

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The ROYAL MAIL magazine *for stamp collectors*

Bulletin

Volume 36 Number 9

MAY 1999 • 85P

Wales stamps • Millennium
Entertainers' Tale issue



Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



Cover Royal Mail's sixth issue of stamps for the Millennium, the Entertainers' Tale, will be issued on 1 June. Photograph by Geoff Dann.

World Cup, Allsport; Chaplin cigarette card by courtesy of Imperial Tobacco Limited; Chaplin (clock), and cinema tickets, Ronald Grant Archive; *Film Pictorial*, Vintage Magazine Company.

Correction A gremlin got into the figures for the 1998 stamp poll published last month. The number of votes for the Carnival 43p stamp was 0, not 80!

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

4 May	Issue Millennium Workers' Tale stamps and presentation pack
4 May	Issue A United Kingdom of Crafts – three aerogrammes, England, Scotland, Wales
4 May	Withdrawal £1 & £2 machine vended stamp books, issued 5 May 1998
12 May	Issue Stamp books: £1.04 (4 × 1st class and Berlin Airlift commemorative label) and £2.60 (pane of 8 × 1st class definitives and pane of 26p Settlers' and Workers' Tale stamps se-tenant)
12 May	Issue Berlin Airlift unfolded pane and Philatelic Medallion Cover – both available from British Philatelic Bureau only
25 May	Issue Millennium Entertainers' Tale stamp cards
1 June	Issue Millennium Entertainers' Tale stamps and presentation pack
8 June	Issue Scotland and Wales – 19p, 26p, E (European rate, 30p), and 64p new design country stamps. Northern Ireland 19p, 38p & 64p in existing (1971) design. The 19p is a re-issue but now printed in gravure rather than litho.
15 June	Issue Royal Wedding (Prince Edward and Miss Sophie Rhys-Jones) stamps and presentation pack
22 June	Withdrawal Health stamps, pack and stamp cards; 10 × 1st Woolworths promotional stamp book
29 June	Issue Millennium Citizens' Tale stamp cards
	Please note that the Bureau is now out of stock of the Prince of Wales unfolded commemorative label pane (books still available) and the G4 greetings pack containing the Greetings in Art stamps (books still available).

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The British Philatelic Bulletin is published monthly by Royal Mail, Royal London House, 22 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1NL • **Editor** JR Holman • **Price** 85p single copies from Collections, philatelic counters, and National Postal Museum • **Annual subscriptions** UK and Europe £9.50, rest of the world £13.50. Subscriptions should be sent to British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT • **Binders** to hold 24 issues, price £7. Available by post from British Philatelic Bureau (address above) • Royal Mail also publishes the fortnightly *British Postmark Bulletin*, giving details of forthcoming special handstamps and postmark slogans. Available on annual subscription from British Philatelic Bureau (address above) UK & Europe £10, rest of world £21.75 • **Copyright** Unless copyright attributed to specific authors, all articles and features may be reproduced without formal permission, but acknowledgement should be given to *British Philatelic Bulletin*. Requests to reproduce copyright articles should be sent to the Editor, 22 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1NL • **Design** by Robert Maude • **Printed** in Great Britain by The White Dove Press • **ISSN** 0953 8119

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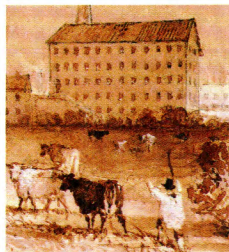
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This month The Editor previews this issue

As we go to press, we learn with great sadness of the death of Norman Williams at the age of 85. He will be long remembered for numerous books and articles, written with his late brother Maurice since 1934, many on the subjects of rare stamps and cinderella philately. He combined philatelic writing with a distinguished career in the law. An appreciation of his work will be published next month.

THIS MONTH the people of Scotland and Wales go to the polls to vote for the members of their new Parliament and Assembly. New design country stamps go on sale at post offices in Scotland and Wales on 8 June and will also be available from the Bureau, and at philatelic outlets in England and Northern Ireland. The stamps, previewed in this issue, are valid for use throughout the UK. This month we include a feature article on Wales; a similar feature on Scotland will be published next month.

The fifth set of Millennium stamps (Workers' Tale) go on sale on 4 May and a special book containing a se-tenant pair of Millennium stamps will be available from 12 May. We preview next month's Entertainers' Tale set. Featuring a dalek from *Dr Who*, and three men whose very different talents gave great pleasure to millions, this set will, I believe, be amongst the most popular of the 12 Millennium issues of 1999.

May is a significant month for British collectors, with the anniversary of the issue of the Penny Black. Next year we mark the 160th anniversary with major exhibitions in Glasgow and London. JOHN HOLMAN •

Stamp scene Rowland Hill Awards • Bath Postal Museum • Philexfrance exhibition

Rowland Hill Awards In October 1996 Royal Mail announced the setting up of the Rowland Hill Awards for achievements in promoting stamp collecting. The awards are sponsored by Royal Mail, the British Philatelic Trust and the Philatelic Traders' Society. The first awards, for achievements during 1996, were presented at a ceremony at the Victoria and Albert Museum in January 1997. The ceremony for the 1997 awards was held at the British Academy of Film & Television Arts, Piccadilly in February 1998 and the latest ceremony, for achievements during 1998, was staged at the Gibson Hall in London on 8 April 1999.

Comper for the evening was the eminent television presenter and novelist (Lord) Melvyn Bragg who introduced the award winners and the guests presenting the awards. The awards are in three categories covering contributions that have added a new dimension to stamps and stamp collecting; personal commitment to developing and encouraging stamp collecting, and recognition of commercial resourcefulness in the philatelic trade. The awards in each category were presented by a representative of the sponsoring organisation – Richard Dykes, Managing Director of Royal Mail; Francis Kiddle, Chairman of the BPT; and Graham Childs, Chairman of the PTS. A special Lifetime Achievement Award was presented for outstanding work to the philatelic community.

Each winner received a certificate, showing the Slania engraving of Sir Rowland Hill as on the 1995 25p Communications stamp, and a coveted award featuring a facsimile of the engraving die.

Guests at the ceremony enjoyed good food, fine wine, some witty speeches and friendly conversation. Mr Adam Novak, Director & General Manager of Royal Mail National, reviewed 1998 and spoke of the Millennium stamps being issued during 1999 and 2000. He pointed out the diversity of designs, many by Britain's best-known artists, and the considerable interest shown by the media and general public. The organisation of nomination and judging and arranging of the ceremony was largely the work of John Whittaker, Royal Mail's Promotions Manager, who also found time to organise Royal Mail's participation in Stampex and Stamp '99 ●



Francis Kiddle, Chairman of the BPT, Scott Ferguson, winner of the Young Collector Award, and Melvyn Bragg.

The winners

ROYAL MAIL INNOVATION AWARDS

Journalistic Excellence Sheila Foster for article 'Photography', *Stamp Magazine* January 1999 (published December 1998). Runners up: John Holman and Keith Elliot.

Stamp Innovation House of Questa for 850 line screen printing technique for Lighthouses special stamps. Runners-up: Robert Maude, and Roundel Design and Richard Green

Product Innovation Antonio M Torres for producing catalogues of the highest quality whilst offering material from around the world in both different currencies and languages. Runner up: Philatelic Software Ltd.

Post Office Excellence Newport Sub Post Office (Shropshire); the staff were knowledgeable and willing to put time into serving the customer to establish their exact needs above and beyond what would normally be expected. Runners up: Orpington and Stratford upon Avon Branch POs.

PTS ENTERPRISE AWARDS

Business Enterprise Roy V Jones (Swanland Priory Philatelics) for targeting a niche market in first day covers and systematically providing a highly efficient service, particularly in his chosen geographic area. Runners up: Robert Danzig and Gerald Bodily.

Retail Development Paul Dauwalder (Dauwalders of Salisbury) for producing a variety of catalogues and lists and using a regular informative newsletter. Dauwalders have shown it is possible to serve and satisfy their regular customers. Runners up: Christopher Mansfield and Rowan Baker.

Personal Contribution Derek Johnston who has been active in organised philately in the Bristol area for many years, serving in local societies and federation posts. He almost single-handedly ran the Bristol & District Federation through recent troubled times. Runner up: Michael Astley.

BPT INITIATIVE AWARDS

Youth Work Erene Grieve who shows considerable initiative in her direct approach to many schools, both junior and secondary, and her considerable success in involving parents, teachers and members of a local philatelic society. Runners up: Pamela Hiscock and Edith Rees.

Young Collector Scott Ferguson for his own philatelic development and achievement as both a collector and organiser at national and international level. Runners up: Joanna Shute and Paul Walker.

Authorship Hugh Feldman for his outstanding definitive work on the Letter Receivers of London. Runners up: Philip Beale and Dr K W Statham.

Research Dr K W Statham for masterly research into the study of GB line engraved 1d and 2d stars. Runners up: Graham Mark and John Scott.

Community Work Falkirk & District Philatelic Society for providing a fascinating exhibition linked with Falkirk Museum, encouraging visitors to consider stamp collecting as a hobby. Runners up: Linc-lon Philatelic Society and John Hobbs.

Teamwork Brighton & Hove '98 Organising Committee for the highly successful national exhibition at Hove in November 1998. Runners up: Amersham & District Philatelic Society and National Youth Stamp Group.

New Horizons David Cox for determination to see fulfilled his ambition to run an international exhibition in the UK devoted to a single theme. Runners up: John Davies and Frank Jones.

LIFE TIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

This special award went to Tony Finlayson for his outstanding work in the transportation and erection of frames at UK national exhibitions and providing a consultancy service to organisations who want to stage philatelic exhibitions. In an average year he designs layout, prepares and builds 30 exhibitions, either by himself or leading a small team. Over the years he has serviced probably 500 exhibitions.



The stamp issued by La Poste in December 1997 to promote Philexfrance, encompassing the standard 3f definitive. Subsequent exhibition-related issues followed in September 1998 and January 1999.

An exhibition stamp will go on sale on 2 July at the exhibition. It is described by La Poste as 'a festive stamp whose originality and novelty should take the public by surprise'.

Philexfrance To mark the 150th anniversary of French stamps, an international stamp exhibition will be held at the Porte de Versailles, Parc des Expositions, Paris, 2-11 July 1999. France was the fifth nation to issue stamps. The National Assembly approved the issue of the first stamps in August 1848 and they went on sale on 1 January 1849. The Second Republic was symbolised on this stamp, in the form of a serene Ceres, goddess of the harvest. Very soon, however, she was replaced by the effigy of Napoleon III, reflecting the transition from Republic to Empire.

La Poste, the French PO, is a noted innovator, introducing the postal cheque in 1918 and today's Telepost service which will soon give all French people access to e-mail without requiring any special equipment. La Poste are supporting the exhibition which will comprise some 3600 frames in the 50,000 square metre hall. About 300 dealers and postal administrations will have stands. The exhibition organisers aim to present an image of postage stamps and stamp collecting which will attract young people, with stamp collecting workshops, focus on new technologies, an exhibition on 150 years of stamps in daily life, and a cultural exhibition on 'stamped autographs' displaying correspondence and postal items by famous personalities. The exhibition, under Fédération Internationale de Philatélie patronage, will be the sixth international in France over the last 50 years, following on from Citex, 1949; Philatex, 1964; Arphila, 1975; and Philexfrance in 1982 and 1989. ●

Stamp Book website The Great Britain Decimal Stamp Book Study Group now has a website: <http://www.hobbies.privateweb.at/gbdsbsc>. The Group can also be contacted, by more conventional means, at 3 Buttermere Close, Brierley Hill, DY5 3SD. ●



Orders and enquiries
Bath Postal Museum, 8 Broad Street, Bath BA1 5LJ

Bath Postal Museum The Museum sells replica Penny Blacks, bearing the added inscription 'BATH POSTAL MUSEUM'. These are available in sheets of 240 for £3.99. Single labels cut from the sheet can be supplied at 25p each, strips and blocks pro rata. The labels can be affixed to postcards and are then cancelled with a duplex cachet with replica Bath 1840 datestamp and Maltese Cross. The Museum can service postcards for collectors, with the label, cachet and postage stamp for £1, cards can be sent to addresses worldwide. A 2nd class stamp will be used on cards to British addresses, 30p to Europe and 38p rest of world. The cards

go into the ordinary post and will receive the Bath Bristol Taunton machine postmark. Postcards showing the Penny Black used at Bath on 2 May 1840 will be used until supplies are exhausted, thereafter other Museum postcards will be used instead. An article on the Museum was published in last month's *Bulletin*. ●

GB Journal The March/April issue of the journal of the Great Britain Philatelic Society includes articles and notes of interest to collectors of pre-Elizabeth II British stamps. Bob Galland provides a check list of coloured die proofs of Queen Victoria surface-printed issues, 1855-83; Bill Bird records some hitherto unrecorded Mulready advertisements; W de L M Messenger chronicles 'Current Numbers' (series or serial numbers) on line-engraved plates; and Nick Peacock discusses the use of toned paper on the Royal Cypher issues of 1917-21. There are notes on Peebles postmarks of the 1860s, Victorian telegraph stamps, a 'Po/Dept' overprint on a Penny Red, and varieties on George V definitives. Several new GB books are reviewed and the advertisements, from leading dealers, offer material of interest to specialist GB collectors ●

For details of the GBPS contact Andrew Lajer, Old Post Office, Hurst, Reading RG10 0TR

Spring Stampex 1999 Despite doubts concerning the overlap of two shows in London, the outcome for Spring Stampex was very positive. The expected 'crash' in visitor numbers did not materialise with just under 6000 avid collectors converging on the Business Design Centre over the five day show.

The National Philatelic Society organised a superb exhibition with displays culled from amongst their membership. This was part of the celebrations being organised throughout the year to celebrate the Society's centenary, and it proved extremely popular. There were the usual meetings of specialist societies over the weekend including the Great Britain Philatelic Society, Malta Study Circle, Ceylon Study Circle, Concorde Study Group and Egypt Study Circle. Business meetings of the ABPS and the International Federation of Stamp Dealers Associations were held, and Frank Jones and Francis Kiddle gave two well-attended seminars on exhibiting, concentrating on the problem area of the Introductory Page.

On the Saturday afternoon great excitement was generated by the Free Auction held at Kids Corner – the culmination of treasure hunts held over the week with points being earned to be 'spent' at the auction. It was good to see such enthusiasm amongst the young collectors ●

Autumn Stampex, organised by the Philatelic Traders Society, will be at the Business Design Centre, London N1, 22-26 September.

Enquiries 0171 490 1005

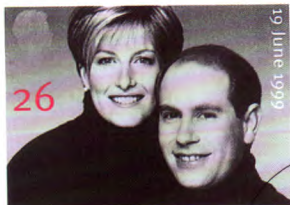
Spink The fine art and collectables dealers and auctioneers Spink, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Christie's International, has recently announced that its Stamp Department is expanding into retailing and dealing. The department has concentrated on its successful auction business since joining Spink from its base within Christie's. The Spink coin, banknote and collector's medals departments have for many years conducted retail and dealing services successfully alongside their regular auctions and this logical step for the stamp department will enhance Spink's service to collectors worldwide. Mr Bill Lea has been appointed as Director, Retailing and Dealing of Spink's stamp departments in London and New York. Mr Lea has been dealing in rare stamps for nearly 40 years; he will work closely with Richard Watkins, Spink's Director of Stamps.

Enquiries Spink & Son Ltd, 5 King Street, London SW1Y 6QS

An auction of GB stamps and postal history will be held on 3 June. This will include 1924 Empire Exhibition material and a GPO notice to all postmasters, dated 7 May 1840, bearing a pair of VR Penny Blacks ●

Royal Mail news Royal Wedding stamps • New designs for Scotland and Wales • New N Ireland country stamps • Aerogrammes

The photographs are by John Swannell, taken in March 1999 to a special Royal Mail commission. Mr Swannell has photographed members of the Royal Family, including the Princess of Wales with the Princes William and Harry, the Princess Royal, and Viscount Linley, as well as Sir John Gielgud, Sir Elton John, and (Lord) Melvyn Bragg. He is also a noted photographer of scenery in Scotland, Australia and the USA.



Royal Wedding Two stamps will be issued on 15 June to mark the wedding of HRH Prince Edward and Miss Sophie Rhys-Jones. The wedding takes place at Windsor on 19 June. Both stamps, designed by John Gibbs, feature portraits of the couple specially taken for Royal Mail by John Swannell. The 26p value covers the basic 1st class inland letter rate, the 64p stamp the second step airmail letter rate.

Prince Edward Antony Richard Louis was born at Buckingham Palace on 10 March 1964, the third son of HM The Queen and HRH the Duke of Edinburgh. He was baptised in the private chapel at Windsor two months later. The Prince was educated at Gordonstoun School, where he was Head Boy, and at Jesus College Cambridge where he studied anthropology and archaeology. He taught briefly at Wanganui Collegiate School in New Zealand before joining the Royal Marines in 1983. He left four years later and has since followed a career in theatrical management and film making, including TV programmes on Royal London and his great uncle, Edward VIII (Duke of Windsor).

Miss Rhys-Jones is the daughter of Christopher and Mary Rhys-Jones of Brenchley, Kent. She was educated at Dulwich College preparatory school, Kent College for Girls, and a secretarial college. Keen on sports, particularly skiing, sailing and windsurfing, she and Prince Edward first met at a real tennis match in 1993. The Prince proposed to Miss Rhys-Jones, a partner in a London public relations consultancy, shortly before Christmas and their engagement was announced from Buckingham Palace on 6 January. After their marriage they will live at Bagshot Park, Surrey, former home of Queen Victoria's third son, the Duke of Connaught.

Their marriage takes place at 5pm on 19 June at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle. The ceremony will be conducted by the Bishop of Norwich who regularly preaches at Sandringham Church when the Royal Family are in residence at Sandringham House. St George's Chapel was begun during the reign of Edward IV and is considered a fine example of the Perpendicular Gothic style. It is the spiritual home to the Order of the

Garter and burial place of George III, IV, V and VI, Edward VII and William IV. Edward VII, as Prince of Wales, was married there in 1863, as were Princess Alice (grand-daughter of Queen Victoria) to Prince Alexander of Teck in 1904, and Lady Helen Windsor (daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Kent) to Mr Tim Taylor in 1992. The Chapel featured on the 10p stamp in the 1975 Architectural Heritage series.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets about a week before 15 June, price 25p. Orders for FDCs with the stamps cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of the Bureau or Windsor must reach the Bureau by 15 June. Price £1.48 UK (including VAT) or £1.26 overseas (no VAT).

Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT, or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Wexham Road, Slough SL1 1AA (Windsor postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FD9913' (Bureau), or 'FD9914' (Windsor). Covers can be posted or handed in at main post offices for the Windsor postmark. A non-pictorial Windsor postmark will also be available, by sending covers to the Slough Handstamp Centre, requesting 'FD9914 NP'.

Bilingual Welsh/English versions of the Windsor pictorial and non-pictorial handstamps can be obtained by sending covers to the Cardiff Handstamp Centre quoting reference FD9914 Bil (pictorial) and FD9914 NP Bil (non-pictorial). Sponsored handstamps will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from the Bureau (£10 UK/Europe; £21.75 elsewhere).

PHILATELIC PRODUCTS A well-illustrated pack (£1.25) and stamp cards (25p each) will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets •

New Northern Ireland stamps The new postal rates necessitate new country stamps for Northern Ireland. These will be in the existing design, introduced in 1971, and comprise 38p and 64p values, covering airmail postcard and airmail letter second step rates. They will be issued on 8 June; the 19p olive green NI stamp (first issued 1993) will be re-issued at the same time for the reduced 2nd class UK rate. The stamps will be printed by Walsall in gravure; the previous 19p stamp was produced by Questa in litho.

A first day cover envelope will be available, price 25p. Serviced covers bearing just the 38p and 64p stamps (the 19p is not regarded as a new stamp) with Bureau or Belfast pictorial first day postmarks must be ordered from the Bureau by 8 June. Price £1.62 UK (includes VAT), £1.38 overseas (no VAT). Collectors may send covers bearing the 38p and/or 64p stamp for these postmarks to the Bureau (postmark reference FD DEF 9907) or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, 57 Queen Street, Glasgow G1 3AZ (for Belfast postmark, FD DEF 9909). A non-pictorial Belfast postmark will also be available from the Glasgow Handstamp Centre, reference FD DEF 9909 NP. A pack of the current stamps, ie the re-issued 19p, the existing 26p, and the new 38p and 64p, will be available from 8 June, price £1.80 •

The designer The stamps were designed by John Gibbs, known to collectors of British stamps for the 1981 Year of the Disabled, 1986 Parliamentary Conference, 1990 Thomas Hardy and Gallantry, and 1993 Roman Britain issues.

Technical details

Printer De La Rue Security Print

Process Gravure

Size 41 × 30mm

Sheets 100

Perforation 15 × 14

Phosphor Two bands

Gum PVA



The Scottish stamps are the work of Tayburn of Edinburgh, and feature the saltire, a lion rampant, thistle and tartan. The Welsh stamps, depicting a leek, dragon, daffodil, and the Prince of Wales's feathers, are designed by Tuttsells of London.

Scottish and Welsh stamps New design country stamps for Scotland and Wales go on sale at post offices in these countries, and at philatelic outlets throughout the UK, on 8 June. There will be four new stamps for each country: three non-value indicator (NVI) stamps – 2nd (19p), 1st (26p), E (European rate, 30p) – and one denominated stamp, 64p (airmail second weight step). All bear the cameo head of The Queen as used on special stamps. The 2nd and 1st class stamps for Wales bear a bilingual inscription – 2AIL/ND and 1AF/ST.

The stamps are printed in gravure by Walsall Security Printers in a minimum of two colours per stamp. The 2nd class stamp bears a central phosphor band, the others two bands. Printing is in sheets of 200. All eight stamps will be shown in next month's *Bulletin*.

FIRST DAY COVERS AND PACKS First day cover envelopes will be available from main post offices in Scotland and Wales and from philatelic outlets throughout the UK about one week before 8 June, price 25p each. Pictorial first day postmarks will be available for the British Philatelic Bureau, and the country capitals – Edinburgh and Cardiff. Serviced FDCs can be ordered from the Bureau, price £2.05 each UK (including VAT), £1.75 each overseas (no VAT). Collectors can post or hand in covers at main post offices in Scotland and Wales and at offices with philatelic outlets in England and Northern Ireland. Stamped covers can be sent for postmarking on the day of issue to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT (Bureau postmark, reference FD DEF 9907), Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, 57 Queen Street, Glasgow G1 3AZ (Edinburgh, FD DEF 9908) or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Penarth Road, Cardiff CF1 1AA (Cardiff, FD DEF 9910). Non-pictorial versions of the Edinburgh and Cardiff postmarks will be available from the Glasgow and Cardiff Handstamp Centres – reference FD DEF 9908 NP and FD DEF 9910 NP respectively. The Cardiff pictorial and non-pictorial postmarks are bilingual. Covers posted in first day boxes in England and Northern Ireland will be given the pictorial Edinburgh postmark (covers with Scottish stamps) or Cardiff (Welsh stamps).

Packs containing the new stamps will be available on 8 June, price £1.75 each. Stamp cards reproducing the new stamps will be available from 8 June, price 25p each. A Philatelic Numismatic Cover (PNC) bearing the four Scottish stamps and £1 Scottish coin will be available on 1 July, the date of the official opening of the Scottish Parliament – details next month •

An article on Scottish post-buses was published in the *Bulletin* in June 1998.

New Postbus service A new service was introduced on the island of Fetlar on 1 March; this brings the number of Scottish services to 129. This is Shetland's second postbus service – the other operates on the island of Bressay •

Price £2.95 each from British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT.

Bulletin Publications Any remaining stock of three of our earlier Publications will be withdrawn from sale on 30 June. The three titles are: Publication no 3 *Burns Bicentenary* (published 1996), no 4 *British Victorian Stamps* (1997), and no 5 *An Introduction to Thematic Collecting* (1998) •

Royal Mail Collectors Club The successor in 1994 to the former Stamp Bug Club is aimed at young collectors between the ages of six and 14. The Club has over 50,000 members – making it by far the largest philatelic organisation in the UK. On joining, new members receive a pack of used stamps, membership card and badge, and a handy guide to collecting. Album pages for new British special issues are sent out annually, and the colourful Club magazine, published six times a year, incorporates 'Collectors Corner' for advertising stamps for exchange. The magazine, available only to Club members, is the only one aimed solely at the young collector.

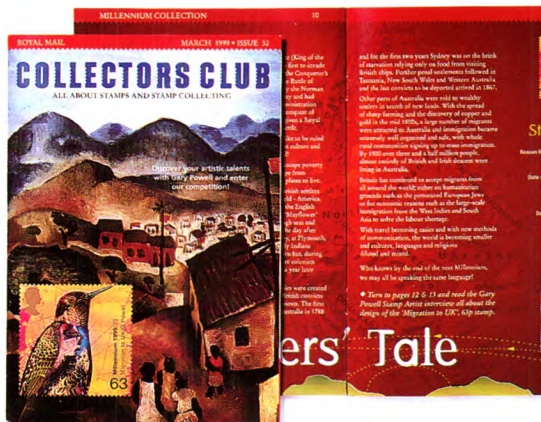
Issue 32 of the magazine, recently published, contains features on the Patients' and Settlers' Tale issues and an interview by the Editor, Daniel Read, with Gary Powell, designer of the 63p Settlers' Tale stamp. Younger readers will enjoy the cartoon adventures of Sammy the Stamp Bug (nephew of the original Stamp Bug of 1980), and jokes sent in by young members.

Membership of the Club costs £5 for two years, £7 for five years UK, £9.50 or £13.50 overseas ●

Craft aerogrammes Three new pictorial aerogrammes, one each for England, Scotland, and Wales will be available from 4 May, price 45p each. Entitled *A United Kingdom of Crafts*, they feature glassworking, pottery and weaving (English), basket and crook making and Orkney chairs (Scottish), and woodworking, harp making and Jacquard weaving (Welsh). Designed by Navy Blue Design Consultants and printed by Rexam Envelopes (formerly McCorquodale Envelopes Ltd), they will be on sale from the Bureau, philatelic outlets and post offices in the respective countries. The English aerogramme will also be available at post offices in Northern Ireland. Please note they do not qualify for first day of issue postmarks in use on 4 May ●

New definitives The cylinder numbers for the definitives issued on 20 April are as follows: 7p, 38p, 44p and 64p – 1, phosphor 47. The re-issued 19p olive-green is from cylinder 8 phosphor 46. All were printed by De La Rue and bear that company's imprint in the bottom left-hand corner of the sheet. Specialist collectors will note that the re-issued 19p is printed from electro-mechanical engraved rather than conventional gravure cylinders so can be distinguished from its predecessor by the improved clarity of the image.

Four new stamp books were issued on 26 April. The new £1 book contains two labels and 1p, 2p and 26p stamps with two phosphor bands and 19p with centre band. The £2 book contains one 19p stamp (centre band) and seven 26p stamps (two bands). Both books were printed in gravure by The House of Questa. The books of four 38p and 64p stamps were printed in gravure by Walsall Security Printers; cylinder w1 in both cases (no phosphor numbers) ●



For an application form and/or a sample copy of the Club magazine write to: Collectors Club, Freepost NEA1431, Dept 2397, Sunderland SR9 9XN



National Postal Museum As the Museum is now closed to the public, we feature fine items from its collections



To make an appointment to view any material not already packed for moving, telephone 0171 776 3636

Correction: the 2d blue stamps on the second cover featured last month were from plate 5, not 8 as stated.

British Philatelic Bureau 20
Brandon Street, Edinburgh
EH3 5TT

Association of Friends Ray
Pottle, PO Box 40, Uckfield,
TN22 2SP. Telephone 01825
766546

ALTHOUGH the Museum galleries are now closed to the public, the staff at King Edward Street are busy packing stamps and artefacts ready for the move to temporary accommodation at the Post Office Archives. Meanwhile, material not already packed can be seen by prior appointment.

Until the Museum re-opens, we will feature each month some of its many treasures, this time a fine Mulready caricature in the Reginald M Phillips Collection of Victorian stamps. The Mulready envelopes and lettersheets were ridiculed from the day of issue. Within days Rowland Hill noted that 'I fear we shall be obliged to substitute some other stamp for that designed by Mul-

ready, which is abused and ridiculed on all sides'. Numerous caricatures were produced by famous artists and put on sale at many stationers' shops. One of the most derisive was drawn by John Leech and published by Fore's. The example shown here was used on 31 May 1840 with a Penny Black to pay the postage. It bears the curious Sunday datestamp with scalloped edges and was sent from London to the Countess of Essex at Watford.

Irish-born William Mulready (1786-1863) was a noted artist and Royal Academician. He was honoured by a stamp from Ireland in 1886 (SG 651).

MUSEUM PUBLICATIONS Copies of the Museum's *Review* of 1996 and 1997-98 are still available, price £5 each. They contain features of interest to stamp collectors and postal historians and many fine illustrations. They were reviewed here in August 1997 and January 1999. Also available are the first four of the Museum's *Special Stamp History* books dealing with the 1929 Postal Union Congress issue, 1935 George V Silver Jubilee and 1936 proposed Memorial issue; 1936 proposed Edward VIII Coronation issue; and 1953 Coronation issue. Price £7.50 each; the 1953 Coronation book was reviewed here in September 1997, the others in September 1998. All NPM publications can be ordered from the British Philatelic Bureau, at the address opposite.

ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS The Friends of the NPM remains active, with a series of visits and events planned for 1999, and a stand at the Midpex '99 exhibition in Coventry on 3 July. Visits are being arranged to Royal Mail premises, stamp printers and other museums. Postcards featuring items from the NPM's R M Phillips and Frank Staff collections are in preparation. Enquiries to Ray Pottle, at the address opposite •

Industry and commerce As Workers' Tale stamps go on sale, James Mackay recalls an industrial past and present

IN VIEW of the highly industrialised nature of the United Kingdom, the choice of subjects for the four stamps, released on 4 May, to illustrate the Workers' Tale must have been exceedingly difficult. In this latest series, four aspects of work in Britain span the whole of the millennium, from the Middle Ages right down to the present time.

Textiles The 19p stamp, by Peter Collingwood, symbolises the warp and weft, the strands of fibre first spun then woven to produce cloth. The caption, however, is 'Wool Wealth', thereby concentrating on one particular aspect of the textile industry. It is impossible to overestimate the importance of wool to the British economy. Since time immemorial the fleeces of sheep have been spun into wool and woven into cloth. The weaving of woollens was introduced to Britain by the Romans; according to the historian Tacitus, the native tribes who had previously clothed themselves in animal skins were quick to appreciate the comfort and warmth of the woollen toga.

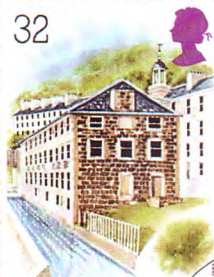
Spinning was a major industry in the medieval monasteries, Winchester being renowned all over Europe for the very fine quality of its thread which was much esteemed by the weavers of the Low Countries. Raw wool was for centuries England's most important export, and this is recalled in the woolsack on which the Lord Chancellor sits in the House of Lords. Weaving lagged behind the Continent until the Norman Conquest. William the Conqueror imported Flemish weavers who settled at Carlisle and later in Pembrokeshire. Henry II established the cloth fair in St Bartholomew's churchyard, and by the late 12th century the export of raw wool, thread and finished fabric constituted the country's largest source of revenue.

The industry declined in the 13th century, owing to warfare and political instability. In 1331 Edward III encouraged a revival, bringing in weavers, dyers and fullers from Flanders, but also attempted to curb exports of woollens, partly by taxation and partly by limiting the privilege of exportation. Restrictive legislation was repealed by Elizabeth I and thereafter the woollen industry made rapid progress, but in 1660 the export of woollen goods was forbidden, which led to the collapse of the price of raw wool and encouraged smuggling. The prohibition of the manufacture of woollen cloth in Ireland was a grievance which helped fuel the demand for independence.



Various aspects of British industry have been highlighted on stamps, including: 1964 industrial development (above left); 1966 British technology, 1985 postal workers (top left); and 1983 engineering achievements. Fishing and the car industry were honoured in 1981 and 1982 respectively, and energy resources in 1985 (lower right). Peasants and members of the craft guilds featured in the 1986 Domesday Book issue.

32



Mills, New Lanark, Strathclyde

New Lanark, the 32p stamp of the Industrial Archaeology series of 1989. Below, a 19th century cotton mill at Swainson Birley, near Preston.

The importation of raw wool from Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, as well as the rising fashion for cotton, hit the indigenous woollen industry hard, but the demand for hard-wearing woollen cloth, notably Harris tweed, persisted; and in more recent years Scottish woollen knitwear has enjoyed international status.

The weaving of woollen, silk and cotton cloth continued as a cottage industry until the beginning of the 19th century; but by the 1780s mechanisation was beginning to revolutionise the textile trade. The development of machinery for the spinning of thread and weaving of cloth went hand in hand with the discovery of more efficient sources of power. The earliest mills relied on horses or water-power. Thus New Lanark was developed by Robert Owen to take advantage of the swift-flowing current at the Falls of Clyde. Owen, who had advanced ideas on the welfare, education and housing of his workers, was honoured on the 10p stamp of the Social Reformers set of 1976 which depicted textile machinery (opposite, below).



By 1810 steam power had superseded water power, and this led to the development of vast mill complexes especially in Yorkshire and Lancashire where a long-established woollen industry was readily adapted to the new technology, combining a skilled workforce with an abundant supply of coal and water to power the steam engines. By 1840 some 180,000 people in Lancashire alone were employed in the cotton mills. Elsewhere, specialised industries sprang up, from the jute mills of Dundee to the carpet mills of Kilmarnock and Kidderminster. Bradford was nicknamed Worstedopolis, on account of the hard-wearing woollen cloth which was its speciality.

Although many of the new towns that mushroomed around the 'dark Satanic mills' were unsanitary slums, the enlightened ideas of Robert Owen were taken up by other industrialists, notably Titus Salt whose model village, Saltaire (1851) provided decent living and working conditions as well as various amenities for his employees.



David Hockney's 26p stamp evokes the atmosphere of the northern mill towns, showing some of the impressive architecture of the textile factories and associated churches and schools. Many survive to this day, although often converted for residential or business use.





Above, Henry VIII's flagship *Mary Rose*, a detail from the 15½p of the 1982 Maritime Heritage set.

Steam power and the use of iron and steel gave Britain the dominant role in shipbuilding, and British yards produced the world's greatest vessels, including the ill-fated *Titanic* (1995 60p), *Mauretania* (1969 1s), *Queen Elizabeth* (1988 26p) and *Queen Elizabeth II* (1969 5d).

Maritime Britain Although ships have existed since the days of Phoenician galleys and Greek triremes, shipbuilding as an exact science only began to develop in the 16th century. As ships ventured farther and farther into the world's oceans, their design was adapted to the duties they had to perform and the conditions in which they operated. Out of the desire for ships designed and built to exact specifications developed the skills of the naval architect and the marine engineer.

For reasons of geography and commerce, Britain as a maritime nation was in the forefront of these developments even in the days of wooden sailing ships. From the world's first practical steamboat (1788), the world's first seagoing steamer, Henry Bell's *Comet* (1812), to the first trans-Atlantic steamships in the 1830s, Britain led the world. Production trebled between 1885 and 1901 and by 1894 the vast majority of the world's ships were built in the UK. In the decade from 1905 to 1914 Britain consistently produced two-thirds of the world's annual tonnage of new shipping.

In the early years of this century the shipyards of Belfast (shown on the 4d stamp of the Geographical Congress set of 1964) grew faster than any other UK shipbuilding sector. At the same time, Clyde-built ships were to be found on every ocean, sea, lake and navigable river in the world. The yards of the northeast specialised in tramp steamers; 90% of the world's tramps were British-owned and virtually all were British-built. Even in the period after the First World War when motor ships developed, Britain continued to lead the way, with an annual production amounting to almost 50% of the world output up to 1936.

Although shipbuilding has declined in recent years, Britain can still look back proudly on a tradition that produced the world's greatest ships, and the number of British-built ships depicted on the stamps of the world must run into thousands.

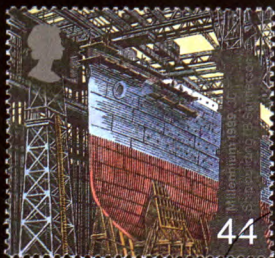


The 64p value of the Workers' series, designed by Brendan Neill, features the Lloyd's building in the City of London, symbolising the world of high finance.

High finance Compared with the manufacturing industries, the financial services are now one of Britain's largest single sources of revenue. London's position as the world's leading banking centre began to develop in the 1660s following the restoration of the monarchy. The establishment of the Bank of England in 1694 (its tercentenary celebrated by a booklet of 1994) and the Bank of Scotland a year later, helped to put financial services on a sound footing. A stable political situation, coupled with a benign regulatory environment, helped to place London in the financial forefront.

Today London is the European headquarters for banks from almost 80 countries, and foreign banks account for more than half the assets of the UK banking sector. London is now the world's biggest centre for foreign exchange dealing, the volume of business in the City growing more rapidly than in most other countries. Between 1989 and 1995 alone the average daily volume of dealing in London rose from 28% of the world's share to 36%, more than the combined totals for New York and Tokyo. London leads the world in the abundance of skilled banking and investment personnel, and English is the common language of the financial world ●

Elizabethan galleon

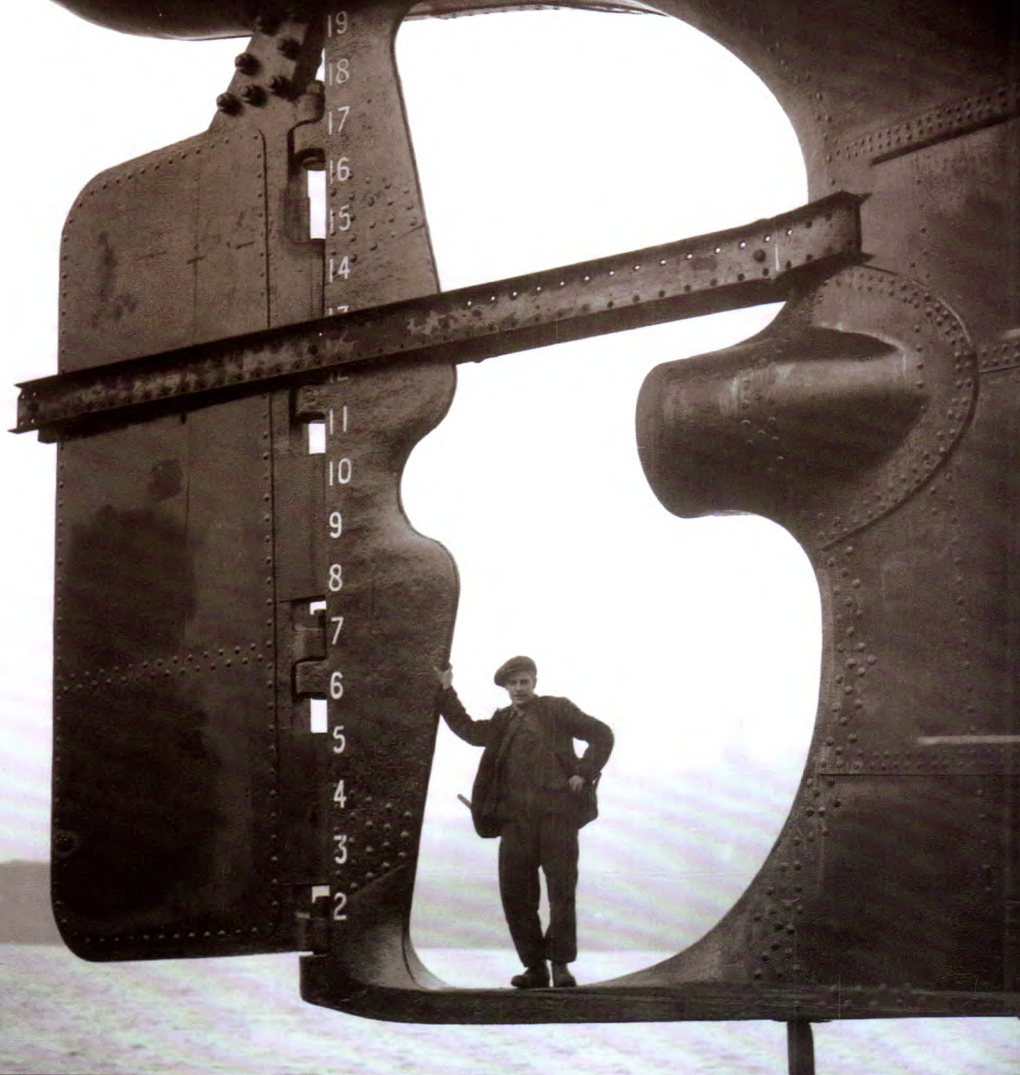


1/-

RMS Mauretania



Shipbuilding An Elizabethan galleon, on 9d stamp of 1969; Bill Sanderson's new Workers' Tale stamp; and RMS *Mauretania* on 1s of 1969. Below, the SS *Arctees* before being launched, Haverton-on-Tees, 1934. Photograph by Douglas Miller, Hulton Getty.



The Entertainers' Tale

The sixth of the 12 sets of Millennium stamps to be issued this year is on the theme of entertainers

Entertainers' Tale stamps go on sale at post offices and philatelic outlets on 1 June

The design of the **19p** stamp (basic inland 2nd class letter rate) features Freddie Mercury (1946-91), lead singer of the pop group Queen. Mercury, real name Farookh Bulsara, was also a stamp collector and his collection was acquired by the National Postal Museum in 1993. It contains stamps from around the world but there is a particularly interesting section from Zanzibar, Mercury's birthplace, where his father served as a diplomat. The arrangement of the stamps on the album pages are in Mercury's distinct artistic style. Some of the pages were reproduced on four NPM postcards issued in 1995. The collection has been displayed at a number of exhibitions, most recently at Australia 99 in March. The stamp is by Peter Blake.

The **26p** value (basic 1st class inland letter rate), designed by Mike White, features Bobby Moore (1941-93) holding the World Cup after England's success in the final at Wembley Stadium on 30 July 1966. This was a day of national celebration and the finest day in English football history. An England Winners stamp was issued two weeks after the victory, and Moore, as team captain, was awarded the OBE. He has featured on a Football Legends stamp of 1996, and on issues from several countries.

F. & J. SMITH'S CIGARETTES



CHARLES CHAPLIN.





Peter Blake's 19p stamp, *Mercury's Magic*, features Freddie Mercury, the lead singer of the pop group Queen. Mercury was also a stamp collector, and his collection was acquired by the National Postal Museum in 1993.

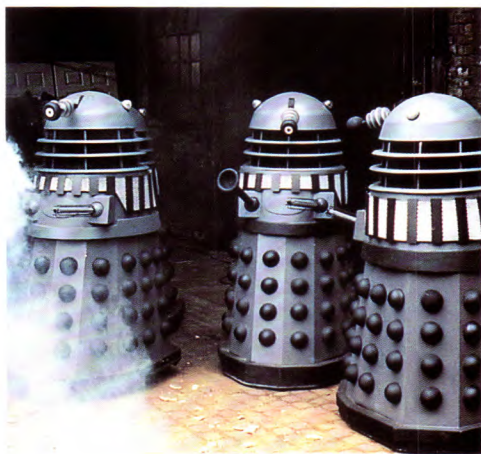
The 44p stamp, *Dr Who*, features a photograph by Snowdon, of a Dalek from the television series. *Dr Who*, first broadcast in November 1963, ran until 1989, becoming the longest-running science fiction series in the world.

The 26p stamp, designed by Mike White, shows Bobby Moore holding the World Cup following England's success in the 1966 final at Wembley. Moore also appeared on one of the Football Legends stamps in 1996.

The 64p stamp, *Chaplin's Genius*, features Ralph Steadman's portrait of Charlie Chaplin as the 'little tramp'. Chaplin also featured, as an old man, on a British Film Year stamp in 1985 and, again as the tramp, on stamps from India, the USA and elsewhere.

ROYAL MAIL MILLENNIUM STAMPS 1999





One of Britain's best-loved television programmes is recalled by the design of the **44p** value (basic airmail letter rate). *Dr Who* was built around the character of a 'Time Lord' referred to simply as 'The Doctor'. The public imagination was captured by the Daleks – a race of mutant killers whose hideously deformed bodies lived inside protective metal shells. Their war cry 'Exterminate' is still remembered by many thousands of avid *Dr Who* watchers. The stamp features a photograph, by Snowden, of a full-size replica Dalek, now owned by Royal Mail. Lord Snowden's photographs of members of the Royal Family were used on Royal issues in 1981, 1986, 1997 and 1998; his portrait of Charlie Chaplin, as an old man, was used on a British Film Year stamp in 1985.

The **64p** stamp (second step airmail letter rate) features Ralph Steadman's interpretation of the 'little tramp' – the Charlie Chaplin character that delighted millions of filmgoers in the age of the silent screen. Charles Spencer Chaplin (1889-1977) was born in London and went to Hollywood with Fred Karno, in 1914. His film career was long and varied, including a music only film *City Lights* and a speech and mime performance in *Modern Times*. Chaplin was knighted in 1975. Ralph Steadman, designer of the new stamp, is known to collectors as designer of the 1986 Halley Comet and 1998 Comedians stamps.

Presentation pack This well-illustrated pack (price £1.90) will be available from philatelic outlets and main post offices.



Charlie Chaplin cigarette card p274, courtesy Imperial Tobacco Limited; 1966 World Cup p274, Hulton Getty; Freddie Mercury p275, © Redferns/Suzi Gibbons; Daleks above, © BBC



Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbie Road
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB



FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets about a week before 1 June, price 25p. Orders for FDCs with the stamps cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of the Bureau or Wembley must reach the Bureau by 1 June. Price £2.22 UK (including VAT) or £1.89 overseas (no VAT).

Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT, or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Mount Pleasant, London EC1A 1BB (Wembley postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FD9911' (Bureau), or 'FD9912' (Wembley). Covers can be posted or handed in at main post offices for the Wembley postmark. A non-pictorial Wembley postmark will also be available, by sending covers to the London Handstamp Centre, requesting 'FD9912 NP'.

Bilingual Welsh/English versions of the Wembley pictorial and non-pictorial handstamps can be obtained by sending covers to the Cardiff Handstamp Centre quoting reference FD9912 Bil (pictorial) and FD9912 NP Bil (non-pictorial).

Sponsored handstamps will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from the Bureau (£10 UK/Europe; £21.75 elsewhere). Covers may bear just the 19p Entertainers' Tale stamp for any philatelic postmark in use on 1 June.

MILLENNIUM PHILATELIC PRODUCTS A well-illustrated pack (price £1.90) and stamp cards (25p each) will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets. A Millennium Stamps Album, with pages for the 1999 issues, also three FDC and three presentation pack pages, is available from the British Philatelic Bureau. Price: album and slipcase £19.99; sets of pages only £9.99. A presentation case has been produced to display the Millennium presentation packs or first day covers.

Orders and enquiries to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT •

Technical details

Printer Joh Enschedé
Stamps

Process Gravure

Size 37 × 35mm

Sheets 100

Perforation 14 × 14.5

Phosphor One band 19p •
two bands others

Gum PVA



Wales on stamps From the top, and left to right: 1988 Anniversary of Welsh language; 1998 Lighthouses; 1992 the Four Seasons, Wintertime; 1989 Industrial archaeology; 1981 the National Trust; 1966 Landscapes; 1994 Four Seasons, summertime; 1994 anniversary of the vestiture of the Prince of Wales; 1969 vestiture; 1997 Sub-Post Offices



Collecting Wales As Royal Mail issues new Welsh definitives, Paul Reynolds looks at the Principality's stamps and postal history

ON 6 MAY Wales goes to the polls to elect the members of the new Welsh Assembly. Royal Mail has announced that it will mark this important event in the life of the Principality with a new set of Welsh definitive (or 'country') stamps, to be issued on 8 June.

The 1999 set will replace the present Machin design which has been used since 1971. It will be just the third series since country stamps – or 'regionals' as they were then known – were first issued in 1958. The designs by Reynolds Stone (1909-79) appear less than happy to many collectors, particularly the low values (3d, 4d and 5d).

The Red Dragon has been associated with Wales for over a thousand years. Tradition has it that it was used by King Arthur, and it was certainly the standard of Cadwalladr, the native prince from whom the Tudors were descended. When Henry Tudor became king as Henry VII he decreed that the Red Dragon should be the official flag of Wales. It formed part of the royal coat of arms under the Tudors, but James I and VI removed it to make way for the unicorn of Scotland. The Red Dragon was officially recognised by The Queen as the national flag of Wales in 1959. As one of the so called 'Queen's Beasts', it also made an appearance on one of the stamps issued in 1998 for the 650th anniversary of the Order of the Garter (SG 2029).

The leek is the other national symbol of Wales. According to tradition St David ordered his soldiers to wear it on their helmets during a battle against the Saxons fought in a field of leeks. However, its importance in the diet of a poor rural people and its supposed medicinal properties are a more likely explanation. Certainly by the time of Shakespeare the leek was the recognised symbol of Wales, and the custom of wearing the leek on St David's day (1 March) was well established.

In the 19th century the daffodil became more popular, a similar sort of plant to the leek but rather prettier – an early case of gentrification perhaps. David Lloyd George had a marked preference for the daffodil over the leek, and under his influence it was widely adopted as a third national symbol. It appeared in this role on a number of stamps before the 1958 regionals, including the George VI and Wilding definitives, and the 1953 Coronation set.

The 1958 designs lasted until decimalisation in 1971: ignoring phosphor bands and variations in gum and paper, there are eight visually distinct values.



A Welsh daffodil on George VI definitive, left. Reynolds Stone's designs for the first set of Welsh regional stamps appear less than happy to many collectors. The design of the higher values (originally 6d and 1s3d, changed in 1967 to 9d and 1s6d) are similar to each other. Both include the dragon, perhaps the most widely recognised symbol of Wales. The leek, another national symbol, appears on the 1s3d, but not on the 6d.

Editor's note For the background story of the first Welsh stamps, of 1958, see *Bulletin* September 1978, pages 3-5. Jeffery Matthews wrote about the symbols used on the 1971 stamps in the *Bulletin* of May 1986, pages 190-1.



The Welsh dragon again appears as the national emblem on the second series of country stamps, started in 1971. A small but significant change to this design occurred in 1997, when the English abbreviation 'P' for 'penny' was dropped. This reflects Royal Mail's policy of bilingualism in Wales, and is a neater way of giving both languages equal status than trying to incorporate both 'P' for 'penny' and 'C' for 'ceiniog'.

Better design The second series of Welsh country stamps started in 1971, using a simpler and far more effective design by Jeffery Matthews. Like the Machin-heads from which it derives, it has stood the passage of time well. Over its 28 years of currency, printers and printing methods have changed, colours, gum and phosphor tagging have all changed, but above all the values have changed. You would now need three of the *highest* value of 1971 (7½p) to pay the postage on a basic 2nd class letter today. Gibbons lists 69 different stamps in this series (w13-82), although in some cases the difference lies only in the number

of phosphor bands – quite a number when you think that there have never been more than four different values on sale at any one time.



Detail from the 1968 Bridges stamp, the first issue in both English and Welsh.

Welsh language recognition The first philatelic recognition of the Welsh language was on the Bridges set of 1968 when the 1s6d value (SG 765) was inscribed 'Pont Menai' (Welsh) and 'Menai Bridge' (English). Bilingualism can now be seen in many other forms in the activities in Wales of all branches of the Post Office. Forms, leaflets and certificates are now all available in either bilingual or separate English and Welsh versions – although the Welsh version often takes some searching out, especially in English-speaking south and east Wales. Operational postmarks are becoming bilingual wherever this is practicable. All the mail that goes through the new Integrated Mail Processors (IMPs) at Cardiff and Swansea receives a bilingual cancellation, so that means the majority of mail originating in Wales is now postmarked in both English and Welsh. This is just the latest manifestation of a trend which has been evident for many years: back in the 1950s and 1960s the postmarks of a number of towns were changed from the anglicised version to the Welsh version. For example, in 1958 Dolgelley became Dolgellau and a few years later Llanelly became Llanelli: many other similar changes can be found. Also, since 1983 cancelling machines in north Wales have shown the month in Roman numerals rather than as an abbreviation of the name of the month in English.

Welsh theme Apart from the definitives, which alone offer a rich field for collecting and study, there are also any number of commemoratives and special issues with a Welsh theme. The first of these was the 1958 set which marked the Commonwealth Games in Cardiff (SG 567-9), the first time the dragon made his appearance on stamps. Since then we have had stamps that feature the buildings and scenery of Wales, the flora and fauna, cultural traditions and famous personalities. An hour or two spent with a good catalogue will enable you to track them down easily enough.

While some stamp designs are explicitly Welsh, don't forget the ones where the connection is not so obvious. It's really much more interesting to research the design and designers of stamps that have no apparent connection with

ABER RAG '68

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CANCER RESEARCH
ABERYSTWYTH



POST CARD

THE ADDRESS TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE

Wales to see if you can discover one – and if it's a bit tortuous, so much the better! Just a few examples: Captain Scott (sg 900) was not a Welshman, but his historic expedition to Antarctica sailed from Cardiff. The Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost car (sg 1201) was not built in Wales, but Charles Rolls, one of the founders of the company, was a son of the first Lord Llangattock. The family lived in the village of that name in Monmouthshire, and Rolls is buried in Llangattock churchyard. Roald Dahl, the well loved children's author (sg 1651) was born at Cardiff and Lewis Carroll (sg 1094, 1486, 1645) spent many happy summer holidays in Llandudno.

Related material After you've found all the stamps with a Welsh connection, you can start on other related collecting areas, such as books of stamps, aerogrammes, slogan postmarks, special handstamps, postbus tickets, cinderellas, railway letter stamps, scout post stamps, picture postcards, and the whole field of Welsh postal history from the earliest recorded marking (Pembroke, 1705) to the self-inking datestamps (sids) and IMPs of today.

But if you want to confine yourself to stamps, there are stamps to be found from all parts of the world that have a Welsh connection. Just as an example, three rather unlikely places that spring to mind are Monaco, Bulgaria and Oman – and no, they have nothing to do with Diana, Princess of Wales. (In fact you might well choose to disregard many of the issues that have flooded onto the market with her likeness on them!)

One of the best ways of finding out more about a subject is by meeting fellow enthusiasts, and for those with an interest in the philately and postal history of Wales there is the Welsh Philatelic Society. The President of the Society, Peter Brindley (address opposite), would be delighted to hear from you and give you more information •



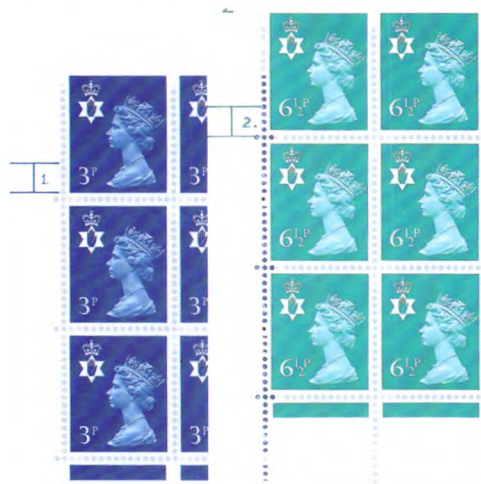
Top Cover from Aberystwyth, with a late use of '2' triangle die, top, and a bilingual IMPs postmark applied at Cardiff. Right, the first stamps with a Welsh theme, issued for the 1958 Commonwealth Games in Cardiff.

Above David Lloyd-George, by Harry Brockaway, a detail from the 1994 stamp booklet series *20th-century Prime Ministers*.

Welsh Philatelic Society
14 Victoria Park, Bangor LL57
2EW, or visit our web site at
<http://www.bangor.ac.uk/fof057/wps.htm>.

Northern Ireland regionals

Concluding a look at decimal



Above Cylinder blocks: 3p CB with partially perforated bottom margin; 6 1/2p CB, Cyl 2 dot block; 5 1/2p CB with fully left perforated margin and another block showing two pins in same margin.

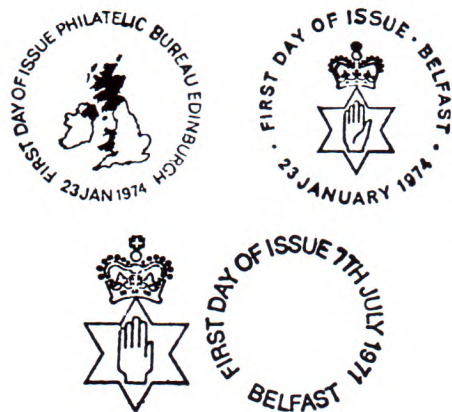
Right 10p 2B with 'marker pin' at top left.

Marker pins The German Kamp perforator was an integral part of the Jumelle press and when first introduced, one of the rows had an extra pin on each side giving an extra hole in the left margin of no dot sheets and the right margin of dot sheets (ie two holes rather than one hole opposite one row). The purpose of this hole was to make it easier to locate missing or broken pins and hence it is called a marker pin. As the perforating drum has 48 rows of pins as compared to 20 rows of stamps, the extra pin position varies depending on the starting position of the drum and does not appear on all sheets. Cylinder and marginal blocks from no dot sheets therefore exist with the left marker pin. The left marker pin does not necessarily exist for all values as a second drum with only one right hand marker pin appears to have also been used during this period. As stated earlier, the additional pins across the inter-pane gutter were removed in 1976. However, in the late 1970s, two further pins were added to the drum to give an extra extension hole in the right margin of no dot sheets and the left margin of dot sheets. It is therefore possible that cylinder blocks from dot sheets for any values printed subsequently exist with the marker pin. The author can confirm that the marker pin is known on a dot cylinder block of the 12p value issued in 1980.

Ink and phosphor cylinders As mentioned before, the 6 1/2p centre band (CB) was the only stamp to be issued with a change in ink cylinder although not all were numbered 1. The 2 1/2p and 5p values had ink cylinders numbered 4, the 7 1/2p was numbered 6, the 10 1/2p 3 and the 13 1/2p 2. Apart from the changes from two phosphor bands (2B) to a single centre band there were several phosphor ink cylinder changes covering six values – 2 1/2p CB (FCP/PVA), 6 1/2p, 7p, 8 1/2p, 9p and 10p 2B. In addition, the phosphor cylinder which was normally printed adjacent to the ink cylinder is known displaced and finally there are the marginal perforation varieties referred to in the text to further complicate matters. A complete set of



photogravure issues: part 2 of a new series by Brian Warren



cylinder blocks would amount to circa seventy blocks but a representative collection is achievable without undue expense. A number of constant varieties are listed and there are also several missing phosphor varieties to further spice up a collection. Interested collectors should refer to the specialised catalogues for a complete listing of the various ink/phosphor cylinder combinations, varieties and missing phosphors.

First day covers and presentation packs First day covers exist for all issues although there was no official first day service or pictorial postmark for the 5½p CB or 10p CB. Special pictorial duplex postmarks were provided in each region for the initial issue in 1971. The Northern Ireland postmark was available in Belfast and Londonderry and incorporated the same emblem as used on the stamps – the Red Hand of Ulster with star and crown. For the 1974 and subsequent issues, the postmark was simplified and the emblem formed part of a single circular design. This postmark was only available in Belfast; Londonderry used their normal non-pictorial first day of issue handstamp. The Philatelic Bureau introduced an alternative pictorial design with the 1974 issue incorporating a map of Britain and Ireland, which highlights the three regions.

The inclusion of the 10p single centre phosphor band with the new values issued on 23 July 1980

Presentation packs

Issue date	Contents
07.07.71	2½p, 3p (2B), 5p and 7p
29.05.74	3p (CB), 3½p (2B), 5½p (2B) and 8p (The 4½p was added on 06.11.94)
20.10.76	6½p, 8½p, 10p (2B) and 11p
28.10.81	7p (CB), 9p, 10½p, 11½p, 12p, 13½p, 14p, 15p, 18p violet and 22p blue (The 11½p, 14p, 18p and 22p were litho printed by House of Questa)
The 10p (CB) was also included in two later packs issued on 03.08.83 and 23.10.84 containing various Questa printed values.	

Left, 1974 first day postmarks from the Bureau and Belfast, and the duplex postmark for the initial issue in 1971, available in Belfast and Londonderry.

was not regarded as a new issue by the Post Office and covers provided by the Philatelic Bureau did not include this stamp. However, dealers and collectors included the stamp on their covers and Belfast used what appeared to be an old first day handstamp with the upper part of the inscription removed, solely on the 10p CB, the other values receiving the pictorial postmark. This treatment was at variance with that given to the 3p CB and 3½p CB stamps which were given full first day treatment at the time of issue of the respective stamps in 1974.

First day facilities and sponsored handstamps were available for the BBC booklet pane (23 September 1997) and although there was no pictorial first day of issue postmark in use in Northern Ireland, there was a sponsored special handstamp available for Belfast.

Several presentation packs containing Harrison regional stamps were issued and they are set out in the table above. Individual packs were available for each region •

Acknowledgments I wish to thank the British Postmark Society as the source of information and illustrations relating to first day postmarks as outlined in their publication *Twenty Years of First Day Postmarks* (1983), and the authors of *The Woodstock Catalogue of British Elizabethan Decimal Postage Stamps – Part 1 Definitive Issues* (1977) in relation to information on the various printing presses used by Harrisons. Information on marker pins was initially published in 1977 by the British Decimal Stamps Study Circle in their journal *Guides*.

The Postal Union Congress, London 1929 by Fred Gee

Seventy years ago this month – on 10 May 1929 – the British Post Office issued five stamps to commemorate the fact that the 9th Congress of the Universal Postal Union was being held in London. In the late 1920s, the idea of issuing stamps to mark a special occasion was – certainly in the UK – still something of a novelty. In fact, the 1929 Postal Union Congress was only the second event in Britain which had been commemorated by the issue of postage stamps.

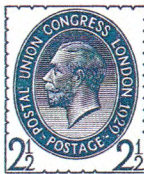
THAT MUCH I can say without fear of contradiction, but if I were to go on to say that this was only the second GB commemorative issue then without doubt some readers would not agree with me. The one earlier event which the PO had deemed worthy of a special issue of postage stamps was the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley. But did the 'Wembley pair' constitute one issue, or

two? The 1d and 1½d stamps featuring the Wembley Lion first appeared on 23 April 1924, but then reappeared on 9 May of the following year in a slightly different guise: the same design as the previous year's pair, and the same colours, but this time incorporating the date '1925' instead of '1924'. Some collectors regard these four stamps as a single issue, but others (including myself!) would argue that they comprised two issues. This would make the PUC set the third GB commemorative issue, rather than the second – and in saying that, I am steering clear of the contention of postal stationery enthusiasts that there had been other, earlier, commemorative issues by the British PO.

One could deliberate for ever over this point, but whether one regards these 1929 stamps as the second or the third (or perhaps even the sixth!) GB commemorative issue, the fact remains that the decision to mark the Postal Union Congress in this way was, for those days, an unusual philatelic event.

Surprise high value The issue comprised five stamps: the four most commonly used low values, namely, ½d, 1d, 1½d and 2½d, and – surprise, surprise – a £1 stamp. The inclusion of this last-mentioned value came as a surprise because no £1 stamps had been printed in Britain for more than 15 years. The original set of four Seahorses high values, issued in 1913, had included a £1 green, but when the Seahorses were reprinted in 1915 the £1 was missing from the set: the PO had apparently decided that there was insufficient postal demand for a stamp of such high value. None of the subsequent reprints of the Seahorses included a £1 value, and it was, in fact, not until 1948 that a £1 stamp was once again felt to be needed.

So, if a £1 stamp was hardly justified in 1929 for postal purposes, why was that value included in the PUC set? It seems that there were two probable reasons, one philatelic and the other political. The British PO would be incurring considerable expense in hosting the Congress, and it was argued that the £1 value would, through anticipated sales to collectors, help to defray some of those costs. The second, political, reason was really a matter of national pride. At previous Congresses, the host countries had issued sets of stamps to present to delegates as souvenirs. To give delegates to the London Congress a set of stamps with a face value of only 5½d (less than a fortieth of £1 in 'old money') would have seemed miserly, so it was decided to add a larger and more imposing (and more valuable!) £1 stamp.



Left, the five stamps which comprised the issue: the four most commonly used low values, and the surprise high value. The £1 stamp was included to help defray the costs of the Congress, and increase the set's souvenir value.

The design of the £1, by Harold Nelson, is very much in the Romantic style of the Seahorses and his Wembley Lion. It was based on a design he submitted for the 1924 British Empire Exhibition, which was rejected at the time, above.

This £1 stamp was recess-printed in black, and the design by Harold Nelson, its main feature being a depiction of St George slaying the dragon, was very much in the Romantic style of the Seahorses and the Wembley Lion: the design had, in fact, been submitted, and rejected, for the Empire Exhibition issue. Either you enjoy looking at this stamp – as I do – because of its vitality and fine detail, or you dismiss it as totally irrelevant to an international postal congress.

Matching pair The four lower values, which were typographed, can be looked at as two pairs, although it was only the 1d and 1½d which made a matching pair. Both these values used the same design by Ernest Linzell: each has the Mackennal head of King George V, surmounted in the form of an arch by the legend 'Postal Union Congress, London 1929' set against a background of a stylised Union Jack – but of course in monochrome rather than in red, white and blue. A clever approach, but the result was an overcrowded design with some minute, almost illegible, lettering.

The ½d and 2½d used two different designs by John Farleigh. They have the same legend and the Mackennal head set in an oval, and although they do not make a matching pair they do have two unusual features in common: the relatively large areas of white space around the central oval, and the disproportionately large (and ugly) figures of value.



One of four stamps issued in 1949: compare this wording with that on the 1929 issue.

Odd features There are two points about these stamps which have always struck me as rather odd, the first being the fact that the English language name of the organisation whose Congress was being commemorated did not appear on the stamps in full, and nor, even, did its three initials. The body which was established in 1874, following a conference in Berne, with a view to bringing some order to the international handling of mail, was called the

Universal Postal Union, yet the word 'Universal' is not to be found on any of the five stamps. Compare this with the wording on the four UPU stamps issued 20 years later to mark the 75th anniversary of the same body.

The second odd feature – perhaps even odder – is that the colours of the stamps did not comply fully with UPU regulations! One of the ideals of the UPU was that certain categories of stamps should be 'colour coded', that is, that its members should use blue stamps for paying their basic overseas letter rate, red for their foreign postcard rate, and green for their overseas printed paper rate. So, although the blue 2½d stamp – like the then current 2½d definitive – was in accordance with this rule, the stamps for overseas postcards (1½d brown) and overseas printed papers (1d red) did not comply.

I wonder whether any of the delegates to the Congress remarked on these oddities when they were presented with their souvenir sets? •

Greetings stamps labels Good Luck, by Lionel Jones

TWO SETS OF GREETINGS STAMPS were issued in 1991 – the first, comprising 10 1st class stamps on the theme 'Good Luck', went on sale on 5 February. The stamps were designed by Tony Meeuwissen and formed a 'composite design' pane (SG 1536/45).

Twelve labels, also designed by Mr Meeuwissen, were attached to the pane of stamps by an inter-pane gutter. They feature Good Luck symbols and charms. Printing was by Harrisons using the Jumelle photogravure press •

The twelve labels designed by Tony Meeuwissen. The paper was fluorescent coated with PVA dextrin gum. The labels, and stamps, were perforated (gauge 14.75 x 14) on the APS machine.



Books Postcards • Stanley Gibbons • GB postal stationery

Collect Modern Postcards This third edition of a popular work, compiled by Pete Davies, will be welcomed by the growing number of collectors of postcards produced since 1950. Mr Davies classifies such cards as: early modern, 1950-80; modern 1981-94; and contemporary, 1995 to the present. In his introduction he tells us that most collectors of modern cards (all periods) collect by theme and artist, collecting by publisher is less important now than it was a decade ago and photographic postcards have ceased to be a major influence. (To an extent this mirrors what is happening in philately, with thematic collecting more to the fore, but as yet only a small number of philatelists collect by designer rather than by country.) Quite a few stamp collectors also collect postcards and use modern cards for obtaining special postmarks and for use as maxi-cards with new special issues. They will find this catalogue of interest. The listings are under various headings: Advertising, Animals, Aviation, etc, each with introductory notes and listings of major publishers with brief descriptions of their output and a range of prices for their cards. Of interest are the separate lists of new publishers and of those no longer producing cards. The second edition of the catalogue (1989) listed over 1000 postcard artists – the most comprehensive ever produced. The majority are not repeated in the new listing, except where there have been major alterations in the price, themes or publishers, which gives details of approximately 400 artists.

The work is well-illustrated with a good selection of modern themes, including popular subjects such as the picture postcard centenary of 1994, Princess Diana, the 1998 World Cup, and President Clinton's misfortunes. Somewhat surprisingly, the reviewer found no reference to Post Office cards – PHQS, National Postal Museum, or the former regional cards. Surely they deserved a mention •

Collect Modern Postcards is available from: Reflections of a Bygone Age, 15 Debdale Lane, Keyworth, Nottingham NG12 5HT. Price £5.95, UK postage £1, overseas £2. The first and second editions are also still available.

Stanley Gibbons The SG British Commonwealth catalogue (Part 1) is recognised as the standard guide to British Commonwealth stamps. However the ever-increasing number of new issues means it is no longer the convenient size it once was. To accommodate the problem, SG has recently published a convenient pocket-sized publication covering the 'Empire' period, 1840-1936. The listings have been extracted directly from the 1999 edition of Part 1, reformatting to a smaller size. Unlike Part 1 the new catalogue is divided geographically by continent for the convenience of collectors specialising in an area like West Indies or Europe. Volume 1, covering Great Britain, Africa, Europe and the Americas, is now available. The second volume, covering Asia, Australasia and the Pacific will be published early in 2000 •

Volume 1 Available from the SG Strand shop or by mail order from Stanley Gibbons, Parkside, Ringwood BH24 3SH, price £16.95. Mail order phone line 0800 611622.

GB Postal Stationery: Price List of Registered Envelopes and Newswrappers Andrew Whitworth's list is more of a priced catalogue than a dealer's list as all main types of Post Office issues are listed, although prices are quoted only for those in stock at time of publication (February). For the Stamped to Order (STO) and the overprints (for use overseas) the listings are restricted to items in stock. The numerous issues of Guernsey, Jersey and the Isle of Man are included. Collectors interested in these aspects of GB stationery will find this work most useful as it covers all periods. Mr Whitworth's listing condenses somewhat Huggins's lists of Queen Victoria and Edward VII registered envelopes but has been extended to include unstamped registered envelopes of Guernsey and the recent unstamped priority services envelopes •

GB Postal Stationery: Price List of Registered Envelopes and Newswrappers The list runs to 31 pages, A5-size, weight 45 grams. A copy will be sent free on receipt of a suitable stamped self-addressed envelope or the appropriate number of international reply coupons. Write to A A Whitworth, 1 Prizet House, Helsington, Kendal LA8 8AB.

Posting boxes 186

THIS MONTH WE FEATURE two photographs of Edward VIII boxes, submitted by N S Atherden of Hampshire. The first depicts a B type pillar box at the Horn Hill Post Office, Winchester. Manufactured by the Carron Company of Falkirk, it is the only example of its type in Hampshire recorded by the Letter Box Study Group.

The second photo shows a Ludlow wall box (38 x 14 inches) with collection plate at the Marston Road PO, Stafford. This is the only example recorded by the LBSG. Both photographs were taken in December 1997. Other Edward VIII boxes were featured here in May 1980, February 1986 and June 1998 •

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



Cover corner

It is now a decade since Walsall Security Printers started producing stamps for Royal Mail. Printing began in January 1989 with the stamps for £1 vending machine books – see *Bulletin* April

1989. Walsall now produce the country stamps for Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales, retail (red) books, self-adhesive stamps in sheets, and Flowers greetings stamps •

Walsall produced this special cover bearing a pair of stamps for £1 vending machine books, their first for Royal Mail, and cancelled with a special hand-stamp. The books went on sale on 25 April.



ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH, WALSHALL



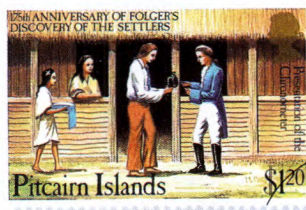
Postbag

Harrison chronometer As a result of a letter from a reader concerning my 'British Inventors' article in January, I have undertaken further research on the timepieces of John Harrison. He queried my description of the H1 to H4 timepieces as 'pocket watches'. The Harrison chronometer H4 can certainly be regarded as a watch in terms of size as it fits easily in a man's hand. Incidentally Larum Kendall made three copies of H4, themselves known as K1 to K3. K1 was supplied to James Cook and used by him on his second and third Pacific voyages (1772-80). It was subsequently used by Captain Arthur Phillip aboard HMS *Sirius* in the First Fleet to Australia in 1787-88 and was used by Admiral Jervis during the French Revolutionary Wars (1793-1802). K3 was supplied to HMS *Discovery* which accompanied Cook on his last voyage, and was subsequently used by Commodore Elliot in the West Indies (1782-89), George Vancouver in his north-west Pacific expedition (1791-95) and James Inman in charting Australia (1802-4).

K2 had the most remarkable career of them all. Purchased by the Admiralty from Kendall for £200 in 1772, it was with Phipps at Spitzbergen the following year, with Vanderput in Senegambia in 1774-7, with Admiral Digby in America (1781-4), with Thompson in Africa (1785) and William Bligh aboard the *Bounty* in 1787. Fletcher Christian relieved Bligh of his chronometer at the time of the mutiny and thus it ended up on Pitcairn Island whose 2c stamp of 1969 shows it alongside a miniature portrait of Bligh. K2 was actually very similar to H4, the chief difference being the shape of the ring at the top.

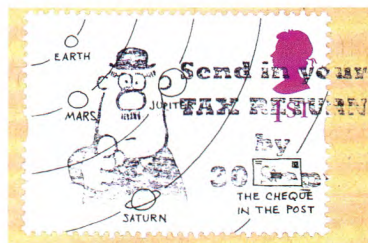
In 1808 Mayhew Folger, aboard a New England sealer *Topaz* rediscovered Pitcairn and stumbled across its tiny colony. He purchased K2 from John Adams, a scene recaptured on the \$1.20 stamp of 1983 marking the 175th anniversary of Folger's visit. His vessel was attacked by pirates off the coast of Peru, and some time later K2 turned up in the Chilean port of Concepcion where it was purchased by a Spanish trader for three doubloons. He sold it to Alexander Cald-

cleugh, a Scottish merchant in Valparaiso, and he in turn sold it to Captain Thomas Herbert RN in 1840 for 50 guineas. Herbert presented it to the Royal United Service Institution, London about 1843 and it remained there till 1963 when it was transferred to the National Maritime Museum where it may be seen today, along with the four Harrison chronometers and other Kendall timekeepers. Full details of these naval chronometers can be found in *The Clocks and Watches of Captain James Cook* by Derek Howse and Beresford Hutchinson. JAMES MACKAY, GLASGOW •



The two Pitcairn stamps, both designed by Jennifer Toombs

Poetic justice I don't collect postmarks, but I'm enclosing one I will be keeping. When I saw just how apt the slogan was when compared with the subject of the stamp, I thought it would be appreciated by *Bulletin* readers. JIM O'NEIL, WIRRAL, MERSEYSIDE •



Posts of Haslemere I am grateful for the review of my book in the January *Bulletin*. However two errors crept into the review. Tennyson's *Rizpah* was written in 1868, not 1880, and the Royal Broom-maker to Queen Victoria was Edward not George Moorey. After 30 years of subscribing to the *Bulletin*, I look forward to receiving my copy each month. P MOOREY, HASLEMERE ●

Exhibitions Peter Mains (January) queries the plethora (his word) of philatelic exhibitions in the UK. Firstly we should separate the true exhibitions from the stamp fair, large or small. The current Horticultural Halls events, Scotex and the Manchester event (last November) were just fairs. Philately is a hobby, there are no rules about attending events! If dealers think they have a commodity that the collectors want, then their fairs will prosper. If the event is poorly publicised, as appears the case with the Manchester event, then attendance will be poor, as I found on 15 November. Again, most collectors will not want to spend all their money on travel, so it seems sensible for there to be major fairs in London, the North, and in Scotland.

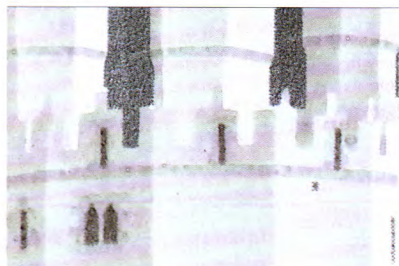
Major exhibitions usually have a significant dealer presence as well as displays of exhibits, both competitive and non-competitive. Again, there is no law to say that collectors have to enter competitive exhibitions. Some enjoy it, some wouldn't consider it. That there are two Stampex events a year is, I suppose, a throwback to when there was one Stampex and one BPE (British Philatelic Exhibition) per year. Today, it is only at Autumn Stampex that competitive classes are held. Mr Mains asked if we need Stampex in 2000 as well as the Stamp Show 2000 international at Earl's Court. If there was no Stampex in Autumn 2000, British collectors who want to exhibit at international level would lose the chance to qualify for such internationals for that year and would have to wait for Autumn 2001 to 'have a go'. However Mr Mains has a very fair point in noting that Thematica and the ABPS Brighton & Hove event with its emphasis on thematic, cinderella and revenue collecting, were both in the same month.

Supply and demand will dictate the number of special events in one year (with or without competitive exhibits). Collectors will or won't attend, subject to travel distance, specific collecting interests and their current levels of spare cash! RICHARD BEITH, CHESTER ●

Questa gravure stamps Regarding the letter from Ken Marks (March), the difference between the Questa and De La Rue 1p, 20p and 26p stamps is clear. Behind the front diadem at the top the Questa merges with the second fleur-de-lis type jewels whereas the DLR is separate at three points. This can be seen with the naked eye – even on used copies where the postmark does not obscure the design. ROBERT OLIVER, STANLEY GIBBONS LTD, RINGWOOD ●

Coronation postcard I am very interested in the postcard shown in Cover Corner (February). What is written on the card is very simple and just explains the picture on the back of the card. It means 'This card pictures the coronation of HM King George 5th on June 22, 1911 AD. In the British capital, Junki (or Tadanori, or some other pronunciation is possible).' Junki is the first name of the sender. He should be the recipient's brother or son, or very close relative, as he wrote only his first name. The recipient's name is Takasuke Rin-oiye who was quite a famous government official in those days. He was the governor of Ishikawa prefecture at that time (the governor was not elected, but appointed in those days). The postcard was addressed to the governor's official residence in Kanazawa, the capital of Ishikawa prefecture. The postmark on the left corner of the card reads 'Kanazawa, 44th year of Meiji (1911), 7th month, 22nd day, 11am-1pm'. It is the date of the arrival of this postcard at Kanazawa post office. The sender, I guess, was staying in England while he was studying or travelling, or working at that time. He could be a member of a Japanese delegation to the Coronation Ceremony, but I could not find his name in the Japanese *Who's Who*. MICHIIHIKO YOKOHAGE, TOKYO, JAPAN ●

Competition Identify the stamp from the detail and win £100



February's detail was from the 1998 Queen's Beasts set. Mrs M Joyce Boyer of Lincolnshire won first prize, and 20 runners-up prizes were also sent. Our thanks to all who entered.

SIMPLY IDENTIFY the special stamp from the detail shown above and send your answer, name and address on a postcard (or back of a sealed envelope) to: May Competition, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 22 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1NL. The sender of the first card drawn on 18 June will receive £100. Twenty runner-up prizes will also be awarded. The competition is not open to Royal Mail employees ●

Events

1 May South Wales Fed of Phil Socs 30th Convention at Princess Royal Theatre, Port Talbot, 10.00-16.30. Admission 50p. Dealers, PO sales counter.

Enquiries G Prior, 20 Heol y Sheet, North Cornelly, Bridgend CF33 4EY

4 May Travels with a Donkey talk at Bath Postal Museum, 8 Broad Street, Bath, 18.30. **Enquiries** 01225 460333

8 May Plymouth Phil Soc Stamp Fair at Main Hall, Plymouth University, 10.00-16.00. Children under 14 accompanied by adult especially welcome. Young Collectors Corner. **Enquiries** M Griffiths 01752 408671

8 May StampEssex 99 organised by Bishop's Stortford & District PS and Assn of Essex Phil Socs at Rhodes Memorial Centre, Bishop's Stortford, 10.00-16.30. Dealers, displays, etc. **Enquiries** B Watson, 01279 723798

8 May Display Mulready's and British Pictorial Envelopes by John Bohn at National Philatelic Society, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1, 15.15. **Enquiries** NPS, 0171 336 0882

8 May Midlands Phil Fed Convention, Carrs Lane, Church Centre, Birmingham

12 May Workers' Tale talk – Bath at work by S Burroughs 18.00. **Enquiries** Bath Postal Museum, 8 Broad Street, Bath BA1 5LJ, 01225 460333

15 May GBPS AGM, Presidential and other displays at British Philatelic Centre, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1, 11.00 onwards. **Enquiries** A Lajer (GBPS Membership Secretary), 01189 344151

20 & 21 May Disinfected Mail of the World evening talk by Denis Vandervelde (20th) and Philatelic Roadshow on postal history (21st) at Bath Postal Museum, 8 Broad Street, Bath. **Enquiries** 01225 460333

21-23 May 23rd Northeast Philatelic Weekend at Swallow Hotel, Gateshead. Varied programme for new and advanced collectors. Souvenir booklet. **Enquiries** Mrs D Martin, 0191 285 5115

28-30 May GBPS 2nd Weekend Meeting at Bank House Hotel, Golf & Country Club, Bransford, Worcester. Booking necessary. **Enquiries** A Moorcroft, 01206 841231

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designed by one of today's leading artists and designers, including Peter Blake, David Hockney and Sir Eduardo Paolozzi.

For more information write to British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT or call the UK order line on 0345 641 641, open Monday-Friday 08.30–17.00. Overseas customers should write to the above address or call 131 550 8989. Millennium stamps went sale on 12 January.



Reference 99 AEA

