

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The ROYAL MAIL magazine *for stamp collectors*

Volume 42 Number 7

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Bulletin

A prelude to Trafalgar • Post
Haste • Greetings Telegrams



A new miniature sheet featuring the 1955 Castles high value designs, by Lynton Lamb, is issued this month.

Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



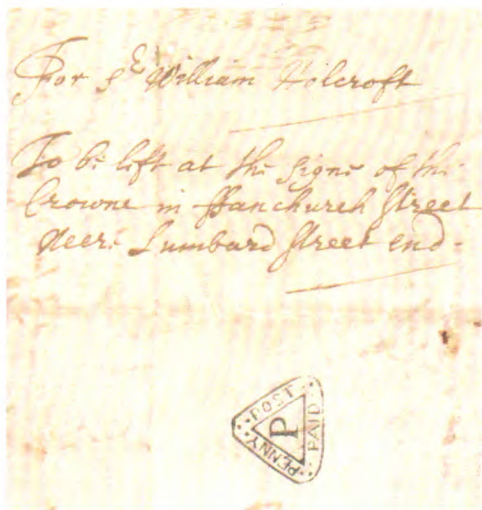
To mark the 50th anniversary of the first Castles high values, a miniature sheet bearing the 1955 designs will go on sale on 22 March. See the January *Bulletin* for a full preview.

Issues Some items available only from Royal Mail Talents House 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, Glasgow, Grimsby, Guildford, Harrogate, Leicester, London (Trafalgar Square & Eastcheap), Newcastle upon Tyne, Norwich, Nottingham, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Southampton, Southend-on-Sea, Stevenage, Stratford-on-Avon, Stroud, Truro, Windsor & York.

Royal Mail Talents House 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB, UK. Telephone order line (08.30-17.00 Monday to Friday): 08457 641 641; from overseas +44 131 316 7483. Handling charges: UK £1.30, Europe £1.55, rest of world (airmail) £2.15. Some stamps/products can be ordered on Royal Mail's website: www.royalmail.com/stamps

1 March	Issue Welsh Country Definitives coin cover.
8 March	Issue Magic! Stamp cards.
15 March	Issue Magic! Stamps, presentation pack, and Smilers sheet.
16 March	Withdrawal TPO commemorative cover.
22 March	Issue Castles miniature sheet, presentation pack and stamp cards (5 cards: 4 stamps & miniature sheet).
30 March	Withdrawal 4p, 8p, 34p and 37p definitives; self-adhesive stamp books 6 × E, 6 × 42p, 6 × 68p.
31 March	Withdrawal 2004 Christmas cards (showing Christmas stamp designs).
1 April	Withdrawal £1.50, £2, £3 & £5 definitives printed in recess (intaglio); presentation pack containing these four stamps.
5 April	Issue Definitives 9p, 35p, 46p; 42p country stamps for England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. Country stamps presentation pack (4 × 42p).
5 April	Withdrawal Entente Cordiale stamps, presentation pack and coin cover.
12 April	Withdrawal Ocean Liners stamps and miniature sheet, presentation pack, self-adhesive stamp book, philatelic medallion cover, and presentation case (miniature sheet and silver medals).
14 April	Issue World Heritage Sites stamp cards.
21 April	Issue World Heritage Sites stamps, presentation pack, joint cover, pack, coin cover (UK and Australia stamps); Smilers sheet containing 'Hello' Occasions stamps for Pacific Explorer stamp exhibition.
26 April	Issue Definitives 9p orange one phosphor band; 35p lime green printed by De La Rue. See Late News.

Contents



Dockwra Penny Post letter, with the St Paul's Office handstamp

Post haste Sending a letter hasn't always been a simple matter. Rosemary Bennett describes the obstacles for a messenger of the past, from medieval road conditions to highwaymen and tolls **216**

The British Philatelic Bulletin is published monthly by Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ • **Editor** J R Holman • **Price** £11.10 single copies from Post Office Ltd philatelic outlets • **Annual subscription** £11.75 UK & Europe; £16.75 elsewhere. Send subscriptions to Royal Mail Talents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB • **Binders** (to hold 24 issues) £8.50, storage boxes (about 30 copies) £9.95 available by post from Royal Mail (Edinburgh address, above) • Royal Mail also publishes the fortnightly *British Postmark Bulletin*, giving details of forthcoming special handstamps. Available on annual subscription from Edinburgh address above: £12.25 UK and Europe, £24.95 rest of the world • **Copyright** Design & text Royal Mail Group plc, unless attributed to a specified author. All requests to reproduce any article should be addressed to the Editor, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ • **Design** Robert Maude • **Printed** in Great Britain by Beacon Press • **ISSN** 0953 8119 • Royal Mail is a trading name of Royal Mail Group plc. Registered in England and Wales no 4138203 registered office 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ

Issues and withdrawals
194

This month The Editor previews this issue **196**

Stamp scene Philatelic societies; Publications; A Crimea connection; Music stamps; Isle of Man Trafalgar stamps; Auctions; Charles Reid obituary **196**



Royal Mail news New definitives and country stamps; World Heritage Sites; New coin covers; Future issues; Smilers; Miniature sheet album; New ingot; Royal Mail Archive **201**



A career in design Part 2: Barry Robinson's A-Z of stamp production by Glenn Morgan **208**

Trafalgar A prelude: the events of March 1805, by Nigel Fordham **210**

Greetings telegrams A history and prospects for collecting, by David Cawdell **213**



The contented man An interview with Stuart Henderson by Richard West **218**

Ken Lake John Holman remembers a journalist and character **219**

Philately on-line Postal Heritage's new site, by Ron Negus **220**

Posting boxes Four new photographs submitted by readers **221**

Prize draw Win World Heritage Sites products and stamps **219**

Competitions £200 to be won in two easy-to-enter competitions **222**

Events **222**

Late news **223**

This month The Editor previews this issue

THE ISSUE of the Wilding definitives in decimal values in stamp books (1998 and 2002-03) and in miniature sheets (2002-03) created a great deal of interest and brought to a new generation, used to the rather stark Machin, the charm of the Wilding designs. This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Wilding high value stamps featuring Carrickfergus, Caernarvon, Edinburgh, and Windsor castles. A new miniature sheet reproducing these designs but in 50p and £1 values, will be available this month. The story behind the original 1955 issue is an interesting one and we are pleased to include with this *Bulletin* a booklet telling this story and illustrated with both the issued stamps and some of the unused designs. The booklet is the 11th in our series of *Bulletin* Publications. Last year's booklet – a history of the TPO written by Peter Johnson – proved very popular, and we are sure the Castles booklet will be equally so.

We are currently totalling up your votes in our Favourite Special Stamps and Favourite *Bulletin* Authors polls for 2004 and will announce the results next month. JOHN HOLMAN, EDITOR ●

Stamp scene Society meetings • Crimea • Publications • Music stamps • Auctions

Royal Philatelic Society
London 41 Devonshire Place,
London W1G 6JY, or website
www.rpsl.org.uk

National Philatelic Society
107 Charterhouse St. London
EC1M 6PT or visit website
www.ukphilately.org.uk/nps

GB Philatelic Society
Membership enquiries: Grey-
lands, Melton, Woodbridge
IP12 1QE.

For details of future meetings
contact Marion Turner, 2 Coed
y Glyn, Gellilydan, Blaenau
Ffestiniog LL41 4EL.

Philatelic society meetings This month's displays at the Royal Philatelic Society London are given by members of the British Thematic Association (10th) and the GB Overprints Society. (17th). Next month's displays will be: James Cummings Collection (7th) and Telegraph Stamps and Stationery of the World (14th) ●

The March meetings of the National Philatelic Society are: New Zealand 1898 Pictorial Issue by Prof Derek Diamond (12th), and Patrick Frost entertains (31st). Next month, the President's Afternoon will comprise a display by Richard Pratt (9th), and on 28th Peter Lister shows British Internal Airways ●

The GB Philatelic Society will meet at the British Philatelic Centre, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1 on 19 March. At 11.00 Peter Sargent and Raymond Simpson will show 'Stamp Perforation: the Somerset House Years 1848-80' and at 14.15 David Hill and Andy Donaldson will exhibit 'History of Perfins' and 'Protective Underprints and Overprints'. Next month the displays will be 'Penny Pinks' by the Society's President, Michael Lockton, and 'The Penny Lilac Story' by Peter Young ●

The Welsh Philatelic Society (Cymdeithas Ffilatelig Cymru) held a joint meeting with the Swansea Philatelic Society on 27 November. The displays ranged widely: Newfoundland, New Zealand, Bible thematics, place names of Norwegian post offices, and Levant. Postal history displays covered Carmarthen (from 1730), missent marks, Haverfordwest, Monmouthshire special handstamps, Gower village postmarks, and Caerleon (1745 onwards) ●



A Crimea connection Mr K Manninen, a *Bulletin* reader in Finland, read about the Crimean War stamps and kindly sent us a copy of the Åland Post Office's prestige book marking the 150th anniversary of the destruction of the fortress of Bomarsund. In the early 19th century Åland was the farthest military outpost of the Russian Empire towards the Western Powers. The erection of the Bomarsund fortress was commenced at a time when it was thought politically wise to establish a permanent military base on the islands. During the Crimean War, Britain and France sent a fleet to threaten the Russian centre of power around St Petersburg. Bomarsund was one of the targets and, in an Anglo-French attack in August 1854, the half-finished fortress was destroyed. Following the peace in 1856, Åland was demilitarised. Bomarsund fortress, a 290m barracks, armed with 115 cannons and intended to house 2500 men, was built of brick with a front of granite. On 21 June, two months prior to its destruction, a small-scale attack was made on Bomarsund. During this attack, Charles Davis Lucas of HMS *Heal* slung an activated hand-grenade which landed on the deck overboard, saving his comrades. For this act he was awarded the first ever Victoria Cross ●

Åland's PSB Contains two panes each of four 0.75 euro stamps showing Bomarsund fortress. For information on Åland stamps contact Filatelservicen, PB 100, AX-22101 Mariehamn, Åland, Finland or see www.posten.aland.fi

Publications The December *Newsletter* of the Insurance & Banking Philatelic Society includes features on the Lord Mayor's Show, SmartStamp, reports on recent GB issues, and details of Society activities. The Society is open to anyone in, or retired from, the financial services industry ●

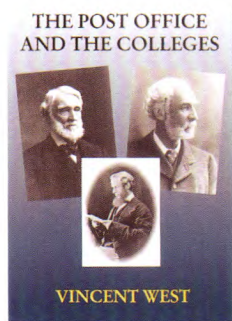
The December issue of *The Bookmark Journal* (GB Decimal Stamp Book Study Circle) includes detailed accounts of the Christmas books and reports new findings on definitive books as well as details of Circle activities ●

The January/February GB *Journal* includes features on 1d black plate 1b mint blocks, George V Prussian Blues (2½d definitive and Silver Jubilee stamps), stamp booklets, pattern post, and large crown watermark types I & II. There is also a tribute to Dr Bob Champion, who died last October, members' letters and reports, and advertisements for major GB dealers and auctioneers. The January/February GB Philatelic Society Newsletter covers UV in Philately, Advice of Receipt service, a continued listing of Abbreviations in the British Posts, and reports of Society displays and activities. The Society will hold a Weekend in York (28-30 July) which will include displays and social events to mark its 50th anniversary.

IBPS Write to C John Pearce, Elm House, Temple End, Gt Wilbraham, Cambridge CB1 5JF (enclose SAE).

DSBSC Tony Wilkins, 3 Buttermere Close, Brierley Hill, DY5 3SD. www.gbdssc.co.uk

GBPS Membership details: Debbie Harman, Greylands, Melton, Woodbridge IP12 1QE. E-mail gbpsmemsec@aol.com



The Post Office and the Colleges is available from Ian Harvey (GBPS Treasurer), 27 Landford Road, London SW15 1AQ, price £20 (postage UK £2, Europe £3, elsewhere £2.50 surface/£4.50 airmail). Remittances payable to Great Britain Philatelic Society.

The GBPS has recently published *The Post Office and the Colleges* by Vincent West, about the relationship between the Post Office and the Oxford and Cambridge colleges during the period when they issued their own stamps and postal stationery, 1871-87. Initially the PO was tolerant of the college posts and stamps, but eventually suppressed them. In 1871 the Dean of Jesus College Cambridge wrote to the PO asking if it would be legal to sell prepaid envelopes for its college messenger service. The PO Solicitor thought it would be illegal but a letter was sent by the PO Secretary informing the College that such a service did not infringe the PO's monopoly. One of the proposed envelopes survives in the Royal Mail Archive. A similar response was sent when Clare College raised the matter eight years later although no examples of envelopes survive and indeed it may never have been produced. The first Oxford college to issue stamps was Keble in 1871, followed by Hertford, Merton, Lincoln, Exeter, St John's and All Souls from 1875 to 1884. Four colleges also issued prepaid envelopes or postcards. At Cambridge, college stamps were introduced at Selwyn, Queens' and St John's in 1882-84. The PO tolerance of these issues ended in 1885 when Dr Aldred, a graduate of Hertford College described as 'a disappointed and spiteful Oxford don', complained to the PO. The Postmaster at Oxford was asked to investigate and as a result the PO Solicitor advised that the colleges should only deliver mail within the college and not to other colleges or addresses in Oxford. The issue of stamps should cease. An investigation at Cambridge reached the same conclusion. It was proposed to write to the heads of all Oxbridge colleges (including Somerville Hall, whose head was the sister of the Postmaster General), but no letters were sent before a change of government and a new PMG. Letters were eventually delivered personally by a senior PO official who met with a generally favourable response at Cambridge, but a deputation from a more hostile Oxford met the PO Secretary and a letter was received from seven Cambridge colleges. Details are quoted from the letters and official records, and biographies are given of the leading players at the colleges and the PO. The dispute was settled in 1886 when another PMG (Lord Wolverton) took office. A graduate of University College, Oxford he met with Mr Brodrick (Warden of Merton) and it was agreed that the colleges would acquiesce to the PO. All colleges which had issued stamps abandoned them, the latest use known to Mr West being at Exeter College on 21 June 1886. However the Oxford Union Society did not acquiesce and its President, Lord Robert Cecil (the Prime Minister's son) wrote to the PMG asking that its messenger service be left 'undisturbed' and later the OUS sought a legal challenge. This caused animosity between the PO Solicitor and yet another PMG (Henry Raikes) who believed the service should be left alone. Government Law Officers opined that the OUS system was not illegal although the college systems were. The OUS and the PMG were vindicated. A postscript describes applications by Cambridge colleges for delivery by PO staff of letters to college rooms, and appendices cover college regulations for delivery of mail and heads of colleges. The book concludes with a bibliography and index. Mr West tells an intriguing story, the petty bureaucracy of both parties being worthy of *Yes Minister* ●

Best music stamps The winner of the Philatelic Music Circle's Yehudi Menuhin Trophy for 2003 was Emre Becer, for musical instruments stamps issued by Turkey on 23 September 2003. Equal in second place were Barbara Dimanski for her Boys' Choirs stamps, and Paul Effert for a stamp marking the 200th birthday of Gottfried Semper. These stamps were issued by Germany in February and November 2003. For details of the Philatelic Music Circle contact Valerie Molyneux, 14 Talbot Ave, Orton Longueville, Peterborough PE2 7AT or see website www.philatelicmusic.com •



Auctions Grosvenor's GB sale on 17 December saw some very strong prices for line-engraved material. Included was a remarkable registered envelope sent in November 1937 from London to Rio de Janeiro, the postage totalling £22 1s 3d, paid by a block of 24 of the 5s Seahorse (one stamp since removed), three blocks of 10 of the 10s Seahorse (one stamp removed), and a block of four of the 10s plus five of the 1934-36 3d stamp. This sold for £2941 (inc buyer's premium). £18,820 was paid for what is believed to be a unique example of a House of Lords One Penny envelope sent from London to Ashby de la Zouch, cancelled with a red Crowned datestamp 'PAID FE3/1840'; the envelope is without the word 'Temporary' and has 'House of Lords' in upper and lower case instead of the more usual small capital letters. A 1d Mulready letter sheet, used on the official first day, 6 May 1840, and sent from Leeds to London, went for £10,586. In Leeds it received a red Maltese Cross and a datestamp showing an error in the year, 'LEEDS/MY 6/1804'. A letter sent from Liverpool to Bradford on 7 July 1840 with a 1d black from plate 4 tied with a red Maltese Cross, then resent two years later from Liverpool, this time with a 1d red cancelled by black Maltese Cross, this sold for £2294. There has recently been a noticeably growing demand for modern GB errors. As multicolour printing was introduced in the 1960s many were discovered with colours omitted. One such was the 1966 British Birds issue comprising a se-tenant block of four 4d stamps. One of the scarcest missing colours on this issue is that of bistre on the phosphor version; only six blocks are recorded. A block sold for £4490. Only two examples of the 1980 Sports 15p with the gold Queen's head omitted are known; a fine unmounted mint example sold for £9998. The next GB auction will be in May. On 10 March Grosvenor auctions the Apollonia Collection of George VI large Key Type issues of Bermuda •

Forthcoming Spink auctions are: GB and GB Revenues (Marcus Samuel collection) on 2-3 March, followed by important GB, GB used abroad, crowned circles and British Empire (9-10 March), British Empire (23 March & 20 October), Stamps & Covers of the World (5 May, 7 July & 8 December), and GB (11-12 May). The subject of the auction on 22 September is to be announced. An auction of Fine Stamps & Covers of South East Asia will be held in Singapore on 2-3 July •

Grosvenor Auctions Phone 020 7379 8789 or see www.grosvenorauctions.com

Spink Telephone 020 7563 4000. www.spink.com

Enquiries and bookings Val Beeken, 162 Canterbury Rd, Newton Hall Estate, Durham DH1 5XT. Telephone 0191 3861931. Price for the weekend is £141.

North East Philatelic Weekend The 29th Weekend will be held at the Swallow Hotel, Gateshead, 20-22 May. The speakers will be Tony Walker (British Naval Mail associated with the Grand Fleet of Scapa Flow), Des Quale (Irish Postal History), Erica Banks (Sea Shells), Nick Wraith (Unique Collection of Stamps made by a row), and Alan Wishart (Imperial Russia). There will be the usual dinner and raffle on the Saturday. ●

Scottish Congress Alan Watson, 44 Rennie Street, Falkirk FK1 5AL.

Scottish Congress The Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies Congress for 2005 will be held at the Dewar's Centre, Perth on 15-16 April. Enquiries to the address opposite, or see www.scottishphilately.co.uk ●



Obituary Charles Reid, one of Scotland's foremost philatelists, died in Glasgow on 16 December. He had suffered severe illness in recent years, but had made an excellent recovery, and was on the point of entering the pre-Christmas meeting of the Caledonian Philatelic Society when he collapsed and died. Charles Young Reid was born in Glasgow in 1927, educated at the High School, and served his engineering apprenticeship with his grandfather's firm in Maryhill. A large part of the company's business involved supplying and maintaining generators in isolated houses not connected to the national grid, and Charles was employed in this work. After war service and a spell with the occupying forces in Hamburg, he returned to civilian life but maintained his military connections by joining the Territorial Army, in which he attained the rank of major, was awarded the Territorial Decoration, and won numerous medals for marksmanship. His post-war career specialised in batteries, latterly with the Chloride company in Cannock, Staffordshire. When that depot closed, he retired to Torrance, near Glasgow. Charles never married and the two great passions in his life were cricket and philately. After a brief boyhood interest, he returned to the hobby upon retirement, and applied himself to it with tremendous enthusiasm and attention to detail. He became an outstanding authority on the early line-engraved stamps and developed very fine collections of postal history, specialising in registered and surcharged mail. He won numerous trophies and awards, including gold medals at Stamp Show 2000, Stampex and Stampa in Ireland. A past president of the Caledonian, Glasgow, and Kirkintilloch Philatelic Societies, he gave displays all over Scotland. He applied his engineering expertise to design and build the display frames used by these societies. He was a Fellow of the Royal, member of postal history societies, and a signatory of the Book of Scottish Philatelists. Those who knew him personally will remember his unassuming modesty, his pawky humour, and above all a kindness and simple dignity. He was unfailingly courteous to club members who brought problems to him, whether it was the plating of a Penny Black or some abstruse aspect of postal history. Charles loved good food, good wine and good company, enjoying the residential weekend meetings of the various societies to which he belonged. His humour and sociability were appreciated at these gatherings. Always immaculate in appearance with a soldierly bearing, he possessed an old-world courtesy and was truly a gentle man. *James Mackay* ●

**Trafalgar commemoratives**

Isle of Man Philatelic Bureau,
PO Box 10M, Douglas, Isle of Man IM99 1PB. Website www.iompost.com

Trafalgar commemoratives On 9 January the Isle of Man Post issued eight stamps and a miniature sheet to mark the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar. The stamps, two each at 25p, 28p, 50p, and 65p, are printed in se-tenant pairs in sheets of eight with large illustrated borders. Produced in association with the National Maritime Museum, they depict four distinct themes: the life of Nelson, his fall, the Battle of Trafalgar, and 'race and chase' – scenes from the Nile campaign and Battle of Copenhagen. The miniature sheet, containing two £1 stamps, commemorates the contribution made by Manx sailors at Trafalgar, most notably by Captain John Quilliam who features on one of the stamps alongside Nelson •

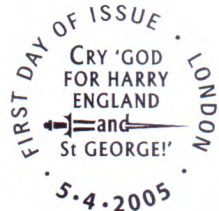
Royal Mail news Postal rate change • New issues and products • Archives exhibition

New definitives and country stamps Certain postal rate changes to be introduced from 7 April, necessitate some new definitive and country stamps. These will go on sale at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and from Royal Mail Tallents House from 5 April. The new definitives will comprise: 9p orange (make-up value between UK 2nd and 1st class), and 46p old gold (1st class, second weight stage). There will be new 42p country stamps for England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland in the same designs as the current 40p and former £ stamps. At the same time the 35p definitive (currently dark brown) will be reissued in lime green with one phosphor band. Most low value definitives will, as they are reprinted, have one phosphor band in future.

The 9p and 46p definitives have been printed by De La Rue (cylinder numbers D1 colour and phosphor) and the 35p by Enschedé (cylinder E1 colour and phosphor). The new 42p country stamps are by Walsall (gravure England, Scotland, and Wales; litho Northern Ireland).

FIRST DAY FACILITIES First day covers will be available from Tallents House bearing the new 9p, 35p and 46p definitives cancelled Tallents House or Windsor, price £1.48 UK, £1.26 overseas. Covers for each of the





four countries with the new 42p country stamps cancelled Tallents House or the country capital (London, Edinburgh, Cardiff, or Belfast) will each cost 91p UK, 78p overseas.

Collectors can send stamped covers on the day of issue to Tallents House for its postmark, or to any of the Special Handstamp Centres for the other postmarks (shown at left). Please quote the following reference numbers: FD0527 Tallents House, FD0528 Windsor, FD0529 London, FD0530 Edinburgh, FD0531 Cardiff, and FD0532 Belfast. These postmarks can be applied to any of the new stamps issued on 5 April. Standard Royal Mail first day envelopes for definitives (coat of arms) and each of the country stamps (scenery) will be available at main Post Office branches in each country (and from philatelic outlets and Tallents House), price 25p each. There will be no new stamp cards.

A presentation pack containing the four new 42p country stamps will cost £2.20.

WITHDRAWAL OF CURRENT VALUES The 7p, 35p (dark brown), 39p and 43p definitives and 40p country stamps will be withdrawn from general sale at Post Office branches on 6 April. They will remain on philatelic sale until next April.

The 40p Machin definitive, withdrawn from general sale last October, will be reintroduced from 5 April.



NEW STAMP BOOK A new printing of the 6 × 1st book will be available from Post Office philatelic outlets from 22 March, price £1.68 (£1.80 from 7 April). This has an advertisement for the Royal Mail Smilers stamps service printed on the inside front cover. The book was printed by Walsall, cylinder w3, phosphor w2.

INCREASE IN PRICE OF EXISTING STAMPS The 7 April rate increase will result in all existing 1st class stamps (definitives, country and special) being sold at 30p and E stamps at 42p. The Universal stamps (Europe and World-wide) and postcard stamp available as singles from Tallents House will cost £1.72 and 47p respectively. The increase also applies to miniature sheets containing 1st and/or E stamps, and to Smilers sheets and prestige books and where relevant to all standard stamp books and rolls.



1991 Norton F1 road version of a race winner



1949 Vincent Black Shadow fastest standard motorcycle



1914 Royal Enfield small engined motor bicycle

Forthcoming issues There are two stamp issues this month: a set marking the centenary of the Magic Circle (15 March) and the Castles miniature sheet (22nd). Both were previewed in January. The Trooping the Colour set, to be issued on 7 June, will be previewed next month. It comprises 2nd, 1st, 42p, 60p, 68p and £1.12 values and a miniature sheet, printed by Walsall in litho. A miniature sheet marking the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War will follow on 5 July; this will include the St Paul's Cathedral stamp from the 1995 Peace and Freedom issue (now as 1st class instead of 25p) and five Machin 1st class definitives. The sheet will be printed by Enschedé in gravure. The Transport theme issues of recent years are continued with a set featuring motorcycles on 19 July (1st, 40p, 42p, 47p, 60p, 68p), and Gastronomy is the theme of this year's Europa stamps which go on sale on 23 August (2nd, 1st, 42p, 47p, 60p, 68p). A set marking the 50th anniversary of Independent Television will be issued on 15 September (2nd, 1st, 42p, 47p, 60p, 68p). A key set of the year will be the issue commemorating the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar on 18 October (2 × 1st, 2 × 42p, 2 × 68p). The annual Christmas issue will go on sale on 1 November (2nd, 1st, 42p, 60p, 68p, £1.12) •

Three of the six Motorcycles issue (19 July), shown here at proof stage.

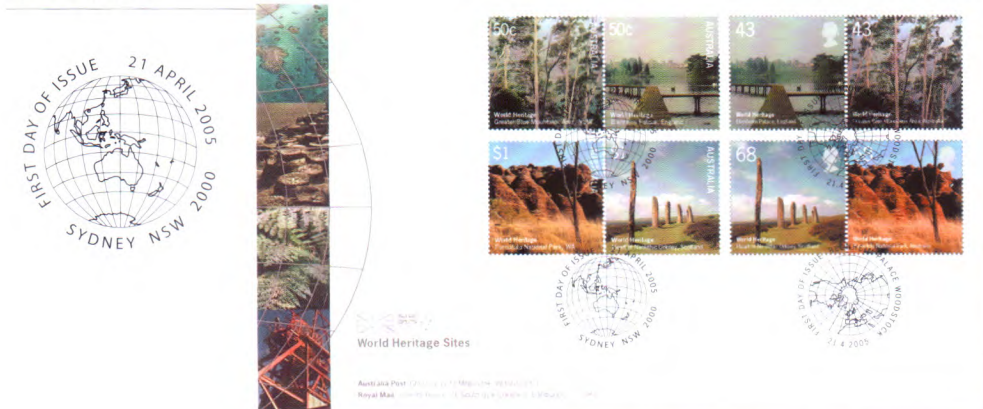
Corrections UK prices for the Castles and Magic FDCs are £3.94 and £3.88, not as given in January (pp140 and 144). Also please note that first day postmark numbers for Magic stamps should be FD0509 Tallents House, FD0510 London; and for Castles FD0505 Tallents House, and FD0506 Windsor.

2006 stamp programme The subjects for next year's issues are as follows. The exact dates of issue and values will be announced nearer the time of issue. Please note that dates are subject to change •

January	Children's Book Illustrations*	June	World Cup
February	British Journey: Northern England	June	Architecture
February	Brunel	September	Victoria Cross
March	Ice Age Mammals	October	National Portrait Gallery
April	The Queen's 80th birthday	November	Christmas
May	Cultural Integration	* joint issue with USA	

World Heritage Sites stamps Eight stamps will be issued by both Royal Mail and Australia Post to coincide with the major philatelic exhibition, Pacific Explorer, in Sydney on 21 April 2005 – which also happens to be the Queen's birthday.

The UK values are: 2 × 2nd, 2 × 1st, 2 × 47p and 2 × 68p. The Australian values are: 2 × 50c; 2 × 50c, 2 × \$1 and 2 × \$1.80. Both countries are issuing the stamps as se-tenant pairs. On the UK pairs, the UK site is shown on the left stamp, the Australian site on the right. On the Australian pairs,



One of the two joint covers and the Sydney handstamp. Note: stamps will be 47p, not 43p as shown.

the Australian site is at left, UK site on the right. A number of joint Royal Mail/Australia Post products will be available from Royal Mail Tallents House. A Joint Cover comprises two covers. The first bears two Australian pairs (on the left) and two UK pairs (on the right): Uluru/Hadrians (\$1.80), Hadrians/Uluru (2nd) and Wet Tropics/Stonehenge (50c), Stonehenge/Wet Tropics (1st). The second bears two Australian pairs (on the left) and two UK pairs (on the right): Greater Blue Mountains/Blenheim (50c), Blenheim/Greater Blue Mountains (47p) and Purnululu/Orkneys (\$1), Orkneys/Purnululu (68p). The UK stamps are cancelled by the Blenheim Palace First Day of Issue handstamp; Australian stamps by a Sydney handstamp. The handstamp designs are graphical representations of the Earth. The two covers are sold only as a pair, price £8.50.

A joint pack comprises a fully-illustrated brochure containing mint sets of UK and Australian stamps (16 stamps in all) held in carriers in the brochure. Price £7.50.

The joint coin cover bears items from four organizations: Royal Mail, Australia Post, Royal Mint, and Australian Mint. It features selected UK and Australian stamps, each cancelled with appropriate UK or Australian handstamp, plus two coins – a UK 50p and provisionally an Australian 50c coin. The stamps featured are: UK 2 × 2nd and 2 × 1st UK designs (Hadrian's Wall/Uluru and Stonehenge/Wet Tropics pairs), and two pairs of Australian stamps: 50c × 2 (Blenheim/Greater Blue Mountains); 2 × \$1 (Orkney/Purnululu). Price £15.95.

Collectors will be able to submit covers for joint handstamping. Royal Mail will apply an Australian pictorial first day postmark by authority of Australia Post but in accordance with British handstamping practice. The postmark was created for use on joint products being produced on behalf of both Royal Mail and Australia Post. Royal Mail will also apply the Australian handstamp to cancel privately produced covers. The postmark will only be used to cancel Australian World Heritage Sites stamps and only on covers that also bear at least one UK World Heritage Sites stamp in order to facilitate the creation of dual FDCs. No other stamps will be cancelled on such a cover. Covers should be sent to any of Royal Mail's Special Handstamp Centres; the final date for receipt of such covers will be 18 May ●



New coin covers The second in the new series of Country Stamp coin covers will be available from 1 March (St David's Day). It will bear the four Welsh country stamps cancelled by a special bilingual Cardiff postmark, and have the new £1 coin showing the Menai Straits Bridge encapsulated. The cover design includes a beautifully illustrated map featuring Beaumaris, Caernarfon and Conwy castles, Llanfair PG (the village with the long name), and Snowdon (Wales's highest mountain). The cover contains a colourful four-page insert featuring the Menai Bridge and its environs. Price £13.50, order code AN037. The first cover in the series, featuring Scottish stamps and coin, was issued on 30 November (St Andrew's Day) and is still available from Tallents House, price £13.50, order code AN036.

Another new coin cover will be available from 21 April, day of issue of the World Heritage Sites stamps. The cover bears se-tenant pairs of 2nd and 1st class Royal Mail, and 50¢ and \$1 Australia Post World Heritage sites stamps cancelled respectively by Stonehenge, Amesbury, Salisbury and Sydney special handstamps. 50p UK and 50¢ Australian coins are encapsulated. The insert folder features selected Heritage Sites from around the world. Price £15.95, available from Royal Mail Tallents House ●

Smilers sheets Readers are reminded that a generic Smilers sheet containing 20 1st class Magic stamps will be available from 15 March, price £6.15 (£6.55 from 7 April). The sheet was shown here last month. The stamps in these Smilers sheets are printed by lithography, whereas the stamps from ordinary sheets are printed in gravure. The next Smilers sheet will be available from 21 April to coincide with the Pacific Explorer stamp exhibition in Sydney. The sheets will contain 20 'Hello' Occasions stamps. This will be followed by further Smilers sheets on 21 June (20 White Ensigns stamps from 2001 Flags issue); 15 September (20 x 1st class ITV stamps); and 1 November (Christmas 10 x 2nd & 10 x 1st class Winter Robins stamps).

For details of how to order customised versions of the sheets, with your own image printed on the labels, see opposite. At the Smilers website (www.royalmail.com/smilers), orders can be placed using digital photos. Customised sheets will also be available through Snap Digital photobooths at selected Post Office branches and Safeway stores ●

The illustration shown here is a mock-up. The actual cover will include the Menai Bridge coin, not Forth Road Bridge as shown.

To order customised sheets telephone 0845 074 2000 (UK customers) or +44 131 316 7489 (overseas), or pick up a Smilers leaflet/order form at a Post Office branch.



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Above: 2004 Christmas cards (to be withdrawn 31 March), the recess-printed high values (1 April) and the TPO cover (16 March).

Coming off sale Any remaining stocks of the Entente Cordiale and Ocean Liners stamps and miniature sheet will be withdrawn from sale at Tallents House on 5 and 12 April respectively. The Royal Horticultural Society stamps, miniature sheet, Smilers sheet, and prestige book will be withdrawn on 24 May. The British Journey issues for Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland are to remain on sale until further notice. The self-adhesive book containing the Welsh stamp is now sold out.

There are a number of definitive stamps coming off sale shortly. The 4p, 8p, 34p and 37p values will be withdrawn on 30 March as will books containing 6 x E (European rate), 6 x 42p, and 6 x 68p self-adhesive stamps. The £1.50, £2, £3, and £5 stamps (shown above) printed in recess (intaglio) will go off sale on 1 April. The pack containing these four high value stamps will also be withdrawn. The special cover marking the end of Travelling Post Offices (above) will be withdrawn on 16 March, and packs of Christmas cards, reproducing the 2004 Christmas stamp designs (see above), on 31 March.

Any remaining stock of British Journey E, 43p and 57p values will be withdrawn from Post Office branches on 6 April but remain on philatelic sale until further notice ●

New miniature sheet album A new Royal Mail album to house miniature sheets is now available from Tallents House, price £12.50 until 31 March, £15.50 thereafter. The wine-coloured binder has a curved spine embossed with gold on three raised bands. It contains 10 black cards with single clear melonex film which hold the sheets securely. Additional inserts are available in packs of 10. Price £3.45.

Our new stock book introduced last Autumn is proving very popular. With 16 pages, each with 10 acetate clear strips, it is ideal for keeping your stamps in prime condition prior to mounting in an album. The stock book has a racing green cover with 'Royal Mail Stock Book' inscribed in gold. Price £7.95 (order code PA690) from Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB ●

New stamp ingot The fifth in the series of six ingots featuring stamps of the reigns of Edward VII and George V will be available from 17 May. It features the 1d 1924 British Empire Exhibition stamp. The sixth and final one in the series – 1929 £1 Postal Union Congress commemoratives will be available from 9 August. Nos 1-4 featuring the Edward VII 1d and £1 stamps, George V 1d Mackennal head and 10s 'Seahorses' are all still available from Tallents House. The six ingots cost £26.95 each from Tallents House. The full set can be ordered for £141.00 which includes a free Collection storage box. The storage box is available separately, price £15.95 (order code AG008).

The Victorian stamp ingot series is still available, price £26.95 each – see the back cover of the September 2003 *Bulletin* for full details •

Royal Mail Archive An exhibition telling the story of British stamps in the 19th century, from the Penny Black to the 'Jubilee' issue of 1887, is on show at Royal Mail Archive until the summer. The items on show include unique registration sheets and items from the world-famous Reginald M Phillips Collection. Items on display will change from time to time. A well-produced brochure has been produced to accompany the exhibition.

Royal Mail Archive will be open on Saturday on the following dates: 9 April, 11 June, 13 August, 17 September, 8 October, and 10 December. Sessions giving a general introduction to the Archive plus a 'behind the scenes' tour will take place on: 10 March, 21 April, 19 May, and 16 June. The sessions are at 16.30 on 10 March and 21 April, and at 13.00 on other dates. Call 020 7239 2570 to book a place. A free lunchtime talk on 'Family History in the Royal Mail Archive' will be held at 13.00 on 15 April – call 020 7239 2570 for a ticket.

Large items such as vehicles are kept at the Postal Heritage Museum Store at Loughton, Essex which will be open to the public on 7 May, 11 June, 16 July and 17 September. Please book in advance if you wish to visit.

Royal Mail Archive, run by the Postal Heritage Trust, comprises the collections of the former Post Office Archives and National Postal Museum •

Royal Mail Archive Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL. Open Monday to Friday 10.00-17.00 (Thursday until 19.00). Telephone 020 7239 2570. E-mail heritage@royalmail.com

Storing the Bulletin Binders and box files are available for storing this and the *Postmark Bulletin*. The sturdy box files, in maroon for the *Philatelic Bulletin* and green for the *Postmark Bulletin* are available from Royal Mail Tallents House, price £9.95 each. Order codes PB349 (Philatelic), PB350 (Postmark). The files will store 30 copies of the Philatelic and about 50 of the Postmark Bulletins. The traditional binders for the Philatelic and Postmark Bulletins cost £8.50 each (BB001 and PB322) •



Bulletin back issues Mr T Hewitson of the West Midlands offers a run of the *Bulletin* from September 1968 to August 2004 to anyone willing to collect. Contact him on 01902 884476 •

A career in design Glenn Morgan concludes his report on Barry Robinson's A to Z lecture for the Postal Heritage Trust



From Australia to zoology: in 25 years at Royal Mail, Barry Robinson was responsible for 200 special stamp issues.

Market research This has its place, but can kill off good design ideas.



Nobel This stamp issue was primarily aimed at philatelists, with its six different techniques employed, namely silk screen, micro-text, holography, embossing, intaglio and thermography.

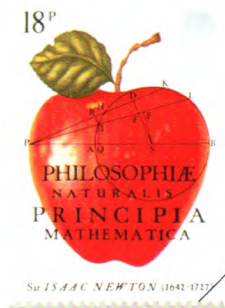
Office There is a tendency to blame those who have left the office that they held! In the 25 years with Royal Mail, Barry had 12 different masters.

Pleasing all the people all the time Impossible, although everyone tries. The research undertaken includes telephone interviews, and focus groups with all manner of people: in/out of work, young/old, collectors/non-collectors.

The Queen There is a misconception that Her Majesty does not really see stamp design proposals for approval. This is not the case and she has more than once made her views known, resulting in design amendments, or she has even totally rejected a stamp design. This severely affects lead times, but has to be accommodated, which can result in a design compromise.



Royal issues Royal Mail plays on its Royal connections in its business name, so it was deemed inappropriate to reject the Duke of York's request to design an issue. The Castles high values were the result and despite being based on his photographs and printed by intaglio, they worked well. Prince Charles' watercolour scenes were similarly well received. In both cases trips were made to Northern Ireland at the height of the troubles to ensure that all parts of Britain were represented.



Students Royal Mail has always had a policy to support up and coming students, through the RSA (Royal Society of Arts) Student Design Awards, and by giving lectures at colleges. (The 1987 Isaac Newton issue above was designed by Sarah Godwin, a student who won an RSA Award.) Stamp design is not the lucrative business that people usually assume it to be, but the exposure given is second to none, and can be a great springboard for other commissions.

Technology This has increasingly played its part in the design and production stages of stamps, and the use of computer technology has become an essential tool.



Ultra Violet Phosphor inks have been used as both a security and operational feature on stamps such as the £10 definitive issue. The inclusion of phosphors (which emit and afterglow uv light) has become an essential feature of the operational sorting of mail. They can, however, have an impact on the design when applied as bars.

Warm overcoat The Stamp Advisory Committee (SAC) has been referred to as the 'warm overcoat against the harsh chill of public criticism'. This unpaid group (who receive only a Christmas lunch by way of thanks) comprises captains of industry, philatelists, designers and the like.



Xmas To have secular or religious stamps is an argument that has recently come to the fore; secular has been the preferred route of late, much to the annoyance of Christian religious leaders. As far back as 1968 there were problems when Rosalind Dease depicted children playing with their Victorian toys. Apparently, the Post Office had to employ a pool of typists to reply to all the letters of complaint over that particular issue.

Y (Why?) A stamp need only bear The Queen's head and a face value, so why add any design at all? It is an argument that few would support, as stamps can be the only means of access to art that people encounter. The special stamps programme therefore adds greatly to the culture of our nation.

Zillions The quantity of stamps printed in any one year is colossal, with around 5,500 million entering circulation.

Barry had spoken for close on two hours and it is clear he could have gone on for many more had time permitted. He concluded that it had been a great 25 years and the enthusiasm he showed was infectious. I shall certainly look at Royal Mail's stamp design in a fresh way from now on •

Trafalgar: Nelson, Napoleon and the prelude to battle



Nigel Fordham LVO looks back on the events of March 1805



Opposite page: a portrait of Nelson as a Captain, by John Francis Rigaud, c1781; and two stamps from a Solomon Islands miniature sheet issue.

Left: a commemorative cover by Mercury, Watford. The Crown coin is from Gibraltar.

ON A COLD, DARK, January morning in 1771 a 12-year old boy arrived at the Royal Naval Dockyard, Chatham by coach. Alone and vulnerable, the frail youth, one of eight children who had lost their mother three years ago, was lonely, hungry and bewildered. He had been appointed, through his uncle's influence, as a Midshipman on HMS *Raisonable* and although he could see his ship anchored in the harbour he had no idea how he was supposed to get out to her. He stood bewildered on the bleak Kent quayside staring out across the water and was eventually spotted and befriended by a fellow officer who arranged for him to be rowed out to his ship.

This was Horatio (or Horace as he liked to be called as a boy) Nelson's introduced to the Royal Navy, and it was this man who would eventually fight the combined fleets of France and Spain in 1805, save his country from invasion and pass into immortality.

By January 1805 Napoleon Bonaparte, Emperor of France, had assembled an invasion fleet of over 2000 vessels and 150,000 men at Boulogne, posed to sweep across the English Channel and subjugate Great Britain. Such were the spirits and high expectations of this invasion force, that victory medals had already been struck to award to the victorious French Army. The only obstacle in

their way was the Royal Navy which, blockading the French and Spanish ships in their home ports, prevented them dominating the English Channel and thus supporting Napoleon's invasion plans.

Napoleon, a brilliant army commander, had little idea of the problems of naval strategy and continued to under-estimate the strength and resolve of the Royal Navy and the weaknesses of his combined fleet.

The combined fleets of France and Spain were bedevilled by disease, poor and inadequate training of their ships' crews (although there were one or two notable exceptions) and inactivity, forced upon them by being 'bottled up' in port for years. Morale was low, discipline poor, and with a lack of respect between the French and Spanish ships apparent before and during the battle things were not in the combined fleets' favour.

Despite outnumbering the British fleet, they were no match for a highly motivated, well-drilled and well-trained Royal Navy, whose crews had been at sea for almost two years, training hard and spoiling for a fight.

In January and February 1805, as part of Napoleon's plan to unite the French, Dutch and Spanish fleets off the Canary Islands, creating a fleet of more than 50 ships, the French broke the British blockade and, although they enjoyed limited

'My wretched state of health ought, long since, to have induced me to go to England for its reestablishment; but I could never bring myself to quit my post when the enemy was coming to sea.'

From a letter written by Admiral Nelson on board HMS *Victory*, 15 March 1805, to Earl Camden, Secretary of State, War Dept. Right: the Emperor Napoleon I.



success in the Caribbean, the link-up failed. With the weather against them all ships except those of Admiral Missiessy from Rochfort were back in port by February 1805 and blockaded by the British again. The longest any one ship of Villeneuve's fleet had been out was six weeks.

On 2 March Napoleon issued new orders to his fleet, which in broad terms again encouraged his Admirals to break the Royal Navy blockades at Brest, Ferrol, Toulon, and Cadiz. This time however they were to sail direct to the West Indies, for the ships to rendezvous as one fighting force and then sail en masse to Europe, eventually taking control of the English Channel and sweeping all before them. All the admirals were ordered to be ready to sail at short notice.

Following Napoleon's orders for him to break out but not to engage the enemy, Admiral Ganteaume, who commanded 21 ships of the line at Brest, moved his fleet to the mouth of the harbour on 26 March. It was a very foggy morning, perfect conditions to give the British the slip. He ordered his fleet to sail, but no sooner had they started to move than the sun broke through and the fog lifted immediately. The French fleet was exposed and confronted by the British blockading squadron commanded by Cornwallis's second in command Sir Charles Cotton. The British were no more than five miles away. After a 24-hour stand off the wind changed, and the French returned to the safety of Brest again.

Admiral Villeneuve received similar orders from Napoleon on 25 March, and on 29 March he set sail from Toulon. It was his plan to join the Spanish fleet at Cadiz as soon as possible. The Spanish were planning a similar break out from Cadiz.

Admiral Missiessy, who had already broken out on 1 January was waiting in the Caribbean. Nelson, aware of Napoleon's 'Big Fleet' plan, thought they were destined for Egypt and was not to become aware of the French and Spanish escape until April. The scene was set for the first phase of the Battle of Trafalgar. Next month we will look at events of April 1805 and see if the French and Spanish were successful in their break-out, and what Nelson did to counter the threat ●

This month, Sea Britain 2005 and Trafalgar Festival events are in full swing. Below is a sample of some activities taking place in March and April. For further information visit the Sea Britain 2005 website: www.seabritain.com

12.03	Water Music Project performance, London
25-28.03	Lancaster Easter Maritime Festival/Trafalgar Fair
28.03-06.11	Turner and the Sea, London
01-03.04	Jane Austen in Nelson's time, Portsmouth
01.04-31.10	Nelson's portraits, Great Yarmouth
01.04-01.12	Nelson exhibition, London
23.04	Capt Quilliam's Music, Castletown, Isle of Man
30.04-02.05	Horatio's Last Hurrah, Deal
30.04-31.12	Sea Soldiers exhibition, Portsmouth

Greetings telegrams David Cawdell describes the history and prospects of this undiscovered area for collectors

RECEIVING A TELEGRAM in the 1920s set many a heart fluttering. The knock on the door, the smart-looking telegram boy with his pill-box hat standing there with a little brown envelope in his hand; is it good news or bad news? No one could tell until the envelope had been opened and its contents read. Hundreds of thousands of such telegrams in little brown envelopes were delivered during the Great War, and people had become used to associating telegrams with news of the very worst kind.

In the early part of the last century only a few people had telephones, and the quickest way of contact was by telegram, so the idea of having an attractive 'good news' version had merit. When the GPO introduced their first Decorative Greetings Telegram in 1935, the concept was already popular in many parts of Europe with Denmark claiming to be the first some 28 years earlier. In large German towns, greetings telegrams were delivered by postmen dressed in special red uniforms and white gloves! Some of their pre-Second World War telegram designs were also quite flamboyant. At its peak in 1913, 82 million telegrams were sent worldwide, but it was to be another 22 years before the greetings telegram reached the UK.

The blame for Britain's tardiness cannot be laid wholly at the GPO's door. The telegram suffered from what the marketeers today would call 'product positioning'. In 1935 the telephone service was growing rapidly (the first automatic exchange had opened in Epsom in 1912), and the postal service could still deliver a letter anywhere in the UK within 24 hours, so just who would send a greetings telegram when a phone call would be quicker or a card would be cheaper?

It is interesting to see that the two branches of the GPO, Telephones and Postal, still under one governance did however, work together to sell the telegram service by a variety of methods including promotional postcards, leaflets in telephone bills and media advertising.

Nine words for 6d The GPO then did what a budget airline does today: they slashed the cost of the service. 'Nine words for Sixpence' made the telegram competitive, and attractive to businesses. It did the trick; in 1935, 35 million telegrams were sent – four years later it was over 50 million. The greetings telegram also played its part; when the service was suspended at midnight on 30 April 1943 due to the war, some nine million greetings telegrams were being sent every year.

The Greetings Telegram Service was introduced on 24 July 1935, and just seven days later King George V celebrated the 300th anniversary of the Post Office by sending a greetings telegram to the Postmaster General, which was copied to every post office in the UK. The first greetings telegram was an all-purpose form designed by Mrs Calkin-James, a GPO employee. Special occasion designs were also already being planned, such as Valentine's Day, and later, Christmas, birthdays, weddings and even Coronations. Easter Day and Mother's Day were also considered, but as both fell on a Sunday, when a limited staff would have been on duty, the idea was dropped. Designers were given pretty much a free rein but during the war all the printing was done on white paper so the telegram boys could easily read the address in a blackout. Ten designs were introduced during the war, but designs were restricted to only two colours and printed on quite inferior quality paper. In the war years customers still preferred to use the greetings telegram to avoid the recipient thinking it was bad news.

Wartime meant the call to arms, and telegram boys, in the best traditions of the service, enlisted to serve their country. Older men were recruited to fill this void. They could hardly be described as boys so they were re-titled 'Couriers'. Their major worry was not the bombs dropping all around them but the state of their feet. A special chiropody department was formed in 1942 and almost 1600 examinations and treatments were logged until the end of the war.



The first greetings telegram, designed by Mrs Calkin James, a GPO employee, and issued on 24 July 1935.



Designed by Biro in 1955, this is one of the most colourful telegrams ever produced.

Peacetime revival After the war (but not until 1950 due to a severe shortage of paper) the Greetings Telegram Service was re-introduced with more colourful designs. The early Valentine's Day designs even had the year included in the design. However, the same designs were re-issued in later years without the date to save costs. Even the envelopes have a history all their own and offer a rewarding aspect for the dedicated collector. The first greetings telegrams came in a smart gold envelope. At least three versions of these were issued as printers experimented with a non-tarnishable gold ink.

Several well-known artists were commissioned as designers, including Rex Whistler, Biro, MacDonald Gill and Norman Thelwell, and later, Walt Disney and Roland Emmett. Sir Hugh Casson, President of the Royal Academy, provided the design for the Christmas telegram of 1982. Whether it was modesty or a missed opportunity, few early designers signed their work. Later, when the GPO realised how much their customers were influenced by 'who did the drawing' all of the artists were asked to sign, or at least initial, their work.

Several printing companies were used, and not all were in London. The general greetings form issued in October 1938 was printed by J Howitt & Sons of Nottingham. The GPO's favourite supplier seemed to be Messrs J Wiener Ltd. The aver-

age print run was around a million forms. One thing is clear though; whoever ordered the Valentine's day forms (usual print run 150,000) seriously overestimated the demand as 57,000 copies of Rex Whistler's 1936 form were left over, and 63,000 of Frank Newbould's a year later!

On 1 March 1957, the Post Office introduced a completely new occasion card, called a 'Luxury Greetings Telegram'. No longer a single 8 x 6 inch paper sheet like most of its predecessors but a large folded card in a matching envelope. Originally the design was only for wedding congratulations but many others soon followed, including 'New Baby' which had a different coloured design for a boy and a girl. Later on, design changes were mainly cosmetic and commercial when the GPO changed to Post Office Telecommunications and then BT, and the corporate logos changed.

The biggest organisational change occurred in 1982 when the service became known as 'Tele-messages' and was to be actively marketed with a 'good news' approach. There were over 20 special occasions designs available and, of course, the very special cards sent personally by HM The Queen.

Royal telegrams If you received a plain white telegram with the royal crest embossed in silver, it meant that The Queen had remembered your 100th birthday (providing you told the Bucking-



Peach Faced Lovebirds, designed by Harry Titcombe in 1981 as a Wedding Congratulations card.



1983 Baby Congratulations card designed by Walt Disney from the film *Fantasia*.

ham Palace office). On 4 August 2000 Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother became the first member of the Royal family to reach the age of 100 and to qualify for the traditional centenarian's birthday message from The Queen. On the morning of her 100th birthday, The Queen Mother emerged smiling from Clarence House accompanied by her grandson The Prince of Wales. After the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery had ridden by, The Queen Mother remained standing and waved while the Band of the Irish Guards, her own special regiment, marched past her playing Happy Birthday. The Queen's 100th birthday card was then delivered to The Queen Mother by postman Tony Nicholls. The Queen Mother then asked her equerry, Irish Guards Captain William de Rouet, to open the envelope using his sword. The Queen Mother smiled as she opened the card and read the greeting. The Queen had simply signed the card 'Lilibet', her childhood name.

No special design was issued for the Silver Jubilee in 1977 but a silver foil medallion was stuck on all greetings telegrams that year.

For illustrations of Royal telegrams and cards, see Glenn Morgan's article about the Court Post Office in the *Bulletin* of August 2004.

At present, the main drawback to collecting greetings telegrams is that there is no recognised collectors' club or national register of collectors.

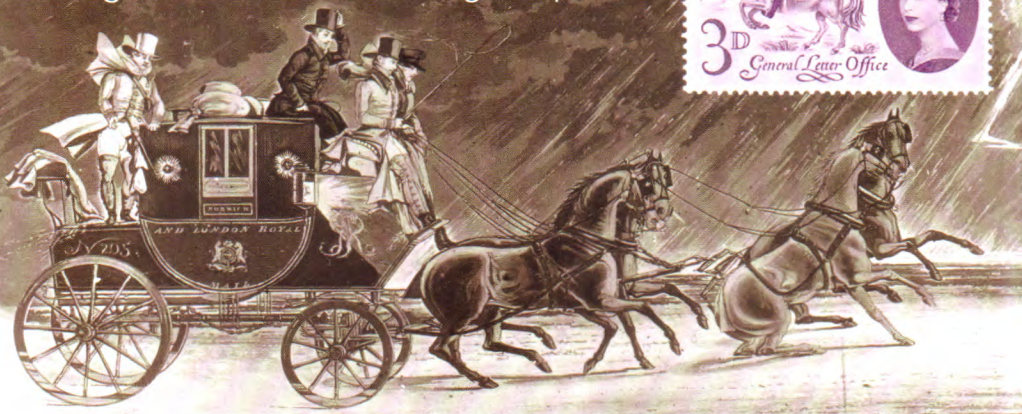
BT Telemessages, the GPO's modern successor, could have been the ideal focus point for collectors but in June 2003 the Telemesssage service was closed down to be taken over by a commercial company offering a computerised greetings message service over the internet.

Such is progress. However, with no more printed decorative greetings telegrams being issued, this could encourage people to consider collecting them.

Greetings telegrams have many attractive features to attract a collector:

- They are extremely attractive in design, and represent the work of some of the best known artists of the day.
- The designs trace the development of modern commercial art from 1935 to the present day, a time-span of nearly seventy years.
- They are relatively easy to preserve and do not require any specialist environment. Their size makes them ideal for display presentations at exhibitions.
- There is still an incredible amount of undiscovered information about them to satisfy the really serious collector.
- The messages they contain reveal an interesting insight into social behaviour and etiquette.
- The range worldwide is diverse enough to encourage specialist collectors •

Post haste Rosemary Bennett on early arrangements for the carriage of post



SENDING A MESSAGE in the Middle Ages was not easy. Not only was it necessary to find someone to deliver your communication, whether written or verbal, but the unfortunate individual selected for the task faced all kinds of difficulties and dangers on his journey.

In medieval times the responsibility for the upkeep of the roads lay with the landowners through whose land they passed. Unfortunately, this responsibility was often neglected and road surfaces became almost impassable, especially in winter. During the 16th century things improved a little when responsibility passed to the relevant parishes, but again it was often neglected. The reason for this is that local people were required to provide several days unpaid labour each year, some carting gravel or stones, some cleaning out drainage ditches or cutting back hedges. This work was carried out under officials called 'Way-wardens'. This was an obligation greatly resented by people who could ill afford to give up so much time without payment, so the work was often skimped.

If the unfortunate messenger managed to proceed along the road, his troubles were not over, for there were often robbers about, particularly where a road crossed woodland. By the end of the 13th century the situation had become so bad that laws were passed in an effort to improve the safety of travellers. The Trench Act of Edward I re-

quired roads through woods to be 60 feet wide on either side. The Statute of Winchester stated that all highways between market towns should be enlarged so that there were no ditches or bushes on either side for a distance of 200 feet (a bow shot).

Fortunately for messengers, as wheeled traffic increased so did the demand for better roads, and finally, in the mid 17th century, road rates were introduced which provided money for their upkeep. Unfortunately, the increased traffic caused further problems as it damaged the road surface. Several acts were passed in an effort to control the problem; these attempted to regulate vehicle construction and to control their use. In 1663 the first turnpike road was introduced in this country and in 1706 the first turnpike trust was set up. A turnpike consisted of a swinging bar across the road which was opened by the keeper when a toll had been paid. This system continued until 1895 when the last one in Anglesey abolished its tolls.

As well as an increase in wheeled traffic after the Middle Ages, there was an increase in literacy, which meant that more messages were written down. In 1680 William Dockwra, a merchant, set up the London Penny Post, which delivered mail throughout the capital for one penny. He also introduced postmarking, to show where a letter had started its journey. The system proved a great success and spread throughout the country.



POST HASTE

Universal Postal Union 1874/1974



Above: 18th and early 19th centuries, the mail coach era; mail by rail in the 1830s; and the first airmail (1911).

Left: mail by motorcycle, bus and van, 1980s.

Opposite page: a mail coach in a storm, and a 17th century postboy. Mail coach (and Dockwra Post p195) courtesy of The British Postal Museum and Archive.

In the country, the mail was carried by post-boys, so called because they were retained along main roads at various points or 'posts', and the letters were carried from one post to another. When the post-boy arrived at an inn where he would obtain a change of horses, he would gallop into the inn yard crying 'post haste!' to alert the ostler, and hopefully get the pick of the horses. Once on his way again he blew his horn as he approached the turnpike to warn the keeper who would then raise the bar for him.

Although no doubt letters were sometimes carried by coach or wagon as well as by post-boy, it was not until 1784 that the first mail coaches with armed guards appeared on the roads of Britain, running from London to Bath. In their book *A History of Everyday Things in England 1733-1851* Marjorie and C H B Quennell describe the dimensions of a mail coach in the Science Museum in London. The diameter of the front wheels was 38 inches, of the back wheels 48 inches, and the wheel base 6 feet 6 inches. Four people could be carried inside, one could sit beside the driver, and four more on a seat behind. The mail coach was drawn by four horses and the guard sat over the boot, with his blunderbuss at the ready in case of highwaymen. It has been estimated that, during one 25 year period, the mails were carried over 70 million miles without a single robbery.

During the end of the 18th century and the beginning of the 19th, the road surfaces began to be improved by Macadam and Telford, whose innovative ideas brought lasting benefits to the roads of Britain. On these improved surfaces, coaches could run at an average speed of eight miles an hour, sometimes even attaining bursts of 11 or 12 mph. By 1836 the number of mail coaches had risen to 700, but they did not immediately sound the knell of the post-boys, who continued to be needed on some routes. In fact it was not until 1961 that the last mounted postman ceased his deliveries. This was in the Outer Hebrides where he was replaced by a mail van after the islands were linked by causeway.

The growth of the railways naturally had a great effect on the conveyance of mail. Also, as the road improvements continued other forms of transport appeared and the postman on his trusty bicycle became a familiar sight in our towns and villages. By the early 20th century, modern road transport had made it possible to convey the mail at speeds undreamed of by those intrepid early carriers. Not only that, but in 1911 mail was carried by air for the first time, something which would have astonished our ancestors. A vastly different world from that of the mail coach guard with his blunderbuss and the post-boy with his cry of 'post haste!' ●

A contented man Richard West talks to Stuart Henderson about his approach to collecting, and his work for Bonhams

IT IS NOT always easy to find someone who is contented with life, but Stuart Henderson seems to be such a person. These days, much of that contentment comes from philately, for most of his time is devoted to the hobby, whether through working for Bonhams, giving a display to a society, or concentrating on his own collection, which he does for at least an hour of every day 'much to my wife's horror'.



Stuart spent his working life in the milk industry, before he was offered early retirement at the age of 50. It was then, in 1993, that David Boyd suggested he might like to work for a couple of days a week at the auctioneers Phillips. This Stuart did for two weeks; he was then taken on full time, and today he is still with Bonhams Stamp Department.

Much of his time is spent visiting societies; so far he has given displays

to about 200 societies, offering either Cinderellas of the World or World War 1. He enjoys meeting with other collectors, for that way he finds he can learn a lot: 'I make it up as I go along, and I am often being corrected by someone with more knowledge'. But he also admits that knowledge is a two-way process: you learn from them, and they learn from you. He feels collectors should never be discriminating in the society meetings they attend – go to them all, and that way you will gain far more.

It was on his eighth birthday, 53 years ago, that an uncle, a keen stamp collector, gave Stuart a present of an album and some stamps. Stuart had always envied that uncle's collection of King George VI Commonwealth, from places of which dreams were made. With further help from uncle, Stuart's all-world collection grew, until his early teens, when other priorities took over. But come his 20s, with little spare cash for other interests, Stuart returned to collecting, this time concentrating on Great Britain and the Commonwealth. The emphasis was on stamps, and to help him along the way he joined several philatelic societies, 'probably the most important thing I did'. He has always had an inquisitive mind, and he found that he discovered much by chatting with other collectors, and from reading. Material came from far and wide, whether relatives passing on stamps, or through having correspondents around the world. But his wish to know 'why' led Stuart to switch his interests to postal history, and in particular airmails, and to Cinderellas, especially revenues.

Stuart has an enquiring mind, and a love of history and geography (he once illustrated an essay at school with stamps). Thus he always admires those who show a similar enthusiasm and thirst for knowledge, collectors such as Robson Lowe, John Fosbery and Brian Asquith. He always eagerly anticipated the publication of the former *Stamp Collecting* each week, for its wealth of fascinating articles, and he fondly remembers the encouragement he received when younger from his local stamp dealer in Walthamstow.

Stuart does not use albums, but keeps his collection on Hagner sheets, or mounted on album leaf-sized cards, using mounts or photo corners. He tends to buy at auction, or by acquiring from other collectors. He will not go out searching for a particular item, but simply enjoys what comes along. His favourite book is that on the semi-official airmails of Canada by Longworth-Dames, but he has a huge philatelic library. His 'best buy'

One of the societies he joined was the London and Provincial, becoming its Secretary for 18 years, and also the auction secretary. He has also become deeply involved with one of the country's major stamp exhibitions, Thematica, having been greatly inspired by the exhibition's founder, John Fosbery. Today Stuart is the Chairman of The Friends of Thematica.

Stuart

was a revenue document which had been priced based on the few stamps affixed to the front – but on the reverse were far more stamps of a much greater face value.

Stuart feels the hobby is buoyant at the moment, especially for unusual and good material. He believes it is a hobby for those who are somewhat older, who may now be attracted by the- matics and social philately, possibly linked with other interests. However, sowing the seeds as a child is a great help.

He has gained the greatest satisfaction from meeting other collectors and sharing knowledge, but admits that one of his pet hates is those who chat while others are giving a display.

Does he have an ambition? ‘To be able to dispose of my collection before I die, and to enjoy the proceeds with my wife.’ ●

SOME QUESTIONS FOR STUART HENDERSON

Where has been your home? I was born in Walthamstow, and now my home is in Ilford. I have always lived in this area.

You have mentioned your wife, so obviously you are married I have been married to Jackie for 43 years. We have a daughter, who did collect for a time.

What has been your career? I worked many years for United Diaries, which then became Unigate and later Dairy Crest. I started as a milkman, then became a training officer, and then finally a supervisor. Since early retirement I have worked in the stamp auction business, as a cataloguer, valuer and describer for Bonhams.

What about holidays? My wife and I have travelled extensively, not only to Europe, but in Asia, such as Borneo, Sarawak and China, and Russia. The places we visit are often influenced by my interest in their stamps.

And have you any other hobbies? I read a lot, and I do enjoy gardening.

And do you have any personal ambitions? To continue to get on with people, and always to enjoy life.

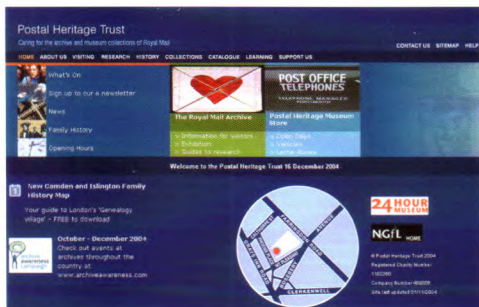
Ken Lake Remembering a fellow journalist, by John Holman

KENNETH Robert Lake, a noted philatelic journalist and a well-known character in the philatelic community, died on 24 January, age 73. Born in Cornwall (and proud of it), Ken had a mixed career, working in the civil service before his involvement with stamps. For a time he worked at Stanley Gibbons and at *Stamp Collecting* magazine before setting up the Lake and Brooks partnership. After this business ceased, he took up philatelic writing and became a regular contributor to *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* and to the trade magazine the *Philatelic Exporter*. My first encounter with Ken was in 1984 shortly after I became Editor of *GSM*. We were both at a Post Office stamp preview and I went over and introduced myself. A large man with a larger-than-life personality, he grabbed me by the shoulder and steered me to a corner where he told me, in forthright terms, how to edit the magazine. A few years later, both he and I applied to be Editor of this *Bulletin* and although he was then approaching Royal Mail retirement age I think he was rather ‘miffed’ at not



being appointed and this affected his attitude to Royal Mail. His *GSM* column ‘This Philatelic World of Ours’ was always entertaining, as well as containing useful information. His ‘GB – It’s My View’ column, on the other hand, developed into attacks on Royal Mail stamps, postal services and personnel. Sadly, these became increasingly bitter as his health deteriorated in recent years. When I suggested he might temper his negative comments on current issues by extolling the interest and enjoyment to be had from the many aspects of GB collecting, he honestly admitted that he simply liked ‘stirring and making mischief’, and that was how he got his ‘kicks in life’. In good health he was excellent company, with entertaining tales of his travels, and his interests in literature (especially science fiction) and good food. He was a man of distinctive appearance, voice, and handwriting, and obvious talents unfulfilled by his restless spirit. Like many collectors, I will remember him for his writings and will miss wondering what he would come up with next! ●

Philately on-line Ron Negus reviews Postal Heritage again



www.royalmailgroup/heritage The Postal Heritage Trust has a lively 'Friends' group who support its work through an active events calendar. They receive the magazine *Cross Post* containing articles covering all aspects of the history of the British Postal and Telegraph Services. Details of membership are available from Mrs Avis Harms, 13 Amethyst Avenue, Davis Estate, Chatham, Kent ME5 9TX.

In two previous articles, in July 2001 and May 2003, I have reviewed the Royal Mail Heritage site for this series. In the first review, the site was part of Consignia plc and in the second the name had changed to Heritage Services. It now has another title, and has become the site of the Postal Heritage Trust. On its various screens, which all carry this new name, a sub-title explains that the Trust is the body that is 'Caring for the archive and museum collections of Royal Mail'.

As well as changing its name, the site has been completely re-designed. It retains the main sections reviewed previously, but has rearranged the order of some. Overall, the design has been improved considerably and it now has a very modern appearance with clear text, a common page layout and relevant illustrations where needed.

The 'Information Sheets' section of the site has been expanded and there are now 22 titles included. These appear under the main heading of Research. They include such diverse subjects as 'A History of Mount Pleasant', the 'Post Office Underground Railway', 'Pillar Boxes' and 'The Mail Coach Service'.

Work is continuing on a computer-based catalogue of the Trust's holdings, and over 30,000 items have already been incorporated. These relate primarily to the Royal Mail Archive, but increasingly include material from the collection of artefacts and other items. Plans are being made to provide on-line access to the catalogue during 2005. Users will then be able to search across the complete holdings of archives and objects, including philatelic items, via the internet.

Under the main heading of 'Collections', the site has brought together separate pages detailing documents, stamps, artwork, photographs, Post Office publicity material and maps. The current object collections listed include those made up of letterboxes, vehicles, uniforms, counter and sorting equipment, together with paintings, signs and ephemera.

Another interesting note is included that announces the completion of a three-year project to record the lives and experiences of over a hundred Post Office staff, past and present. This Oral History scheme has led to over 700 hours of recordings being held in the Sound Archive at the British Library, who were co-sponsors of the project. A link is provided to the relevant catalogue at the library.

This aspect adds a further dimension to the genealogy section of the Heritage site – called Family History – which provides data for those searching for ancestors who were employed at some time in the Post Office. This type of enquiry now makes up around half of the current level of search room visits. The site includes a 'Guide to Family History Research', which can be printed out, to provide a step-by-step introduction to this activity.

A page is also provided on the site detailing the best way to approach research into the philatelic collections. This recommends that an initial discussion, or a correspondence, with the Curator, Philately is advisable. It explains that material relating to a particular subject or stamp issue may be held in more than one location ●

Posting boxes 223



WE FEATURE four interesting boxes this month, beginning with a Penfold box at Neyland, near Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire. The two youngsters are Bertie Brown and Siobhan O'Sullivan, two keen collectors from the town. Ernie Grieve, who submitted the photo, tells us it is believed to be the only Penfold still in use in Wales. It was originally sited at the railway station, but is now outside the former Station Master's house. The next photo is a modern box on the A684 at Swinithwaite between Leyburn and Aysgarth, sent in by R Gooden. D T Manning submits a George VI box at Stogumber in Somerset; Mr Manning is intrigued by the precise time of the collection: 4.00pm. Finally, we show an early Japanese box photographed by W de-Beer on Miyajima Island, Hiroshima. The box is inscribed POST as well as with Japanese characters •



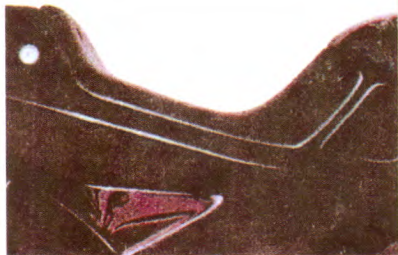
Above, from left: a Penfold at Neyland, near Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire; a modern box at Swinithwaite; and a George VI box at Stogumber in Somerset. Left: a Japanese box on Miyajima Island, Hiroshima.

Prize draw Win World Heritage Sites stamps and products

ON 21 APRIL a new joint issue of Royal Mail and Australia Post stamps will feature World Heritage Sites in the two countries. For this month's draw we have sets of the packs and covers bearing these interesting stamps from both countries for the senders of the first five cards drawn on 21 April.

To enter the draw, simply write your name and address on the back of a postcard and send it to: Heritage Sites Draw, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ. Five runners-up will be sent packs containing the Royal Mail stamps •

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



December identify The detail was from the 1968 Tarr Steps (Bridges) stamp. The winner was J Fitchett of Cornwall.

December knowledge The answers: 1) S Black; 2) Above & Beyond; 3) Allan Leighton. The winner was D Hunt, USA.

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 March *Identify* Competition. Secondly, test your philatelic knowledge by answering the questions below. Send your answer to March *Knowledge* Competition.

- 1 In which year did Red Riding Hood feature on a stamp?
- 2 What was the colour of the first George VI 1d definitive stamp?
- 3 Which philatelic organisation is based at 41 Devonshire Place, London W1?

Send your answer (addressed to either the March *Identify* competition or the March *Knowledge* competition), name and address on a postcard or back of a sealed envelope to: British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ. The senders of the first cards drawn in each competition on 15 April 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

12 March - 17 April 9th annual STAMP Lincs exhibition at Museum of Lincolnshire Life, Burton Road, Lincoln. Organised by Lincoln PS. **Enquiries** P Wain, 01522 525984.

26 March Fleetex exhibition and stamp fair at Harlington Centre, Fleet, 10.30-16.00. Admission 50p. Over 1000 sheets on show, invited display by Postal History Society. 14 dealers. Regional meetings of Postal History Society & British Society of Australian Philatelists. **Enquiries** M Pettifor 01252 690877.

15-16 April Scottish Philatelic Congress at Dewar's Centre, Perth. **Enquiries** A Watson, 01324 415558.

21-24 April Pacific Explorer 2005 international exhibition at Darling Harbour, Sydney, Australia.

22 April Kent Federation of Phil Socs Spring Rally & Stamp Fair at East Malling Village Hall, East Malling

(one minute from A20, 5 mins from M20 and 15 mins from M2). Refreshments, free parking, 15 dealers. **Enquiries** M Thompson, 01474 325507.

23 April Welsh PS meeting at Meifod Village Hall, near Welshpool. **Enquiries** N Prior, 01656 740520.

23 April Thematic Workshop, organised by British Thematic Association, at Victory Services Club, Seymour St, London W2. **Enquiries** P Denly, 9 Oaklands Park, Bishops Stortford CM23 2BY.

30 April Federation of South Wales Phil Socs Annual Convention Stamp & Postcard Fair at Princess Royal Theatre, Civic Centre, Port Talbot, 10.00-16.30. Admission 50p. 15 dealers, Kids Activity Area, light refreshments, limited free car parking. Souvenir card (see *Covers Review*). **Enquiries** N Prior 01656 740520 •

Late news



Guernsey issues Guernsey Post's 2004 Yearbook contains all special stamps and miniature sheets issued by Guernsey and Alderney during the past year. The book opens with a message from the Guernsey Post Managing Director pointing out that 2004 was a very special year as it marked 800 years since the Bailiwick of Guernsey pledged its allegiance to the English Crown. Although the islands have strong links with France, Guernsey is profoundly British. In celebration the yearbook has been published in a limited numbered edition of 1204. The 65 stamps and four sheets are supplied in packets for insertion in clear mounts on the relevant pages. The text is well written, and the many illustrations show the scenery, flora and fauna, history, and life of the islands. A page is devoted to portraits and biographical sketches of the 10 designers of the 2004 issues. Price £33.13 plus £1 handling charge. Guernsey Post completed its 'Memories of World War II' series with five stamps on 3 February. These feature: 26p British Army Land Rover; 32p Guernsey woman celebrating liberation; 36p reuniting of parents and children; 40p reuniting families; and £1.50 Winston Churchill giving his famous V for Victory sign and his quotation '...and our dear Channel Islands are also to be freed today'. The stamps were designed by Nick Watton and printed by BDT International. Enquiries: Guernsey Philatelic Bureau, Envoy House, La Vrangue, St Peter Port, Guernsey GY1 1AB •

Bulletin back issues George Coulter offers a run of the *Bulletin* 1972-97 free to anyone who will collect from him or pay postage. Contact him on 028 38 840 423 •

Societies news The January-February issue of *Topical Time* includes features on the Travels of Charles Darwin; Whales, Dolphins & Porpoises; Tombs on Stamps; World's Worst Aircraft; us Ballet postmarks; and notes on cinderellas, postal stationery, recent literature on thematic subjects as well as details of the activities of the ATA's various units (study groups). For details of the American Thematic Association write to ATA, PO Box 57, Arlington TX 76004-0057, USA or see website www.americantopicalassn.org •

Two great hobbies, railways and philately, will be combining on 9 April, when the Railway Philatelic Group will hold its annual convention at the Severn Valley Railway Museum, Comberton Hill, Kidderminster. RPG members collect stamps featuring trains and locomotives, but also collect newspaper, parcel, and railway letter stamps, Travelling Post Office covers and cancellations, and railway station postmarks. The Convention is open 10.00-16.00 with the AGM (members only) at 14.30. For further details contact Terry Davies on 01746 862600 •

The December issue of the Concorde Study Circle Newsletter shows that interest in philatelic (and other) material relating to the aircraft is still very active. The Newsletter records the first and last Concorde flights into and out of New York J F Kennedy Airport, Andre Turcat (French test pilot) on stamps; and reports on new Concorde stamps, postmarks, and postcards from, amongst others, Austria, Congo Republic, Djibouti, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Maldives, and Sierra Leone. For CSC information contact Brian Asquith on 020 8643 3926. The Study Circle will meet at Stampex on 27 February (10.30-13.30) •

Definitive update New printings of the 9p orange with one phosphor band and 35p lime green printed by De La Rue will go on philatelic sale 26 April. Second printings of the 42p country stamps, now by DLR, will be available from 10 May, also 10p and 20p definitives with one phosphor band followed by 1p, 2p and 5p stamps on philatelic sale on 21 June. Further details next month •

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