

BRITISH PHILATELIC

Bulletin

The ROYAL MAIL magazine for stamp collectors

Volume 39 Number 11

JULY 2002 • 85p

Royal Treasures exhibition •
Machine cancelled covers



'All children, except one, grow up.'
Marking the 150th anniversary of
Great Ormond Street Hospital, a
new set of five stamps from Royal
Mail will be issued on 20 August.

Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



Cover Peter leads the three Darling children to Neverland, in an illustration by Gwynedd Hudson from *Peter Pan and Wendy*, published in 1922. Royal Mail's Peter Pan stamps are previewed on page 332. Illustration reproduced by permission of Hodder and Stoughton Limited.

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

4 July

Issue Machin national definitives 37p dark grey, 42p sage, 47p sea green and 68p stone; 68p country stamps for England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. Presentation packs containing the four national definitives and four country stamps.

4 July

Issue Books containing six self-adhesive E (European rate), 42p and 68p stamps, price £2.22, £2.52, and £4.08 respectively. Matrix (margin) surrounding stamps removed.

4 July

Issue Business sheets of 100 2nd class and 1st class (gold) NVI Machin stamps, self-adhesive with matrix (margin) surrounding stamps removed. Only available in complete sheets of 100.

9 July

Issue Friendly Games stamp cards.

9 July

Withdrawal Pondlife stamps, presentation pack, stamp cards, and postbag.

16 July

Issue Friendly Games stamps, presentation pack and coin cover.

13 August

Issue Peter Pan stamp cards.

20 August

Issue Peter Pan stamps and presentation pack.

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The British Philatelic Bulletin is published monthly by Royal Mail, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8HQ • **Editor** JR Holman • **Price** 85p for single copies, from Post Office Limited philatelic outlets • **Annual subscription** £9.50 in UK and Europe; £13.50 rest of the world. Subscriptions should be sent to Royal Mail Talents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB • **Binders** to hold 24 issues, price £7, are available by post from Royal Mail (Edinburgh address above) • Royal Mail also publishes the fortnightly **British Postmark Bulletin**, which gives details of forthcoming special hand-stamps. Available on annual subscription, from Edinburgh address above: UK and Europe £10, rest of the world £21.75 • **Copyright** Design and text Consignia plc, unless attributed to a specific author. Requests to reproduce any article should be sent to the Editor, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8HQ • **Design** by Robert Maude • **Printed** in Great Britain by The White Dove Press • **ISSN** 0953 8119 • Royal Mail is a trading name of Consignia plc. Registered in England and Wales, number 4138203, registered office 148 Old Street, London EC1Y 9HQ

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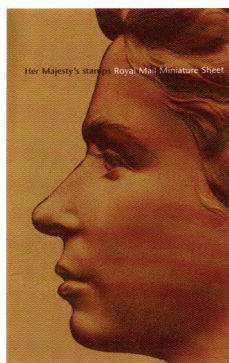
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Stamp scene International, UK and Royal exhibitions • Literature • Scottish Congress

PhilaKorea 2002 The British Commissioner for the exhibition is Brian Sole, 3 Stockfield Road, Claygate, Esher KT10 0QG.

Amphilex Telephone +39 0541 692194, Fax +39 0541 693614.

Exhibitions PhilaKorea 2002 will be held at the Pacific Hall and Indian Ocean Hall of the Convention & Exhibition Center (COEX) in Seoul, 2-11 August. It marks the 2002 FIFA World Cup Soccer Finals and the 14th Busan Asian Games, and aims to improve and develop South Korea's philatelic culture. The exhibition, sponsored by the Ministry of Information and the Philatelic Federation of Korea, has FIP patronage and will include the following competitive classes: FIP Championship, Traditional Philately, Revenue, Postal History, Postal Stationery, Aerophilately, Astrophilately, Thematics, Maximaphily, Youth, Literature, Modern (material since the late 1940s), and Open. Seventeen British philatelists have entered the competitions and Otto Hornung will be showing his 'Branch Offices of Istanbul' in the Court of Honour. Royal Mail will be represented by one of its overseas agents at the exhibition •

The next international will be Amphilex in Amsterdam, 30 August - 3 September, commemorating the 150th anniversary of the first Netherlands stamps. Staff from Tallents House Edinburgh will be manning the Royal Mail stand at the exhibition. This is followed by España 2002 International Youth philatelic exhibition at Salamanca, Spain, 17-22 November. The 54th International Stamp Fair and 41st 'Europa' international philatelic exhibition will be held in Riccione, Italy, 30 August - 1 September. Last year the Fair attracted some 25,000 visitors. A Europa Telephone Card Show will be held at the same time, and the 52nd National Numismatic Show on 7-8 September.

At home, the Picture Postcard Show will be at the Royal Horticultural Society New Hall, London SW1 (28-31 August), followed by Autumn Stampex, Business Design Centre, London N1 (18-22 September); Philatex, Royal Horticultural Society New Hall, London SW1 (31 October - 2 November); Thematica II, Carisbrooke Hall, Seymour Street, London W2 (22-23 November), and Chester 2000, Racecourse, Chester (29-30 November) •

Tiaras exhibition Admission is £5 (concessions £3); an accompanying book costs £12.95. Enquiries: 020 7942 2000.

Royal exhibitions The diadem worn by The Queen on the Wilding and Machin definitives, also on British coins 1985-97, is one of many wonderful items on show in the 'Royal Treasures' exhibition at The Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace until next January. A feature on the diadem is included in this *Bulletin* •

One of the most dazzling and dramatic exhibitions of jewellery ever assembled is on show at the Victoria & Albert Museum, London SW7 until 14 July. The 'Tiaras' exhibition brings together 200 stunning tiaras including an unprecedented number from royal and aristocratic families such as the diamond tiara worn by The Queen at her wedding in 1947 (also a tiara worn by one of her bridesmaids), the 'oriental circle' tiara designed by Prince Albert and worn by Queen Victoria (this was regularly worn by The Queen Mother), tiaras owned by the late Princess Margaret, the

Princess Royal, and the Dukes and Duchesses of Kent and Gloucester. Others on show belong to celebrities such as Sir Elton John and Joanna Lumley •

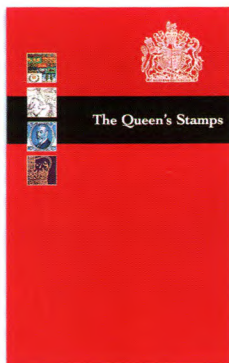
A special exhibition of Royal wedding dresses, including those worn by The Queen Mother in 1923 and The Queen in 1947 can be seen at the State Apartments, Kensington Palace, London W8 until April 2003 •

The exhibition of stamps from the Royal Collection has now completed its tour (Edinburgh, Sandringham, and Hampton Court), but the book published to accompany the exhibition is still available. *The Queen's Stamps*, written by Hugh Jefferies, Editor of *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, tells the story of the Collection and highlights some of the key items in the exhibition. In 1856 the future Edward VII and his brother Alfred (future Duke of Edinburgh) visited De La Rue to see stamps being printed when they were presented with panes of stamps. Alfred became a keen collector and encouraged his nephew, the future George V. Corner pairs, and later corner blocks of four of all British and Empire stamps were presented to Prince George for his collection and when he became King (1910) he also retained original artwork and drawings of designs which were submitted to him for approval. George was an astute collector who purchased complete collections and rare individual items, giving his auction agent strict instructions as to the maximum he was prepared to pay. In 1904 he paid the then highest price for a stamp – £1450 for the 2d 'Post Office' Mauritius, now reckoned to be worth £2 million. He spent three afternoons a week on his collection, and in 1921 he became the first signatory of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists. King George VI took an interest in the collection and was shown looking at his stamp in a famous article in *Picture Post* magazine. The Collection's impressive section on Treasury Competition essays and the introduction of the Penny Black includes a sketch by Wyon for the first stamp and the design by Sir George Steuart Mackenzie which may well have been the inspiration for the Penny Black (see *Bulletin* August 2001). Over 70 Penny Black first day covers and entires have survived, but the most significant of these is the famous 'Kirkcudbright cover' bearing 10 Penny Blacks used on 6 May 1840; this wonderful item was acquired by the Royal Collection last year, and is shown in the book along with the largest known block (of 38) of the Twopence Blue from plate 1, purchased by George V in the 1920s.

Other major items shown include the 1d and 2d 'Post Office' Mauritius stamps of which only 14 and 12 examples are known; pages from a beautifully decorated leather-bound album with the complete set of 16 of Canada's 1897 Diamond Jubilee stamps presented to the Duke of York (later George V) by the Government of Canada; and the unique cover bearing the Edward VII 2d Tyrian Plum – issue of this stamp ceased when the King died on 6 May 1910. George V was disappointed with the first low value stamps of his reign and his influence ensured that the subsequent 'Seahorse' high values make them 'one of the most highly-regarded stamp designs of all time – certainly in philatelic circles'. The King requested that Bertram Mackennal be asked to design the high values, and suggested

Royal wedding dresses

Enquiries 020 7937 9561.



The Queen's Stamps

by Hugh Jefferies, available from Stanley Gibbons Ltd, Parkside, Ringwood BH24 3SH. Price £4.95 plus £3.50 postage.

The book includes a special souvenir sheet showing The Queen, as Princess Elizabeth, looking at the Royal Stamp Collection.

they be printed in recess rather than typography. George V also took great interest in the stamps for his Silver Jubilee in 1935 and each of the colonies was requested to send the King a cover bearing a complete set of stamps postmarked on the day of issue.

Three sections of the book deal with British stamps for The Queen's Coronation (1953), her silver wedding (1972), silver jubilee (1977), and 25th anniversary of the Coronation (1978). Among the illustrations are Edmund Dulac's original design for the 2½d Coronation stamp, subsequently amended and used for the 1s3d value; the issued stamps from 1977 and 1978 together with an earlier design for the 10½p Coronation Anniversary stamp and a part imperf block of the 11p Silver Jubilee stamp.

The book concludes with sections on the Crown Agents Stamp Bureau, the Forces Post Office and illustrates some of the Golden Jubilee stamps from Crown Agents countries, also those of the Isle of Man and Jersey •

The new GB Concise costs £17.95 from Stanley Gibbons Publications, Parkside, Ringwood BH24 3SH. Telephone 0800 611622 (freephone mail order number).

GB literature The 2002 edition of Stanley Gibbons *GB Concise* catalogue includes a number of recently discovered errors and varieties including imperf strips of the Buses stamps and English 2nd class stamps. The listing of the Submarines/Flags stamps includes the perforation varieties from the Submarines prestige book, and the watermark varieties of the Golden Jubilee issue are also listed and priced. Do not overlook the watermark diagonal variety on the 2nd class Wilding stamp from the *Gracious Accession* prestige book. The prices quoted in this year's catalogue are certain to increase by the next edition. There are notes about the Smilers sheets although these are not given catalogue listing. Since *Collect British Stamps* was published in November, the price of the 1999 Millennium Timekeepers miniature sheet has risen from £6 to £9 mint or used. A new edition of the SG Austria & Hungary stamp catalogue is scheduled for publication this month and a new *Collect Motor Vehicles on Stamps* is in preparation •

The GB Philatelic Society has over 800 members; for details contact Andrew Lajer, Old Post Office, Davis Way, Hurst, Reading RG10 0TR. Telephone 0118 934 4151.

The May/June issue of *The GB Journal*, published by the GB Philatelic Society, includes specialised articles and notes on some arcane subjects: The First Paper Contract for QV Line-Engraved Stamps; Numberless '1844' Cancellations; Postally Used Surface Printed Imprimaturs?; Invalidation or Demonetisation of Postage Stamps; Using the Fisher-Brown Plating Gauge with a Computer; KEVII 1d: A New Look at Pin Flaw 10 on Plate g; and The 'Aor' Cancellation Used on Togo Mail. In addition there are book reviews and advertisements from leading GB dealers. The new Queen Mother memorial stamps feature on the front cover. Sent out with the journal is the Society's more readable and easily digestible *Newsletter* with reports on Society displays and awards, notes on interesting covers, Nobel Prize stamps, George VI essay, Wilding definitives, George V 'Seahorse' high values, an obituary of Sir Peter Horsley, and a farewell message from outgoing President, Chris Harman •

Picture Postcard Monthly often includes features of interest to postal historians. The March issue includes a five-page feature by Editor Brian Lund 'The postman only knocks twice – but for how long?', illustrated by cards, old and modern, showing post offices, letter boxes, and postal workers.

The May issue includes a feature on Queen Mother postcards and an interesting article by Stephen Sellick, 'When postcards cost a ha'penny to post' showing cards featuring mail ships, postal vehicles, post offices in Enfield and a TPO carriage. Cards featuring postmen are shown in a 'Golden days of the Royal Mail' feature. Mention is made in the section on modern cards of new cards commemorating the 150th anniversary of the first UK pillar boxes. This monthly magazine is a mine of information, well worth £2.40 •

The April issue of *The Bookmark Journal*, of the Great Britain Decimal Stamp Book Study Circle, contains detailed reports on the Christmas, Kipling and Golden Jubilee issues, together with a useful note by Douglas Myall on the '50' watermarked paper used for the Golden Jubilee stamps. The dandy roll used to impress the '50' was manufactured in Scotland and the paper in Germany, delivered to De La Rue for coating and gumming. DLR also gummed some paper but left it uncoated for Enschedé to print the panes for the Jubilee book. He notes that samples of the coated paper were included with the February *Bulletin* and sheets of uncoated paper given away free at the Consignia Heritage Services display at Spring Stampex. Roger Knights provides 'A Study of Stitched Counter Book DB3(1) Varieties', 'Machine-vended Book DB6(3)', and a listing of 'National Postal Museum Photographs'; there are other contributions from Tony Wilkins, Roger Bagnall, Stephen Feiner, and Editor Hanns Fasching •

The May Newsletter of the Letter Box Study Group includes features on crested china pillar boxes and historic letterboxes of New Zealand as well as numerous reports sent in by members of their activities, research, and discoveries. Two of Warwickshire's oldest post boxes have been renovated. The refurbished boxes were installed at Stoneleigh Abbey near Kenilworth in March – the wall box has been sited in the entrance arch of the Abbey's medieval gatehouse, and the pillar box stands outside the Regency Stables and Riding School. Shown in the Newsletter is the recently introduced special Stoneleigh Abbey cancellation which was announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* of 15 March. The Group is planning its own postcard and FDC to mark the 150th anniversary of roadside pillar boxes (stamps to be issued in October) •

Julian Chapman Memorial Scholarship Applications are invited for this travelling scholarship from philatelists, wherever resident, wishing to study Commonwealth stamps or postal history. The scholarship, for a sum of up to £2500, will be a contribution towards travelling costs, accommodation and subsistence for a trip, particularly overseas. Applications, which must be received by 30 September 2002, should include: an outline of the subject to be studied and how it relates to the applicant's previous philatelic research; intentions as to publication of the results after completion of the study; an accurate costing of the trip, including places and organisations to be visited; and a short philatelic cv including personal details, collecting interests, previous publications and philatelic achievements. Applications should, if possible, be limited to two sides of an A4 sheet of paper •

Picture Postcard Monthly is available from postcard shops and fairs and from the publishers: Picture Postcard Monthly, 15 Debdale Lane, Keyworth, Nottingham NG12 5HT. Telephone 0115 937 4079.

GBDSBSC For details contact Roy Webster, 8 Claypit Street Terrace, Whitchurch SY13 1LG, or see the Circle's website: www.gbdsbsc.kabsi.at

Letter Box Study Group For details of the Group send SAE or IRC to: Mrs V Scott, 38 Leopold Avenue, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham B20 1ES.

Royal Philatelic Society
London 41 Devonshire Place,
London W1G 6JY.

Enquiries Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, 153-157 London Road, Derby DE1 2SY. Telephone 01332 250970.

Cavendish auctions The St Kilda collection (90 cards and covers) of the late Tom Rielly sold for some £2760 at Cavendish's sale on 12 April. Top price in the sale went to the 1948 1s slot machine booklet Series 6 Sub series E with margin at foot (SG Spec BD6) at £3910 (£400 above catalogue value, est £1500); a similar example with trimmed perfs made £2760 (est £1200). An illustrated Penny Black entire letter with John Gadsby Free Trade/Postal Reform wafer seals, from David Trapnell's collection, reached £2300 (est £850); and a Cromwellian period 'Post Pd 6d' cover to Derbyshire in 1652 realised £1150 (est £750). A 1s green on 1850 cover to Shanghai (ex Balthazar collection) made £1265 (est £300). Further material from Tom Rielly's collection will be offered in the 19 July sale ●



Anne Rielly receiving the first Tom Rielly Memorial Medal from ASPS President Derick Fisher. In future the medal will be given to the prominent philatelist chosen each year to give the Tom Rielly Memorial Lecture.

Scottish Congress a success The Dewar's Centre in Perth was the setting for the 73rd Scottish Congress of the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies (ASPS) in April, and the Press turned out in force. Of course, it did help that the Scottish Liberal Democrats had chosen the same venue and the same weekend for their conference. Nevertheless, the outcome was that philately gained a great deal of media attention, with coverage on television, radio and in the newspapers.

This was the first time the Congress had been held at Perth, but it proved to be an instant success. A spacious, well-lit hall provided ample space for the many dealers, and the displays, while leaving room for the several hundred visitors.

The Congress opened on the Friday afternoon, with a chance to view the displays, but more importantly for a special presentation. One of the most prominent and highly respected figures in Scottish philately was for many years Tom Rielly. Sadly, Tom died last September, but his widow Anne was at the Congress to receive the first Tom Rielly Memorial Medal. On display was part of Tom's collection.

On the Friday evening came the Congress Dinner, followed by a short address given by Dr James Mackay, and the presentation of the Scottish exhibition awards. These included a new award for Social Philately, given in memory of the late Iain T Boyle.

Saturday was the main Congress day, bringing together displays and the dealers. At midday the presentation of the awards in the youth competition took place, including the Alba Salver for the best youth entry, which went to Matthew Herd, who also won a silver-gilt medal. Richard West, Chairman of the National Youth Stamp Group and a Trustee of the British Philatelic Trust, made the presentations. During the afternoon, the ASPS held its AGM at which a new President, Brian Dow, was elected.

One aspect which always characterises a Scottish Congress is the friendliness of everyone involved, whether on the organisational side, or simply a visitor. Certainly the move to Perth was greeted with great enthusiasm, having been achieved successfully and efficiently thanks to the hard-working ASPS Secretary, Alan Watson. A visit to the Scottish Congress in Perth next April can be fully recommended. *Richard West* ●

Royal Mail news Barry Robinson • Future stamps • New definitives • Slania honoured

Barry Robinson retires After quarter of a century working on stamp design, Barry Robinson left the Post Office at the end of June. Born in Chelmsford in 1946, Barry joined the PO's Design Department, under Peter Shrives, in March 1977 after a career as a freelance designer and with British Oxygen, ICL (computers), Bovis and P&O. Among his first PO projects was design of new letterboxes introduced in 1980. Gradually he became more involved with stamp design, and has dealt with over 200 sets of special stamps. He took over as Design Adviser, following Mr Shrives's retirement, in 1981. When Royal Mail Stamps was set up as a separate business within Royal Mail in 1986, Barry was appointed its Head of Design, was Design Director of Royal Mail National 1992-99 and, since Stamps & Collectibles was formed, has been Stamp Programme Director.

Over the years, Barry has guided dozens of artists and graphic designers working on stamps, first day covers and postmarks, presentation packs and the Yearbook, to ensure a consistent standard. He has been keen to encourage the work of young designers as a Royal Mail judge for the annual Royal Society of Arts stamp design competition. His expertise was valued by fellow members of the Stamp Advisory Committee; and in two series of articles for this magazine (August 1983 - May 1984 and October 1988 - May 1989) explained the processes in producing stamps, from initial research to finished product. He has given talks on stamp design to the Association of Friends of the National Postal Museum and other philatelic societies. In 1989 he was awarded the Reginald M Phillips Medal and in 1998 a special Rowland Hill Award for his contribution to British stamp design. From 1995 until 2001 the Philatelic and Postmark Bulletins came under his department, and he was prime mover behind the re-design of both titles in 1996.

He found his years with Royal Mail interesting and mostly enjoyable, bringing him into contact with many of the country's top designers and members of the royal family. Barry travelled with Prince Andrew to photograph the castles for the high value stamps in 1988 and worked with the Prince of Wales and his staff on the Prince's painting stamps in 1994. In 1997 he selected the portraits and designed the memorial stamps within days of the tragic death of Diana, Princess of Wales •



'Barry has led the Royal Mail stamp programme with distinction over the course of nearly 20 years, during which time our stamps have grown in both stature and popularity. Barry can take considerable pride in knowing that his stamp programme has become without doubt the benchmark for postal administrations all across the world with regard to both its quality and diversity. Our stamps continue to win design awards and Barry is consequently one of the most widely respected personalities within the philatelic world we serve. He will be greatly missed but I am sure you will all join me in congratulating Barry for his achievements and in wishing him every success for the future'.

GAVIN MACRAE, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF ROYAL MAIL STAMPS & COLLECTIBLES



Commonwealth Games coin cover The flags of the four participating teams from the UK are shown on the reverse of the Royal Mint coins.

The cover is available from: Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB.



Future issues Five new stamps commemorating the Commonwealth Games in Manchester will go on general and philatelic sale on 16 July; they were previewed here in May.

A coin cover, showing the Commonwealth Games logo, bearing the five stamps cancelled by special postmark, and incorporating four £2 coins, will be available, price £19.95. The design on the reverse of the coins is by artist and sculptor Matthew Bonaccorsi; the common obverse is Ian Rank-Broadley's head of The Queen used on the coinage since 1998.

The next special issue, Peter Pan, will be available from 20 August – details are published elsewhere in this *Bulletin*. This will be followed by a London Bridges set on 10 September, showing the new Millennium Bridge and Tower, Westminster, Blackfriars and London bridges. The issue will be accompanied by a book containing four 1st definitives and two 1st Bridges stamps, all self-adhesive. A miniature sheet of four 1st class stamps and a prestige stamp book, entitled *Across the Universe* go on sale on 24 September. Details of the Bridges and Astronomy issues will be given in next month's *Bulletin*.

Five stamps marking the 150th anniversary of pillar boxes will be issued on 8 October followed by the Christmas issue on 5 November and a Wilding definitive miniature sheet on 5 December. This sheet will comprise nine stamps in the Wilding definitive designs; values are expected to range from 1p to 50p ●

Personalised smilers For an order form, contact Tallents House on 0845 074 2000 (UK) or +44 131 316 7489 (from overseas).

Smilers sheets Sheets of the 2001 Occasions stamps with pre-printed greetings labels were withdrawn from sale on 4 June; sheets of the Smiles greetings stamps with pre-printed labels will be withdrawn on 2 July. The generic Christmas sheets remain on sale until October, price £3.99 for sheet of 20 2nd class stamps or £2.95 sheet of 10 1st class stamps. Generic Smilers sheets of 2002 Occasions and World Cup stamps are available,

price £5.95 each for sheets of 20 stamps. They were shown in the May *Bulletin*, pages 265 and 266. The World Cup Smilers sheet was printed in litho by Questa, whereas the miniature sheet stamps are in gravure by Walsall. A listing of Smilers sheets was published here in April. Smilers sheets are available to order with personalised image on the labels, price £14.95 for sheet of 20 1st class stamps (£12.95 for World Cup sheet) •

New definitive and country stamps New overseas postal rates are scheduled to come into effect from 4 July. The minimum rate for surface mail postcards and letters will increase by 1p to 37p, airmail postcards by 2p to 42p, and the two basic weight steps for airmail letters from 45p and 65p to 47p and 68p. This will be the first increase on most of these rates since April 2000.

Four new definitive stamps will be issued on 4 July: 37p light grey, 42p sage, 47p sea green, and 68p stone (right: the other new values were shown last month). They will be printed in sheets of 200 by De La Rue. A presentation pack containing one of each of the new stamps will cost £2.30.

New 68p country stamps for England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland will also be available from 4 July. These will be in the same design and colours as the current 65p issues (also previous 64p for Scotland and Wales). They will be printed in sheets of 200 by De La Rue. The four 68p country stamps will be available in a single presentation pack, price £3.10.

Books containing six self-adhesive E (European rate), 42p and 68p stamps, printed by Walsall, will be available from 4 July, price £2.22, £2.52, and £4.08 respectively. The matrix (margin) surrounding the stamps will be removed and each book has a new cover design by Mike Dempsey of the design group CDT. The matrix has been removed to assist blind and disabled users after consultation with both the Royal National Institute for the Blind and the Arthritis Society.

The 40p, 45p and 65p Machin definitives and 65p country stamps and books containing 40p and 65p stamps will be withdrawn from sale at Post Office branches on 3 July. They will remain on sale at Tallents House and Post Office philatelic outlets until further notice •



Definitives cylinders

Each value 1 colour • 47 phosphor.

68p stamps cylinders/plates

England 1 silver • 1 purple • 49 phosphor

Scotland 1 grey black • 1 new blue • 1 bright magenta • 1 greenish yellow • 1 silver • 49 phosphor

Wales 1 violet • 1 gold • 1 silver • 1 black • 49 phosphor

Northern Ireland 1A greenish yellow • 1A bright magenta • 1A black • 1A grey • P19 phosphor

New gold self-adhesive definitive Shown right is the gold self-adhesive 1st class stamp book, issued in June. The cover shows the new design by Mike Dempsey. Books of six are printed by Questa and Walsall, books of 12 are printed by Walsall. There are no cylinder numbers in the first Walsall printings; the Questa book of six is from Q1 gold Q1 phosphor •



Scottish country stamps New printings of the Scottish 1st and 2nd class stamps by De La Rue (previously Walsall) are now available; the cylinders used are: 2nd class 1 (new blue) 1 (blue), 1 (silver) 50 (phosphor); 1st class 1 (deep rose red) 1 (rose red) 1 (yellow-orange) 1 (silver) 49 (phosphor) •



Slania honoured As reported here in April, it was announced at the Rowland Hill Awards in March that Czeslaw Slania had been awarded the Reginald M Phillips medal in recognition of his eminent career as a stamp engraver. Unfortunately Mr Slania was ill at the time and unable to attend the ceremony in London. In May, Gavin Macrae, Managing Director of Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles, visited Sweden and took the opportunity of presenting the medal, and the Rowland Hill Award for Lifetime Achievement to Mr Slania (left). Royal Mail is delighted that Mr Slania has engraved the Pillar Boxes stamps to be issued in October. These stamps are bound to prove popular with his many admirers around the world •

Queen Elizabeth II: a Jubilee Portrait in Stamps

This limited edition book can be ordered from Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. Price £16.95. Order code PB361.

Golden Jubilee and David Gentleman books Readers are reminded that a joint Royal Mail/British Library book *Queen Elizabeth II: a Jubilee Portrait in Stamps* was published on 1 June. Two editions are available; that sold by Royal Mail will include a commemorative document bearing four of the Jubilee stamps cancelled by a special London SW1 postmark applied in gold ink. The edition without the commemorative document will be available from the British Library and main bookshops •

David Gentleman has had more than 100 stamp designs issued by Royal Mail, and 2002 marks the 40th anniversary of his first UK stamp. To celebrate this occasion, Royal Mail is supporting the publication of a major new book. *Artwork* is Gentleman's 'creative autobiography' and provides an overview of every stamp issue he has designed for Royal Mail, as well as his work in fields as diverse as woodcuts, poster and book design and painting. Written and illustrated by David Gentleman, this stunning book is a must for anyone who appreciates brilliant design, tireless attention to detail and the impact that the visual arts can have. The 192-page book will be published by Ebury Press in October 2002. More information will be given here nearer the time •

Postage labels The new automated postage labels are being tested at Post Office branches in the Edinburgh, Portsmouth, Southampton and Watford areas, also at the High Holborn, WC1 and Albemarle Street, W1 offices in central London. The labels are intended primarily on heavier weight letters and packages, above 60g UK and over 20g overseas •

New Mail Centre A new state-of-the art £38 million mail centre to serve Newham and East London is being built in Bromley by Bow. It will process almost three-quarters of a million letters and packets each day when fully operational in Spring 2003. At 17,000 square metres, the new centre is the size of three football pitches with four times the space of the current building in Whitechapel Road •

Bulletin publications Publication 9 *The Wildings: The First Elizabeth II Definitives* was issued free with the April 2002 *Bulletin*; additional copies can be ordered (code PB362) from Tallents House, price £2.95. Publications 1-8 are now out of print •

The Queen's diadem The Editor visits the Queen's Gallery

AS SPECIALIST COLLECTORS will be aware, the Wilding and Machin definitives show HM The Queen wearing a diadem. This diadem, made for King George IV, is currently on show in the Royal Treasures exhibition at The Queen's Gallery, at Buckingham Palace.

The diadem was first mentioned in this *Bulletin* back in 1965 (vol 2 no 5) when it was stated: 'The Queen's portrait for the low value stamps was taken from a three-quarter face photograph by Dorothy Wilding. The diadem which The Queen wears in the portrait has been in the possession of the Royal Family since the reign of King George IV who reigned from 1820-30. He designed the diadem and had it made for wearing over a Cap of State, ie the velvet cap worn inside a crown. When the diadem is placed over the Cap of State it has the appearance of a crown but is much lighter in weight for wearing. Queen Victoria wore the diadem in public on a number of occasions. A photograph of the coronation of King Edward VII shows Queen Alexandra wearing the diadem. It was worn by Queen Elizabeth II in public for the first time at the opening of Parliament in November 1952.' She later wore it for her arrival at Westminster Abbey for the Coronation in 1953 – as shown on the \$1 Silver Jubilee stamp from Barbados in 1977. The diadem was also worn by Queen Mary, wife of King George V, as shown on Canada's 1935 Silver Jubilee 3c stamp.

The photograph of The Queen used on the stamps was one taken at a session at the Dorothy Wilding studios in April 1952. Lois Young notes that The Queen was wearing an embossed satin dress in rich cream and pale blue, made by Norman Hartnell for the visit by Her and the Duke of Edinburgh to Canada and the USA in 1951, an ornate diamond necklace, a wedding present from the Nizam of Hyderabad, pendant earrings, and the Garter sash and star. The Wilding portrait, used on definitive and regional stamps, also featured on most commemorative (special) stamps of the pre-decimal period. It was replaced on definitives by the Machin head in 1967. The Wilding portrait reappeared on the stamps marking The Queen's 60th birthday in 1986, and again in 1998 and February this year in *The Definitive Portrait* and *A Gracious Accession* prestige books. Wilding stamps, in decimal values, will feature again on a miniature sheet to be issued on 5 December to mark the 50th anniversary of the issue of the first Wilding values in 1952.



Dorothy Wilding's photograph used on the stamps. A photograph from this session was reproduced on the front cover of February's *Bulletin*. Below, Arnold Machin's relief portrait, which replaced the Wilding portrait in 1967.





The diadem was made by Rundell, Bridge and Rundell, who were crown jewellers to George VI, producing quantities of plate. It comprises eight sections, four crosses and four sets of the national floral emblems skilfully mounted on a pearl-decorated gold circlet. It contains some 1333 diamonds including a four-carat pale yellow brilliant in the centre of the front cross. The diadem is both small and light, and its remarkable construction is much admired by jewellers. It was probably designed by Philp Liebart, Rundells' chief designer and, together with a diamond-studded loop, cost £8216. It was first worn by George VI over a large velvet 'Spanish hat' at his Coronation. In the same display cabinet is another item made by Rundells, a garter given by Queen Victoria to Prince Albert two days before their wedding. The exhibition includes a recent painting of The Queen wearing the diadem (shown left) by Lucien Freud, regarded by many as the leading figurative painter today. The portrait was painted at St James's Palace between May 2000 and December 2001; it was Mr Freud's wish to paint The Queen in the diamond diadem that she wears when travelling to the State Opening of Parliament. The head-and-shoulders

portrait in oils is a small (23.5 × 15.2cm) work, yet an intensely powerful image. This is the first time it has been exhibited in public.

The Royal Treasures exhibition This is the first exhibition in the new Queen's Gallery opened by HM The Queen on 21 May; the exhibition opened to the public the following day. The 450 outstanding works on show were selected from across the entire breadth of the Royal Collection, from nine royal residences and over five centuries of collecting. The exhibition includes paintings, drawings and watercolours, furniture, sculpture and ceramics, silver and gold, arms and armour, jewellery and miniatures, books and manuscripts. Among the most impressive items are the vast equestrian portrait of Charles I by Van Dyck, a silver table and mirror made for William III, and 77 of some 500 Faberge items in the Collection. Carl Faberge supplied many objects to Tsar Alexander III and to Edward VII and Queen Alexandra, the collection being continued by George V and Queen Mary. Faberge's staff were sent to Sandringham to make models of animals on the Royal farm; these delightful pieces are on show along with three of the famous Imperial eggs. A number of the Faberge pieces, also gold trinket and snuff boxes, were presents exchanged by members of the Royal family. The exhibition is open until 12 January (except 25 and 26 December), from 10.00-17.30 (last admission at 16.30). Entry is by timed ticket. Adults £6.50, over-60 £5, 5-17 £3, under 5 free Advance ticket line 020 7321 2233 •

Sources C Parsons, *Stamp Portraits of The Queen*, 1959; L Young, *The Royal Image: Stamp Portraits of Britain's Monarchs*, 1988; T Pepper, Dorothy Wilding: *The Pursuit of Perfection*, 1991 (reviewed *Bulletin* November 1991); J Roberts (ed), *Royal Treasures: A Golden Jubilee Celebration*, 2002; F Sweet, *Queen Elizabeth II: a Jubilee Portrait in Stamps*, 2002; *The Wildings: The First Elizabeth II Definitives*, British Philatelic Publication No 9, issued with *Bulletin*, April 2002; D Staddon, *The Genesis of the Machin Design Part 1*, *Bulletin*, April 1986; A R de Righi & J Farrugia, *The Wilding Designs*, *Bulletin* April 1986.

Illustrations Portrait (above) *Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II*; the Royal Collection © Lucian Freud. Diadem (opposite): the Royal Collection © 2002 Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II



Queen Victoria wearing the diadem in the famous Chalon portrait (above left). Dorothy Fildes's portrait appears on many Commonwealth issues from the early years of The Queen's reign (above centre). The Machin profile has been used on stamps from other countries, for example Hong Kong (above right), Guernsey, Jersey, Falkland Islands, Antigua, Belize, British Solomon Islands, Fiji, Bermuda, Bahamas, British Indian Ocean Territory, Tristan da Cunha and Gibraltar.



Queen Elizabeth and Queen Victoria wear the diadem in their portraits (above and right), and it also appears on British banknotes and on the decimal series of British decimal coins, designed by Raphael Tuck (above left) issued from 1985 to 1997 (far right). The Machin profile was also featured on Guernsey's 1986 stamp for the Queen's 60th birthday.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN



Peter Pan A new issue celebrates the 150th



Technical details

Printer De La Rue

Process Gravure

Stamp size 41 x 30mm

Perforation 15 x 14

Phosphor 2nd class one band,
others two bands

Gum PVA

Gutter pairs Vertical

FIVE STAMPS featuring Peter Pan – a favourite of children's literature – will be available from post offices, Royal Mail Tallents House Edinburgh, and philatelic outlets from 20 August. The stamps mark the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children in London. Sir James Barrie, author of *Peter Pan*, gifted the royalties to the Hospital.

The stamps feature characters from the play: 2nd class (19p) Tinkerbell; 1st class (27p) the Darling children against the clockface of 'Big Ben'; E (European rate, 37p) the crocodile; 47p Captain Hook; and 68p Peter Pan about to fly. The Queen's silhouette, value or service indicator are printed in gold at top left; gold is also used in parts of the designs. The stamps are the work of Tuttsells design group who designed the 1996 Children's TV stamps and the 1999 Welsh country definitive issue.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets about a week before 20 August, price 25p. Orders for serviced FDCs with the stamps cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of Royal Mail Tallents House Edinburgh or Hook must reach Tallents House (address below) by the day of issue. Price £2.74 UK (including VAT) or £2.34 overseas (no VAT).

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 Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Wexham Road, Slough SL1 1AA (Hook postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FDC227' (Tallents House), or 'FDC228' (Hook). Covers can be posted or handed in at main post offices for the Hook postmark.

Details of other handstamps for 20 August will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House (£10 UK/Europe; £21.75 elsewhere). For a sample copy write to: The Editor, *British Postmark Bulletin*, Royal Mail, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8HQ.

PHILATELIC PRODUCTS A well-illustrated pack containing the five stamps (price £2.35) and stamp cards (25p each) will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets.

anniversary of Great Ormond Street Hospital



The stamps feature characters from the play *Peter Pan*, from left: Tinkerbell, the Darling children against the clockface of 'Big Ben', the crocodile, Captain Hook, and Peter Pan about to fly. The stamps were designed by Tuttsels design group, who also designed the 1996 Children's TV stamps and the 1999 Welsh country issue.

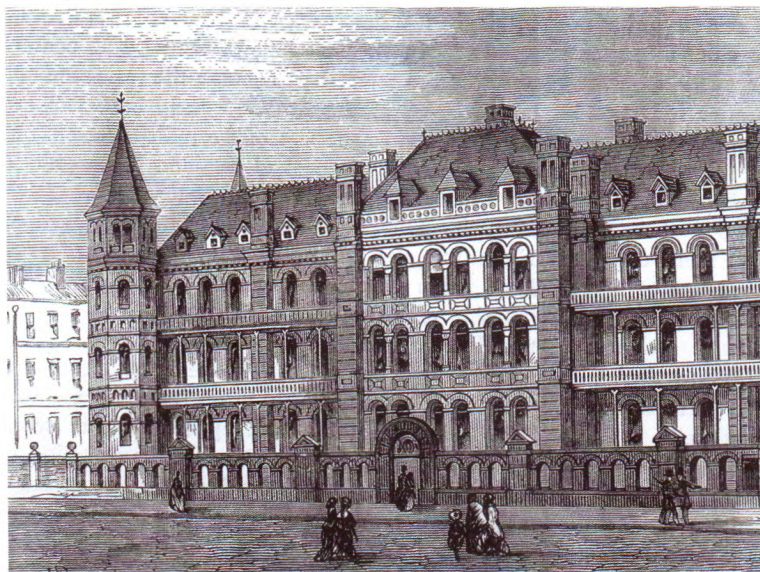


Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB



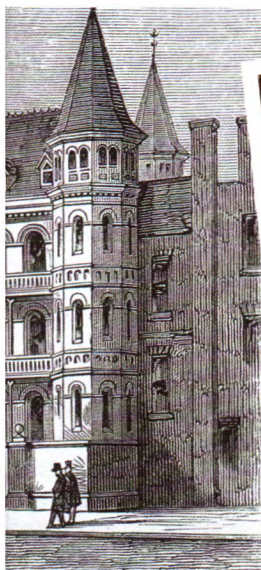


Above: The Peter Pan statue in Kensington Gardens, by Sir George Frampton, and Great Ormond Street Hospital (the Hospital for Sick Children).



Peter Pan These are the first British stamps to feature Peter Pan although an illustration by Lucie Attwell (1921) and a portrait of the author, Sir James Barrie, featured on a Scottish aerogramme issued in 1987 to mark the 50th anniversary of his death. Barrie was born in Kirriemuir in 1860 and educated at Dumfries Academy and Edinburgh University. In 1883 he left Scotland to work on the *Nottingham Daily Journal* before coming to London in 1885. He began writing novels such as *A Window in Thrums* (based on Kirriemuir), published in 1889, and then turned his attention to the theatre. He is perhaps best remembered for *Peter Pan, or The Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up* – a dramatic fantasy first performed in 1904 and published in book form, under the title *Peter and Wendy*, in 1911. It is the story of the three children of Mr and Mrs Darling – Wendy, John, and Michael, the nurse Nana (a Newfoundland dog) and the motherless Peter Pan who, with the fairy Tinker Bell, takes the children to Never-Never Land where they encounter Redskins and pirates, including Captain Hook and Smee. The play started as stories invented by Barrie to tell the five sons of Arthur and Sylvia Llewellyn Davis who he befriended in Kensington Gardens; he provided the boys with a home when their parents died. Three of the boys died tragically: George was killed in the First World War, Michael drowned in the Thames in 1921, and Peter committed suicide in 1960. Barrie referred to Michael as 'the boy who will never grow old.'

Peter Pan was written partly in the summerhouse in the garden of Barrie's London home in Bayswater Road and partly in the pine woods behind his country home – Blacklake Cottage at Farnham in Surrey. His Newfoundland dog, Luath – the inspiration for Nana – is buried there. A statue of Peter Pan, designed by Sir George Frampton at Barrie's expense, was erected in Kensington Gardens in 1912. A blue plaque was affixed to his



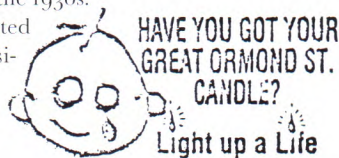
London home in 1961, testifying to his residence there from 1902 to 1909. In 1929 he gifted the copyright of *Peter Pan* to the Great Ormond Street Hospital. Barrie was awarded a baronetcy in 1913 and the Order of Merit in 1922, and was Chancellor of Edinburgh University from 1930.

Noted characters from children's literature feature on the International Year of the Child stamps of 1979; on 1990, 1993 and 1994 greetings stamps; Enid Blyton centenary stamps issued in 1997; and Magical Worlds stamps and aerogrammes of 1998.

Above: Peter Pan, Wendy and the lost boys in the original 1904 production of the play at The Duke of York's theatre in London.

Below: slogan postmark used at Bournemouth, Dorchester & Weymouth, 8-29 September 1988.

Great Ormond Street Hospital The Hospital for Sick Children, usually referred to as the Great Ormond Street Hospital, first opened its doors in February 1852 with just 10 beds for sick children aged between two and 12. It was the inspiration of Dr Charles West who, appalled by the lack of facilities for sick children in London, set about raising money for the cause. The first patient, a two year old boy, was suffering from catarrh and diarrhoea – far more serious complaints in Victorian days than they are now. The new hospital quickly attracted public support, including J M Barrie, Queen Victoria, and Charles Dickens. The number of patients soon necessitated a larger hospital, and the foundation stone of a new building, designed by E M Barry, was laid by the Princess of Wales (later Queen Alexandra) in 1872. The new hospital, completed in 1877, had 120 beds. It was further extended in 1893 and further rebuilding took place in the 1930s. From 1985-87 the Hospital ran the Wishing Well Appeal, supported by the Prince and late Princess of Wales. The Princess was President of the Hospital and a regular visitor until her death in 1997. Today, over 100,000 children are treated at the hospital every year ●



Machine cancelled covers Part 3 of Richard West's series



From left: Paris Postal Conference 1963 (machine 'first day of issue'); Lifeboat Conference slogan; Red Cross Centenary slogan; COMPAC first day of issue slogan (first 'Philatelic Bureau'); handstamped 'first day of issue' for Shakespeare Festival; and handstamps used at Harlech and Arbroath.

THE 1960s were times of great change for stamp collectors. It seems to have been a defining decade for, across much of the world, the potential of the stamp was being recognised – some might say exploited. The British PO was certainly active in the process: 1960 had brought Britain's first two-coloured commemorative. There were three commemorative sets in 1961. And in 1963, no fewer than six special issues.

Some believe this is when the rot set in, but it did not seem like it at the time. Put it down to naivety if you wish, but for me these were exciting days. I still remember a visit to the Philatelic Bureau, which was then in London, during the Easter school holiday of 1963, and seeing on display the designs of the commemoratives up to Red Cross Centenary. Unlike many British issues, the designs were colourful and innovative, and I looked forward to what the year would bring.

For the FDC collector, much was developing. From the start of 1963 the PO acknowledged the importance of covers to collectors, particularly the quality of cancellation. It started to provide special posting boxes at a few main post offices. It was a tentative beginning: just 11 post offices

were selected, but it was a start, with the covers posted receiving special handling. The first set so treated was the Freedom from Hunger issue, on 21 March 1963; covers received the 'Freedom from Hunger Week' slogan referred to last month.

Another change came with the next issue. For the Paris Postal Conference Centenary 6d stamp issued on 7 May, a new machine slogan was introduced, with the words 'first day of issue' within an envelope design. This slogan would remain available for several years, enjoying particular usage, as will be mentioned later. The number of philatelic posting boxes increased to 30.

For National Nature Week on 16 May, the Philatelic Bureau started to accept orders to service customers' own first day covers: the London ECI 'envelope design' 'first day of issue' slogan was used for National Nature Week.

For the next two issues, covers serviced by the Bureau received a more appropriate slogan: the 'first day of issue' slogan was nevertheless still available from philatelic posting boxes. The slogan reading 'International Life Boat Conference Edinburgh 1963' was fitting for the Conference stamps, as was '1863 Red Cross Centenary A

on British first day covers



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Century of Service 1963' used for the Red Cross Centenary set.

At the end of 1963 came a late announced 'surprise' issue, for the Opening of the Commonwealth Cable (COMPAC), issued on 3 December. (Readers may recall that 1963 was also the year in which the *Bulletin* began publication, and that issue No 4 included an example of the COMPAC stamp overprinted in red 'CANCELLED'.) Covers serviced by the Bureau used the 'envelope' design, but this time inscribed 'Philatelic Bureau, London EC1'.

The following year was to be no less momentous. Just four new issues, but what a start was made. Putting aside the fact that what was commemorated had to be the Shakespeare Festival (rather than the birth anniversary), the issue comprised five stamps, and saw the introduction not only of the presentation pack, but also of the Post Office's own designed first day envelope. This meant that the Philatelic Bureau would not simply service covers, it could provide the entire package, including supplying and addressing the envelope, in addition to affixing and cancelling the stamps. Also, the general 'first day of issue'

cancellation, available through philatelic posting boxes, took a new form: a circular handstamp was brought into use. Of quite large diameter, this was used at many locations, the most appropriate for Shakespeare being Stratford-upon-Avon. Covers serviced by the Bureau received a Stratford handstamp. Subsequent covers serviced by the Philatelic Bureau had the handstamp so inscribed.

Incidentally, although the Post Office claimed that the posting boxes would mean special treatment for covers, the quality of impression of both the slogan and the handstamp in those days often left much to be desired.

The 'first day of issue' handstamp remained the standard for many years. During 1965 a smaller version was brought into use (not universally at first), resulting in an improvement in the quality of the impression. Occasionally, a further office was added to those providing this service, if the office concerned had a particular connection with the theme of the stamps. Two examples are Harlech for the British Landscapes issue of 1966 (the 1s 3d value showed Harlech Castle), and Arbroath for the 1970 Anniversaries series (the 5d value featured the Declaration of Arbroath).



From left: medical mailings for Shakespeare Festival, Joseph Lister, Botanical Congress, and Literary Anniversaries; slogan cancels for British Bridges and British Paintings issues; and handstamp for medical mailing on the 1967 British Flora issue.

Medical mailings However, the 'first day of issue' slogan was still available, and would have special uses. One of the most significant was for post-uses by Medical Mailing. For many years, if a commemorative set included a basic inland rate stamp, the opportunity would be taken to send a mailing to the medical profession using a new stamp on its day of issue. In the majority of cases, the stamp would be cancelled with the slogan 'first day of issue' machine cancellation. A variety of FDCs were used to contain the mailing.

Usually, the mailing came from Paddington (of St Mary's Hospital fame), which was particularly appropriate for the Joseph Lister Antiseptic Surgery 4d value of 1965 (a cover was produced by the National Fund for Research into Poliomyelitis and other crippling diseases).

The first such 'medical mailing' which I have seen bears the 3d Shakespeare stamp, including a postcard of the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, sent by the manufacturers of Pentothal. The slogan was for Stratford-upon-Avon. Other appropriate places for the mailings include Greenwich for the Geographical Congress issue, Richmond and Twickenham (home of Kew Gardens) for the

Botanical Congress, and Edinburgh for the opening of the Forth Road Bridge, all of 1964; Wembley and Harrow for the 1966 World Cup 4d (not England Winners); and Broadstairs for the Literary Anniversary (Dickens) stamp of 1970.

Interestingly, in 1967, two mailings, British Wild Flowers and British Paintings had not the slogan but the circular handstamp 'first day of issue'. For the 1967 British Discoveries 4d the slogan was again used, but can be found for either Paddington W2 or London N1. In 1968, for two of the issues (British Bridges and Paintings), the dateslug is inscribed 'Great Britain London Wc2'.

Charities Other charities have adopted a similar idea, sending a FDC, often of the Christmas issue, enclosing a request for a donation. The cover carries the basic inland rate value, cancelled with the slogan or handstamp 'first day of issue'. The most interesting of the machine cancellations was for Christmas 1980 and 1985, with the slogan merely the words 'first day of issue', but no envelope design. Handstamped versions have taken various styles over the years. Most of these covers seen have been cancelled at Liverpool.



Medical and charity mailings A list of covers seen from medical mailing and other charities, using a British commemorative and a machine cancellation 'first day of issue'. Any additions to this list would be welcome.

1964 Shakespeare Festival 3d

1964 Geographical Congress 4d

1964 Botanical Congress 3d

1964 Forth Road Bridge 3d

1965 Sir Winston Churchill 4d

1965 Joseph Lister 4d

1966 World Cup 4d

1967 British Wild Flowers ¹

1967 British Paintings 4d ¹

1967 British Discoveries 4d

1968 British Bridges 4d

1968 British Anniversaries 4d

1968 British Paintings 4d

1969 British Anniversaries 5d

1969 Post Office Technology 5d

1970 British Architecture 5d

1970 Literary Anniversaries 5d

1972 Christmas 2½p

1974 Christmas 3½p

1975 Christmas 6½p

1977 Silver Jubilee 8½p

1978 Coronation 25th anniversary 9p

1980 London Landmarks 10½p

1980 Christmas 10p ²

1981 Christmas 11½p

1984 Christmas 13p

1985 Christmas 12p ²

¹ These, unusually for the time, have a handstamped 'first day of issue', rather than the machine slogan.

² Not in the envelope design.

Similar mailings with a handstamped 'first day of issue'

1976 Christmas 6½p

1984 Urban Renewal 16p

1986 60th birthday of The Queen 17p

1987 Isaac Newton 18p

1988 Sports 18p

1989 Games and Toys 19p

1990 Export and Technology Award 20p

1991 Europe in Space 22p

1992 Accession 40th anniversary 24p

1995 Peace and Freedom 19p

1996 Children's Television 20p



From top: machine slogans for British Bridges issue at Menai Bridge, Bridge in Kent, and Aberfeldy; and slogan for Westminster Abbey's 900th anniversary.

Maximum cards In 1966, for the England Winners stamp, a dealer produced maximum cards using a World Cup Willie postcard. This idea was repeated for the 1966 Battle of Hastings and Christmas sets. However, the Post Office clearly had difficulty coming to terms with this concept of a postcard, with the stamp affixed and cancelled on the picture side. These items were regarded as 'embarrassing', and various restrictions were placed on their production, including confining the picture to just the left-hand half of the pictorial side (ie, not dissimilar to a first day cover). Another aspect which gave the Post Office grief was that, since each card bore just one stamp, it meant cancelling say four items for a set of four stamps, rather than just a single cancellation that might be needed for a first day cover.

A solution was tried for the British Bridges issue of 1968, whereby the stamps on 'maximum cards' would be cancelled using the machine slogan 'first day of issue'. In the envelope design, it was put in use at Bridge, Canterbury in Kent, and also at Aberfeldy (the 9d value shows Aberfeldy Bridge), and at Menai Bridge, Anglesey (the 1s 6d value depicted the Menai Bridge). In the

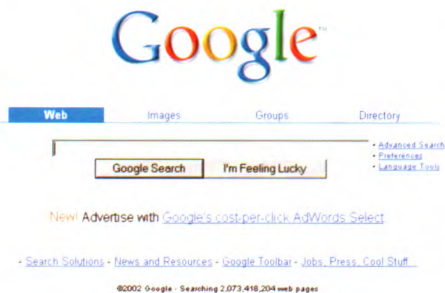
latter case, the words 'first day of issue' within the envelope design also appear in Welsh.

Other slogans Apart from those already mentioned for 1964, it did sometimes occur that a machine slogan in use would have a direct relevance to the theme of a new issue. Examples include: the various 'Commonwealth Arts Festival' slogans appropriate for the 1965 issue; 'International Co-operation Year' in use at Reading at the time of the United Nations/International Co-operation Year stamps of 1965; 'Westminster Abbey 900th Anniversary Year' in 1966; 'World Cup City Sheffield', and 'World Cup Competition Sunderland' for the 1966 World Cup issue.

Christmas has also provided applicable slogans on occasions. There was also a 'first day of issue Westminster' slogan, but not in the envelope design, in use for the 900th anniversary of Westminster Abbey stamps in 1966.

However, handstamps were increasingly to take the place of slogans on first day covers. From the Shakespeare Festival set, and increasingly over the years, privately sponsored handstamps would proliferate. More on these in the next article. ●

Philately on-line The search for information, by Ron Negus



www.google.com For an introduction to search engines, of which Google is only one example, readers are recommended to read the relevant pages at www.lib.Berkeley.edu/TeachingLib/Guides/Internet/SearchEngines.html. This site contains a tutorial on the subject of how to find information on the internet in more detail.

Editor's note *The Daily Telegraph* runs a regular feature on internet sites, answering readers' questions. Several readers responded to a request for details of internet sites relating to stamp collecting, two citing this Philately on-line feature in the *Bulletin*. The feature was published in the *Telegraph* on 7 May.

ONE OF THE GREAT attractions of the internet is the coverage provided by the world wide web when searching for information about any subject. Its scope can be used to advantage by those who want to discover details about the features, events, or personalities shown on the stamps in their collections. However, because the content is so vast, it is not always easy to locate the precise information being sought. There is no conventional index to the millions of pages that make up the world wide web, so most users turn to a 'search engine' to hunt for the information they require.

Regular users of the internet soon find the search engine that they prefer. Having tried a number of them over the years, the one that I like best is called Google, and it can be found at www.google.com. My reason for this choice is that it is very fast and consistently finds sites that meet my search criteria. Others that I have used often produce results that have little relevance to the details I am seeking. Google is also reckoned to be the largest search engine and claims its internal searching methods allow access to more than two thousand million web pages. Despite this, for various technical reasons, some web pages cannot be located by any search engines, and the use of specialized philatelic listings, and cross-reference links, is still necessary when seeking some stamp sites.

To make a search in Google you have to select one or more keywords that describe the facts you are looking for. When choosing keywords, try the

obvious first. For example, if you want to find out about Rembrandt, use his name as your keyword, rather than entering 'artists'. If your keyword is a phrase, rather than a single word, it must be enclosed in double quotation marks: for example "Dutch painters". Without the quotes, the search engine will assume the entry to be 'Dutch AND painters', and also retrieve any web pages that contain either of these words.

Remember that, in making a selection, Google matches the exact keyword entry. It does not consider 'airmail' and 'airmails', for instance, to be the same. If you wanted to search on both of these you would have to join them together with OR (in capital letters) giving 'airmail OR airmails' as the keyword entry (excluding the single quotes). A link to a Search Tips section is available on each results page that explains how to make best use of the Google facilities, and this is worth studying.

Another feature that I find attractive is how the results of a search are presented. At the top of the first results page, the number of web pages that included the requested keywords is given, which is a quick indication of whether the search was too broad or not. Under the title of each web page that Google has found, a few lines are quoted from that page. On this extract, the keywords originally entered are highlighted in bold type and this allows you to read their context and shows if that selected results page is likely to answer your enquiry or not •

Doreen Day Bringing stamps to the young, by Richard West

AT the glittering 2001 Rowland Hill Awards, staged recently in London, the award for Youth Work went to someone who has devoted years to helping the young with their collections. Doreen Day was encouraged to collect by her father. He had collected as a schoolboy, but the collection had long since been forgotten, until the time came for a clear-out, way back in 1935. There was that collection – and a spark was re-kindled. But not only that – the enthusiasm spread from father to daughter, and Doreen began collecting – and has remained a collector ever since.

At first both father and daughter collected the whole world, still a popular objective pre-war, but after the war they decided to divide the task. Doreen took on the 'Foreign' part, leaving her father with the Commonwealth. But understandably over the years Doreen's own interests have become more focused. Now she enjoys collecting Norway, especially the Occupation era, and the Channel Islands of Guernsey and Jersey, both postal history and early stamp issues, although she draws the line when postal independence was achieved in 1969.

Her career was spent in banking (she was one of the first lady cashiers), based essentially at Brighton and Crawley. But retirement has meant that she has been able to extend the amount of time she devotes to support the hobby.

In reality, Doreen has always been active, particularly on a local basis. She first joined the Haywards Heath and District Philatelic Society in 1964, and over the years has held the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Not surprisingly, she is now an Honorary Life Member of the society.

A similar situation is true for the Burgess Hill Philatelic Society. A member since 1982, again she is now an honorary member, having served as President, Vice President, Treasurer and Competition Secretary.



Doreen Day with her Rowland Hill Award

It was her involvement with Burgess Hill which led to her being encouraged to help young collectors. The society had an established link with both the junior and senior sections of the local Burgess Hill School for Girls, and Doreen was asked if she would continue the work of running the stamp club. She readily agreed and, two years later, in 1985, took on a similar role with two schools in Hassocks.

Her work still continues; during two lunch-times a week she attends one of her schools, ensuring the young collectors derive as much as possible from their hobby. And to prove the point, several have entered annual National youth stamp competitions.

Other organisations with which Doreen is involved include the Worthing Society of Postal Historians, and the Association of Sussex Philatelic Societies. For the latter, in 1998 she took on board the task of organising the annual youth competitions, staged as part of the Sussex Philatelic Convention each year. She also arranged the youth entries of behalf of Sussex at the Association of British Philatelic Societies' exhibitions held at Hove in 1998 and Glasgow in 2000.

The prime mover behind the 1998 Brighton and Hove exhibition had been Michael Elliott: Doreen was already assisting him, when sadly Michael died before the exhibition took place. As a result, Doreen took on the responsibility for co-ordinating all the competitive entries, both adult and youth.

For her outstanding contribution to philately over the years, Doreen has been presented with a number of awards, including the ABPS Award of Merit, and the National Youth Stamp Group Bill Hart Award, presented once a year to the person who has done most for youth philately.

But, to culminate all her success, and as a fitting reward for all her hard work over so many years, Doreen Day has now been presented with a Rowland Hill Award ●

Postbag Letters to the Editor

Post Office heritage So it's official, the National Postal Museum is no more! Subsumed, along with the Phillips Collection, into the greedy clutch of Heritage Services, never again to see the light of day and, indeed, never to be seen by the British public to whom Mr Phillips left his great collection. This is all official because it has the agreement of that strange collection of persons who previously called themselves 'the Friends of the National Postal Museum'. Some friends?

The attitude of the Post Office to the NPM is a national disgrace. Mr Phillips left his collection to the British nation, with the GPO (come Post Office, come Consignia) as no more than the custodians who had, and willingly accepted, the duty to provide a venue for displaying it. It is inconceivable that an organisation of the size of the Post Office cannot find, amongst its vast range of properties, a place for displaying this collection in a way that would do justice to the material and make it accessible to the general public. To say that it is available for examination by researchers, in an out-of-the-way building, is not the same thing, and is entirely inadequate. It is an insult to the memory of Mr Phillips and those Post Office people who looked after it, and guided visitors around it, in King Edward Building.

What does the British public do now? Wait until Consignia is fully privatised, and for the share price to drop to a level at which Deutsche Post, or La Poste, or even An Post [*German, French and Irish Post Offices* ED] can come along and buy the equity and absorb the assets, including the much vaunted Heritage Services? There would be one satisfaction in such a scenario: any of the organisations mentioned would be more than happy to put the material on public display.

Why does Consignia not come clean and say it does not want the 'onerous' task of displaying the Phillips Collection, and pass it to the British Museum, which shows the Tapling Collection for ordinary visitors to admire, or even to the British Library, which I'm sure would be happy to put it on display in their magnificent new building.

GEORGE BOWBRICK, STEVENAGE ●

Editor's note: *The Tapling Collection to which Mr Bowbrick refers is in the care of the British Library; the library, philatelic and other collections of the British Museum were transferred to the British Library almost 30 years ago. Mr Bowbrick does not say if he has ascertained from the German, French or Irish POs that they would be willing to display the Phillips Collection should they acquire Consignia.*

Mr A W Watton, of the Friends of Postal Heritage, replies There is no agreement by this Association as to the demise of the National Postal Museum or, more accurately, the successor to the National Postal Museum. I can confirm that the Association has not rubber stamped such a demise and, indeed, continues to strive for the re-opening of a facility to display all aspects of postal heritage.

Council of the Association discussed this very subject at its last meeting on 7 May. Furthermore, it is to be a major item on the agenda of the next Council meeting. The Association takes very seriously the threat which coincides with the closure of the former museum and the current arrangement within Archives. Council is aware of the concern that surrounds the future of the collections (not only Mr Phillips'). It is also acutely aware that there are implications in respect of public records and collections which fall under the complete control of Consignia. With the evolution, if not revolution, in matters postal, these concerns are not unique to our Association but to any philatelist or postal historian who has an awareness of postal heritage in Great Britain.

It is unfortunate that our Association spent the majority of last year in a reorganisation which was both expensive in monetary terms but also, more importantly, in time spent by those involved in the well-being of British postal heritage. I am pleased to report that that reorganisation is now complete and that Council regards the issue raised by Mr Bowbrick to be the most important that confronts the Committee and those within the Association. It is more important than any other topic and deserves a commitment from Consignia to assure collectors throughout the country

and the world that it takes seriously its responsibility as to its business and moral duty concerning all postal heritage. It is an asset to be valued as a benefit for Consignia and all of its subsidiaries and is not an asset available for disposal now or at any stage or any time in the future.

Indeed, the very absence of the Museum actually gives the Friends an additional role. We have a special relationship with Consignia, and Council believes that the Friends should be taking the lead in pressing Consignia to provide a worthy successor to the Museum. We must ensure ready access to all the material entrusted to the safe keeping of Consignia Heritage Services. Council has not yet drawn up a plan, but it is our intention to approach leading societies for support in our quest on this major issue.

In conclusion, I confirm that Council remains committed to the re-opening of a facility to display collections, archives and all matters related to postal heritage for Consignia, the collecting fraternity and, equally importantly, the general public who have a perpetual soft spot for the good old Post Office. A W WATTON, SECRETARY, THE FRIENDS OF POSTAL HERITAGE ●

Dr D Fermer of the Secretary's Office, Consignia plc, replies I can certainly understand Mr Bowbrick's frustration, but I can assure him that the historic collections continue to be looked after by

the same dedicated and professional staff who looked after them at King Edward Building. The collections are held at Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL, where many items from the Phillips Collection can be seen by appointment. Our archive Search Room is open to the public Monday-Friday 09.00-16.15 (except Bank Holidays) and can be contacted on 020 7239 2570.

We must indeed 'come clean' to the extent of agreeing with Mr Bowbrick that this is not a satisfactory situation and is far from what we would like. It is no secret that we have had some frustrations and disappointments in trying to realise two earlier plans for suitable alternative accommodation for the collections. It is common knowledge too that Consignia's current financial situation of heavy losses is inevitably a limiting factor in our plans for improving access. This does not mean, however, that the collections are not safe and well cared for in the meantime, or that we are not actively working on plans to put the funding of our heritage collections on a surer footing for the future. I sincerely regret that I am not yet in a position to give details of those plans or a timetable, but I can say that we are earnestly working on them in the hope of eventually repaying the patience of Mr Bowbrick and others like him who want to see the history of the postal service in this country made much more accessible to a wider public ●

Posting boxes 213

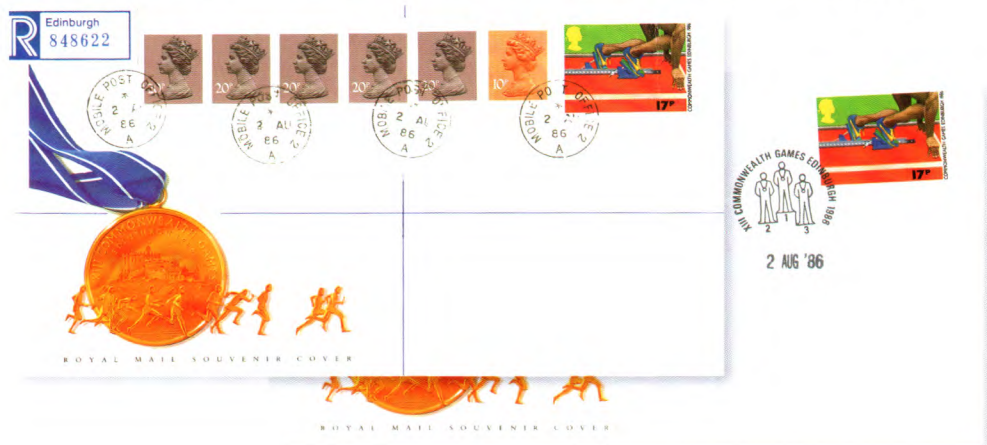
THIS MONTH's subjects are two boxes in Scotland photographed last summer by Lionel Jones, former Assistant Curator Philately at the National Postal Museum. The first is a wall box outside the post office at Braemar, near The Queen's private Scottish residence, Balmoral Castle. An enamel 'LETTER BOX' plate is positioned over the box. The time plate shows a daily collection at 2.45pm. The second photograph is of a modern box, with distinctive Scottish crown, in the skiing resort of Aviemore, Inverness-shire. This box has a slightly later collection time than at Braemar; Aviemore residents have until 3pm to post their letters ●



Cover corner

SHOWN THIS MONTH are two covers posted from Edinburgh during the Commonwealth Games in 1986. Stamps commemorating the Games were issued on 15 July; the Royal Mail first day cover showing javelin-throwing. In addition there was a souvenir cover which featured a flag and Commonwealth Games medal, sold at all post offices in Scotland, the Philatelic Bureau and philatelic counters. A special Games postmark was in use for the duration of the Games, 24 July - 2 August, and covers could be sent to the Head Post Office in Edinburgh for re-posting. A mobile post office

was located in the Games village for the use of competitors and officials. Registered mail sent from this office received MOBILE POST OFFICE 2 counter datestamp as shown on the cover at left. This bears the 17p Commonwealth Games stamp for 1st class postage and £1.10 in definitives for the registration fee. A special cover for the 1970 Commonwealth Games, also in Edinburgh, was shown on page 292 of last month's *Bulletin*. The 17th Commonwealth Games are being staged in Manchester, 25 July - 4 August. Stamps commemorating the Games go on sale on 16 July •

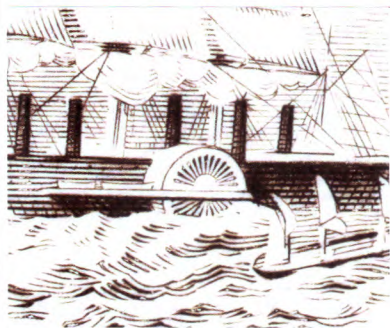


Special draw 'Her Majesty's Stamps' miniature sheet pack



We have 10 of these attractive packs for this month's prize draw. Simply write your name and address on the back of a postcard and send it to: Pack Draw, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8HQ, to arrive by 26 July.

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



April identify The detail is from the 1988 34p Transport & Communications stamp. The winner was S Anderson of Sussex.

April knowledge Answers: 1) Clive Abbott; 2) 1992 Civil War; 3) Royal Festival Hall. The winner was Mrs C Perks of Edinburgh.

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

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

- 1 Who designed the 1949 3d Universal Postal Union stamp?
- 2 In which year did the Faraday Building of Southampton University feature on a stamp?
- 3 Which company printed the 1998 Endangered Species stamps?

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

The senders of the first cards drawn in each competition on 16 August will each receive £100. Ten runner-up prizes of presentation packs or first day covers will be awarded in each competition. The competitions are not open to Royal Mail employees •

Events

Until further notice Postal Memorabilia displays at Museum of Lincolnshire Life, Burton Road, Lincoln and Manchester Postal Museum, Wythenshaw Park, Manchester (open 10.00-16.00). **Enquiries** D Harrop 15 Hawthorn Road, Stockport SK4 3DQ.

29-30 June Thematica at Carisbrooke Hall, Seymour Street, London W2. Near Marble Arch. Open 10.30-17.30 29th, 10.30-17.00 30th. Dealers, displays. Admission free.

5 July Display 'GB with a Difference' by Bob Wheeler at Addlestone PS, Addlestone Community Association Hall, 19.30. **Enquiries** Mrs S Kemp, 01932 341839.

20 July Weston-super-Mare PS Annual Exhibition & Fair at St Paul's Church Hall, Walliscot Rd, Weston,

10.00-16.00. Parking, refreshments. About 12 dealers. **Enquiries** E J Milton, 01934 412025.

2-11 August PhilaKorea 2002 world stamp exhibition at Pacific & Indian Ocean Halls, Convention and Exhibition Centre, Seoul, South Korea. **Enquiries** British Commissioner, Brian Sole, 3 Stockfield Road, Claygate, Esher KT10 0QG.

3 August Norfolk & Norwich PS Summer Fair at Hewett School, Cecil Rd, Norwich.

28-31 August Picture Postcard Show 2002 at New Royal Horticultural Hall, Greycoat & Elverton Streets, London SW1. Open Wed 11.00-20.00, Thurs & Fri 11.00-19.30, Sat 10.00-17.00. Admission £4 opening day, £2 others. **Enquiries** M Day, 0151 339 5422 •

Late news

Consignia results On 13 June Consignia plc announced a record pre-tax loss of £1.1 billion for the financial year 2001-2002. New Chairman Allan Leighton announced a recovery plan to bring the company back into profitability. This will include one mail delivery a day, reviewing the transport network, restructuring the parcels business, outsourcing and/or improving support activities, automating and restructuring the mails business and creating a viable Post Office branch network. This will involve a further 17,000 job losses on top of the 13,000 announced in March. John Roberts, Chief Executive of The Post Office/Consignia for the past seven years will be leaving the company. It was further announced that the controversial name Consignia will be replaced by Royal Mail Group plc before the end of 2002 ●

Swiftpacks Collectors of postal stationery may be interested to know that current printings of Swiftpacks have a redesigned bar-code label on the reverse. The label is now predominantly red instead of blue. Pending the printing of new packs, a small label has been added to the bar-coded label giving the registered address and number of Consignia plc. The small label includes a Consignia copyright notice. Swiftpacks are produced in three sizes: DL prepaid to 50g, C5 to 150g and C4 to 300g. The large size is produced in two versions – prepaid for Europe and Worldwide use. The smaller sizes are in Worldwide versions only. Swiftpacks are available from main Post Office branches ●

New Royal Mail Postmarking Guide A new edition of the Postmarking Guide (last published in 1994) is now available. This gives details of the different types of postmark – operational and philatelic – applied by Royal Mail and Post Office Ltd, arrangements for posting first day and other covers for special postmark, dual postmarking, etc. A copy is being sent free to all subscribers to the *British Postmark Bulletin*. Readers of this *Bulletin* may request a free copy (additional copies

£1.20 each, order code PB364) from: Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles, Tallents House, Postmarking Guide, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB ●

Definitive news There are no plans at present for the 1st class definitive in the new gold colour to be issued in gummed sheets of 200 or in coils. There are adequate stocks of the flame coloured stamp to last for some time. Cylinder numbers on the initial supplies of the new 6 x E (European rate) and 6 x 68p self-adhesive books are w1 dark blue w1 phosphor and w1 stone w1 phosphor. The Northern Ireland E stamp is being printed by De La Rue (previously by Walsall); a philatelic release date will be announced shortly ●

Cumbria Postal History Society The Society held its AGM and Members Competition recently. The Secretary reported a very active year with a substantial increase in members. The Society is currently working on an update to the County Catalogue for Cumberland and Westmorland. The Competition, which attracted more entries than previously, was won by Derek Smeathers' entry tracing the route of the Ulverston to Whitehaven Mail Gig. For details of membership, publications and future meetings of the Society, contact: David Collins, 34 The Parklands, Cockermouth, CA13 0WW ●

Bulletin back issues Philip Hayes of London N7 has a complete run of the *Bulletin* from vols 1-35 (1963-98) for disposal. Volumes 1 and 2 are photocopy reproductions. Anyone interested should contact him on 020 7212 5861 or e-mail philip.hayes@uk.pwcglobal.com ●

Prize winners The winners of the Stamp Show draw in the April *Bulletin* were: R Russell, Australia; J McBride, Ireland; R Chapman, Essex; T Larkin, Portugal; W Winterton, Norfolk; M Regitz, Germany; K Weathermill, Kent; V Salt, London; R Taylor, Kent; and E Wright, Norfolk ●

THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES COMMEMORATIVE COIN COVER



The xvii Commonwealth Games taking place in Manchester between 25 July and 4 August will be the biggest event ever staged in the UK. It will be opened by HM The Queen in what is planned as one of the highlights of Golden Jubilee year.

Royal Mail is marking this magnificent occasion with a special Commonwealth Games Coin Cover – a must for all collectors. What makes this coin cover unique for collectors is that this

is the first time ever that four coins have appeared on a single cover. Produced in conjunction with the Royal Mint, the Commonwealth Games Coin Cover features four £2 coins of brilliant uncirculated quality, one for each home country taking part. It also contains a set of Commonwealth Games stamps, making it the ultimate souvenir for collectors.

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