, London** 23 Royal Mail Coach, 24 Escort of the Blues and Royals, 25 Lord Mayor's Coach, 26 Coach Team passing St Pauls, 27 Blues and Royals Drum Horse. **1993 Inland Waterways** 27 *Valley Princess* and other Horse-drawn barges, Brecknock and Abergavenny Canal. **1997 'All The Queen's Horses'** 28 Carriage Horse and Coachman, 29 Lifeguards Horse and Trooper, 30 Household Cavalry Drum Horse and Drummer, 31 Duke of Edinburgh's Horse and Groom. **1998 The Queen's Beasts** 32 Unicorn of Scotland and Horse of Hanover **1999 Millennium Series; The Farmers' Tale** 33 Horse-drawn Rotary Seed Drill/Mechanical farming, 34 **The Soldiers' Tale** Cavalier and Horse (English Civil War). **2000 Millennium Projects (7th Series) 'Stone and Soil'** 35 Horse's Hooves, Trans Pennine Trail. **2005 Farm Animals** 36 Suffolk Horses. **2014 Working Horses** 37 Dray Horses, 38 Forestry Horse, 39 Police Horses, 40 Riding for the Disabled Association, 41 Royal Mews Carriage Horses, 42 The King's Troop Ceremonial Horses. **2015 Animals of the First World War Commemorative Sheet** Stamp Labels – 43 Horses being trained to wear gas masks in 1918, 44 Cavalry of the British Expeditionary Force arriving in Belgium in 1914. **2016 Royal Mail 500** 45 Mail Coach.

1989



23



24

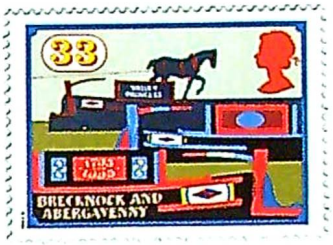


25



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1993



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1997



28



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1998



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1999



33



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2000



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2005



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2014



37



38

2014



39



40



41



42

2015



43



44

2016



45

What are your favourite Special Stamps? We welcome views and any memories evoked by delving back into modern UK stamp history. Just email rmbulletin@rocketmail.com or write to the address on page 256. You can jog your memory by viewing all Royal Mail Special Stamps from the last 50 years at www.rmspecialstamps.com.

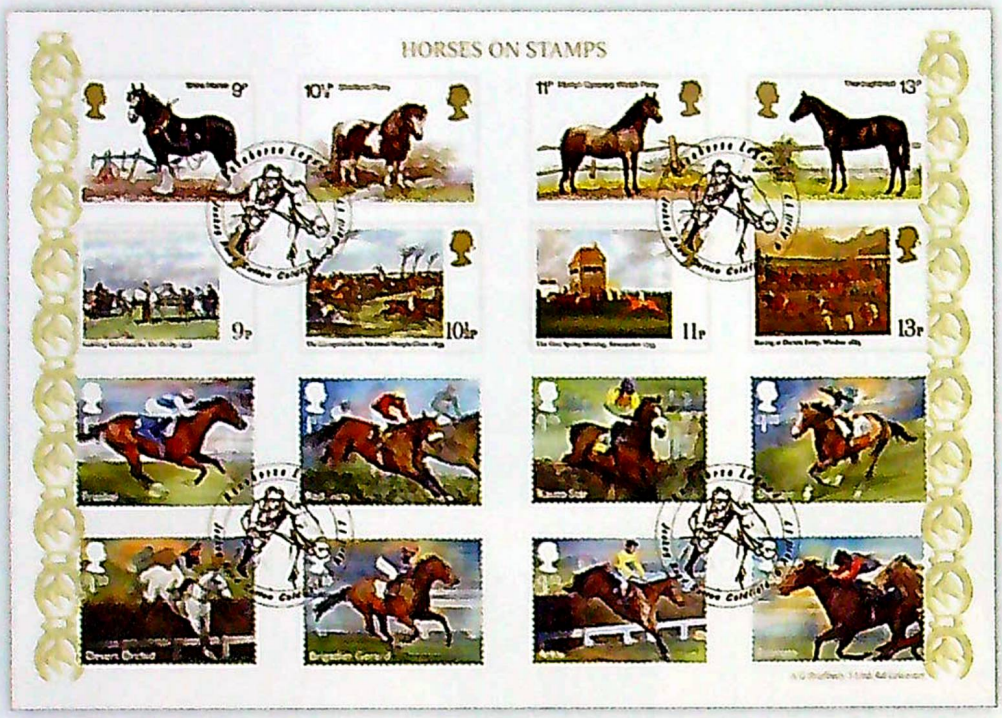
All stamp images © Royal Mail Group. Stamps not shown to scale.

Horse power Saddle up for this handsome cover, packed with stamps that articulate the dynamism and muscular beauty of the horse.

BFDC Ltd
3 Link Road
Leicester, LE2 3RA
brad@bfdc.co.uk
www.bfdc.co.uk/horses

This gallopingly good cover from BFDC might well spur you on to build up a thoroughbred collection of equine-themed stamps. It carries 16 stamps, comprising this month's Racehorse Legends issue (see page 196 and page 240), the 1978 Shire Horses issue, and the Bicentenary of the Derby set from 1979.

The Horses issue features familiar breeds – a Welsh pony and a Shetland pony, shire horse and thorough-bred racehorse. The 1979 Horseracing stamps show an array of scenes from the history of 'the sport of kings' (see page 243).



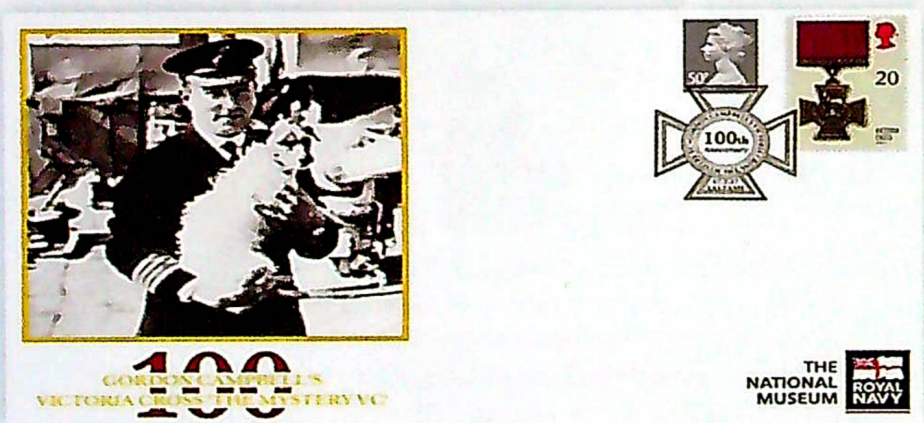
This limited edition of just 50 numbered copies is released on 6 April and has a special handstamp with the fittingly horsey location of Jockey Road, Sutton Coldfield.

Price £37.50. Cheques should be made payable to BFDC Ltd. Please quote BPB0417•

Campbell and Dog Nelson Celebrating the centenary of Gordon Campbell's Victoria Cross

Buckingham Covers
Warren House
Shearway Road
Folkestone
Kent CT19 4BF
01303 278 137

This cover commemorates the rather overlooked story of the brave actions that took place on the Q-ship *Commander* in the North Atlantic on 17 February 1917 and won the Victoria Cross for Gordon Campbell. The photograph shows Campbell with his bull terrier 'Dog Nelson', about whom he wrote a book (which is another gripping story). A 50p definitive and a 20p Victoria Cross stamp from the 1990 Gallantry set are cancelled by a bespoke handstamp with the anniversay date and location Saltash, (where Campbell resided from 1915-1918). Read the full story at www.buckinghamcovers.com/campbellvc.



Price £10.95 (or only £9.95 if you join New Buckingham Maritime Club). Please quote BPB0417•





Above: Paul Fox has developed a keen eye for effective stamp design – helped by his work as a postman

The music in my kitbag

For Paul Fox the recent David Bowie Special Stamp issue is an all-time favourite. Here's why...

I remember buying my first ever Bowie record from Woolworths in 1980. It was the single *Starman*, which had been re-released. (I had seen the 1972 footage of Bowie singing *Starman* on *Top of the Pops* and was just blown away by it.) I purchased the record with my pocket money and on the way home it slid out of the cover and rolled down the road! I still have it with all its scratches.

There are so many Bowie memories… I can recall going to the barber's for a hair cut with a poster of Bowie as Ziggy Stardust and asking to have my hair cut in the same style.

'Looking at the *Let's Dance* stamp from the David Bowie issue reminds me of when I had just left school, and the album had been released. I was joining the army and remember having *Let's Dance* on cassette; it was in a small portable cassette player, which was in my kitbag when I was met at the station by one of the officers who was there to pick me up and take me to my barracks. The player switched on in my bag and was really loud in the back of the army Land Rover – I could not get to it and the music played for the 20-minute duration of the journey. Luckily the officer said he was a fan and did not mind it playing. ▸



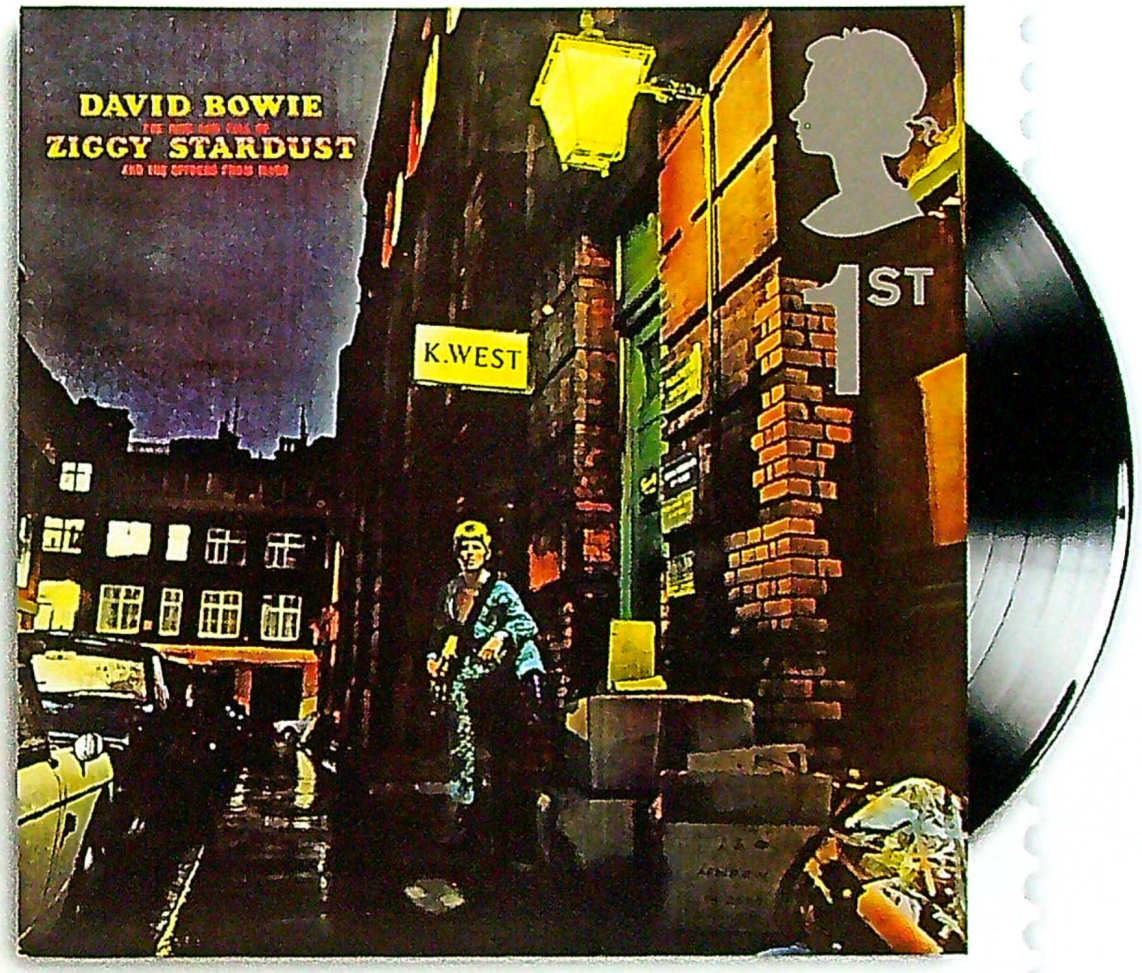
Above: the impromptu memorial to David Bowie, where Paul left a giant version of the *Ziggy Stardust* stamp, shown on facing page

'Let's Dance was Bowie's attempt at the mainstream. He was not keen to enter the mainstream, from what I have read, nor was he keen on this period in his career. His long-time producer Tony Visconti was lined up to produce the album, but Bowie chose Nile Rogers of Chic fame at the last minute, which caused a rift with Visconti that went on for some time after. Later I did, however, speak to Tony Visconti at a gig about Bowie and he had let this issue go years before (in fact, he had produced further albums for Bowie after *Let's Dance*).

'My favourite song from the *Let's Dance* album is *Cat People* – it is so atmospheric. The song needs to be played loud and the 12-inch version is just incredible. My recommendation for this track is a dark room and the 12-inch version played at full volume! I can vividly remember frequenting various night clubs and dancing to *Let's Dance* – though I am sure my children would not want to see that now!

'It may be an often-used cliché, but Bowie really did provide the 'sound track to my life' from the age of about 13 onwards. I had Bowie posters and albums in plastic sleeves stuck on my bedroom wall. I proposed to my wife by playing one of his records – *Be My Wife* – to her. My eldest son is at university in London studying music. He is also a massive Bowie fan, which is great, because now if I am not playing Bowie's music at home, then my son is.

'It may be a strange thing to say, but I never imagined a world without Bowie in it. I remember the day he died. I was on my day off and my daughter came into the bedroom and woke me up by saying, "David Bowie is dead, Dad." My phone had been bleeping with messages but I had not checked it. I had had 20 or



so text messages from people telling me that he had died. It was a shock. And, although I have lost people very close to me, Bowie's death hit me in a way I had never felt before. I went out with my daughter and we went into a record shop in town and bought Bowie's new album, *Blackstar*, which had only been released a few days earlier. I have never opened the album and have never listened to it. The way I look at it is that I will have new songs to listen to when I am ready to.



'In a charity auction, I bid for and won an enlarged mock-up of a Royal Mail Special Stamp showing the *Ziggy Stardust* from the Classic Albums Special Stamp issue of January 2010. I had a copy of this made and in the week he died, I took it to the impromptu memorial that had been set up by fans in Brixton, south London – where Bowie was born and spent the early part of his childhood. I also visited his childhood home, and the place in Soho where the famous *Ziggy Stardust* album cover was photographed back in the Seventies.

'For me, the David Bowie Special Stamp issue is just fantastic; it covers all aspects of his musical career and I do not think it could be any better. I even saw a quote from Duncan Jones, Bowie's son, saying how much he and his family like the issue, which is good to know •



Fig 1



Fig 2

W … is for Weston's special stamps

One man's passion for creating rare covers, inspired by a quirky if not devious imagination, created a rich legacy of unusual material for collectors of postal stationery.

Fig 1 A pair of 1d stamps cou-bêche (neck to neck) on an envelope sent by Weston's sister
Fig 2 A block of eight KGV 10d stamps posted at the Front, cancelled in blue crayon

H EDGAR WESTON MUST HAVE BEEN A BIT OF AN UNUSUAL MAN. He never called himself Herbert, although he often used the name Victor Marsh in his business dealings. Victor Marsh was a figment of Weston's imagination, and probably was born of his odd sense of humour.

Weston started out his business life in the clothing trade in the 1890s, but by the beginning of the 20th century he had turned to stamp dealing and set up business from his address in Brixton Road, South London. There were a large number of stamp shops and stamp dealers operating in Great Britain at this time and the competition would have been tough. But Weston was a persuasive man. He devised a novel way of promoting stamps and encouraging his clients to buy from him.

In 1910 Weston somehow managed to persuade Mr Bennett, the then Inspector of Stamping at Somerset House, to print for him the complete range of King Edward VII and King George V embossed stamps in sheets of 48 – four panes of twelve, with the centre rows inverted. He used singles, pairs and blocks of these stamps on envelopes to send back to himself, which he later sold to collectors.



Fig 3

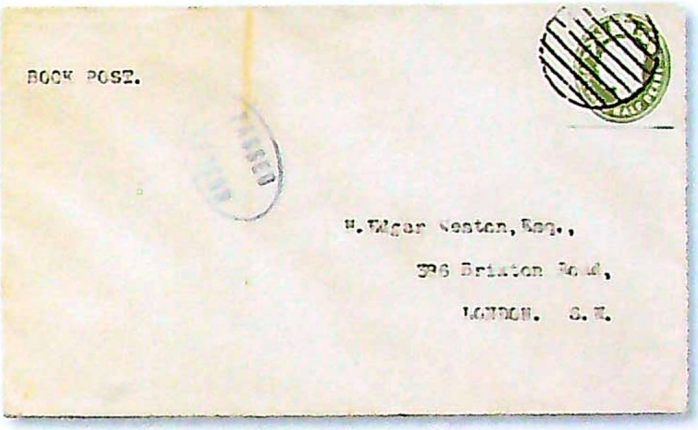


Fig 4



Fig 5



Fig 6



Fig 7

When business became very slow in the early years of the First World War, he enlisted the help of two of his clients. He first asked Lieut.-Commander Ralph Clayton to post some envelopes on board the battleship *HMS Queen Mary*, having them cancelled with an eight barred handstamp, which philatelists refer to as a dumb canceller as it is undated. He also asked Lieut.-Colonel A S Bates if he would post some of the covers from a field post office near the Front. Both gentlemen obliged but the results were not quite what Weston had expected.

HMS Queen Mary was engaged in the Battle of Jutland in 1916 and was sunk with the loss of nearly all hands, including Commander Clayton and about half of Weston's covers.

Meanwhile, the envelopes posted by Lieut.-Colonel Bates from the Western Front were looked upon with suspicion by the men in charge of handstamping outgoing mail. When postage was free for all service personnel, why on earth should anyone be paying a great deal for so many unnecessary stamps? They were not cancelled at the Front, and when they landed in England they were obliterated with blue crayon or a dab of black ink.

Next Weston explored a different tactical approach and managed to acquire some unused Hearts of Oak Benefit Society voting forms that were ▸

Fig 3 A block of four KEdVII 6d stamps obiterated with black ink
Fig 4 A ½d envelope posted from HMS Queen Mary with it's censor mark
Fig 5 A Hearts of Oak Benefit Soc. stamp used from Tristan Da Cuna
Fig 6 A first flight cover produced by Weston with a 1/- cut-out
Fig 7 Two pairs of cut-outs used from Jersey to Weston's sister



Fig 8

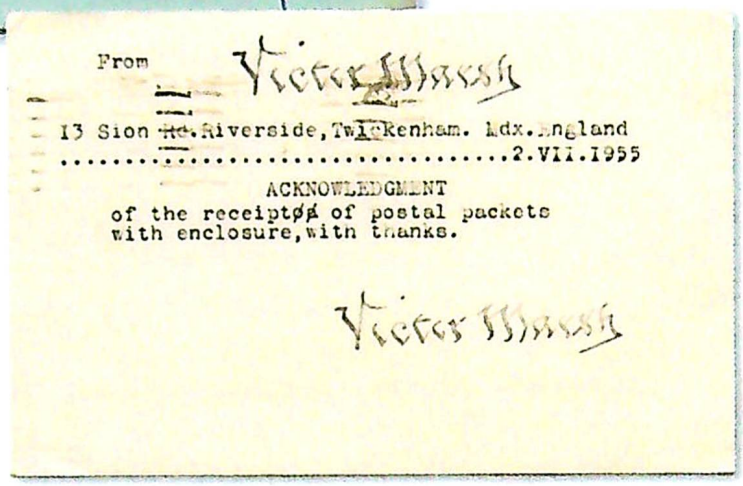


Fig 9

Fig 8 Weston's special letter sheet with four 1½d KGVI stamps
Fig 9 One of Weston's postcards, still using the pseudonym of Victor Marsh in 1955

printed on deep rose paper and franked with ½d green King George V letterpress stamps. He used some of these as cut-outs on an inland registered letter. His local post office refused to accept it. Weston complained to the head office and then to the Postmaster General himself, but eventually he had to let the matter drop when he was threatened with prosecution. After all there was a war on and the government had better things to do than allow stamp dealers to play around with stamps.

For the time being that was the end of Weston's special stamps, but after the end of the Second World War he again managed to persuade the stamping office to print King George VI and Queen Elizabeth II letterpress stamps in strange groups. Nobody is quite sure today what he told the stamping office they were for. He turned these stamps into letter sheets and had them posted from various places, including some of the Scottish Islands. He also used some of the stamps on envelopes sent back to him from Tristan Da Cuna in the South Atlantic. This concluded his philatelic specialities and he died in 1961 •

Next month: X marks the crossings out. Colin Baker welcomes email enquiries about the Postal Stationery Society at pss.secretary@gmail.com



This Month in History

John Holman revisits the era of kipper ties – in April 1966 when the British Flora set issue showcased the fresh-as-springtime illustrations of a very senior designer

HALF A CENTURY AGO on 24 April 1967, the Post Office issued six stamps featuring British Flora, the fourth in a new series of 'special stamps' depicting British flora and fauna, landscapes and industry, not related to specific commemorations or events.

The first news about new stamps for 1967 was given by Postmaster General Edward Short in October 1966. As well as EFTA (European Free Trade Association) and Christmas stamps, there would be three pictorial issues: British Flora, British Paintings, and British Discovery. Mr Short said that he intended to seek the advice of an acknowledged authority on wild flowers – the Rev. Keeble Martin – in connection with the Flora issue. The following month Mr Short announced the dates and values of the 1967 issues, the Flora set on 24 April would comprise a block of our 4d stamps (UK basic letter rate) and 9d and 1s9d values for overseas mail.

Details of the stamps were given in the March 1967 *Bulletin*, which featured the block of 4d stamps on its front cover. (The 9d and 1s9d stamps appeared on the front covers of the May and June editions.) The 4d stamps depict hawthorn and bramble; morning glory and viper's bugloss; ox eye daisy, coltsfoot and buttercup; and bluebell, red campion and wood anemone. These four stamps were designed by the Rev. William Keeble Martin (1877-1969) who studied botany at Oxford, was active in the International Botanical Congress in 1930, and was author of *The Concise British Flora* (1965), the result of 60 years of study, research and draughtsmanship.

The 9d and 1s9d stamps featured dog violet and primrose, the designs by Mary Grierson (1912-2012), then the official artist at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. She has been described as one of the world's most accomplished botanical artists, noted for her meticulous accuracy and sureness of composition. In addition to ▸

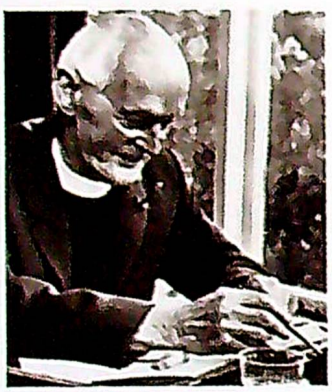
Below: Mary Grierson, who designed the British Flora stamps shown above, was recognised as one of the world's most distinguished botanical artists





Above: the four basic rate 4d stamps have designs by Keble Martin. The Queen's head and typograhy differ from those on the overseas rate stamps designed by Mary Grierson (see previous page)

Below: Reverend William Keble Martin, who was 90 years old when he designed the Flora stamps . He bacame – and remains – the oldest British stamp designer



the issued designs, the Stamp Advisory Committee also considered work by Richard Chopping Barbara Everard, and other designs by Mary Grierson which were reproduced in the *Bulletin* in July 1967.

On the 4d stamps The Queen's silhouette was printed in grey at right over the value. On the 9d and 1s9d values the head, slightly smaller than on the 4d, was shown in white reversed out of a pale grey panel which also contained the value. The designers' names 'KEEBLE MARTIN' and 'MARY GRIERSON' were given in the bottom left corner of the stamp, with the printers' name 'HARRISON' at right.

A thorn in the flora? The different treatment of the designs of the 4d and the higher values was criticised by Stuart Rose in his book *Royal Mail Stamps* (1980). He wrote: '..it would have been but a short step to achieve a consistent and unified design for the British Flora issue... The drawings by the Rev. Keble Martin and Mary Grierson are so similar in style as to make the difference in treatment of the Queen's head and value numerals quite unnecessary. Once again, I doubt there was anyone at the time in a position of authority to see what little was needed to make this into an extremely good set. As it is, in spite of Mary Gierson's most sensitive drawings, the typographical treatment is so heavy-handed as to let down the whole issue'. Personally, I think the style of the 9d and 1s9d stamps should have been also been used for the 4d values, but I don't think the two arrangements ruined the set as Mr Rose suggests.

The stamps were printed by Harrisons in the usual sheets of 120. The 4d stamps were printed on the Rembrandt sheet-fed rotary machine in eight colours, and the 9d and 1s9d on the Thrissell reel-fed rotary press each in four colours. The stamps were produced in plain and phosphor versions – the last special issue so produced. From the British Paintings issue in July 1967 all special stamps were produced in phosphor version only.

Print process and errors The Post Office made much of this being the last set produced in both versions. The April 1967 *Bulletin* reminded readers in London and the Home Counties that no plain version of the Flora stamps would be available at offices in the London Postal Region except from the philatelic sales counter at the London Chief Post Office. Readers were told the LPR was bounded roughly by Gravesend, Stanford-le-Hope, Markyate, Egham and Leatherhead, and advised to order plain stamps from the Bureau. They were the penultimate issue on watermarked paper, the Paintings set was unwatermarked,

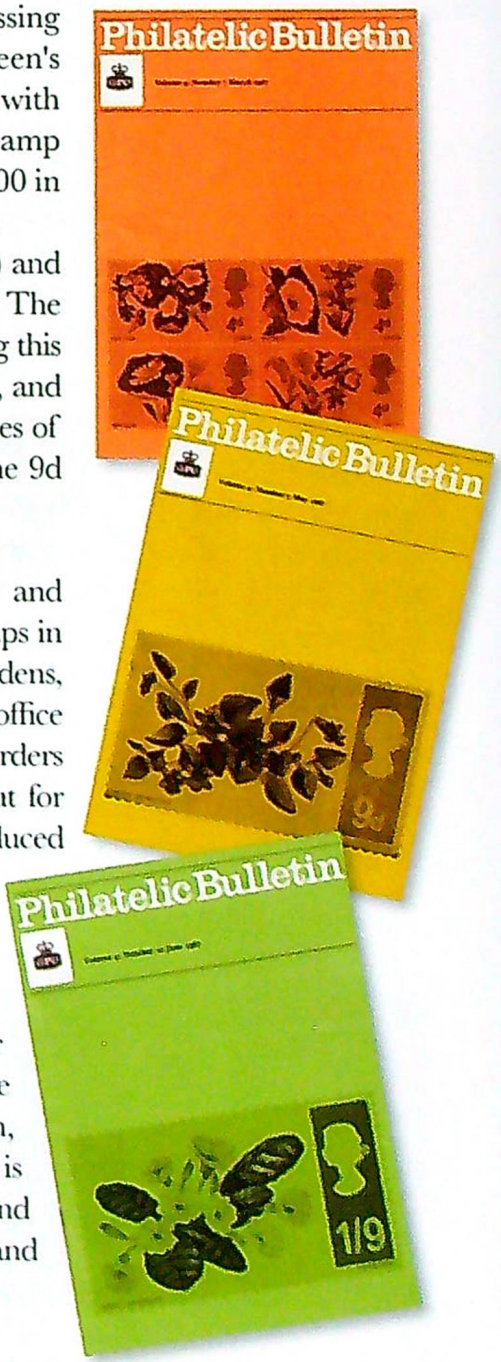


and the Discovery set in September 1967 used the final supplies of watermarked paper. Printing quantities were announced in the *Bulletin* in June 1968 as: 4d plain 79.2 million, phosphor 39.9m; 9d plain 7.4, phosphor 6.3m; 1s9d plain 7.2m, phosphor 6.4m. (Sales figures are given below.)

Below: Briish Flora stamps were awarded pride of place on three front pages in 1967

A number of significant printing errors are catalogue listed – four missing colours on the 4d, also double impression of the grey affecting The Queen's head, value and inscription. The fourth of the four 4d stamps exists with value omitted, caused by something obscuring the value on the sixth stamp of row 14 during the printing of one sheet. This error is priced at £12,000 in the *Stanley Gibbons GB Concise Catalogue*.

Much less valuable are examples of the 4d stamps (plain and phosphor) and 9d value (plain only) with inverted watermark. The 9d is especially common. The *Woodstock Catalogue* (1970) noted that as the 9d came from a reel-fed printing this error can only have resulted from the use of part or all of a re-wound reel, and hundreds, possibly thousands of sheets must exist. It also notes that quantities of the 4d with inverted watermark were 'fairly plentiful'. Examples exist of the 9d phosphor stamp with missing imprint resulting from a perforation shift.



Primrose perfection The Post Office provided a first day cover service and posting boxes were provided at 104 offices for the local First Day handstamps in a new size of 26mm diameter. FDC collectors like covers with the Kew Gardens, Richmond, Bluebell Hill, Nottingham, or Primrose Street, Alloa post office counter datestamps. The Presentation Pack, sold at 4s 10d (4s 4d each for orders of 100 or more), was available with plain and phosphor stamps. Look out for examples of the pack with the pink colour missing. No stamp cards were produced but the stamps can be found on privately produced maximum cards. A few covers exist with 1s9d stamps postmarked prematurely on 20 April in the Bristol area.

The stamps were withdrawn from sale at post offices on 9 September 1967 and at the Bureau and London philatelic counter one year after issue. They remained valid for postage until 29 February 1972. Sales of the stamps amounted to: 4d: 78.3 million plain, 37.1m phosphor, 9d 5.9m plain, 5.7m phosphor; 1s9d 3.3m plain, 4.9m phosphor (figures rounded up). It is interesting that sales of the 1s9d phosphor were higher than the plain and figures for the 9d almost equal. The number of packs sold (both plain and phosphor) was 53,446 •

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STAMPING HORSES QUIZ



1 Who is this beauty of the Racehorse Legends issue, the only horse to have won the Grand National three times?
a) Fat Tum
b) Red Rum
c) Sore Thumb

2 Charging across a 1966 stamp, in which battle is this horse fighting?
a) Stamford Bridge
b) Stalingrad
c) Hastings



3 Estimate, appearing here on a £1.57 value in Racehorse Legends, won the 2013 Gold Cup at Ascot. Who owns her?
a) Michael Gove
b) Michael Crawford
c) HM The Queen



4 Frankel is the top-rated horse in the World Best Racehorse Rankings and had his finest race in 2011. What was the name of this race?
a) The 2000 Guineas
b) The 2000 whinnies
c) The 2000 Guinnesses



NAME THAT STAMP

From the details of the two stamps shown in the binoculars, below, name the issues they belong to and the year they were issued.



HOW TO ENTER Send your answers, along with your contact address or number, to 'April Whinny' or 'April Name That Stamp', Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB or by email to rmbulletin@rocketmail.com. **Closing date** 17 May 2017.

Prizes The senders of the first five correct entries drawn at random in each section after the closing date win the Racehorse Legends Coin Cover. One first prizewinner wins an overnight stay for two, subject to availability at Hollins Hall Marriot Hotel, York.





5 Who is the rider on this 8½p value from 1976?

a) William Caxton
b) William Shatner
c) William Hill

6 What location is on the Racehorse Legends alternative postmark?

a) Newmarket
b) Saddlesborough
c) Weston-super-Mare



Rules and regulations 1 Promotions are open to all readers aged 18 and over, except employees of Royal Mail Group Ltd, their business associates and immediate families. 2 Responsibility cannot be accepted for entries which are incomplete, damaged or not received for any reason. Proof of posting is not proof of receipt. 3 Prizes must be accepted as offered; they are not transferable and there are no cash alternatives. The cost of transport , food and travel insurance is not included in prizes of hotel accommodation, museum visits and/or theatre tickets. 4 Winners are notified within 28 days of closing date stated. 5 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. 6 Promoter's decision on any aspect of the promotion is final. No correspondence will be entered into. 7 Entry implies acceptance of these rules. 8 Prizes are subject to suitability and availability. The promoter reserve 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. Winners' names are available 28 days after closing date.

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Royal Mail stamp issues and withdrawals

5 April — **Withdrawal** Shakespeare: Stamps (10 x 1st Class), Presentation Pack, Postcards (10 in set), Coin Cover. Details: *Bulletin* Vol 53 pages 208 and 242.

6 April — **Issue** Racehorse Legends: 8 x Single Stamp Sheets (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.17, 2 x £1.40, 2 x £1.57), Presentation Pack, Stamp Souvenir, Postcards (8 in set), Medal Cover, Framed Stamps. Preview: page 196.

21 April — **Withdrawal** HM The Queen's 90th Birthday: (3 x 1st Class, 3 x £1.52), Presentation Pack, Miniature Sheet (4 x 1st Class), Press Sheet, Prestige Stamp Book, Retail Stamp Book (6 x 1st Class), Postcards (11 in set), Commemorative Document, Bespoke Souvenir Pack. Details: Vol 53 page 259.



21 April — **Withdrawal** Buckingham Palace: Stamps (6 x 1st Class), Miniature Sheet (4 x 1st Class), Press Sheet, Presentation Pack, Prestige Stamp Book, Postcards (11 in set), Retail Stamp Book.

21 April — **Withdrawal** Long to Reign Over Us: 1st Class Amethyst Purple Definitive, Miniature Sheet (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.52, 1 x 1st Class Definitive), Press Sheet, Presentation Pack, Postcards (6 in set).

4 May — **Issue** Songbirds: Stamps (10 x 1st Class in 2 x se-tenant strips of 5), Presentation Pack, Stamp Souvenir, Postcards (10 in set). Preview: page 228.



17 May — **Withdrawal** Animail Miniature Sheet: 6 x die-cut Special Stamps (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1, 2 x £1.33), Presentation Pack, Postcards (7 in set). Details: Vol 53, page 228.

24 May — **Issue** 2017 FIP Exhibition Sheet – Finland (20 x 1st Class Smilers® Hello Stamps). Preview: page 232.

28 May — **Withdrawal** 2016 FIP Exhibition Sheet – New York (20 x 1st Class). Preview: Vol 53 page 238.

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