

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The ROYAL MAIL magazine *for stamp collectors*

# Bulletin

Volume 47 Number 8

APRIL 2010 £1.20

2009 poll results • Festival of  
Stamps • Stuart Monarchs



On sale 6 May: Royal Mail's  
Accession of King George V  
miniature sheet, featuring  
two new special stamps for  
London 2010.

## Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



**Cover** A detail from the £1 Postal Union Congress stamp of 1929, designed by Harold Nelson. Royal Mail will issue a facsimile of this stamp as one of its London 2010 Festival of Stamps souvenirs – see page 236 of this *Bulletin*.

**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. Minimum handling charge UK £1.45, Europe £1.55, rest of world (airmail) £2.15. Some products can be ordered on Royal Mail's website: [www.royalmail.com/shop](http://www.royalmail.com/shop)

|                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>30 March</b> | <b>Issue</b> 60p, 67p, 88p, 97p and £1.46 definitives, Europe and Worldwide 20g stamps in books. Pack containing these and Recorded Delivery stamps of November 2009.                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>30 March</b> | <b>Issue</b> 60p & 97p country stamps for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Pack containing new country stamps.                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>1 April</b>  | <b>Withdrawal</b> Concorde medal cover                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>13 April</b> | <b>Issue</b> Action for Species – Mammals stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>26 April</b> | <b>Issue</b> City of London coin cover                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>6 May</b>    | <b>Issue</b> Accession of King George V miniature sheet, 1st class Double head (George V and Elizabeth II) stamp; miniature sheet; press sheet; stamp ingot covers (2)                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>8 May</b>    | <b>Issue</b> The King's Stamps miniature sheet; press sheet; prestige book; presentation pack (Accession & King's Stamps miniature sheets); stamp cards (stamps & miniature sheets, 8 cards); Instant Smilers generic sheet; London 2010 Exhibition sheet; Jeffery Matthews London 2010 exhibition philatelic stamp sheet; Definitive Collector's Pack |
| <b>13 May</b>   | <b>Issue</b> Britain Alone stamps; miniature sheet; prestige book; stamp cards; Dunkirk Medal Cover                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>13 May</b>   | <b>Issue</b> Stamp rolls (coils) with security features: 500 × 1st and 2nd; 1000 × 1st and 2nd                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>18 May</b>   | <b>Issue</b> Halley's Comet commemorative sheet                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>20 May</b>   | <b>Withdrawal</b> Stamp book: 4 × 1st definitives, 2 × Flowers, marking 50th anniversary of NAFAS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

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Concorde  
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## Bulletin readers decide

With all votes now counted, we announce the results of our annual poll: the special stamps, presentation packs, first day covers and *Bulletin* authors you selected as your favourites of last year **238**

The **British Philatelic Bulletin** is published monthly by Royal Mail, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ. • **Editor** J R Holman • **Price** £1.20 each from Post Office Ltd philatelic outlets • **Annual subscription** £12.95 UK & Europe; £17.95 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 Ltd unless attributed to a specified author. Requests to reproduce any articles should be sent to the Editor, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ • **Design** Robert Maude • **Printed** in Great Britain by Westerham Press • **ISSN** 0953 8119 • Royal Mail is a trading name of Royal Mail Group Ltd. Registered in England & Wales no 4138203 registered office 100 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0HQ

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## This month A farewell from John Holman



John Holman, *Bulletin* Editor  
1988-2010.

It is just over a month now to the London 2010 International Stamp Exhibition – the highlight of the year-long Festival of Stamps (FOS) being held throughout the UK this year. Some of you may have attended FOS events by the time you read this. The International Exhibition is the latest in a series of major exhibitions held in London, dating back over many decades. This month Richard West writes about some of the exhibits that will appeal particularly to collectors of GB stamps. The exhibits are always worth seeing, although many collectors pay them scant attention in the rush to dealers and postal administration stands. I suggest that you allow some time to look at some of the exhibits – you can select those that interest you from Richard's article and the listing on the FOS website. I hope you all enjoy the exhibition and any FOS events you visit. Hopefully the FOS will encourage greater interest in the hobby of philately.

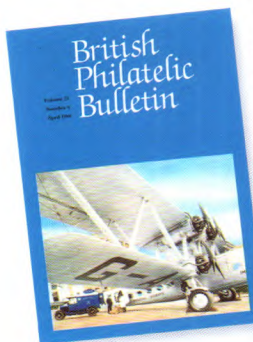
This month's *Bulletin* includes a feature by Glenn Morgan on how he put together his letter boxes exhibit for London 2010, a preview of the souvenirs being prepared by Royal Mail for the exhibition, and a report on the George V exhibition at Bath Postal Museum, just one of many FOS events. In addition, we have the results of our 2009 stamp poll, Glenn Morgan's regular look at the world of online philately, and a preview of the House of Stuart stamps which are to be issued in June, brought forward from the announced October date.

Twenty-two years ago this month my name first appeared in the *Bulletin* as Editor, and this month it appears for the final time. Following changes within Royal Mail, I have decided the time was right to depart, and to take on fresh challenges outside Royal Mail. Many of the popular features will continue in the *Bulletin*, and I hope to contribute myself from time to time.

It has been an eventful 22 years, during which I have worked with some fine philatelists as *Bulletin* contributors, and met a number of prominent people in the philatelic and wider worlds along the way. I thank all of my many contributors, past and present, and in particular a number who are sadly no longer with us: Len Newbery, Barbara Last, Jim Mackay, and Jim and Ron Negus. Their contributions are greatly missed. I must also thank our designers the late Angus Matheson and, until now, Robert Maude, who

have worked tirelessly on the magazine, and also three colleagues who over these 22 years acted as *Bulletin* Production Manager, in addition to their other Royal Mail work – Paul Burnett, Dean Price and currently Lee Ellwood.

I will remain active in philately, especially writing articles. As some of you know, I write regular columns in *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, and look forward to writing more for that esteemed journal. I wish all *Bulletin* readers well, and may you continue, like me, to get great enjoyment from your collections. Goodbye. JOHN HOLMAN ●



John Holman's first *Bulletin*  
as Editor, April 1988, and his  
final issue, this month.



## Stamp scene News and upcoming events:

### Glenn Morgan keeps you posted

**Haiti** The devastating earthquake disaster in Haiti has been marked by new stamps from France and the Vatican. The Vatican has overprinted 900,000 of its 65c Sanctuary of Our Lady of Graces stamp by 20c, and it is expected that sales will generate over \$210,000. France meanwhile has issued an XVI Marianne definitive stamp with text to its left showing solidarity with the people of Haiti. Each 1 euro stamp sold will have 44c donated to the French Red Cross. If all of the 7 million stamps are sold, then a donation of over 3 million euros will go a long way towards helping survivors to reconstruct their lives. The postal services of other countries may also have shown their financial support philatelically by the time this issue of the *Bulletin* appears in print •



**RPSL online** In January the Royal Philatelic Society London launched an online catalogue of its extensive philatelic resources stretching back more than 140 years to a time when the hobby was in its youth. From the beginning, parts of the contents are made available to collectors in the UK and worldwide, so for the first time philatelists who are not members of 'The Royal' have access to *The London Philatelist* online. The *LP* has been published without a break since 1892, and over the last 118 years a wealth of advanced philatelic knowledge has been printed in its 33,000 pages and, at [www.rpslcatalogue.org.uk](http://www.rpslcatalogue.org.uk) all of these are now available. Individual issues can be downloaded in searchable pdf format, with the price to non-members being £4 per magazine, payable only by PayPal.

The Society meets every two weeks, and displays and talks are usually accompanied by printed handouts. Its collection of these goes back to 1918, and these too are now available for download for a small fee.

A new and completely free-of-charge service to collectors is the Cumulative Index. Any philatelist knows that philatelic journals contain an enormous amount of information, often hidden because they lack an electronic index, or they are inaccessible since they have ceased publication. The RPSL has 2400 or so such journal titles, which makes its library one of the most complete in the philatelic world. Since June 2009, with generous help from other societies, it has set out to create a single index of all specialist society journals. Indexes will continue to be added progressively, as supplied by Societies and made compatible with the RPSL Catalogue database.

This is a very long-term project, and it is hoped that societies both in the English-speaking world and elsewhere will join with 'The Royal' to build a philatelic resource which could not exist without the internet. I have already found many references to articles of interest that I was simply unaware of previously •

#### RPSL online enquiries

Contact Chris King on 07768 422 840 or 020 8346 1366.

**The British Library** 96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB. The Library's website is at [www.bl.uk](http://www.bl.uk) and Philatelic Collections web pages are at [www.bl.uk/collections/philatelic](http://www.bl.uk/collections/philatelic)

**The British Library** The British Library Philatelic Collections will be playing a significant role in London 2010: Festival of Stamps throughout the year, with a number of free events. Full details of BL's involvement can be found at [www.bl.uk/collections/philatelic](http://www.bl.uk/collections/philatelic) and then go to the link British Library Philatelic Collections – at the London 2010 Festival of Stamps. These pages give the programme of presentations, tours and some information about the exhibition The British Library Philatelic Rarities which opened on 1 February and continues to the end of December 2010.

Presentations will include lectures relating to philatelic rarities, fakes and forgeries, resources, conservation, 1919 Newfoundland to England transatlantic flight attempts and the British Post Office on picture postcards. An interesting programme of monthly events that are sure to fill up quickly so be sure to book your free tickets now ●

**Enquiries** For information on more events taking place as part of London 2010: Festival of Stamps visit website [www.london2010.org.uk](http://www.london2010.org.uk)

**New Festival of Stamps partners** Three new partner venues for London 2010: Festival of Stamps are the Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum, Marylebone Cricket Club Museum – Lords, and Aberdeen Maritime Museum. Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum and Marylebone Cricket Club Museum will host stamp displays on themes of tennis and cricket (respectively). Dates will be announced soon. From July until November Aberdeen Maritime Museum will host a changing stamp display on maritime themes ●



Frogmore Paper Mill & Visitor Centre: telephone 01442 234600, email [frogmoremill@thepapertrail.org.uk](mailto:frogmoremill@thepapertrail.org.uk) or visit [www.thepapertrail.org.uk](http://www.thepapertrail.org.uk)

**The Paper Trail** I mentioned previously this fascinating museum (February 2008 and June 2009) and have heard from a reader that the Fourdrinier paper making machine is no longer running, and that the experience and settings may now be lost forever. Apparently, it came to a rather rapid end when my correspondent visited the site in the last week of running. Despite this setback there is still much to see, and I still recommend a visit by anyone interested in paper making. Located in Hemel Hempstead at Frogmore Mill and Apsley

Mill – the birthplace of paper's industrial revolution – the project allows visitors to learn about and experience the past of an industry that helped shape the modern world, the present of commercial recycled papermaking, and the future of one of the world's few sustainable industries – paper ●

**Philatelic Congress** Booking forms are available from Colin Searle, 4 Sunderland Place, Wellesbourne, Warwick CV35 9LE; phone 07879 665658; or e-mail [searlec@gmail.com](mailto:searlec@gmail.com)

**92nd Philatelic Congress of Great Britain** The 2010 event will be held at the Holiday Inn Hotel, Kenilworth. The venue is five miles equidistant between historic Coventry, Regency Royal Leamington Spa and medieval Warwick, and the dates are from 14:00 on 22 July through to after lunch on 25 July. Day visitors are most welcome, and deals have been struck with the hotel for those wishing to stay for part or all of the weekend. Details of events planned were unavailable at the time of going to press, but it is sure to be the usual good mix of visits, like-minded company, meetings and displays, including the prestigious signing of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists ●

**The Stuart Rossiter Memorial Lecture 2010** The 2010 lecture will be given by Gavin Fryer FRPSL, at 17.00 on 5 November at the Royal Philatelic Society London with the title 'How the Blind Have Been Served by the Post'. The lecture is based on Gavin's worldwide collection of postal items, and brings to view a number of aspects of social and postal reforms as well as opening the minds of many philatelists to the realisation that special postal tariffs and arrangements have been developed during a period of over a century. Gavin has been researching this subject for many years, and his lecture illustrates the context and postal story that begins in the 1820s and will include the struggle of those working for the blind against British government bureaucracy particularly in the period 1894 to 1906. The postal franchise laid down by the Universal Postal Union which became effective from 1966 has meant that gradually the use of adhesives to pre-pay postage has been eliminated, as will be illustrated. Most classes of mail can be found involving the blind including disaster mail and air freight ●

**Stuart Rossiter Lecture** Free tickets are available from: The Stuart Rossiter Trust, c/o David Beech, British Library, Philatelic Collections, 96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB or DRBeech@btinternet.com (early ordering advised).

Gavin Fryer's forthcoming book *Blindman's Mail – How the Blind Have Been Served by the Post*, is expected at the end of this summer.

**Delcampe Prestige** Delcampe is second only to eBay in size as an online collectables auction website. A few months back it launched Delcampe Prestige, which runs alongside its main website. Delcampe Prestige currently has the sales catalogues of ten major auction houses online and is expanding rapidly. All catalogue lots are searchable in the same way as the main site. You can browse the catalogues, submit offers and, for some sales, participate in auction sales from home, via the internet, as if you were in the saleroom. This will prove to be an increasingly important way of keeping up with auction items that you are interested in without needing to subscribe to lots of separate sales catalogues ●

**Delcampe Prestige** See [www.delcampe.net](http://www.delcampe.net) from where the Prestige site is accessible.

**Swift Postal** There is a new British-made postal kiosk on the market, from Maltese company Swift Postal. The kiosk was launched at PostExpo 2009 and I understand that the number of enquiries at the event was almost overwhelming. The kiosk can be used for dispensing postage labels, weighing letter and parcel mail and calculating postage rates. It can also process recorded or insured mail and has its own built-in posting box. Other potential uses for the kiosk include paying bills and fines, topping-up a mobile phone, or buying foreign currency and tickets for events, to name but a few. There are many other non-kiosk services from Swift Postal including retail, ForEx and philatelic bureau management software.

You can expect to increasingly see these kiosks installed in a number of overseas postal administrations, especially smaller countries who may not possess the technical know-how or experience of larger countries such as the UK. The one-stop approach is already appreciated, with several countries showing an interest in the product. Case studies for Guernsey Post and Malta Post can be read on the Swift Postal website.

Enquiries: Joseph Sultana, Managing Director, Swift Postal, 110 Testaferata Street, Msida XBX 1402 Malta; email [jsultana@swiftpostal.com](mailto:jsultana@swiftpostal.com) or visit [www.swiftpostal.com](http://www.swiftpostal.com) ●



## Royal Mail news New issues and products

**New postal rates** New postal rates will come into effect on 6 April. Basic 1st and 2nd class inland rates (standard size to 100g) will increase to 41p and 32p, letters to Europe (up to 20g) to 60p, and worldwide airmail to 67p (10g) and 97p (20g). UK Large Letters (to 100g) will cost 66p 1st class, 51p 2nd class. The Recorded Delivery fee is reduced 1p to 74p, but the minimum Special Delivery rate is increased to £5.05. Standard UK parcel rates remain the same. Airletters (aerogrammes) are increased to 79p, or £3.99 for pack of six. The fee for International Signed For and Ainsure services are increased to £4.25 and £4.90 respectively.

New definitives went on sale on 30 March: 60p emerald, 67p rhododendron, 88p shocking pink, 97p mauve, and £1.46 dark turquoise; also new 60p and 97p country stamps for the European and airmail rates. Cylinders for the new definitives are all D1, all printed 'two up' so with two cylinder positions for specialists. Cylinders for the country stamps are: England D1 D1 (two up), Scotland 60p D1 x3, 97p D1 x5 (one up), Wales 60p D1 x3, 97p D1 x4 (one up), and Northern Ireland 60p D1 x2, 97p D1 x3 (one up).

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

The following values (including country stamps) were withdrawn from general sale at Post Office branches prior to the rate increase: 17p, 22p, 54p, 56p, 62p, 81p and 90p. The 9p value will be sold to exhaustion •



Left: the new pack containing the five new definitives plus two 20g overseas stamps and the two Recorded Signed For stamps issued last November, price £9.05. Below: country pack with the eight new (60p and 97p) stamps, price £6.80.





## ROYAL MAIL DEFINITIVE STAMPS



**Definitives pack** A new pack available from 8 May contains all the valued definitives, from 1p to £1.46, plus NVIs and the Recorded Signed For stamps. Price £16.10.

**Special issues** There is one issue of special stamps this month – Mammals. This set was previewed here in February. This month we preview the House of Stuart issue which goes on sale on 15 June.

The cylinder numbers and colours for the Accession of George v 1st class stamp (with George v and Elizabeth II double-head) are: c1 red c1 phosphor. The stamps are all-over phosphor, perf 14.5, and in sheets yielding vertical gutter pairs.

The cylinders and colours for the Britain Alone stamps (13 May) are: c1 cream c1 pale olive-green c1 black c1 phosphor. The 1st class stamps are printed 'six up' so there are six cylinder block positions for specialists to collect. The 60p, 67p and 97p values are all printed 'two up'. The stamps have all-over phosphor, are perforated 14.5, and in sheets providing vertical gutter pairs.

The issues for 2010 are listed below, with alternative First Day of Issue postmark locations. Please note that there is a change in the order to that previously published: the House of Stuart issue will now be in June, and the Children's Books set in October. Stamp values and other information will be published nearer the time of issue. ●



Action for Species: Mammals, this month's special issue.

|                                                                   |                                                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>13.04</b> Action for Species 4, Mammals: Batts Corner, Farnham | <b>27.07</b> Olympic & Paralympic Games 2: Rowington, Warwick * |
| <b>06.05</b> Accession of King George V: Sandringham, Norfolk     | <b>19.08</b> Stage Musicals: Dancers End, Tring                 |
| <b>08.05</b> The King's stamps: London N1                         | <b>16.09</b> Great British Railways: York                       |
| <b>13.05</b> Britain Alone (commemoration of 1940): Dover, Kent   | <b>12.10</b> Children's Books: Hartfield, East Sussex           |
| <b>15.06</b> Monarchs 4: House of Stuart: Royal Oak, Filey        | <b>02.11</b> Christmas: Bethlehem, Llandelo                     |
|                                                                   | Provisional date *                                              |

**2011 stamp issues** The subjects for next year's special issues are as follows. Exact dates and values will be announced nearer the time of issue •

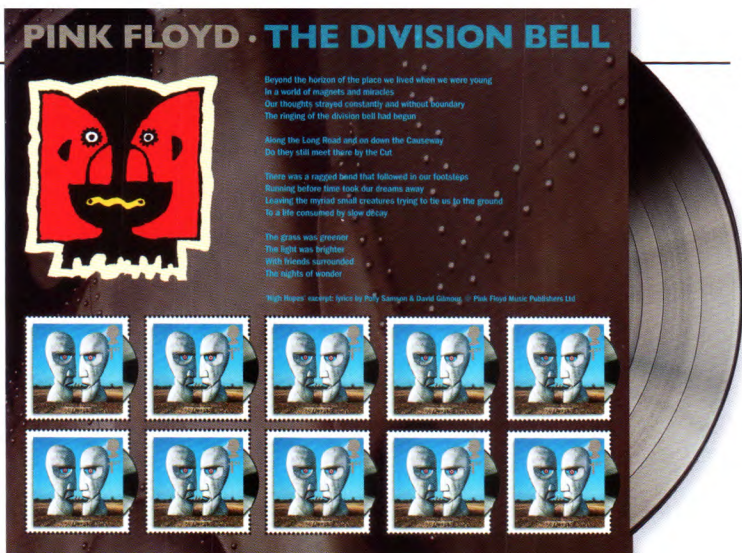
|                 |                              |               |                            |                  |                             |
|-----------------|------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>January</b>  | Children's TV classics       | <b>April</b>  | Royal Shakespeare Company  | <b>September</b> | Centenary of UK aerial post |
| <b>February</b> | Classic Locomotives: England | <b>May</b>    | Arts and Crafts            | <b>September</b> | House of Hanover            |
| <b>February</b> | Medical Breakthroughs        | <b>June</b>   | Thomas the Tank Engine     | <b>October</b>   | An A - Z of UK Landmarks    |
| <b>March</b>    | Myth and Magic               | <b>July *</b> | Olympic & Paralympic Games | <b>November</b>  | Christmas                   |
| <b>March</b>    | Worldwide Fund for Nature    | <b>August</b> | Crown Jewels               |                  | Provisional date *          |

# **Pink Floyd souvenir sheet**

Royal Mail and the rock band Pink Floyd have collaborated to create a sheet containing ten stamps of their album *The Division Bell*. Available from Tallents House at £4.75 (order code S1002). The first day of availability was 6 March, and handstamping is extended by 28 days (to 3 April) due to the late announcement.

# **City of London coin cover**

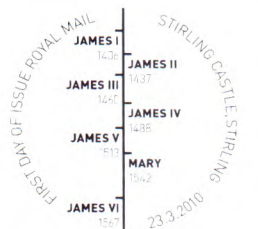
Below is the new coin cover, available from 26 April, price £15.95. The coin is shown at right at actual size.



# **THE CITY of LONDON**



The Royal Monarch, Lancaster, Promotion C778 BY



**House of Stewart** The cachet cover is shown at right, with its cancellation above.



**THE COURT OF  
KINGS AND QUEENS  
STIRLING CASTLE**

Royal Mail cachet cover

ROYAL MAIL, TALLENTS HOUSE, 21 SOUTH DYLE CRESCENT, EDINBURGH EH12 9PB

**Monarchs** Shown above is the cachet cover for the third of the Monarchs issues, bearing the House of Stewart stamps, a Stirling Castle cachet and special Stirling handstamp. The cachet covers for the Houses of Lancaster & York and House of Tudor stamps, shown here in May 2008 (p268) and June 2009 (p301), are still available from Tallents House, price £9.99 each.

The third issue in the Kings & Queens prestige medal collection is now available, price £44.95 •

**New stamp books** A book of six 1st class definitive stamps with an advertisement for the London 2010 Festival of Stamps is now available, price £2.34 (£2.46 from 6 April). A new book of six 1st class stamps, including the Otter and Hedgehog from the Mammals issue, goes on sale on 15 June, price £2.46 •

#### London 2010 Festival of Stamps

International Stamp Exhibition  
8th - 15th May 2010  
Business Design Centre  
Islington, London N1 0QH  
For further information:  
[www.london2010.org.uk](http://www.london2010.org.uk)



LONDON 2010 FESTIVAL OF STAMPS

**Security Machins** Coils (rolls) of 500 and 1000 1st class and 2nd class definitives with a security feature will be available from 13 May. These will be conventionally gummed and will have the 'ROYAL MAIL' security overprint, but not the oval slits found on other security definitives printed on self-adhesive paper. There will be no first day of issue facilities •

**International Reply Coupon** The June 2009 *Bulletin* featured an illustration of the new international reply coupon from the website of the Universal Postal Union. IRC collector Michael St J Wright informs us: 'Unfortunately the UPU amended the design before it came out. The principal difference was to add, above the left-hand handstamp box, in bright blue, the words 'Unis contre le/CHANGEMENT CLIMATIQUE' and a tiny emblem above the letters PNUE (the word 'contre' was black, and in italics). This necessitated a rearrangement of the UPU's title and emblem in the top left space. The coupon was also modified by a pale extension of the design to the bottom of the coupon, within which under ultra-violet light one can see five globes. It was also open to issuing countries to print their national flag next to the small hologram on the coupon, and some countries (eg Cyprus and Germany) have done this. The price of the IRC in the UK will be raised to £1.40 from 6 April. It can then be exchanged for stamps to the value of 67p.' •

Mr St J Wright's article about the centenary of the IRC was published here in October 2007.

**British Postal Museum & Archive** A new exhibition, called 'Treasures of the Archive', will open in May 2010. Among the unique treasures on display will be a sheet of Penny Black stamps and the original die, as well as original evidence from the Great Train Robbery of 1963.

Events during April are: open afternoon at the Museum Store (7th); talk on Britain's Postal Heritage by Bettina Trabant (at Museum Store, 8th); Saturday opening of Royal Mail Archive Search Room (10th); talk 'Ten Collections, One Collector' by Dane Garrod (22nd); and a tour of the Royal Mail Archive (29th). For further details see the website or telephone number opposite.

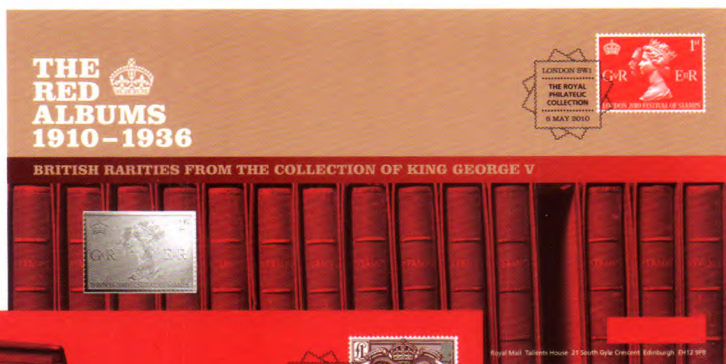
An exhibition on the stamps and postal services of the reign of George V, a joint effort of the BPMA and the Royal Philatelic Collection, opens at the Guildhall Art Gallery in London on 7 May and runs until July. Shown here is a detail from a poster which will be included in this exhibition •



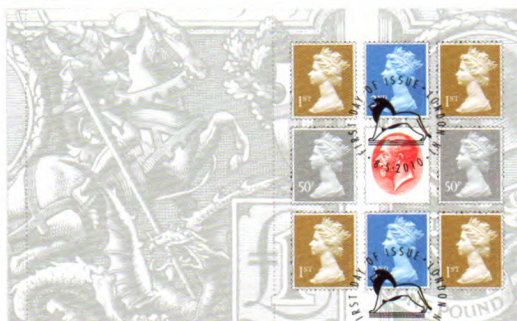
**The BPMA** Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL (near Mount Pleasant). Phone 020 7239 2570 or see [www.postalheritage.org.uk](http://www.postalheritage.org.uk)

# Festival of Stamps Royal Mail celebrates a

**Ingot covers** Right: George V British Rarities Stamp Ingot Cover (limited edition) featuring sterling silver Machin and George V double-head stamp ingot. Below: George V Commonwealth Rarities Stamp Ingot Cover (limited edition) with sterling silver Mackennal Downey stamp ingot.

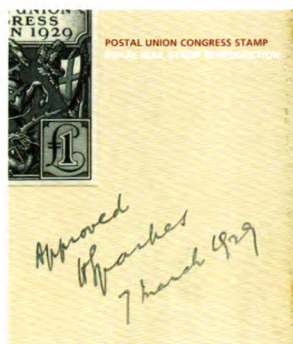


**Souvenir covers set** A set of four covers bearing the panes from the London 2010 Festival of Stamps prestige stamp book. One of these covers is shown at right.



ROYAL MAIL is preparing a range of products for sale at the London 2010 International Stamp Exhibition next month. As well as those shown here, the range includes: **Accession of King George V souvenir cover** a souvenir cover bearing the Accession of King George V miniature sheet • **The King's Stamps souvenir cover** a souvenir cover bearing The King's Stamps miniature sheet • **London 2010 Festival of Stamps postcard pack** postcards featuring images from King George V's reign • **Smilers sheet** a personalised version of your own 10th anniversary Smilers sheet • **Generic sheet** featuring a variety of stamps – a celebration of Smilers' 10th birthday •

## special occasion with a set of fine souvenirs



**Exhibition sheet** Top: features the 'Hello' stamps on a backdrop of popular London landmarks.

**Jeffery Matthews philatelic stamp sheet** Above left: this unique sheet features all of the gummed stamps in the Jeffery Matthews colour palette.

**Postal Union Congress pack** Above: printed facsimiles of the Postal Union Congress £1 stamp, sourced from the original dies.

**Overprint of the Accession of King George V miniature sheet** Left: the miniature sheet with a special London 2010 Festival of Stamps overprint.

## Results of 2009 Bulletin readers poll

LAST December you were invited to vote for your favourite 2009 set of special stamps, favourite individual stamp, FDC design and presentation pack of 2009, also your favourite *Bulletin* contributor. This was our 24th annual stamp poll and a good response was received, from nearly 800 readers worldwide. Our thanks to all who voted. Some of you added comments (short, lengthy and in a few cases very lengthy) about the stamp designs and about special stamp issues in general. All of these comments are circulated to senior staff in Royal Mail's Stamps & Philatelic section, so they are aware of readers' views.

**Favourite set** As always, points were allocated for each vote for the set: three points for first choice, two for second, and one for third. This enables us to get a clear picture of the relative popularity of each issue. The results are shown opposite. The Design Classics issue was the clear winner, with nearly 140 points more than the second favourite set, Endangered Plants. Darwin came third.

Past winners were: 1987 Flowers, 1988 Linnean Society, 1989 Birds, 1990 Queen Mother, 1991 Maps, 1992 Wintertime, 1993 Autumn, 1994 Age of Steam, 1995 Christmas, 1996 Wildfowl and Wetlands, 1997 Great Tudor (Henry VIII), 1998 Lighthouses, 1999 Scientists' Tale, 2000 Tree and Leaf, 2001 Weather, 2002 London Bridges, 2003 Extreme Endeavours, 2004 Woodland Animals, 2005 Trafalgar, 2006 Brunel, 2007 Birds and 2008 Cathedrals.

**Favourite stamps** You voted the Concorde stamp from the Design Classics issue as your favourite individual stamp, with 45 votes, with the London Bus stamp and the Giant Tortoise stamp from the Darwin miniature sheet close behind, in second and third positions.

For the record, the previous favourite individual stamps were: 1996 Wildfowl and Wetlands 19p, 1997 The Great Tudor (Henry VIII) 26p, 1998 Endangered Species 20p, 1999 Scientists' Tale 64p, 2000 Above and Beyond 19p, 2001 Flags – Union Jack, 2002 London Bridges 1st class, 2003 Coro-

nation 1st class (Cecil Beaton's Coronation portrait of The Queen), 2004 Woodland Animals 1st class Red squirrel, 2005 Trooping the Colour 1st class, and from 2006 to 2008 the Lest We Forget Poppy stamps.

### **Favourite FDC envelope and presentation pack**

This was the fourth year that a poll included your favourite Royal Mail FDC envelope and presentation pack designs. The four favourites for each were: FDC – Postboxes (73 votes), Endangered Plants (36), Design Classics (30) and Darwin (29); presentation pack – Postboxes (52), Darwin (34), Endangered Plants (33), and Design Classics (28).

### **Favourite Bulletin authors**

This was the 14th year that we asked you to vote for your favourite *Bulletin* author. Douglas Myall was yet again voted your favourite for his respected 'Mainly Machins' articles, with Richard West in second place, and Colin Baker third. As usual there were some kind comments on individual authors and their articles, showing yet again that readers appreciate the efforts of our fine team of freelance writers.

### **Draw winners**

All voting forms were entered into a prize draw, and 2009 Yearbooks will be sent to: J Keestra of Netherlands, A Parker of Greece, B Megson of Herefordshire, Miss B Meek of Norfolk, and A Clarke of Northern Ireland.

### **Online poll**

For the third time the stamp poll was also conducted online, for collectors to vote for their favourite set of stamps. 517 collectors took part. As with the traditional poll, 3 points were awarded for 1st choice, 2 points for second, and 1 point for third. Design Classics was the favourite set for both online and *Bulletin* voters; Mythical Creatures and Christmas were much more popular with online voters.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** *My thanks to my colleague Sarah Jones for totaling up the voting figures and extracting the voting forms bearing your comments* ●

**Poll results** The number following each value in the Favourite Stamps section below refers to the illustrations in the December *Bulletin* (pages 114-115). Stamp numbers 7, 27, 30, 35, 37, 41, 49, 61, 86, 87, 91, 94, 96, 98, 99 and 104 received no votes. Favourite author Douglas Myall is shown below.

**FAVOURITE STAMPS**

|                                      |    |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| Design Classics: Concorde 5          | 45 |
| Design Classics: Bus 10              | 42 |
| Darwin: Tortoise 20                  | 41 |
| Design Classics: Tube map 9          | 32 |
| Plants: Palm House 53                | 28 |
| Plants: Pagoda 55                    | 24 |
| Christmas 1st Large 102              | 20 |
| Postboxes: George V 63               | 17 |
| Celebrating Wales: Assembly 24       | 16 |
| Design Classics: Mini 3              | 15 |
| Darwin 81p 18                        | 14 |
| Postboxes: Edward VII 64             | 13 |
| Design Classics: Phone box 6         | 10 |
| Burns: portrait 12                   | 10 |
| Celebrating Wales: St David 23       | 10 |
| Industrial Revolution: Watt 26       | 10 |
| Mythical Creatures: Unicorns 58      | 10 |
| Darwin 1st 13                        | 9  |
| Darwin: Mockingbird 22               | 9  |
| Design Classics: Spitfire 1          | 8  |
| Design Classics: Miniskirt 2         | 8  |
| Darwin 72p 17                        | 8  |
| Industrial Revolution: Wedgwood 28   | 7  |
| Industrial Revolution: Stephenson 29 | 7  |
| Monarchs: Henry VIII 34              | 7  |
| Fire & Rescue 1st 67                 | 7  |
| Burns: Man's a Man 11                | 6  |
| Darwin 48p 14                        | 6  |
| Darwin: Cormorant 19                 | 6  |
| Monarchs: Elizabeth I 38             | 6  |
| Plants: Leek 43                      | 6  |
| Plants: Pink 52                      | 6  |
| Plants: Seed Bank 54                 | 6  |
| Eminent Britons: Busby 81            | 6  |
| Olympics: Equestrian 95              | 6  |
| Plants: Orchid 45                    | 5  |
| Plants: Sackler Crossing 56          | 5  |
| Naval Uniforms: Royal Marines 77     | 5  |
| Christmas 1st 101                    | 5  |
| Darwin 56p 16                        | 4  |
| Darwin: Iguana 21                    | 4  |
| Tudors: Mary Rose 39                 | 4  |

|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Mythical Creatures: Dragons 57     | 4 |
| Postboxes: Victoria 65             | 4 |
| Fire & Rescue 62p 70               | 4 |
| Fire & Rescue 90p 72               | 4 |
| Eminent Britons: Conan Doyle 84    | 4 |
| Eminent Britons: Campbell 85       | 4 |
| Mythical Creatures: Pixies 60      | 3 |
| Fire & Rescue 54p 68               | 3 |
| Fire & Rescue 56p 69               | 3 |
| Naval Uniforms: Able Seaman 76     | 3 |
| Olympics: Canoe Slalom 89          | 3 |
| Olympics: Archery 90               | 3 |
| Christmas 2nd Large 10             | 3 |
| Design Classics: Anglepoise 4      | 2 |
| Design Classics: Penguin Book 8    | 2 |
| Darwin 50p 15                      | 2 |
| Industrial Revolution: Boulton 25  | 2 |
| Industrial Revolution: Brindley 31 | 2 |
| Monarchs: Henry VII 3              | 2 |
| Plants: Woundwort 48               | 2 |
| Plants: Plymouth Pear 50           | 2 |
| Fire & Rescue 81p 71               | 2 |
| Naval Uniforms: Captain 74         | 2 |
| Eminent Britons: Wollstonecraft 83 | 2 |
| Olympics: Aquatics 92              | 2 |
| Industrial Revolution: McAdam 32   | 1 |
| Monarchs: Jane Grey 36             | 1 |
| Tudors: Cloth of Gold 40           | 1 |
| Tudors: Drake 42                   | 1 |
| Plants: Plantain 44                | 1 |
| Plants: Milkwort 46                | 1 |
| Plants: Saxifage 47                | 1 |
| Plants: Knotgrass 51               | 1 |
| Mythical Creatures: Giants 59      | 1 |
| Mythical Creatures: Fairies 6      | 1 |
| Postboxes: Elizabeth II 66         | 1 |
| Naval Uniforms: Deck Officer 73    | 1 |
| Naval Uniforms: Second Officer 75  | 1 |
| Naval Uniforms: Admiral 7          | 1 |
| Eminent Britons: Perry 79          | 1 |
| Eminent Britons: Purcell 80        | 1 |
| Eminent Britons: Gladstone 82      | 1 |
| Eminent Britons: Ryle 88           | 1 |

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| Olympics: Boccia 93        | 1 |
| Olympics: Weightlifting 97 | 1 |
| Christmas 56p 103          | 1 |
| Christmas £1.35 105        | 1 |

**FAVOURITE SETS: BULLETIN POLL**

|                       |     |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Design Classics       | 783 |
| Endangered Plants     | 645 |
| Darwin                | 514 |
| Industrial Revolution | 506 |
| Postboxes             | 499 |
| Fire & Rescue         | 277 |
| Tudors                | 268 |
| Christmas             | 258 |
| Naval Uniforms        | 227 |
| Eminent Britons       | 201 |
| Mythical Creatures    | 140 |
| Olympics              | 103 |
| Robert Burns          | 43  |
| Celebrating Wales     | 37  |

**FAVOURITE SETS: ONLINE POLL**

|                       |     |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Design Classics       | 377 |
| Mythical Creatures    | 360 |
| Postboxes             | 344 |
| Darwin                | 261 |
| Christmas             | 255 |
| Endangered Plants     | 243 |
| Tudors                | 241 |
| Fire & Rescue         | 179 |
| Robert Burns          | 167 |
| Industrial Revolution | 166 |
| Olympics              | 155 |
| Naval Uniforms        | 134 |
| Eminent Britons       | 94  |
| Celebrating Wales     | 92  |



## British Monarchs Next in the series: seven



SEVEN stamps and a miniature sheet commemorating the House of Stuart go on sale at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and Royal Mail Tallents House on 15 June. Please note, this issue was originally scheduled for October. The stamps feature: 1st class, James I (1603-25) and Charles I (1625-49); 60p, Charles II (1660-85) and James II (1685-88); 67p, William III (1689-1702) and Mary II (1689-93); and 88p, Anne (1702-14). James I of England was James VI of Scotland (1567-1625) and James II was James VII of Scotland (1685-88). William III, of the Dutch House of Orange, married James II's elder daughter Mary; they reigned jointly as King and Queen.

The miniature sheet contains 1st class, 60p, 88p and 97p stamps depicting William Harvey (1628 Blood Circulation), the Civil War (1645 Battle of Naseby), John Milton (1667 *Paradise Lost*) and Castle Howard (built by John Vanbrugh, 1712). The stamps and sheet were designed by Atelier, who have designed the previous issues in this Monarchs series.

For sponsored handstamps and Handstamp Centres, see the *British Postmark Bulletin*. Subscriptions: £12.25 UK / Europe, or £24.95 elsewhere. For a free sample copy write to: British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ.

**FIRST DAY FACILITIES** Orders for serviced FDCs must reach Tallents House by the day of issue. Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (for Tallents House postmark), or to their nearest Royal Mail Special Handstamp Centres (Royal Oak, Filey postmark) marking the outer envelope 'FD1035' or 'FD1036'. Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for the Royal Oak postmark.



**Stuarts on stamps** This is the first issue dedicated to the Stuart monarchs, but James I (VI of Scotland) featured in the 1999 Millennium Christians' Tale set (left) and in the House of Stewart set earlier this year. Other stamps on a Stuart era theme are Inigo Jones (1973), Scottish Heraldry (1987) and Civil War (1992). The Stuart monarchs ended with Queen Anne in 1714, but supporters of the Royal House of Stewart/Stuart, known as Jacobites (after James II) continued to press their cause. There were several Jacobite risings, notably in 1715 and 1745-46. James II's grandson, Prince Charles Edward (Bonnie Prince Charlie), leader of 'the 45' appeared on a 1989 Scottish aerogramme; he raised his standard at Glenfinnan, near the famous railway viaduct (built later of course) shown on the 47p British Journey Scotland stamp of 2003 ●

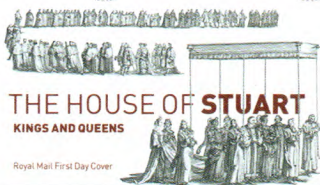
## Kings and Queens of the House of Stuart



|                             |        |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| Set of stamps               | £ 4.24 |
| Miniature sheet             | £ 2.86 |
| Pack (stamps & min sheet)   | £ 7.60 |
| First day envelope          | £ 0.30 |
| FDC stamps (UK customers)   | £ 5.46 |
| FDC stamps (overseas)       | £ 4.65 |
| FDC min sheet (UK)          | £ 3.84 |
| FDC min sheet (overseas)    | £ 3.27 |
| Stamp cards set (12 cards)  | £ 4.80 |
| Miniature sheet press sheet | £66.05 |
| Cachet cover                | £ 9.99 |

## THE AGE OF THE STUARTS

| BLOOD CIRCULATION<br>1628 | BATTLE OF NASEBY<br>1645 | PARADISE LOST<br>1667           | CASTLE HOWARD<br>1712  |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| JAMES I<br>1603           | CHARLES I<br>1625        | ENGLISH CIVIL WARS<br>1642-1651 | CHARLES II<br>1660     |
|                           |                          |                                 | WILLIAM & MARY<br>1689 |
|                           |                          |                                 | JAMES II<br>1685       |
|                           |                          |                                 | ANNE<br>1702           |



Mrs J Robinson  
200 Manorbie Road  
Ilkeston  
Derbyshire  
DE7 4AB

Royal Mail Tallents House 21 South Gyle Crescent Edinburgh EH12 9PB



15 & 2010

GIVE ME THE  
liberty to know, to  
utter, and to argue  
freely according to  
conscience, above  
all liberties.

JOHN MILTON

15 & 2010

## Britain Alone The new prestige stamp book

A NEW PRESTIGE STAMP BOOK, entitled *Britain Alone*, will go on sale on 13 May. It contains four panes of stamps, as shown here. The book has been written by Nigel Fountain, a journalist and author of books on this period, and printed by Cartor Security Printing.

The serviced FDC will bear the Machin definitives stamp pane. The price of the book is £9.76; the serviced FDC will be £2.36 for UK customers, and £2.01 for overseas customers.

For details of the Britain Alone stamps and Dunkirk miniature sheet see the March *Bulletin* (pages 211-13) •

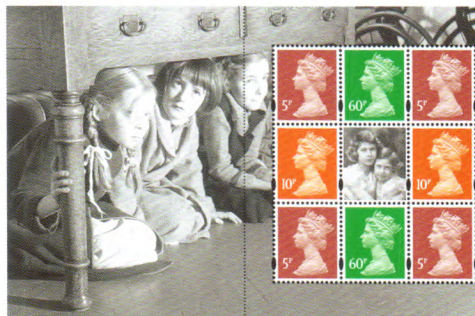
### The book will contain four panes:

**Pane 1** Machin definitives 5p, 60p, 5p (top and bottom rows), 2 x 10p separated by label showing Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret (middle row)

**Pane 2** Britain Alone stamps: 1st class Winston Churchill, 1st class Land Girls (top row), 67p Women in Factories, 97p Royal Broadcast (bottom row)

**Pane 3** Britain Alone stamps: 67p Air Raid Wardens, 60p Home Guard (top row), 97p Fire Service, 60p Evacuees (bottom row)

**Pane 4** Stamps from Dunkirk miniature sheet: 1st, 60p (top row), 88p, 97p (bottom row)



## 'That damned fool' King George V as stamp collector: part 2, by Douglas Muir

FROM THE MOMENT he became King, on 6 May 1910, George availed himself of the opportunity to extend his collection, in particular his specialised section of British stamps. As early as 25 May, the Postmaster General, Herbert Samuel, noted: 'In the preparation of the new issues of Postage Stamps, the King wishes to have, for retention by His Majesty, two specimens of all proofs or reproductions of designs in all stages.'

There was another note to Frederick Atterbury at the Inland Revenue asking for two extra specimens of all productions, but this does not seem to have been fully carried out, at least in terms of proofs, while John Tilleard was the King's adviser. Tilleard died in September 1913; the King mourned his death 'not only as one of our leading philatelists, but as a personal friend'.

**New curator** On 13 October 1913, the King's Assistant Private Secretary, Sir Frederick Ponsonby, wrote to Sir Matthew Nathan at the Inland Revenue: 'The King desires me to tell you that he has appointed Mr E. D. Bacon to be Curator of his stamp collection. Any future issue of stamps should therefore be forwarded to E. D. Bacon Esq., Buckingham Palace, and marked not to be forwarded.'

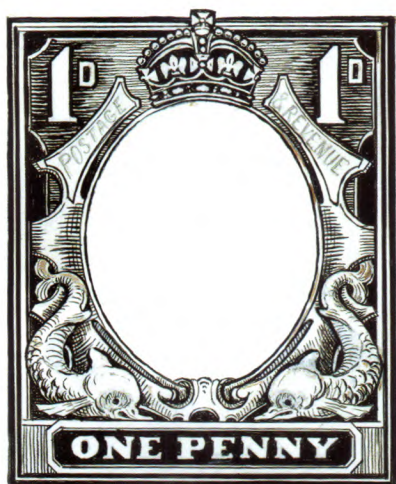
Unsaid, but perhaps implied, was that he should be aided in any request. Bacon was certainly to take that attitude. Edward Denny Bacon had begun collecting by 1880 when, at the age of 20, he joined the Philatelic Society, London. He retired from the family business at 35 and devoted his life to stamps. His first task was to mount and describe the collection of his friend Thomas Tapling, who had bequeathed his famous collection to the British Museum. He then advised Henry Duveen and the Earl of Crawford and created the catalogue of the latter's great philatelic library. When Tilleard died, Bacon was not only the obvious choice as his successor, but available.

Four other candidates had proposed themselves, including the Rev Robert B Earée, author of the standard work on early forgeries. Once appointed, Bacon worked at Buckingham Palace two or three days a week for the next 25 years, mounting and describing the King's collection, and gathering more material. Bacon was a modest man, unassuming and partly deaf. He attacked his task with gusto and persistence and was extremely acquisitive on the King's behalf. Repeatedly, he wrote to all involved in the production of British stamps – the Royal Mint, the Inland Revenue and the Post Office – for material for the King's collection, visiting each several times in turn and following this up with many requests, carefully written on Palace notepaper in his own hand. In character, this seems more like the King, and so may have been at his instigation. ►



This series is from the new book *George V and the GPO: Stamps, Conflict & Creativity*, available from Tallents House in May at £19.95 + £2.95 UK handling. Order code VA161.





Above: Mackennal's original artwork for the Dolphin design. Right: Pitcher's final design for postcards and wrappers, signed at the King's request.



Edward Denny Bacon

Just over a month after his appointment Bacon began his quest, responding to a sending of new stamps, as per the standing arrangement. He wrote in reply to Percy Thompson at the Stamping Department of the Inland Revenue: 'Referring to my interview with you some short time since, I told His Majesty that you had promised to see if you could obtain specimens from the Mint or elsewhere of proofs or trial impressions from the dies and plates made for the various values of postage stamps issued during the last two years or so. I hope you may be successful in obtaining such specimens for His Majesty, who is greatly interested in all kinds of proof impressions... I should be glad if you could let me have any proof specimens you obtain, before December 14th, on which day I have an interview with His Majesty and could lay the specimens before him.'

This was the first of many such letters carefully invoking the King's name and authority. He then visited the Royal Mint, and Edward Rigg made a note of what occurred: 'Mr Bacon called on Tuesday the 6th inst and again on the 20th inst & took away all original drawings & sketches we had together with a large number of trial prints, photographs & enlargements of stamp frames & effigies used in the early stages of the new Georgian stamps. Today I have sent him two of these Enlargements to complete a series and the series of all stages of the first penny stamps which I prepared in June 1911 to meet the criticisms passed by the P.M.G. on the Mint work a few days after the Coronation. The necessity for exhibiting this series did not however arise. I am confident that this series is unique.'

More essays and drawings were to follow over the years and in November 1915 Rigg, at the Mint, found 'in turning out a cupboard' 'Early drawing by Mr Mackennal for the halfpenny and three-halfpence-dolphins,

15<sup>th</sup> 1910. Original sketch by Mr Mackennal  
for the stamps of 2/6 to £1, signed by him.



Photograph of sketch  
reduced to stamp size.



*Bertram Mackennal*

Ditto of the first penny-lion couchant, Ditto of the present frame of the twopenny, &c, and Drawing by Mr Pitcher of the frame for the halfpenny postcard.' Bacon replied: 'I had the honour of seeing the King today and I shewed him the original sketches of Mr Bertram Mackennal and Mr Pitcher that you gave me yesterday. His Majesty desired me to say how pleased he is to have obtained these sketches and he thanks you for sending them to him. His Majesty would much like Mr Pitcher to append his signature to his sketch and I return it to you for this to be done. Mr Mackennal's signature for his sketches, I will see him about myself. His Majesty was also pleased with the proofs of the dies of the Postage Due stamps. I told him that there are some other proofs to follow.'

Pitcher's signature was obtained, as was Mackennal's, and other proofs did, indeed, follow. These were in addition to the blocks of four of issued stamps including the 'Control' number in the margin, which indicated the year of printing, which were sent by the Post Office Stores Department.

Probably as a result of Bacon's discussions with the King an enquiry was made by Wigram to the Treasury about the 1839 Treasury Competition entries. Some 2600 suggestions had been made then about postal reform which resulted in the issuing of the world's first postage stamp, the Penny Black. Some had included potential designs. 'Should these papers and designs be forthcoming', he wrote, 'the King would be very grateful if you would let him have them for this collection together with the letters and description of the designs submitted by the Senders.

The papers had been sent to the Public Record Office, and the Treasury official felt they would have to be regarded as 'technically official' in the charge of the Master of the Rolls, who had 'no authority to surrender them.'

Mackennal's original design for the Seahorse high values, signed by him and written up by Bacon.



Above: An entry for the 1839 Treasury Competition by John Little, suggesting a book of stamps.

Portrait of King George V © BPMA. All other illustrations are reproduced by gracious permission of Her Majesty The Queen, to whom copyright belongs.

Douglas Muir is Curator, Philately, of the British Postal Museum & Archive.

the Victorian sheets with Seymour Bennett (Controller of Stamping). He then drew up a long list of those where two or more sheets had come from the same printing plate. The implication was that they were duplicate, but in fact they were all different. He wrote: 'His Majesty desires a specimen cut from one of the corners of each of the "Imprimatur" sheets, showing the marginal plate number and the full margins of the sheet on two sides. In the case of India and the colonial sheets of Mauritius, etc, if the plate number is over the second stamp from the corner, it will be best to cut off a pair, so as to get the full margin of the sheet on two sides.'

A large package of these was eventually sent at the beginning of May; though yet more requests were to follow, for 'Telegraph stamps and examples of every die used on embossed postal stationery. There then seems to have been a pause, possibly while all this material was dealt with ●

Text © Douglas Muir 2010

## 'Must-see' GB exhibits at London 2010 by Richard West

It's getting ever closer – the international stamp exhibition in London will open its doors at the Business Design Centre in London's Islington on Saturday, 8 May, and run through to Saturday, 15 May. There will be much to enjoy, from Royal Mail's large sales area, to the many dealers, auctioneers and postal administrations, occupying over 125 stands. If you are bringing a young collector, remember that the Stamp Active Network is providing a special activity area close to Royal Mail's stand. Plus there will be the exhibits.

The displays come from collectors across the world, and feature material that is likewise world-wide. On this occasion the exhibits will be shown in two sections: on the first four days (8-11 May) entries in the Traditional, Revenue, Postal Stationery, One-frame and Youth classes will be on display; on the second four days (12-15 May), it will be the turn of the Postal History, Thematic Philately and Aerophilately classes. In each half there will be 1250 frames of material to savour.

Those whose particular interest is Great Britain will need plenty of time to examine all that is on offer. If you want to see how the design of the Penny Black evolved, and the initial use of both this stamp and the Twopenny Blue, then start at the first frame in the Traditional Class, for Alan Holyoake's display 'The First Line Engraved Postage Stamps'. Moving on, you will come to Aamir Mohamad Khan's study, including repairs and states, of Plate v as used for the 1d Black and 1d Red. Next will be Franz Zehenter's 'The Story of the 1d Postage Stamp of Great Britain from 1840-1879', tracing the development of this value from the Penny Black and over the next 40 years.

The manner in which the notion of perforating stamps came about is told through Raymond Simpson's 'Evolution of British Stamp Perforation 1840-1880: Its Origins, Development and Application'. An exhibit from the late Lady Mairi Bury also traces 'The Line Engraved issues, 1854-1879', including the introduction of perforation.

**More modern material** Moving on to other reigns, Graham Horton will be showing his 'Proofs and Essays for King Edward VII Adhesives', while Mike Jackson will present the 'King George V Downy Head – Plates, Paper and Perforation'. Bringing us more up to date Anthony Walker will show his study of the 'Pre-Decimal Machine Definitives 1967-1971'.

Away from the stamps issued by the Post Office comes David Sigee's exhibit 'The College Stamps of Oxford University' featuring those seven colleges that produced their own stamps and postal stationery from 1871 and 1886.

There are two exhibits of specific interest to Great Britain collectors in the Postal Stationery class. The first comes from Neil Sargent, whose exhibit 'Queen Victoria Stamped-to-Order Envelopes' examines these private envelopes including the colour trials and proofs. Alan Holyoake's second exhibit, 'The Introduction and Usage of the Mulready Envelope and Letter Sheet Stationery', is a fascinating study.

Completing the exhibits of Great Britain material on show on the first four days (8-11 May) are two One-frame displays. The first, from Robert Duns, is a study of the '1929 Postal Union Congress' issue. The second features the 'King George V Control Letters and Numerals on Stamps of Great Britain Overprinted for Use in the Bechuanaland Protectorate'.

**Postal History exhibits** During the second four days (12-15 May), the exhibits that will greet you as you enter the exhibition are those in the Postal History Class. The first one is by Michael Lockton, who is tracing 'Exeter Postal History: 1579-1900' including mail in, from and through Exeter. Next comes 'Falmouth Packet Mail 1698-1874', presented by David Lethbridge, with early letters and the range of handstamps used. The following exhibit is from Tim Schofield, who looks at 'Machine Cancels, Postmarks and Postal Markings 1857-1911', following the development of the mechanisation of cancelling.

'The General Post Branch Offices in London 1829-1859' is the subject of Gunther Dette's exhibit, while Anthony Wicks looks at 'The Penny

Post Evolution and the Fight to the End', tracing the efforts of Rowland Hill and the Mercantile Committee to secure Uniform Penny Postage.

The various postal markings, including cancellations and instructional are featured in the exhibit by Thomas Slemons of 'The Postal History of Suffolk, 1838-1844'.

Mail travelling overseas is featured in 'Transatlantic Mail Between the United Kingdom and British North America, 1759-1851', in which Malcolm Montgomery traces the development of the postal services.

Finally, as far as exhibits of specific Great Britain interest are concerned, comes Henry Pillage's exhibit of the 'Development of British Airmails 1933-1939', in which he tells the story of British internal mail flights.

These are, of course, but a fraction of the exhibits that will be on display. For a full list, visit [www.london2010.org.uk](http://www.london2010.org.uk) or you can purchase the exhibition catalogue for £5 when you visit.

**Thematic exhibits** There will, of course, also be GB material in many of the thematic exhibits, not least a Posting Boxes entry by fellow *Bulletin* contributor Glenn Morgan. Glenn writes about how he put this exhibit together in this *Bulletin* (p250).

**Visting the exhibition** Admission to the London 2010 International Stamp Exhibition is free every day except Saturday, 8 May when it will cost £10 (tickets for this day can be ordered in advance up to 19 April: details are given on the website). The opening hours are 10.00 to 18.00 every day except Saturday 15 May, when closing time will be 17.00.

Do make sure you go along on one of the days: perhaps decide on exactly which day depending on whether your interest focuses on stamps or postal history. Above all, do not miss this wonderful opportunity to see much incredible material – and not only of Great Britain. Also don't forget when in London to visit some of the other Festival of Stamps events, such as the George V exhibition at the Guildhall Art Gallery (7 May - 25 July), Treasures of the Archives display (at the British Postal Museum & Archive), and the Philatelic Rarities display at the British Library •

## King George V at Bath Postal Museum



Above right: Postman Kensley handing the first flown letter to the Mayor of Windsor, Sir Frederick Dyson, at Shaw Farm Meadow on the evening of 9 September 1911.

Above: one of the first items flown in the UK's first aerial post on 9 September 1911.

BATH POSTAL MUSEUM has chosen the theme of this year's Festival of Stamps, the reign of George v, as the subject of a display focusing on some of the notable events of the time, telling their stories through philatelic material and memorabilia.

Air mail post in Great Britain started in 1911, with a series of flights between Hendon and Windsor. Aircraft were permitted to land in the grounds of Windsor Castle as part of the Coronation celebrations. All mail carried was strictly controlled by the Post Office with way bills and mail bag tags, examples of which are on display. A few years later the world-wide conflict from 1914 to 1918 prevented any growth of the air mail service, but once peace was restored in Europe services were inaugurated and flights arranged. The display includes first flight covers, booklets, maps and details of the air mail services available to the public.

Of course the First World War was a dark time for Britain, but it meant new types of mail were needed for use by the troops and special arrangements had to be made for censorship and to ensure secrecy. Some of this mail is included in the display. The cost of the war was immense, causing substantial inflation in this country and around the world, with the result that postage rates went up, and then came down again. Examples of some of these changes are included.

With the war over, it was time for Britain to show that she remained strong and still controlled a huge empire, now including some of the former German colonies. A grand exhibition was devised and in 1924 an area of land in Wembley to the north of London became home to the British Empire Exhibition. It included the famous Wembley stadium and numerous other structures with examples of the resources and wealth of Britain and her Empire. A tremendous amount of memorabilia was produced for the British Empire Exhibition and some of these form part of the exhibition, along with the stamps and postal stationery that were the first commemorative postage stamps ever produced by the British Post Office.

There is much more to see than just the King George v Exhibition, so why not pay a visit? For more about the Museum see the article in the January 2007 *Bulletin* (pages 142-43) •

### Bath Postal Museum

27 Northgate Street, Bath BA1 1AJ (same entrance as the main post office). Telephone 01225 460333, e-mail [info@bathpostalmuseum.org](mailto:info@bathpostalmuseum.org) or see [www.bathpostalmuseum.org](http://www.bathpostalmuseum.org)

## The world of online philately by Glenn H Morgan FRPSL

THE WEBSITE [gbstamps.com](http://gbstamps.com) is produced from the USA by Larry Rosenblum, who was for many years a writer for *Linn's Stamp News*, and who now writes the interesting quarterly 'British Beat' for *Scott's Stamp Monthly*. The site is dedicated to the collecting and study of the stamps of Great Britain and related material of every era. It consists of three sections: [gbstamps.com](http://gbstamps.com) for collectors of all aspects of British stamps, [MachinMania.com](http://MachinMania.com) with lots of information about the myriad of Machins seen since 1967, and The Great Britain Collectors Club, the only North American group dedicated to British philately.

[gbstamps.com](http://gbstamps.com) comprises wide-ranging news pages going back to 1998 and is a useful source for checking on matters relating to the past decade and more. There is an extensive listing of links suitable not just for GB philatelists but also other collectors, while 'Larry's musings and miscellany' provides topics to ponder and other items of interest. There is a virtual GB album where current sections include the pictorial country stamps and an extensive postal history exhibit. Finally, the 'what's new' part lets you see what has changed in all sections of the site since you were last there.

The Great Britain Collectors Club (GBCC) area brings together collectors of Great Britain stamps and related items. It offers something for everyone, regardless of level of experience or years of collecting. It has members who are new to the hobby and those who are knowledgeable veterans willing to help any interested GB collector.

This site will attract new members and provide information to existing subscribers, for it includes several reprinted articles from the club's journal, *The Chronicle*, as well as interviews with key members of the British philatelic community. There are also some tables of postage rates during the Machin period (1967 to date) and a record of officers, details of forthcoming meetings and reports on past gatherings. There is also information about GBCC publications available for sale, plus details on how to join this active group of primarily American enthusiasts.

In the site's final area you are invited to 'be seduced by Machin Mania on the web'. Here you can see Machin high values and Designer Machins in the Virtual Machin Album, learn about the Machin Story, read a Machin FAQ, try Machin Quizzes, read information concerning clubs for Machin collectors, view links related to Machins, and much more besides.

Space available in this short review precludes my going into much more detail, but it is certainly worth visiting and then returning regularly because this website is frequently updated. All three sections are well constructed, easy on the eye and have simple navigation between areas, but perhaps above all else they are a great source of information about British philately, whatever aspect you might specialise in, from an American viewpoint •

Welcome to **GBStamps.com**  
The Place on the Web for Great Britain Philately



This site is dedicated to the collecting and study of the stamps of Great Britain and related material. It consists of three parts:

- [GBStamps.com](http://GBStamps.com) for all collectors of British stamps [Go to the site guide or the headlines or the other new items](#)
- [MachinMania.com](http://MachinMania.com) with lots of information about the myriad of Machins
- The [Great Britain Collectors Club](http://The Great Britain Collectors Club), the only North American group dedicated to British philately

If you would like to receive an email whenever this site is updated, click [here](#).

**gbstamps.com** A website dedicated to the collecting and study of the stamps of Great Britain and related material.

# Preparing for international competition

## 5.4 Tramways

## Boxes on the side of street tramscars

As tram services developed, post offices and public alike benefited from onboard mailboxes.



Carriages for sorting and posting mail once existed in Brazil.

Sweden for many years had used removable boxes on board its trams.



In 1897 Huddersfield in the UK introduced letter boxes on its corporation trams. Blackpool had the world's first P O train with letter box and stamp sales from 1981.



Italian 1910 post-paid reply card entitled 'Catania Postal to Train' (Printed in Train Letter Box). Mail posted on tramcars rarely bore proof of where item had been deposited.

ONE of the highlights of London 2010 for me will be the opportunity to see 2400 frames of competitive exhibits from collectors around the world. I am fortunate to be among those collectors, and this article tells how I prepared my exhibit.

It is necessary to start by going back many years when I started to diversify my collecting interests. I had been a general collector, then narrowed my interest to a few Commonwealth countries, and finally discovered thematics. My chosen topic was to be letter boxes, as I had always had a fascination with them right from the days when my mum would lift me to reach the slot when posting a letter! Deciding on a theme is half the battle, as you must have a real passion for your chosen subject if you are to sustain interest down the years.

I have now been collecting letter box philatelic material for more than 30 years and initially concluded that it would be a small subject, as I had struggled to complete eight pages for a local club competition, so I filled the pages with writing-up. Big mistake! The judge pointed out that I was not writing a book (that would come later), but was supposed to be giving a philatelic display.

**Locating relevant stamps** I redoubled my efforts to find material and went through every single page of Gibbons' *Stamps of the World*, recording manually anything that was remotely connected with my subject. These days, I use the American Scott catalogues as they are in the digital PDF format, where keyword searches turn up all manner of interesting items at the click of a mouse button. Do not underestimate the need for research into your subject, both philatelic and thematic, for it is only by your deep understanding about what you are interested in that you will have any chance of revealing that depth of knowledge that is so essential for your display pages. Indeed, this aspect accounts for 30 points in the judges' scoring.

I eventually produced a listing of the stamps that I had found for publication by the Letter Box Study Group, and it comprised two sides of A4. The handbook that I am currently compiling will be over 600 pages of A5, with all types of philatelic material included, such has been the expansion in my knowledge of stamps, stationery and postal history items. Over the years, my exhibit has gradually expanded from 8 to 9, 16, 32, 64, and is currently 80 exhibit pages. I now have the luxury of owning far too much material to show within the space, so I can choose the most appropriate items. There are around 450 items being shown in London, out of perhaps four times that number of available letter box related items.

# Putting an exhibit together, by Glenn Morgan

**Introduction and plan** Thematic exhibits require an introduction and plan, which some exhibitors see as a chore, but for me it focuses the mind on the order that the material will best be displayed in and the 'chapters' I will use to tell the story – much like the 'beginning, middle and end' principle used when writing a book, although a Plan must be much more than merely a contents page. The judges will allocate points for thematic exhibits based on the table opposite, with the number of points given determining the level of award, which range from a certificate of participation through to a large gold medal with special prizes at their disposal for deserving exhibitors.

To be faced with 80 blank sheets of paper is quite daunting, and it takes a lot of dedication – and time – to complete an exhibit. I have found that however long I think it will take to complete, double it. I recall all too well the day when I was completing an earlier version of the exhibit for Stampex on the day that it was due to be handed in, while I was making my final purchases in Stanley Gibbons in the Strand. I vowed on that day 'never again'.

**My story line** With the Plan page as a guide, I start to write-up my story line – not like in a book, but as concise sentences, for generally I do not want two items telling the same part of the story. An example might be: 'The first mainland box was in 1853 at Botchergate. The design is unknown, but a 1989 reproduction Penfold now marks the site.' With the sentences written, I allocate appropriate material to illustrate the point being made.

The material and individual sentences are then laid out on pages and rearranged until I find what I consider a pleasing appearance. I then use my publishing program (Serif's Page Plus) to arrange the words and produce thin box rules 5mm larger than the size of each philatelic item. Draft pages are eventually printed onto scrap paper, with items placed in their boxes to check that the layout works when seen as part of a 16-page frame. I usually stand on a chair and look down on the display to see if a layout works, while many exhibitors make a lightweight display frame for the same purpose.

There will be many changes before 'perfection' is reached, at which time I print all 80 pages onto acid-free 210gsm off-white card (pure white pages can appear stark, in my opinion, while coloured pages are discouraged or

## 3.4 Standardisation of Boxes

Developments 1896 to 1922

Lamp box prototype trialled in London, 1896.

The lamp box trials were successful and so they were installed nationwide from 1897.

In 1899 this aperture box was split open and country mail.

A German Telegraph Office, 1883.

In 1904 to stop letters continuing to be trapped in roof area of boxes, the posting aperture was built into an enlarged door.

On or after 1 February 1873, 1 stamped card for telegrams on 10 words introduced. This example is missing its pre-printed stamp at top right in error. The location of the nearest Telegraph Office was indicated on seven boxes from 1909. Cards were produced for those wishing to post their messages in roadside letter boxes.

A student letter box design contest with the Office of Works was held during 1912.

Irish Free State overprints on GB definitive Independence in Ireland during 1922 saw boxes gradually repainted green instead of GPO red.

**1 TREATMENT AND DEVELOPMENT** Title and Plan, Development of the Theme, Creativity and Innovation: 35 points

**2 KNOWLEDGE, PERSONAL STUDY AND RESEARCH** Philatelic Knowledge and Research, Thematic Knowledge and Research: 30 points

**3 CONDITION AND RARITY:** 30 points

**4 PRESENTATION:** 5 points



This stamp from the 2009 Postboxes miniature sheet is among the author's material dealing with standardisation of boxes (see previous page).

For more on letter boxes and stamps, see Glenn Morgan's articles in the November 2001 and October 2002 issues of this *Bulletin*. His book *Letter Boxes on Stamps* is long out of print but we are pleased to learn that he is now working on a new edition.

banned in the regulations). I do not use proprietary album pages, as I find the quadrille or printed rules or ornamentation a distraction. Material is mounted with archival photo corners and Hawid-type mounts, and inserted into polyester exhibition protectors, which get sequentially numbered to help those mounting the pages into the display frames at the show.

**Great satisfaction** That's it: simple isn't it! OK, clearly it's not rocket science, but it is quite a challenge to produce an exhibit that you are personally proud of. There is a great feeling of satisfaction on completion of an exhibit and often a sense of relief that it has been finished in time. It is early February as I type these lines and my exhibit just needs the material to be mounted onto the pages, giving me a lot of time to make further amends or incorporate newly acquired material if appropriate, for an exhibit is never really finished, but is a constant 'work in progress'.

Some exhibitors are known as 'pot hunters', ie they are solely interested in the level of award that they might get, while others aim to put on a good show for the public. I guess I probably fall half-way between the two, for after all that effort I would certainly like to be rewarded with what I consider the appropriate medal level; at the same time I want the public to go away as enthusiastic about the subject as I am. I have been disappointed at some of the results given, but then again if a large gold had been given at the exhibit's first outing, I would have had nothing to progress towards. It took me many years before I attained my first ever national level gold at Harrogate 2008 and the sense of pleasure and pride cannot be quantified.

I state on my title page: 'Since their introduction, letter boxes have played a key role in spreading the written word among literate peoples. They guard the mails in all weathers and environments, but are rarely noticed by the millions worldwide using them daily'. I cannot guarantee that all the visitors viewing my exhibit will look at letter boxes differently in the future, but that is certainly what I hope I will have achieved ●

Text © Glenn H Morgan 2010

## Commemorative covers New this month



**GBFDC** The second Association of GB First Day Cover Collectors official covers for 2010 is for the Endangered Species Mammals issue. The special 'Otterspool' postmark is for the promenade running for around six miles alongside the River Mersey. A limited edition of 66 copies **Price** £12 each ●



**GB Covers** An official FDC for the Action for Species Mammals issue (limited edition of 37). The 10 stamps are cancelled with a special 'Humpback Whale' handstamp. Each cover is authorised and numbered. **Price** £16 plus £2 postage, payable by cheque to GB Covers or by Paypal to derek@gbcovers.co.uk ●



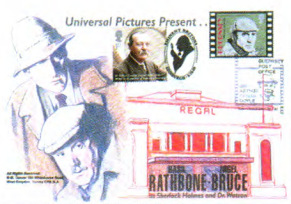
**Southern Covers** Two Classic Albums FDCs (edition of 100 each, numbered on reverse) featuring concert photography – one of David Bowie and the other of The Clash. Both have a full set of stamps; The Clash cover's London Calling stamp is postmarked on the reverse. The sponsor's postmark is red on both. **Price** £15 each inclusive of postage and packing or £29 if both covers are purchased together. ●



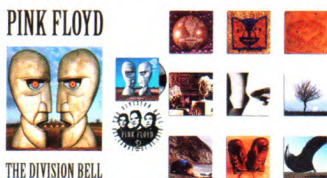
**Royal Naval Philatelic Society** FDC serviced 22 January with a special Forces postmark to mark HMS Astute joining the Fleet. **Prices** Plain (one submarine stamp) £10.90; Special (two submarine stamps) £17; Double-signed £15.30; Extra Special/Triple-signed £21; Multi-signed £52. Discount for RNPS members. ●



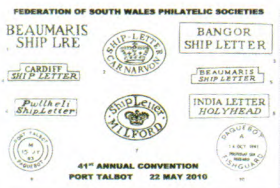
**Cambridge Philatelic Society** A card marking the Society's 90th anniversary features various Cambridge postal markings dating from 1785 to 1948. **Price** 50p unserviced or £1 serviced with a 1st class Darwin stamp cancelled by a special Cambridge Fountain handstamp of 21 August 2010 and dispatched after the event. Cheques payable to Cambridge PS. ●



**M Tanner** Dual postmarked Cinema cover (20 numbered) with Guernsey 35p Basil Rathbone stamp postmarked Arthur Conan Doyle 22 May 1997, and a Royal Mail Conan Doyle 1st class postmarked Edinburgh 8 October 2009. **Price** £15.99 (£12.99 Guernsey single stamp) plus £1.50 worldwide postage, including filler postcard showing cast listing for 12 Universal films. Send SAE for other Holmes items. ●



**The Stamp Centre** Two limited edition Classic Album covers featuring the Pink Floyd album *The Division Bell*, bearing the Division Bell stamp cancelled with a 'Pink Floyd' postmark. Single stamp and 10 stamp covers available. **Prices** single stamp £5.99; 10 stamps £9.99. Post free in UK, Overseas at cost. ●



**South Wales Philatelic Societies** Convention postcard featuring Welsh maritime postmarks. **Price** 40p unserviced or £1 serviced with an appropriate operational datestamp. Enclose stiffened SAE at least 7.5 x 5 ins. Remittances to South Wales Federation Convention. ●

## Orders and enquiries

**Cambridge Philatelic Society**  
David Northrop, 5 Perne  
Avenue, Cambridge CB1 3RY

**GBFDC** Terry Barnett, Hon  
Sec, Association of GB First  
Day Cover Collectors. www.  
gbfdc.co.uk

**GB Covers** 102 Regal Way,  
Kenton, Harrow HA3 0RY. e-  
mail derek@gbcovers.co.uk

**Royal Naval Philatelic  
Society** 19 College Road, HM  
Naval Base, Portsmouth PO1  
3LJ. Phone 023 9281 5494.  
e-mail enquiries@rnphilatelic.  
org

**Southern Covers** Peter  
Barrett, PO Box 5, Dover,  
CT16 1YQ

**South Wales Philatelic  
Societies** G N Prior, 20 Heol y  
Sheet, North Cornelly, Bridg-  
end CF33 4EY

**The Stamp Centre** 79 Strand,  
London WC2R 0DE. Phone  
020 7836 2341. www.stamp-  
centre.co.uk

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

Cover producers wishing to announce a recent or forthcoming cover should submit copy of up to 75 words in the style above. The text should briefly describe the cover, state the stamps and postmarks it will bear, and give retail prices and an address for orders and enquiries. Announcements are published on a first-come-first-served basis and may be modified or shortened at the Editor's discretion. Royal Mail cannot enter into correspondence or telephone conversations concerning covers announced here.

## Events

**Until 30 June** Post Abolition: Commemorative Stamps from Around the World, at Sugar & Slavery Gallery, Museum of London Docklands, West Indian Quay, London E14. Festival of Stamps event.

**Until 30 October** King George V exhibition at Bath Postal Museum. See page 248.

**Until 31 December** Philatelic Rarities exhibition at British Library Philatelic Collections. See page 230.

**7 April - January 2011** Impressions of Africa: Money, Medals & Stamps exhibition, British Museum (Gallery 69a), London WC1. Festival of Stamps event.

**16-17 April** Scottish Philatelic Congress at Dewar's Centre, Perth. Includes British Thematic Association event (in Hay Room), 17 April (12.00-13.45). See [www.scottishphilately.co.uk](http://www.scottishphilately.co.uk)

**May-October** Display of Rugby stamps and postal history, World Rugby Museum, Twickenham Stadium, Twickenham. Festival of Stamps event.

**1 May** Worpex 2010 Worcester Philatelic & Post Card Society Annual Fair at Oldbury Park School, Oldbury Road, St John's, Worcester, 10.00-16.00. 30+ dealers. Free admission. **Enquiries** [www.worpex.com](http://www.worpex.com)

**5-6 May** International Stamp & Cover Show (Philatex Extra), Lawrence Hall, Royal Horticultural Halls, Greycoat Street, London SW1. **Enquiries** 01793 513431, [www.stampshows.net](http://www.stampshows.net)

**6 May** Display by other Royal Philatelic Societies (New Zealand, Canada, Australia and South Africa) at Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY. Festival of Stamps event. Admission is by ticket – apply by e-mail to: [secretary@rpsl.org.uk](mailto:secretary@rpsl.org.uk)

**7 May - 25 July** Empire Mail: George V and the GPO exhibition, Guildhall Art Gallery, London EC2. Festival of Stamps event. **Enquiries** BPMA 020 7329 2570.

**8-15 May** London 2010 International Stamp Exhibition. See Richard West's article on page 246.

**14-16 May** Euro Scout 2010 exhibition at Shire Hall, Tindal Square, Chelmsford. Organised by the Scout & Guide Stamps Club.

**21-23 May** North East Philatelic Weekend at Holiday Inn, Emerson, Washington, Tyne & Wear. Talks & displays, banquet, raffle, etc. **Bookings** Val Beeken, 162 Canterbury Road, Newton Hall Estate, Durham DH1 5XT. Telephone 0191 386 1931.

**22 May** Federation of South Wales Philatelic Societies Annual Convention, Princess Royal Theatre, Civic Centre, Port Talbot, 10.00-16.30. Admission 50p. Dealers, Kids Area, George V display, souvenir card (see page 253). **Enquiries** G Prior, 01656 740520.

**29 May** Display on postal services during the reign of George V, Colne Valley Postal History Museum, 109 Head St, Halstead, Essex. Festival of Stamps event ●

## Competitions The answers

**JANUARY IDENTIFY:** The detail is from the Royal Society Robert Boyle stamp. The winner was M Staite of New South Wales, Australia. **JANUARY KNOWLEDGE:** The answers are 1) Elizabeth Blackadder; 2) 1998 Queen's Beasts; 3) Alexander the Great. The winner was Mrs L Sands, Leicestershire. Runner-up prizes were also sent for each competition. Our thanks to all who entered ●



## Late news

**Royal Mail News** A Halley's Comet commemorative sheet will be available from 18 May, price £13.50. It bears the Union Flag stamp with appropriate labels. A commemorative sheet for the British Grand Prix will be issued on 8 July •

**StampEssex** This exhibition and fair will be held at Charter Hall, Colchester Leisure World from 10.00 16.30 on 5 June, as part of the Festival of Stamps. Proceeds from the event will be used to help in promoting philately in the Association of Essex Philatelic Societies' area. A Smilers sheet of 20 stamps with labels featuring the original AEPS emblem will cost £20. Advance orders, with £2 postage and packing, and cheques, payable to 'AEPS', should be sent to: AEPS, 25 Clay Hill Road, Basildon SS16 5DD •

**Festival of Stamps events** 16-17 APRIL: Scottish Congress of Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies at Dewar's Centre, Glover Street, Perth • 24 APRIL: Midland Philatelic Federation, Arden School, Station Road, Knowle, Solihull • 22 MAY: Federation of South Wales Philatelic Societies, Princess Royal Theatre, Civic Centre, Port Talbot • 5 JUNE: StampEssex (see above for further information) • 12 JUNE: Yorkshire Philatelic Association at Pudsey Civic Hall, Dawson's Corner, Pudsey, Leeds • 26 JUNE: North of Ireland Philatelic Federation at Portadown Town Hall, Edward Street, Portadown • 3 JULY: Swipex 2010 at Plymouth Guildhall, Armada Way, Plymouth • 10 JULY: Kentpex 2010, Tonbridge School, High Street, Tonbridge • 21 AUGUST: East Midlands & East Anglian Philatelic Federation at Girton College, Cambridge • 4 SEPTEMBER: Diamond Jubilee Stamp Day – Middlesex Philatelic Federation at Amersham Community Centre, Chiltern Avenue, Amersham • 11 SEPTEMBER: Federation of Surrey Philatelic Societies at United Reformed Church Hall, Addiscombe Grove, Croydon • 18 SEPTEMBER: Festival of Stamps & Postcards in Edinburgh and Lothians, St John's Church Hall, Princes Street, Edinburgh • 24-26 SEPTEMBER: Nephilex 2010 at the Royal Station Hotel, Neville

St, Newcastle upon Tyne • 9 OCTOBER: South of England Stamp Fair and Sussex Convention at Norfolk Pavilion, South of England Centre, Ardingly • 16 OCTOBER: Hampshire Philatelic Federation at Wickham Community Centre, Mill Lane, Wickham • 23 OCTOBER: Cornex 2010 at Liskeard School and Community College, LUXSTOWE, Liskeard • 30 OCTOBER: North-Western Philatelic Federation at Thornleigh Salesian College, Sharples Park, Bolton •

**BTA at London 2010** The guest at the British Thematic Association meeting to be held at London 2010 on 12 May will be Michel Abram, the former President of the French Thematic Association, who will display his gold medal collection of The Horse. All visitors are welcome to attend. At the BTA stand, close to the main entrance, representatives will be happy to answer queries regarding the BTA and thematic philately •

**Upgraded Stanley Gibbons shop** Stanley Gibbons Ltd has announced that a major upgrade will be made to its famous shop at 399 Strand, London WC2. The work should be complete by mid-April, in time for the London 2010 international stamp exhibition. The retail area is being expanded to allow more customer space, better displays, and dedicated areas for stamp viewing and interactive information points. For more information visit [www.stanleygibbons.com](http://www.stanleygibbons.com) •

**Festiniog Railway** The Railway will hold a Quirks and Curiosities Weekend 30 April - 3 May, with a 'diverse cornucopia of narrow-gauge oddities from far and wide'. Two special covers are to be produced, priced £5 each. Enquire to: Festiniog Railway Letter Service, 1 Kepax Gardens, Barbourne, Worcester WR3 7LB; e-mail [railwaypost@festrail.co.uk](mailto:railwaypost@festrail.co.uk) •

**Bulletin wanted** Arnold Mahon needs a copy of the October 2003 *Bulletin* to complete his run. He will pay for postage. Contact Mr Mahon on 07973 667454 •

# New Flag stamps Smilers sheets



**New Smilers sheets** Three new sheets will be issued on 6 April, for customers wanting their own images printed on labels adjoining the Flag stamps for England, Scotland and Wales. Featuring the St George's flag, the Saltire and the Welsh Dragon, the sheets include background photographs that depict notable landmarks in each country. Available in sheets of 10 or 20 first class stamps, the sheets are priced £7.80 and £13.95 respectively. Sheets of 20 are available at £12.95 each for orders of more than one sheet.

**To place an order** visit [www.royalmail.com/smlers](http://www.royalmail.com/smlers) or telephone 0845 074 2000.



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21 South Gyle Crescent,  
Edinburgh EH12 9PB

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