

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The ROYAL MAIL magazine *for stamp collectors*

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Bulletin

New series this month: King George v Royal Cypher issue



Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



Cover The 2½d King George V stamp issue of 1912, part of a design sequence described by Alan Moorcroft in a series beginning on page 336.

Issues Note some items are available only from Royal Mail Tallents House Edinburgh and Post Office Counters 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 Gloucester, Grimsby, Guildford Harrogate, Leeds, Leicester Liverpool, London (Eastcheap and Trafalgar Sq), Manchester Newcastle upon Tyne, Norwich Nottingham, Oxford, Plymouth Portsmouth, Southampton, Southend-on-Sea, Stevenage Stratford-on-Avon, Truro, Windsor and York

3 July	Issue Occasions stamps in packs of 10. Separate packs for each of the five stamps.
3 July	Issue Pondlife stamp cards.
3 July	Issue 1st 'Smiles' greetings stamps in 'Smilers' sheets with customer photograph or printed greetings labels. See June <i>Bulletin</i> , p319 for details.
4 July	Issue Horizontal rolls of 1st and 2nd class NVI definitives.
4 July	Withdrawal Millennium Stone & Soil stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards.
10 July	Issue Pondlife stamps, presentation pack and postbag.
18 July	Issue Welsh standard airletter, worded 'Llythyr Awyr/Airletter' instead of 'Aerogram/Aerogramme'.
31 July	Withdrawal Millennium Tree & Leaf stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards.
31 July	Withdrawal Bulletin Publication No 7 <i>New Technology for Stamp Collectors</i> by Ron Negus (available only from Tallents House).
3 August	Withdrawal Queen Mother miniature sheet, presentation pack, stamp cards, prestige stamp book, and commemorative document.
28 August	Issue Punch and Judy stamp cards.
	Revised stamp books New printings of the 12 x 1st books (Questa and Walsall) and 12 x 2nd (Questa) and 6 x 1st and 6 x 2nd (Walsall) will shortly be available with amended text phone information. They will go on sale at post offices and retail outlets as old stocks are used up. They will be available from Tallents House and philatelic outlets from 1 August.

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Stamp scene Societies news • Exhibitions

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Philatelic Music Circle For details of the PMC and a copy of their magazine, write to: Ian Summers, 8 Alderwood Grove, Edenfield, Bury BL0 0HQ or visit their website: <http://www.stampshows.com/pmc.html>

British Postmark Society For information send a stamped addressed envelope or international reply coupon to: Dr Eric Inman, 28 Downs Hill, Beckenham BR3 5HB.

New society enquiries C A Barnes, PO Box 273, Uxbridge UB9 4LP. Telephone 01895 834694.

Societies news The Philatelic Music Circle announces a new annual award in memory of Yehudi Menuhin, world famous violinist and conductor, and its Patron until his death in 1999. The award will be made to the designer(s) of the most popular stamp or set of stamps connected with a musical subject. The winners will be chosen by members of the PMC at their meetings and by postal vote. The next meetings are in Bath (14 July) and London (29 September) •

The British Postmark Society has a Printed Postage Impression Study Circle which publishes its own Newsletter, separate to the Society's long-established Quarterly Bulletin. Issue 15 (March 2001) of *PPI News* contains interesting and useful notes for collectors of these markings. A number of pictorial and computer-generated PPIS are illustrated, and members of the Circle exchange information and views through the letters page •

A new society is being set up for those interested in the postal, economic and social history of Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire and Middlesex. An inaugural meeting will be held at the WRVS Hall, The Bury, Rickmansworth at 20.00 on 13 September. Those attending are asked to bring along a few items of local postal history and to contribute £1 towards the cost of starting the society. It is hoped to hold four meetings a year and publish a quarterly newsletter •

Jean Wood 8 Beech Grove, Whitley Bay NE26 3PJ. Telephone 0191 252 8733.

John Davies 3 Longfellows Road, Banbury OX16 9LB.

British Youth Stamp Championships Young collectors are invited to enter the Youth Championships and the Stamp Active Competitions 2001 – the entries will be on show at Autumn Stampex, 19-23 September. The BYSC and SAC are respectively sponsored by Stanley Gibbons and Cavendish Philatelic Auctions. Entry forms, to be returned by 13 July, are available from Mrs Jean Wood. The National Youth Stamp Group's book *Have a Go – Show*, giving information on how to enter, is available from John Davies •

Scholarship applications to be sent to: Julian Chapman Memorial Scholarship, Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY by 30 September.

Julian Chapman Memorial Scholarship Applications are invited for this travelling scholarship from philatelists wishing to study Commonwealth stamps or postal history. The scholarship, of up to £2500, will be a contribution towards travelling costs, accommodation and subsistence for a trip, particularly overseas. Applications must give an outline of the subject to be studied, the applicant's previous philatelic research and publications, and a costing of the trip, including places and organisations to be visited •

New RDPs Signing the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists at the Philatelic Congress of GB at Hereford this month will be Leo de Clercq (Belgium), Fritz Heimbuchler (Germany), Mrs Boonkrong Indhusophon (Thailand), and Yoshio Watanabe (Japan). The Roll was inaugurated in 1921; whilst over the years some of the best-known philatelists have been honoured, many are hardly household names with the majority of collectors •

Philatelic Weekend booklet A souvenir booklet was produced for the 25th anniversary Northeast Philatelic Weekend held in Gateshead on 18-20 May. The booklet features the 'New Look' of the banks of the River Tyne, including the Millennium Bridge. Details of the places featured are given on the back cover. The booklet contains a gutter block of four of the Millennium Bridge stamp, with a commemorative inscription printed in the gutter, and a 'Boots' pane with 1st class definitive with an illustration of an early railway locomotive and inscription in the pane margin.

The booklet is available at £3 from Mrs D M Martin at the address opposite. Details of booklets produced for earlier Weekends are also available from Mrs Martin •



Souvenir booklet Available from Mrs D M Martin, 46 Briardene Crescent, Kenton Park, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 4RY. Price £3; please enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

Exhibitions An exhibition of the work of Arnold Machin (1911-99) will be held at the Royal Academy, Piccadilly, London W1 from 17 July to 3 August. The exhibition includes a reconstruction of his working studio with his tools, books, reference and other influential material. Displays show a variety of sculptors' and potters' methods including moulding, casting and bronze processes, and his work in architectural and garden design. Mr Machin's design for the 'Machin' definitive will figure prominently and the display will include material from Consignia Heritage Services (formerly Post Office Archives and National Postal Museum). A short film will show Machin at work. He is shown at right on a visit to the NPM in 1987 •

Philanippon '01 – the first international stamp exhibition in Japan for a decade – will be held at the Tokyo International Exhibition Center, 1-7 August. The venue, known as the 'Tokyo Big Sight', featured on a Japanese prefecture (regional) stamp in 1997. The theme of the exhibition, 'A Celebration of Stamps – Dreams from Across the Globe', aims to attract children to the hobby. There will be a Court of Honour, and 11 exhibition classes: FIP Championship, Traditional Philately (ie Stamps), Postal History, Postal Stationery, Acrophilately, Thematics, Maximaphily, Revenues, Youth, Open, and Literature. There are 17 British entries, especially strong in postal history, plus a further 11 entrants in the Literature class •

The next international will be Hafnia in Copenhagen, 16-21 October. Bulletin 1 and application form for the PhilaKorea 2002 exhibition in Seoul (2-11 August) are available from the GB Commissioner, Brian Sole (address opposite) – send four 2nd class stamps for postage •

At home, the Picture Postcard Show will be held at the Royal Horticultural Society New Hall, London SW1 (29 August-1 September), followed by: Autumn Stampex, Business Design Centre, London N1 (19-23 September); Philatex, Royal Horticultural Society New Hall, London SW1 (25-27 October); and Thematica 11, Carisbrooke Hall, Seymour Street, London W2 (23-24 November) •



Philanippon '01 The British Commissioner is Brian Sole, 3 Stockfield Road, Claygate, Esher KT10 0QG. The Japanese Post Office issued 10 self-adhesive stamps promoting the exhibition in May 2000 (SG 2750-8).



Mail by Bus In May we published an article by Lionel Jones on the carriage of mail bags on bus services, principally those of Southdown Motor Services. Thanks to David Padgham of Sussex, we reproduce a photograph taken on Sunday 26 May 1957 showing Southdown service 91 bus from Heathfield in front of Eastbourne Railway Station, where a postman from the Head Post Office across the road has just removed the mail bags which were padlocked to a rail under the stairs. A bag label is visible on one of them. The

postman has a two-wheel flat trolley to carry the bags to the sorting office. The bus is Southdown Motor Services No 275; GUF 675; a Leyland PD1 with body by Park Royal, new in 1946. Do other readers have photographs of mail being transported by commercial bus operators? A Leyland bus in Southdown livery features on one of the Buses stamps issued in May.

Malcolm Steward of Surrey has sent a photocopy of another 'Mails Only' label used on the bag labels of mail bags carried by Southdown – a 6d printed in green on white; that shown in Mr Jones' article was a top value. Does any reader know of other denominations? The 6d label came to light around 1979 following the death of the Sub Postmaster at Patching, West Sussex. Mr Steward recalls the postman putting the mail bag on the bus to Findon outside the town hall in Worthing; the bag was chained to the handrail on the platform and collected by the postman in Findon. Presumably the same routine applied in Patching. ●

Far right: Nigel Fordham, head of the Crown Agents Stamp Bureau, collects the artwork at Buckingham Palace.

Stamps and miniature sheet are available from Gibraltar Philatelic Bureau, PO Box 5662, Gibraltar.



Gibraltar's record-breaking stamp On 20 April the Gibraltar Post Office issued five stamps and a miniature sheet to commemorate HM The Queen's 75th birthday. The sheet, containing a £2 stamp, has achieved world fame by being the fastest postage stamp produced. At 8am on 20 April artwork, approved by The Queen, was collected from Buckingham Palace, sent to Questa for printing, flown on a regular British Airways flight and sold over the PO counter in Gibraltar 624 minutes later. Standard commercial transportation and printing methods were used and no special gimmicks; Guinness World Records will be verifying the details to authenticate the record. The full story has been recorded in the June *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*. ●

Royal Mail news Welsh airletter and rolls • Forthcoming issues • *Bulletin* publications



The new printing of the Welsh airletter will be available from post offices in Wales as old stocks are used up, and from Tallents House Edinburgh and Post Office philatelic outlets from 18 July, price 40p.

New airletter and stamp rolls A new printing has been made of the standard Welsh airletter, now inscribed 'Llythyr Awyr/Airletter' instead of 'Aerogram/Aerogramme'.

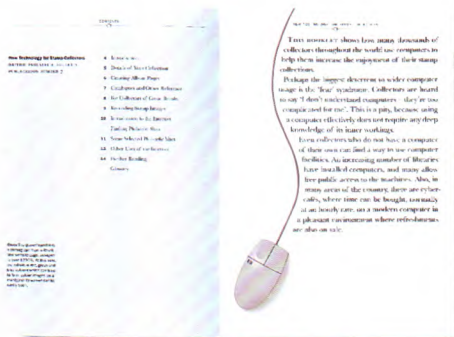
Horizontal rolls of 1000 gummed 1st and 2nd class definitives have been produced for bulk mailers, including mailing houses in the USA. The rolls will be available from Tallents House Edinburgh and to order from Post Office philatelic outlets from 4 July, price £270 and £190 respectively for roll of 1st class and 2nd class stamps. Single stamps or strips from the rolls will be available to collectors from Tallents House only. The rolls were printed by De La Rue. Rolls of 500 and 1000 1st and 2nd class stamps, rolled vertically, are still available – these were issued in 1997 •

New Heathrow Mail Centre Plans for a £150 million postal distribution centre capable of processing 10 million letters a day were given the go-ahead in April. The new centre, near Heathrow Airport, will take over international mail work now dealt with at several centres including Birmingham, Dover, Glasgow, Manchester and Reading. Using automated systems and employing about 800 staff, the new centre is due to open next year.

High tech mailing sorting equipment is used at the new Northern Ireland and Greenford (Middlesex) Mail Centres; mail is postmarked using ink-jet equipment. Other mail centres applying ink-jet postmarks were listed here in December 1998 and August 1999 •

Forthcoming stamps There will be no new special stamps in August; the programme continues with six 1st class stamps featuring Punch & Judy on 4 September. Two of these stamps will be included, with four 1st class definitives, in a £1.62 stamp book, also available from 4 September. The Nobel Prize stamps (2 October) mark the centenary of the awards. The designs relate to the awards for Chemistry, Economic Sciences, Peace, Physiology or Medicine, Literature, and Physics. The stamps are 2nd, 1st, E (European rate), 40p (airmail postcard rate), 45p, and 65p (basic airmail letter rates) •





Bulletin publications Copies of publication 7, *New Technology for Stamp Collectors* by Ron Negus, will be withdrawn from sale on 31 July. This was given free with the April 2000 *Bulletin* but readers wanting additional copies should order now (order code PB346) from Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PE; price £2.95. Publication 8, *Alternative Ways of Collecting* by Richard West, was included with the April 2001 *Bulletin*. Additional copies can be ordered (code PB348) from Tallents House, price £2.95. Publications 1-6 are now out of print •

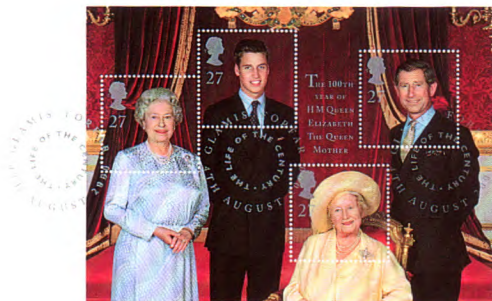
Special draw Win this philatelic document

July draw British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 9HQ.

WE HAVE FIVE of these attractive Queen Mother philatelic documents for this month's draw. Simply write your name and address on the back of a postcard and send it to the address opposite, to arrive by 27 July •



As the century closes her
The Queen Mother has
extraordinary life. By the
more than most lifetimes
tedly assumed; the foreign
for the British monarchy.



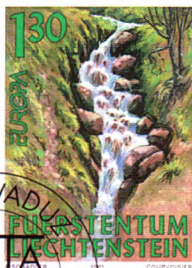
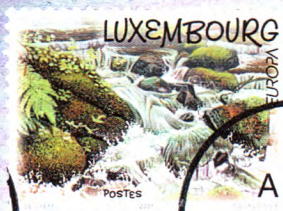
Edition number

17561

Royal Mail, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH1 1ST

Europa stamps 2001

SHOWN HERE are some of this year's Europa issues, on a theme of Water: a Natural Resource. Britain's contributions are the 1st and E stamps in the Pondlife set issued on 10 July (shown in last month's *Bulletin*) •



Wasser - Reichtum der Natur
Deutschland



Philately on-line Heritage Services website, by Ron Negus



www.consignia.com/heritage Heritage Services is the name now used for that part of the organisation previously known as Post Office Archives and the National Postal Museum. It is responsible for the unique historical Collection covering 360 years of British postal history.

Consignia Heritage Services is located at Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL. Details of how to reach it, and opening times, are given on this Heritage website.

IN MARCH 2001 the Post Office Group changed its name to Consignia plc. At the same time, it launched an excellent website to publicise its Heritage Services division. This is the name now used for that part of the organisation that collectors used to know as Post Office Archives and the National Postal Museum. It is responsible for the unique historical Collection covering 360 years of British postal history.

The web pages describing Heritage Services contain details of contact points, travel directions and a sketch map of its location behind Mount Pleasant Sorting Office in London. There is an introduction to Post Office Archives that gives information on how they may be examined. This includes a description of the various main classes, grouped by subject or by department. It is intended to expand this next year with a full on-line catalogue of the records held.

Personnel records of the many men and women employed by the Post Office through the years are held within the Archives. In some cases, these are split by occupations with details filed under clerks, mail guards, telegraph messengers, etc. This part of the site has been given the title of 'Family History' because the Archives can provide a source for research, and guidelines for genealogists in using them are given here.

Another section is entitled 'Real Lives' and gives examples of actual letters held within the Archives that exemplify aspects of British social history. The chosen examples are sub-divided into groups for Wartime Letters, Valentines, Suffragettes, Royalty and the *Titanic*.

Under the main heading 'Stamps', information is given about the National Postal Museum holdings, which incorporate the famous R M Phillips Collection of Victorian material presented to the Post Office in 1965. This part also gives details about how the Museum cares for its collections, including those items connected with stamp production. The collection has the original artwork for many British stamps, and the site shows illustrations of some unissued designs.

Another group of web pages provide basic information about the development of postal services, and include details of how the daily volume of 75 million letters and parcels are delivered using a combination of foot, road, air, train, horse and water transport. The listing given here of technical innovations pioneered by the Post Office in each century from the 17th to date is also illuminating. The importance of publicity is covered by mentions of poster advertising, as well as animated clips taken from Post Office films and commercial TV adverts.

Knowing that the site is likely to be visited by children, there are two 30-piece jigsaws of stamp designs included that can be pieced together on the screen. For the youngest visitors there are three outline drawings that can be coloured on screen and then printed out.

Overall the site is of high quality and has clearly been given much thought at the design stage; an early visit is strongly recommended. For those who have not appreciated the scope of the Heritage Collection, these pages will give a comprehensive overview ●

King Edward VII and family on stamps by Jean Matheson

THE FUTURE KING EDWARD VII, born in 1841, was the first son of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg Gotha. He succeeded to the throne on the death of his mother in January 1901. An interesting collection can be formed of stamps showing him as Prince and King, his parents and other members of his family. Some of these stamps are described on the following pages, with their Stanley Gibbons catalogue numbers.





Previous page: Prince Albert appears on one of the stamps in the 1987 Victorian Britain issue. His memorial is shown on another in the set (1368-9).

Top row: 1850 essay of Prince Albert, not issued; Edward on 1860 New Brunswick issue and 1897 Newfoundland; and Alexandra on 1985 Isle of Man.

Bottom row: Alexandra on Kiribati and St Kitts stamps, both among issues marking the 21st birthday in 1982 of Diana, Princess of Wales; and Edward's daughter Maud on 1969 Norway issue.

Victoria and Albert are shown respectively on stamps from St Vincent (1079) and Belize (799), and together on a stamp from the Grenadines of St Vincent (537) issued in 1987 to mark the 150th anniversary of the Queen's accession. The Albert memorial is shown on the commemorative label in a book of 1st class stamps issued on 29 January 2001, marking the centenary of the death of Queen Victoria.

The young Edward, Prince of Wales, made his philatelic debut on a New Brunswick stamp of 1860 (19) and reappeared, bearded and stout, on a Newfoundland 2c value (86) in a set celebrating Victoria's diamond jubilee in 1897. Others showed Victoria, Edward's son George, Duke of York, and his infant son who would briefly be King Edward VIII.

Edward's wife, Alexandra, Princess of Wales, and the Duchess of York were also in the family group, the latter looking much as she would on stamps featuring her as Queen Mary. A Kiribati stamp (183) pictures her as the youthful Princess May of Teck, while a St Kitts issue (95) reproduces a portrait of Alexandra in 1863.

Wife and mistresses Alexandra was admired for her elegance and good works – an Isle of Man stamp of 1985 (296) features the modish Princess as President of a charity for servicemen's families. Alexandra was tolerant of her husband's affairs – three of his mistresses may be seen on stamps: the socialite Alice Keppel on a British greetings stamp of 1995 (1864). Sir John Millais' portrait of Lillie Langtry, the 'Jersey Lily', on a Jersey stamp of 1986 (381), and the actress Sarah Bernhardt who features on an Antigua issue of 1992 (1642).



Edward and Alexandra's three daughters were missing from the family group as shown on the Newfoundland stamps of 1897. Only one, Maud, married to Norway's King Haakon VIII, achieved 'stamp status', posthumously. Her Children's Fund was celebrated by Norwegian stamps in 1939 (267-8); other stamps issued in 1955 and 1969 mark Haakon's Golden Jubilee (458) and the centenary of Maud's birth (642).

Emil Fuchs' austere portrait of Edward VII reflects little of the man known to the public. Sir Luke Fildes' portrait of Edward in Coronation robes (Turks & Caicos Islands 495) offers a colourful image. Edward in uniform is framed on a Barbuda stamp in the British Royal Families series of 1984 (710), and in mufti on a recent British Virgin Islands 'Kings and Queens throughout the Ages' issue (1041). Canada's stamps for the Tercentenary of Quebec in 1908 show Edward and Alexandra together (190).

Another family group A second group of Royal portraits on Newfoundland stamps were issued for George V's Coronation in 1911. These include Alexandra (125) who refused to relinquish her Consort's Crown to the new Queen Mary (117), and the King's uncle, the Duke of Connaught, Governor-General of Canada (126) who was later remembered on a Jersey stamp of 1977 (177) as Grand Prior of the St John's Ambulance Brigade.

Of the three younger Princes in the Newfoundland stamps group, John (124), an invalid, died in 1919. Henry, later Duke of Gloucester (122), became Governor-General of Australia and appears with his Duchess on stamps marking their arrival in Australia in 1945 (209-211). George, the future Duke of Kent (123) died in an air crash in the Second World War.

Top row: Edward's uncle the Duke of Connaught on a 1977 Jersey stamp; Alice Keppel on a 1995 Greetings stamp; and Lillie Langtry on 1986 Jersey stamp.

Bottom row: Queen Maud and King Haakon VIII on a 1955 Norway stamp; Edward on a Turks & Caicos issue, portrait by Sir Luke Fildes, and on a British Virgin Islands stamp; and the portrait by Emil Fuchs (see *January Bulletin*, p137).



Top row: Alexandra's Consort crown and Queen Mary's crown on Barbuda's Crowns issue of 1987; and George V on a 1984 St Vincent issue.

Bottom row: The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester on a 1945 Australian issue marking the Duke's arrival as Governor-General (the Duchess will celebrate her 100th birthday this year); Edward VIII and HMS *Repulse* in 1925 on a 1987 St Helena stamp; Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh on 1967 Tristan da Cunha.

Future Kings The older children, the future Kings Edward VII and George VI and Princess Mary, all served during the coming European conflict, Edward in the trenches and George, in spite of ill health, at sea where he saw action at the Battle of Jutland. Images of the war are evoked by St Vincent stamps of 1984 (776-7 and 787-8). Mary was busy with nursing duties and in the women's services, and soon after the Armistice visited women engaged in war work in France. The British stamp of 1971 commemorating the British Legion (887) recalls servicemen and a nurse of the time.

After the war Edward embarked on a series of overseas tours, remembered on a Royal Visits stamp from St Helena in 1987 (501). He was President of the 1924 British Empire Exhibition which occasioned the first British commemorative stamps. In 1927 attention focused on the Duke of York and his Duchess, Elizabeth, when they visited Australia. As the years passed and Edward remained unmarried it looked increasingly possible that the Yorks' first daughter, seen on a triangular New Zealand Health stamp of 1943 (637), would eventually come to the throne.

George V, in failing health, continued in his leisure hours to build up the stamp collection he started when a young man, encouraged by his uncle Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh, seen on a Tristan da Cunha stamp (109) marking the centenary of his visit in 1867, and again in 1991 on one for the 70th birthday of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh (514). Other anniversaries were recalled on overseas stamps of the King's reign. The Barbados 1927 Tercentenary of Settlement stamp (240) showed George V and Charles I, and in 1932 the Cayman Islands marked its centenary of Assembly of Justices and Vestry with images of George V and William IV together (84).



The King's first Christmas broadcast in 1932 is pictured on an Ascension stamp of 1982 (331) marking the 50th anniversary of BBC External Broadcasting. His Silver Jubilee in 1935 brought a feast of celebratory stamps, the British commemoratives (453-6) showing him in profile with varying emblems. He is shown against a background of Windsor Castle on the Colonies omnibus issue, and mounted on his horse Anzac on the Australian stamps (156-8).

The King and Queen Mary had not appeared together on a stamp since a Rhodesian issue (119-185) at the start of the reign. Now Canada and New Zealand acknowledged the Consort (375-7 and 573-5); others in the Canadian set showed the Prince of Wales, Windsor Castle, and the Royal Yacht. It was not until 1985 that Queen Mary was glimpsed without coronet or Crown, but wearing her well-known toque hat, driving with the King in an open carriage (Belize 835).

After George V's death in 1936 and Edward VIII's sensational abdication a few months later (St Vincent 4475), the Duke and Duchess of York faced the unexpected task of re-establishing the monarchy. They are shown, with their daughters, at the Royal Tournament in 1936 on a Gambian stamp of 1986 (641).

At this centenary of Edward VII's accession, images of his parents predominate on new commemorative stamps. Among them, Guernsey's six stamps portray Victoria with memorabilia from youth to old age, two including a statue of Albert. The stamps from the Isle of Man (917-22), feature, among other symbols, Victorian coins and medals, the 26p with Queen and Consort in profile •

Top row: Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh on a 1991 Tristan da Cunha stamp; William IV and George V on a 1932 Cayman Islands; Charles I and George V on 1927 Barbados.

Bottom row: recent Guernsey stamps featuring Victoria and a statue of Albert; and George V on a 1935 Australian Silver Jubilee stamp and on a 1982 Ascension Islands stamp.

Sources

- John Van der Kiste: *Edward VII's Children*, 1989 and *George V's Children*, 1991
 Stanley Gibbons *Stamps of the World* catalogue, 2001 ed
 John Holman: 'New Collector' articles in *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* October 2000, January and March 2001

The George V Royal Cypher issue 1912-24

The dissatisfaction with the 'Downey Head' stamps issued on 22 June 1911 led the Post Office to look for an alternative design. It was to take some 14 months before the new design would appear on an issued stamp. This series traces the development of the issue, drawing upon previously published works augmented with original research at The British Library Philatelic Collections (BLPC), Post Office Heritage (POH) and Public Record Office (PRO).

THE DESIGN chosen to replace the Downey Head was based upon the 'Coinage' and 'Medal' profile portraits of the King, which were the work of Bertram Mackennal. In fact by the end of the work, three different profile heads were required for this issue.

The work on the frames for all the stamps was well advanced during the Downey period. However, it was to prove difficult to get all the parties to agree to the changes when a profile head was adopted. Remember we had the Post Office (PO) headed by the Postmaster General (PMG), who answered to Parliament, the Board of Inland Revenue who were responsible for the production of the stamps, the Royal Mint (Mint) responsible for the plates, the printers, the engravers, the designers and the King who wanted to approve each design and colour. It is also clear that Mackennal would submit work direct to the King for approval, which caused some annoyance amongst the others involved. In consequence, it was to take some 14 to 20 months before all the values were issued.

Development of the Coinage Head Much has been written about how poor the Downey stamps were in comparison with De La Rue's (DLR) issue for King Edward VII, but were they? The King got the head he wanted – 'a real likeness rather than an idealised impression' – and the stamps from the improved Die II surely compare favourably.

Whilst much criticism was made of Harrison and Sons (Harrisons) as inexperienced printers, they showed in the provisional printings of the stamps of Edward VII that they were as capable as DLR (see left). Many writers have stated the difference is apparent to the naked eye – but is it?

POH has a file containing complaints received about the Downey heads. This contains no letters from the public (did they notice?) but there are press cuttings and reports of questions raised in Parliament by certain MPs. Why? Was this a big political issue? Who advised the King that the colonies disliked the Downey portrait and would not adopt it, preferring the profile head? Who really wanted Harrisons to fail? Who was sitting with empty printing presses and idle staff? Whose Managing Director went to see Mr Nathan, the Secretary to the GPO, on two occasions offering to take the work over? Mr Nathan had sympathy with this – after all, his own father was for a long time a partner of the firm – yes, DLR.

Photography by Geoff Dann



The first of a series by Alan Moorcroft FRPSL



The 'Downey Head' stamps were replaced with a design engraved by J A C Harrison, based on this profile of the King. This was modelled by Bertram Mackennal, from a photograph by Downey. The initials B M can be seen at lower right of the profile.



A drawing by J A C Harrison, preparatory to engraving the 'Coinage Head'. This is based on the profile relief by Bertram Mackennal for use on coins of the realm.

DLR had held the stamp contract since 1880, and were devastated when they lost it. However, the decision was not made by the Post Office, but followed an investigation by an inter-departmental committee, which found that DLR's prices were extravagantly high. This was proved when Harrisons tendered for the contract in the sum of £18,000; DLR had been charging £63,000. Indeed, DLR had grown very wealthy by the contract and certainly would have liked to regain it.

Some have sought to defend DLR and justify their charges. It was not until a court case in 1924 that it was revealed how profitable the contract was, and the lengths to which DLR went to ensure they kept the contract. They had been paying Waterlow & Sons £20,000 a year since 1888 to refrain from tendering, thus leaving the field clear for themselves. It was stated in evidence that the arrangement 'took the form really of a trade ring' and that the Managing Director of Waterlows 'in turn passed over to the other firm suitable sums'. After the passing of the Prevention of Corruption Act 1909, the payments to the Managing Director of Waterlows were reduced in 1909 to £500 which, to quote the evidence, 'did not leave much for the other firms' in the ring, with the result, as was admitted by the Defence, that the contract was lost by DLR when it was again put up for tender in 1910. (Report of the Committee of Inquiry into Government Printing Establishments, March 1927).

With that background, there was no way the contract would revert to DLR. The virtual monopoly previously held by them was broken: from then onwards the stamp and stationery contract was split, with the Mint taking over the production of the plates and the printing of the 6d stamps. However, the Mint and Harrisons had to improve the quality of the stamp production to quell the political pressure raised by the Downey issue. While an investigation was underway into how the issued stamps could be improved – which led to the new Downey dies – the PMG on 3rd November 1911 rejected the Downey head for the 4d to 1s, and decided to introduce a 'Profile' head.

Two weeks later, the King suggested that the Mint should adopt a Profile head as was being used by DLR for the Colonial stamps. The Mint was already using this head which had been modelled by Bertram Mackennal from a picture, also by Downey, for the coins of the realm. So the decision was made to adopt this for the stamps. J A C Harrison (JACH, no connection with the printers of that name) was given a bromide of the original plaque sculpted by Mackennal, and he first sketched and then engraved the 'Coinage' head (above; a die proof of Stage 1E of the engraving is shown on p323).

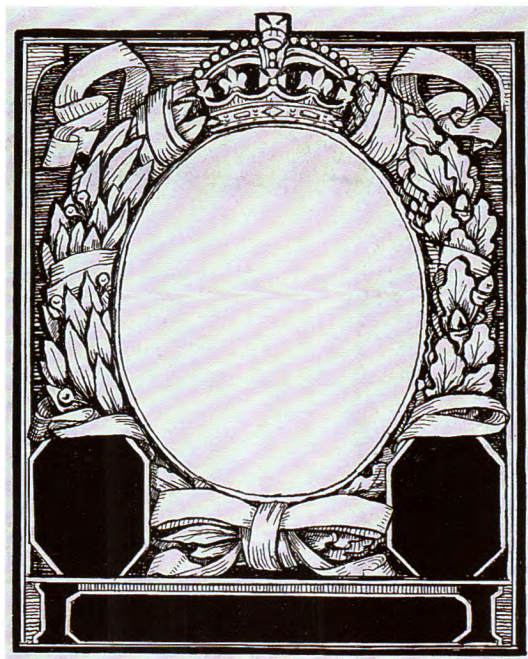
JACH commenced engraving the die in January 1912 and continued until late February. Die proofs, in various colours, have been identified of seven stages of development. Proofs of the final stage were made in black and the colour intended for the ½d and 1d stamps and a set is known which were cut down and mounted in bevelled frames and presented to Bertram Mackennal by Sir Edward Rigg, the Deputy Master of the Mint.

2d and 3d: Mackennal wreath frame with Coinage Head Mackennal had originally submitted five designs to the Mint, one of which was a modified form of the 'Lion' frame, substituting a bow inscribed 'POSTAGE AND REVENUE' for the lion, and adding ribbons to the upper corners. The design with little amendment was initially accepted for the 2d and 3d, and was subsequently also used for the 4d. A proof exists of the hand-drawn Mackennal frame which came from the estate of Sir William Ellison-Macartney, former Deputy Master of the Mint (below right).

A die had been engraved by JACH of this frame incorporating the Downey Head. Accordingly a roller was made from this and the head and tint lines removed. The Coinage Head was then rolled into the die and JACH completed the engraving, with proofs being taken on 19 June 1912. Special plates of four impressions were used to produce colour trials and BLPC has examples of these mounted on card: the stamps are imperforate and have been overprinted 'CANCELLED'. An imperforate block of four is known which is described as a plate proof on surfaced paper, and two examples are also known of imperforate blocks of four in 'Cadmium orange', these being in private hands (below). POH has a series of single imperforate stamps in 19 different colours. These are mounted on cards, not overprinted, and dated 19 November 1912, and were probably produced for consideration of a colour change, mentioned below.

The 2d was the first Profile head stamp to be issued, on 21 August 1912. The first printings did not bear control numbers. During 1913 the colour was officially changed from 'orange' to 'reddish

A 'cadmium orange' imperforate block of four, and a proof of the hand-drawn Mackennal frame from the estate of Sir William Macartney.



3d colour trial One example of a perforated block of six with 'COLOUR ESSAY X.13' printed in the bottom margin and endorsed 'not selected' is known in private hands.



orange' for stronger visual effect. A new colour standard was printed and overprinted 'SPECIMEN' and at least one complete sheet of this is held by BLPG. 2d stamps are known overprinted 'CANCELLED' which are thought to be from the new colour standard produced by Harrisons and at least one block of these are known in private hands. There is an interesting range of shades of this value, including the 'intense bright orange' which occurs during later printings.

In 1921, increased demand for the 2d stamps, when this became the letter rate, required the production of extra plates. When the old master die proved unsatisfactory, it became necessary for a new one to be engraved. Stamps from Die II are distinguished by the fewer background lines above the head. It appears that in preparation for the change Somerset House prepared a series of 'ESSAYS FOR COLOUR ONLY'. Blocks of four imperforate stamps in seven colours were printed and sent to the PO on 24 April 1920. A set of these is now in the collections held by POH.

For the 3d value, a transfer roller from the completed 2d value was taken in June 1912 and the values removed. A new impression was taken and JACH engraved the 3d values. The finished die was proofed on 20 August 1912 and the stamps were issued on 8 October 1912. The confusion between the 3d 'reddish violet' and the 6d 'purple' led to the change of the colour to 'bluish violet' in August 1913. Trials of three colours were produced in perforated sheets. The examples held by POH have the official colour printed in the bottom margin and were compared with the existing shade, a block of which was overprinted 'SPECIMEN'. BLPG has complete sheets, various blocks and singles of stamps all overprinted 'SPECIMEN', some endorsed 'old colour' and 'new colour'. An imperforate block of four of the new colour, and the trial above, are known in private hands. Amongst the range of shades for the 3d is a 'very pale violet' found during 1916/17 ●

To be continued next month

An earlier version of this article was published in *The London Philatelist*, September 2000. The author is Hon Treasurer of the Royal Philatelic Society London.

Royal achievement Richard Saundry looks at British Royal Heraldry as a thematic topic

THE COMPLETE Royal Achievement (in heraldry a complete 'coat of arms' including supporters, helm, crest and motto is technically known as an achievement), or devices derived from those arms such as the crown (derived from the crest), have been depicted on innumerable stamps and items of postal stationery to mark British events, even on postage stamps from countries as far removed from the British Commonwealth as Chile and Paraguay. The whys and wherefores of how the current Royal Arms evolved is a complex story reflecting both dynastic change and territorial claim.

Lions or eagles When heraldry first evolved in the 12th century, most Western European monarchs chose either lions (the 'kings of the animal kingdom') or eagles (the 'kings of the birds') as the principal charge(s) on their shields. The King of England was to be no exception. Richard the Lionheart in 1195 was the earliest English King to have used the 'three lions of England.' Richard's arms are believed to be derived from, or are coeval with, the very similar arms of Normandy (two gold lions on a red shield). Early mediaeval English monarchs were also Dukes of Normandy, and it is not surprising, therefore, that the arms of England and the arms of Normandy should have been related. The only remnant of the former Anglo-Norman Kingdom outside of mainland Britain is the Channel Islands. Even to this day both Jersey and Guernsey use three lions as their official coats of arms. The arms of both Jersey and Guernsey can be found on many postage stamps.

Edward III claimed the throne of France, and to reinforce his claim from 1340 he quartered the English Royal Arms with those of France (blue shield strewn with golden lilies), positioning the French arms in the first and fourth quarters. Successive English Kings and Queens used similar versions of Edward's Royal Arms showing quarterings for France until the death of Queen Elizabeth I, the only real change being in 1406 when Charles V of France reduced the number of lilies in the French arms to only three with King Edward IV of England and his successors following suit. The 1974 Austrian 2 schilling stamp (SG 1703) shown right includes an interesting design error: the statue of 'King Arthur' in mediaeval armour at Innsbruck is holding a shield with the quarters of France and England interchanged.

The Royal Coat of Arms as used by Her Britannic Majesty's Government and its agencies, including in the past the Post Office, is widely recognised as Britain's 'official symbol', in much the same way that the 'Union Jack' is universally recognised as Britain's national flag. A theme collection based on British Royal Heraldry can be both vibrantly colourful and fascinating, and can be well illustrated with a wealth of philatelic items.



The quarters on the shield of this Austrian stamp are interchanged. The error is probably the fault of the sculptor rather than the stamp designer.

Opposite Top left: a special event postmark with the arms of HM Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

Centre: one of the set of six Bermuda stamps of 1959 (SG 157-162), showing the arms of King James I and Queen Elizabeth II.

Top right: the 1980 Scottish aerogramme issued for the bicentenary of the Society of antiquarians. This features the Royal Arms used by Britain's Hanoverian monarchs until 1801 on a herald's tabard from the reign of King George III.

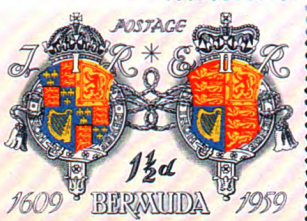
Bottom: my favourite example of the current arms, on a 5 Kc stationery card issued by the Czech Republic to honour the 1996 visit of The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh.

Stuart Kings When James VI of Scotland became the first Stuart King of England in 1603, the quarterly English Royal Arms were now combined as the first and fourth grand quarters with that of Scotland (red lion rampant on a yellow shield) in the second; at the same time the harp of Erin (Ireland had been raised to the status of a kingdom by Henry VIII) was placed in the third quarter. The Scottish version of the Royal Arms had the grand quarterings of England and Scotland interchanged for each other. The English version of the Stuart Royal Arms has been depicted on many postage stamps, notable among which were the two stamps (SG 206, 207) issued by Antigua in 1967 commemorating the tercentenary of the Treaty of Breda. In Queen Anne's reign (1707) was enacted the Act of Union of the two Parliaments of Scotland and England, and to reflect this constitutional change the Arms of England and Scotland were impaled (combined side by side) and shown in both the first and second quarters, France now being moved to the second, and Ireland to the third quarters.

When the Elector of Hanover succeeded to the throne as King George I in 1714, the Arms of Hanover were incorporated into the fourth grand quarter of the British Royal Arms. Constitutional changes resulting from the Act of 1800 uniting the Parliaments of Ireland with Westminster afforded the opportunity of dropping the French arms from the British Royal Arms: the arms of Hanover were placed on an 'inescutcheon of pretence' at the centre of the shield; the three lions of England were repeated in the first and fourth, Scotland in the second, and Ireland in the third grand quarters. An excellent, though anachronistic use of these late Hanoverian Royal Arms (used 1801-37) is found on what is claimed to be the world's first item of postal stationery, the penny wrappers issued by New South Wales in 1838. These wrappers were issued after the death the year before of King William IV: it took several months for news of the king's death to reach Sydney, by which time plans to print the stationery were too far advanced to make changes reflecting the new Royal Arms.

According to Salic Law, females could not become rulers of Hanover. Therefore when in 1837 Victoria became Queen of England her uncle became King George V of Hanover, and the new English Royal Arms adopted the form still in use today after the Arms of Hanover had been removed. Examples of the Royal Arms used after 1837 on stamps and postal stationery are numerous and most British collectors will recognise the coats of arms on the British high value definitives of King George VI.

This has been only a 'whistle stop' tour through the story of Britain's Royal Heraldry. A thematic collection can be broadened using examples of commemorative postmarks and postal stationery as well as postage stamps to include aspects of use of Royal Arms by members of the Royal Family other than The Queen, and the granting of parts of the monarch's coat of arms to favoured individuals or organisations as part of their coats of arms. The heraldry of many member countries of the British Commonwealth often utilises lions based on the form of the Lions of England which were deliberately incorporated into their coats of arms out of respect for their British heritage •



By airmail-Air letter
Par avion-Aerogramme

Troimh'n phost-adhair/Litir-adhair



Herald's tabard bearing the Arms of King George III, late eighteenth century.



STÁTNÍ NÁVŠTĚVA

JEJÍHO VELICENSTVA KRÁLOVNY ALŽBĚTY II.

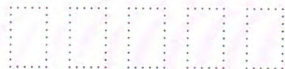
JEHO KRÁLOVSKÉ VÝSOSTI VĚVODY Z EDINBURGHU
V ČESKÉ REPUBLICE



ČESKÁ REPUBLIKA



5 Kč



Prestige book labels 1995 National Trust, by Lionel Jones

FLOWERS

of The National Trust

Two flowers with specific National Trust connections, from watercolours by Graham Stuart Thomas, a Gardens Adviser to The Trust.



Leonard Messel
A seedling from *Magdalis arvensis* cross,
raised at Nymans, Sussex – the garden
created by the Messel family



Rubicunda
A perennium raised in 1910.

BEATRIX POTTER

The Countrywoman

In 1905 Beatrix Potter bought Hill Top, a Cumbrian farmhouse with working land, with money earned from the sale of her children's books. Thus began her career as a Lake District sheepfarmer. When she died in 1943, she left to The Trust 4,000 acres of land, farmhouses and cottages.



ERDDIG

The Servants' Hall

The factor that determined The Trust's acquisition in 1973 of Erddig, a 17th-century house in North Wales, was the unique collection of records of the servants who worked there: letters, account books and inventories, poems and portraits.



John Meller
Coachboy



Tom Jones
Butcher



THE NATIONAL TRUST prestige book, issued on 25 April 1995, contained panes of interest to collectors of country, definitive, and special stamps. The mixed pane contained 10p, 19p (side band left and right), 25p 30p, 35p and 41p stamps all printed in litho. The book is the only source of the 10p, 19p side band right, 30p, and 41p (grey-brown shade) stamps – numbers Y1749, Y1750EA, Y1754, and Y757EA in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue. At the centre of the pane was a label featuring the National Trust's acorn symbol.

Rouletted labels were part of two other panes. Pane three contains 19p and 25p country stamps for Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. To the left of the stamps are shown, as labels, two paintings from Erddig, a 17th century house in North Wales acquired by the Trust in 1973. Included in the acquisition was a unique collection of records of servants who worked there – letters, account

books and inventories, poems and portraits. The portraits of John Meller (coachboy) and Tom Jones (butcher) are reproduced on the labels. The final pane contains 19p stamps (side bands left and right) with two circular labels featuring flowers positioned to the right. Reproducing watercolours by Graham Stuart Thomas, a Gardens Adviser to the Trust, they show Leonard Messel and Rubicunda from plants raised at Nymans, Sussex and Lyme Park, Cheshire.

With the exception of stamp pane one, all printing of the book was in offset-litho by The House of Questa using their Heidelberg sheet-fed press. The NT acorn label is perforated 15 x 14 as the stamps; the other labels were rouletted – a first in a prestige book. The book, sold at £6 was issued for the centenary of the Trust (five stamps were issued two weeks earlier); it is now priced at £22 in the SG *GB Concise* catalogue (no DX17) ●

After 60 years, still serving Richard West talks to veteran philatelic accessories and literature dealer Vera Trinder



Vera Trinder Vera's philatelic accessories and literature shop is at 38 Bedford Street, London WC2E 9EU.

Telephone 020 7836 2365.

Open Monday to Friday 08.30-17.15.

VERA TRINDER – a name that will be known to most collectors, but who is the person behind the name? Never collected stamps, indeed never originally thought of the stamp trade as a possible career; yet at 81, Vera is very much involved with our hobby, still working full time serving the needs of collectors.

Vera's working career began with an estate agent in Oxford Street. The outbreak of war in 1939 meant the business had to close. A visit to the Labour Exchange directed Vera to Harris Publications, at the time operating in the Strand, as a secretary. It was to be Vera's introduction to the world of stamp albums and accessories, and advertising, for the company published two magazines, *Philatelic Magazine* and *Philatelic Trader*.

She greatly admired the owner of the company, Albert Harris, and indeed still rates him, along with Robson Lowe, as the greatest figures the stamp trade has known. Clearly Albert was equally impressed by Vera, for two years later she was made a director of the company.

In 1945 Albert died; his brother Gordon was serving in the war, so for a few months running the business was left solely in the hands of Vera. She enjoyed the work, and stayed with Harris Publications through moves to Maiden Lane and later Buckingham Street, all within the area which was then the heart of London's Stampland, centred around the Strand.

But a shock was in store. While Vera was away on holiday in America in 1969, Gordon sold the

business to Urch Harris (there was no family connection between the two). The outcome was that Vera left the company.

Visiting friends in the trade, her mind was soon made up: to establish her own accessory business. Help came from many sources, including Stan Zimmerman, who was in charge of the album side of Stanley Gibbons, and A L (Mick) Michael, the Managing Director of Gibbons, who let Vera have much furniture no longer required by Gibbons. Vic Moulton, a former Stanley Gibbons employee, had established his own album company, Collecta, opposite Covent Garden market. He knew of premises available in the basement of the nearby offices of *The Lady* magazine at 38 Bedford Street. It has been the home of Vera Trinder Ltd ever since.

One of her first tasks at Harris Publications was to clear up the office after the area had been struck by a wartime bomb. In an almost déjà vu situation, the Bedford Street basement was derelict when Vera moved in. Much work was needed to bring it to the required order.

Aided by her husband Derrick, and a loyal staff, over the years Vera has built up an unrivalled reputation and respect, not only within the UK but overseas as well.

She has put much back into the hobby, at one time being very active with both the Philatelic Traders' Society and Stampex, although today prefers to be detached from the 'politics' of the hobby. Not that she can ever be far from the gossip: during any visit to 38 Bedford Street, you will always find a few faces from the trade around, putting the stamp world 'to rights'.

Her knowledge and stock of philatelic accessories is second to none. The business has changed because the stamp trade has changed. But her customers know that when it comes to service, then Vera will always come up trumps.

Indeed, Vera might well be regarded as of the 'old school'. She is still a firm believer in providing a good service: from it the profits will come.

She feels that a mistake many in the business make is to confuse takings with profits. A good day's takings does not necessarily mean a good day's profits.

She remains very much 'hands on', arriving at the office at 7.45 each morning, and not leaving until about 4.30. And there will be paperwork to do in the evening at home. But while she is always busy, she still has the time to stop and chat with the customers who have grown into friends over the years. Indeed, she continues this very active lifestyle for one very simple but good reason: 'because I like it'.

The ethos of service spreads to her working practice. You will not find Vera using a computer. The accounts are all still handled by traditional methods. As Vera says 'computers don't know people'. She knows her customers and treats them all as individuals.

She believes in stocking a full range of items: that way customers will return because they know that what they need is available. Vera understands that for many other business, carrying such stocks would not prove economical.

Rent, rates and difficulties in finding staff have driven many stamp shops to closure. She believes that the successful ones that remain are there because they listen to their customers.

It is not only accessories that Vera offers. Her stock of philatelic literature is unrivalled and growing all the time.

Indeed, rather than easing off, Vera is finding business is becoming even more busy, and has noticed a marked upturn this year, with more taking up the hobby again, particularly among the retired.

With over 60 years in the stamp trade, others might well draw on the experiences and example of Vera. Her success comes from hard work, dedication to her business, loyalty to staff while expecting loyalty, being fully prepared every day to roll her sleeves up to do whatever is necessary and, above all, providing a first class service. Can one ask for more – but how often is such a philosophy encountered these days? ●

Richard West is Editor-at-Large, Stamp Magazine.

Posting boxes 205

THIS MONTH we feature a famous box. It is located in Corporation Street, Manchester and bears a brass plate worded: 'This postbox remained standing almost undamaged on June 15th 1996 when this area was devastated by a bomb. The box was removed during the rebuilding of the city centre and was returned to its original site on November 22nd 1999'. We are obliged to John Gore of Manchester for supplying the photographs.

The Letter Box Study Group celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. Its May Newsletter contains the usual mix of interesting articles and reports, including the sad news that the unique Penfold box at Studley, Warwickshire (see Posting Boxes January 1992) was severely damaged when a vehicle hit it in March. Royal Mail hope to restore it for display in a museum. Seven boxes are on display at the new Milestones – Hampshire's living history museum in Basingstoke ●



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

Note The Posting boxes feature in May should have been number 204.

Eminent early collectors Adrian E Hopkins, by Ron Negus

ADRIAN EDMUND HOPKINS lost his left arm in the battle for Ypres in 1917, but this disability never stopped him becoming fully committed to any activity that he undertook. The list of these activities was a long one and encompassed work in local government and for charities, as well as philately. In the stamp fraternity, his commanding military presence was seen regularly at major events. He was particularly well-known as a leading figure in the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain, and he served as chairman of the Permanent Executive from 1947 to 1952. At the Congresses held at Bath in 1935, Bournemouth in 1940 and London in 1960 he was Chairman, and he signed the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists during the Congress held in Birmingham in 1947. He was always referred to as 'Hoppy' by his many friends.

Born on 8 October 1894, he started taking an interest in philately whilst a student at Clifton College in his teens. He was a member of a group known as the Chums Society of Stamp Collectors, and began by collecting Leeward Islands material. This interest in the West Indies was subsequently extended to include smaller collections of Antigua, Dominica and Montserrat.

Commissioned in the Royal Artillery at the start of the First World War, Adrian Hopkins saw service in France, and was awarded the Military Cross in 1916 for conspicuous gallantry on the Somme. In September 1917 he was shelled, and the resulting damage to his arm required amputation of the limb, and left him with severe stomach wounds. Despite his injuries, Hopkins was back with his unit by March in the following year. At the end of the war, he was posted to the North-west Frontier in India, and he retired from the Army in 1928 with the rank of Captain.

His Indian posting came at the time when the hostilities with Afghanistan were drawing to a close, and he was able to obtain many examples of soldiers' letters and stamps from this region. He consolidated this material after his return



home and used it to provide displays for many societies around the UK. This led to him becoming known as an authority on the philately of Afghanistan. During this period he also became interested in Wreck Covers and made a collection of them which was recognized as the most comprehensive of its day, and was awarded medals at 22 different international exhibitions. Some covers from this famous collection are now housed in the archives at the Bath Postal Museum. The collection also formed the basis for the publication of his book *A History of Wreck Covers* (1940, updated editions in 1948 and 1967).

When he returned from India, he started to take a professional interest in the hobby. This began with dealing in stamps of the Irish Republic, and later embraced stamps and postal history material from all countries. He was also an enthusiastic supporter of organized philately, and this was demonstrated by the offices he held. Apart from his close involvement with Congress, noted previously, during his lifetime Adrian Hopkins was President of the Bath Philatelic Society, Vice-President of the British Philatelic Association, a Council member of the Royal Philatelic Society and held a number of offices, including both Chairman and President, in the Postal History Society. With the latter specialist group, of which he was a founder member, he was also editor of their journal for the last 15 years of his life.

The task of editor was helped by his desire to share his knowledge with others, and he was the author of a number of articles in many stamp journals. Another philatelic interest in the stamps of Hong Kong led him to co-operate with H E Lobdell in revising and re-publishing the standard work on this subject that had been written originally by Bishop, Morton and Sayers, entitled *Hong Kong and the Treaty Ports, Postal History and Postal Markings*. His love of literature in general led to his being elected at one time as President of an exclusive dining club for bibliophiles known as 'The Sette of Odd Volumes'.

Adrian Hopkins was also particularly active in the civic life of his home town of Bath. He joined the Bath City Council in 1930 and was elected as Mayor seven years later to become the youngest holder of that office in the history of the City. Subsequently, he served as Mayor on two later occasions in 1938 and 1953.

In February 1941, he rejoined his old regiment and helped in the formation of the Home Guard in Bath at the beginning of the Second World War. He was also active in organizing the local ARP services in the City during the conflict. In 1945 he concluded his military duties and was demobilized with the rank of Major.

His military background gave him a detailed insight into the needs of members of the forces who had fallen on hard times, and for some years he was the local secretary of the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association. His charitable activities also covered a keen interest in the work of the British Limbless ex-Servicemen's Association. He was also a fellow of the Royal Empire Society, and a member of the Cavalry Club.

Hoppy was always a great supporter of activities that promoted tourism in Bath, and was particularly involved with the refurbishment of the famous Pump Room. After continually pressing the Post Office, Hopkins was successful in obtaining agreement for the use of local publicity slo-

gans to cancel mail, but disappointed that permission to use the first of these, in April 1963, was awarded to Hastings. The Bath slogan, advertising the Assembly Rooms in the city did not appear until 1 July of that year.

Bath, of course, was the city in which Ralph Allen was appointed postmaster in 1712 and from which he organized a network of Cross and Bye-Posts that made him a personal fortune and earned his place in the gallery of British postal pioneers. Major Hopkins noted the poor state of Allen's tomb in the local churchyard at Claverton and organized fund-raising to restore it. This led him to host a visit from Anthony Wedgwood Benn, the Postmaster General, to the site in November 1965 when the restored tomb was re-dedicated.

Shortly after this event, Adrian Hopkins suffered a severe stroke and became paralysed and unable to speak. He was taken to hospital but never recovered. He died on 1 March 1967 at the age of 72 and was buried with full civic honours at Bath Abbey. The local newspaper, in an editorial, recorded that 'Bath had benefited from his life'. In the *Postal History Society Bulletin* in May 1967 an obituary included the words 'Adrian Hopkins' footprints in the sands of philatelic time will recall his achievements to coming generations of Postal Historians and Philatelists. We of the present generation will not forget him.' ●

Postbag Letters to the Editor

English stamps I have often criticised the irrelevant triviality of our stamp design but must write to express my full approval of the English regionals. I shall be using them in preference to the worthy, but perhaps *passé*, Machins for as long as possible. D A A FAGANDINI, LONDON SE21 ●

Perforations I am delighted to see that the self-adhesive stamp is now being made widely available in booklet (or should I say sheetlet?) form. I would be very surprised if demand for self-adhesives does not rapidly increase now – particularly when Christmas comes around.

However, it does seem strange that the opportunity has not been taken to remove the unattractive (and relatively recent) elliptical perforation, which no longer has a purpose – other than perhaps as a security device. Indeed if we are going that far, why bother with perforations at all? I have always found the original imperforates more attractive since the border detracts less from the design. Indeed the common design practice for the image to run to the edge of the stamp would be greatly enhanced by the removal of the perforations. Do others agree? OLIVER R J PARR, LONDON W11 ●

English stamps Mr Ford (December) and Mr Twomey (March) call for more dignity in stamp design. I venture to suggest the new English country stamps fit the bill. Clear design, subtle colours: a delight. The Northern Ireland stamps too are attractive. I prefer these two issues to the Scottish and Welsh sets, but all four make an interesting series – rather more interesting and colourful than the national ‘Machin’ definitive which tells us nothing about the varied history, culture and diversity of the four constituent countries of the UK. Hopefully the national stamps will in time be pictorial. The silhouette Queen’s head on the country stamps shows it can be an effective national unifying symbol on stamps celebrating the diversity of the UK. A D PENNY, LONDON ●

Submarines and Buses I have now examined the 1st class Submarines stamp from sheets and booklets, and the Buses stamps and miniature sheet. The two printings of the Submarines stamp are readily distinguishable by perforation – 15 × 14 sheet stamp and 15.5 × 14 from booklets. The colours are well-matched, slightly darker on the sheet stamp on which the depth gauge appears clearer and more defined. On my examples the Queen’s head and value are marginally higher on the sheet stamp, but this may not be constant and is of minor philatelic significance anyway. On the Buses stamps the only difference I can detect between the two printings affects the Queen’s head and values. These are slightly darker on the sheet stamps; those from the miniature sheet have a more silver appearance. Congratulations to the printers for matching the stamps so well. KEN MARKS, PORTSMOUTH ●

Mail by bus I was interested in the article ‘Mail by Bus’ by Lionel Jones (May) since tickets for use by postmen have received occasional coverage in the Journal of the Transport Ticket Society. Recent reports all seem to be for a facility used by the Bristol Omnibus Co and its successors. The most recent example reported was used by First Badgerline in Bath and was dated for use up to June 1999, so it seems probable that such tickets are still in use there. The other user reported in

recent years is Stagecoach Cheltenham & Gloucester, in Gloucester, still in use in April 1998. The latter has a delightful anachronism by referring to the ‘General Post Office’! On the same theme, but involving rail rather than bus travel, it should be noted that the London Underground at one time had special ‘Post Office Messenger’ tickets, and these probably survived to the 1950s. B P PASK, ILFORD ●

Penny Black in 1940 In Christine Finn’s fascinating article (May), she mentions that throughout the British Commonwealth, ‘Only Burma issued an overprinted definitive stamp.’ Readers may be interested to learn that before that overprint was selected, two essays were made and rejected. The wording on both essays was, COMMEMORATION PENNY POSTAGE. On the issued 2½ annas stamp the overprint was COMMEMORATION POSTAGE STAMP. The essay overprint on the 3 annas was rejected as being too dark to be legible. GERALD DAVIS, KINGSTON HILL ●



Queen’s stamps In April we featured a selection of British and Commonwealth stamps showing HM The Queen to mark Her 75th birthday. We invited you to tell us your favourite stamp showing The Queen. Surprisingly, only two readers responded, nominating the GB £1 stamp in the miniature sheet issued in May 2000 (originally 153d value of the 1953 Coronation set), Jersey’s new £3 definitive and Australia’s 45c Queen’s birthday stamps. ED

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



HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN



Sixtieth Birthday 17p

April identify The detail was from one of the 1986 stamps issued for the 60th birthday of The Queen. The winner was J Meredith of Surrey.

April knowledge Answers: 1) William Kempster; 2) Citizens' Tale; 3) 1986. The winner was G C Hoare of Somerset.

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 1948 6d Olympic Games stamp?
- 2 In which year did the Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral feature on a stamp?
- 3 Which firm printed the 1998 Comedians issue?

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 17 August will each receive £100. Ten runner-up prizes of presentation packs or FDCs will be awarded in each competition. Competitions are not open to Royal Mail employees ●

Winners The winners of the Omniphil sponsored competition (April) were I. Bigland of Cumbria, E Bullock of South Africa and P vd Wal of Netherlands. The answers: 1, John Davies; 2, Iona; 3, Above & Beyond. The winners of the Queen Mother coin cover draw (May) were I Gray of Renfrewshire, M Dixon of Norfolk, C van Gennepe of Netherlands, J Khoo of Singapore, and E Woods of Bedfordshire ●

Events

30 June MIDPEX 2001 (ABPS national show for specialist societies) at Midlands Sports Centre for the Disabled, Tile Hill, Coventry, 10.00-16.00. 60 societies, 40 dealers **Enquiries** M Benford, Clouds-hill, High St, Shutford, Banbury OX15 6PQ.

7 July SWIPEX 01 at Peter Chalk Centre, Exeter University.

17 July-3 August Machin exhibition at Student Rooms, Royal Academy, Piccadilly, London W1.

19-22 July 83rd Philatelic Congress of Great Britain at Green Dragon Hotel, Broad Street, Hereford.

Enquiries Alan J Griffiths, 01923 712384.

27-28 July GB Philatelic Society meeting at York Fair. 27th displays, reception & dinner, 28th displays. **Enquiries** A Lajer, 0118 934 4151.

1-7 August Philanippon international stamp exhibition at Tokyo International Exhibition Center.

Enquiries GB Commissioner B Sole, 3 Stockfield Rd, Claygate, Esher KT10 0QG.

11 August Sidcup Phil Soc fair at Emmanuel Hall, Hadlow Road, Sidcup ●

Late news

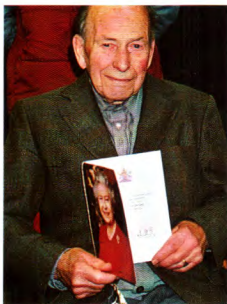
Queen's stamps sale makes £3¼ million The auction of material from the Royal Philatelic Collection held at Spink in London on 17 May raised £747,143. Realisations for the 192 lots ranged from £126 to £74,750. Sixteen lots each went for over £10,000. A 1d black on entire sent from Liverpool to Abergavenny on 6 May made £23,000, as did a fine block of six of the 1840 2d blue (see April *Bulletin*, p235 and May, p267). A beautiful block of 12 of the same stamp went for £40,250, and a proof in green for the 1847-54 embossed issue realised £3450 against an estimate of £800-1000 (shown May, p267). An Edward VII 2d Tyrian Plum (March, p220) went for £19,550 against an estimate of £8000-10,000. Edward VII 5s and 10s IR OFFICIAL stamps made £4370 and £17,250 respectively (est £2000-2500 and £8000-10,000). The top realisation was for a Cape of Good Hope 1d Woodblocks in pale milky blue error of colour in pair with normal 4d; this pair, which was displayed at Stamp Show 2000, went for £74,750 (£18,000-20,000).

The Spink GB sale on 7 June realised £216,286. A pair of the 1d black VR official with left sheet margin made £19,550 (est £15-18,000), and a pane from the 1980 Wedgwood book with severely misplaced green so 2p stamp part printed over 10p went for £2070 (£1600-2000). An unused collection of Victorian stamps in a green album made £10,350 (estimate £4500-5000). Enquiries: Spink & Son Ltd, telephone 020 7563 4000 •

Millennium stamps award For the second year running, Royal Mail's Millennium stamps have garnered the most prestigious design award in the UK. On 30 May the year 2000 Millennium stamps won a silver 'D&AD' Award in the category of Photography and Image Manipulation. D&AD is the Designers and Art Directors Guild Award. Last year the 1999 Millennium stamps won silver in the Illustration category. Stamp Advisory Committee member Mary Lewis was awarded the D&AD President's Award – a rare accolade for design practitioners considered leading lights in their field •

Eastbourne honours centenarian member At a meeting of the Eastbourne & South Downs Philatelic Society on 15 March, 100 of the 150 members each prepared an album page displaying material for the year of their choice 1901 to 2001 inclusive. The purpose was chiefly to honour member Charles Upright who was born on 28 February 1901 and joined the society in 1975. Bert, as he is affectionately known, still attends the weekly meetings winter and summer more regularly than many younger members. He has a general interest in the stamps of all countries and has collected since a schoolboy. The display also served to commemorate the passing of the 20th century. The evening was coordinated by Secretary Bill Harrison, and wine was served to toast the health and longevity of both the Society and its oldest member. The special 100th birthday card from HM The Queen was the centre of attention. The President conducted a 'this is your life' session on Bert, who provided much entertainment with answers and additional information about a full and interesting life involving foreign travel as a chief buyer for a large London store. The 100-sheet display covered every degree of philately and postal history and involved beginners and advanced collectors. Amongst the pages were 1901 Marianne Islands, 1906 Olympic Games, 1914 Egypt, 1943 France, 1986 Finland, 1987 Sir Isaac Newton, and 2000 Hong Kong.

The Society meets at 19.30 each Thursday at the St John Ambulance Brigade HQ, Bourne Street, Eastbourne. Enquiries: W A Harrison, telephone 01323 832256 •



Bert Upright with his 100th birthday card from HM The Queen.

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