

BRITISH PHILATELIC

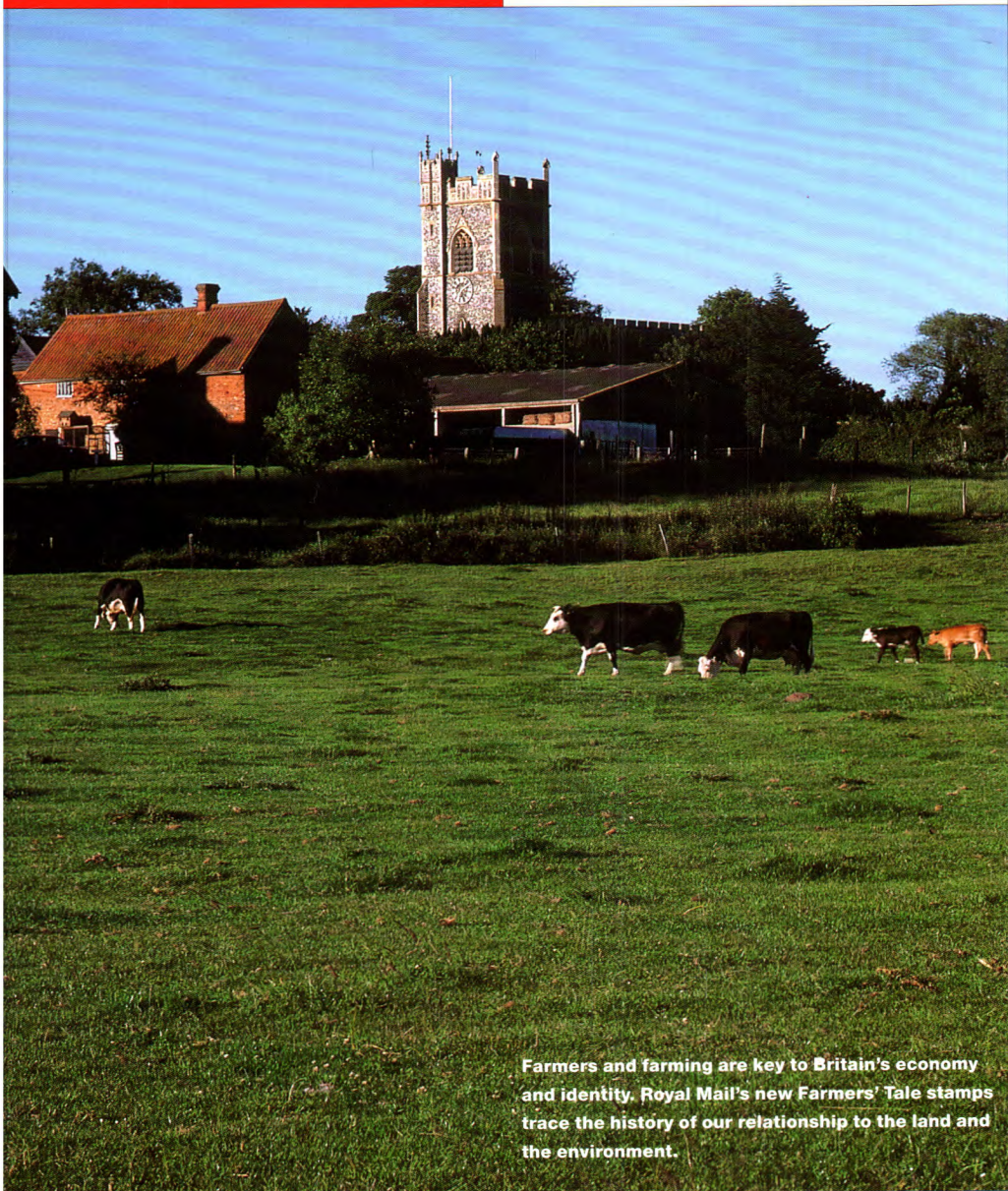
The ROYAL MAIL magazine *for stamp collectors*

Volume 36 Number 12

AUGUST 1999 • 85p

Bulletin

Millennium Farmers' Tale •
Celebrating the solar eclipse



Farmers and farming are key to Britain's economy and identity. Royal Mail's new Farmers' Tale stamps trace the history of our relationship to the land and the environment.

Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



Cover A dairy farm, Stratford St Mary, Suffolk. Royal Mail's new Millennium Farmers' Tale stamps are previewed in this issue, page 372. Photograph by Liz Artindale.

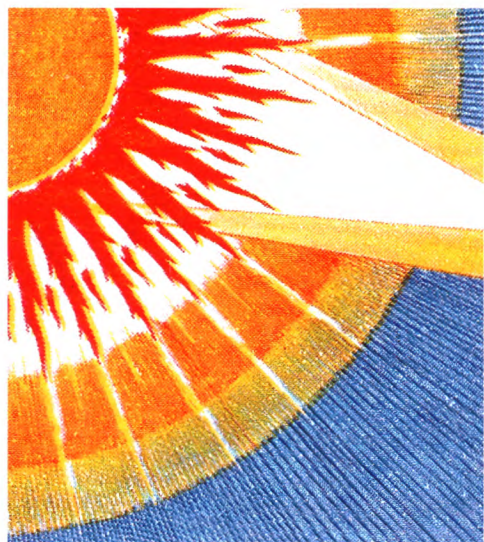
Glasgow 2000 exhibition

The exhibition has a new web site (replacing that given in last month's *Bulletin*): <http://home.freeuk.net/johnmorgan/glas2000.htm>

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

3 August	Issue Millennium Scientists' Tale stamps and presentation pack
11 August	Issue Solar Eclipse miniature sheets (contains four 64p Scientists' Tale stamps)
24 August	Withdrawal Carnival stamps, pack and stamp cards
26 August	Withdrawal Promotional retail stamp book – Camcorder
31 August	Issue Millennium Farmers' Tale stamp cards
1 September	Withdrawal Stamp books 4 × 30p; 4 × 37p (Tourist cover); 4 × 63p (issued 5 May 1998)
1 September	Withdrawal Aircards (issued 1 September 1998)
6 September	Withdrawal Stamp books: 10 × 1st definitives and greetings 'Create a Card'; 4 × 30p; 4 × 37p and Questa 10 × 1st (issued 7 September 1998)
7 September	Issue Millennium Farmers' Tale stamps and presentation pack
21 September	Issue Millennium retail book containing 8 × 1st class NVI stamps and two 26p Farmers' Tale stamps (£2.60)
21 September	Issue World Changers prestige stamp book (£6.99)
28 September	Issue Millennium Soldiers' Tale stamp cards
30 September	Withdrawal Speed stamps, presentation pack, and stamp cards

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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 for single copies, from Post Office Counters philatelic outlets ● **Annual subscriptions** £9.50 in UK and Europe, £13.50 rest of the world. 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 as above) ● Royal Mail also publishes the fortnightly *British Postmark Bulletin*, giving details of forthcoming special handstamps. Available on annual subscription from British Philatelic Bureau (address above) UK and Europe £10, rest of the world £21.75 ● **Copyright** Unless copyright is attributed to a specific author, any article or feature may be reproduced without formal permission, but acknowledgement should be given to *British Philatelic Bulletin*. Requests to reproduce copyright articles should be addressed 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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Stamp scene Stamp shows and Societies •

Northeast Philatelic Weekend

Stamp 2000 will take place at Wembley on 2-6 February.

For information contact Sylvia Cook, Exhibitions Manager at Stanley Gibbons. Telephone 01425 461353.

Stamp shows at Wembley As well as over 20,000 collectors and members of the general public, Stamp '99 at Wembley in April was visited by celebrities to assist Stanley Gibbons and Benham with their Variety Club of Great Britain 'Sunshine Coach Appeal'. Visitors queued eagerly waiting for the autographs of Norman Wisdom (who opened the show), Bernard Cribbins, Sally Thomsett, Brenda Cowling and Henry Kelly who all signed for small donations to the charity. Bill Pertwee also contributed with his book signing. The charity auction on the Friday evening was a lively occasion; comedy actor Christopher Biggins displaying wit and charm as guest auctioneer. Some £10,000 was raised towards the appeal during the show, £5850 from the auction.

One of the most popular attractions was the Design a Stamp Competition, arranged by The House of Questa for young visitors. This attracted over 500 entries judged by Paul Singleton of Questa and John Whittaker and Andra Rigby of Royal Mail. The winning entries, by Oliver Coleman (age 7), Afiya Allen (10), and Zahra Al-Rikabi (13), have been produced in souvenir sheet format. Thanks to Questa we will be including this souvenir sheet as a free gift in next month's *Bulletin* to add to the four previous sheets produced since 1995 •

Membership of the GBCC

is \$15 in the USA, \$22 elsewhere; payment may be made by Visa/MasterCard to Janet Gordon, PO Box 42324, Cincinnati, OH 45242-0324, USA.

The Club's website address

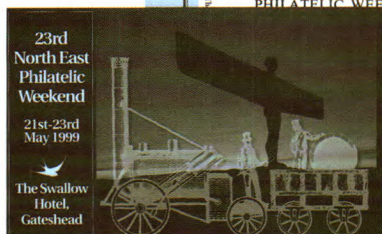
is: <http://www.gbstamps.com/gbcc>

GBCC Chronicle The Great Britain Collectors Club magazine dated April 1999 contains several features of interest to collectors of modern GB stamps, principally an appreciation of Arnold Machin, who died in March, and a lengthy interview with Douglas Myall, compiler and publisher of *The Complete Deegam Machin Handbook*, regular *Bulletin* columnist, and leading authority on Machins. Douglas talks of his career in the civil service as well as his philatelic interests which include Victorian perfins used on cover. Asked about a new edition of the *Machin Handbook*, Douglas replied: 'There are no plans at present to issue such a third edition. When it comes, it will most likely be an electronic version, running in parallel with the second, paper, version... The second edition will be maintained by means of supplements, issued after each major tariff change. The announced changes for April will trigger the first supplement. This will be sent to the printer after I have seen the Northern Ireland Regionals due on June 8th. Depending on the printer, publication is not likely to be before September.'

The *Chronicle* also includes features on covers bearing the 1940 Stamp Centenary stamps, 19th century and unusual modern postmarks, and Guernsey's 1988 and 1989 pre-stamped Christmas envelopes.

The second edition of the Deegam Machin Handbook is still available from John M Deering, The Machins, PO Box 2, Soath Molton EX36 4Y£, price £26.09 postpaid UK, £29.59 elsewhere surface mail, £38.49 airmail Zone 1, £41.49 airmail Zone 2. It was reviewed here in March 1997 along with other specialised Machin catalogues. ED •

Northeast Philatelic Weekend This annual event, held at the Swallow Hotel, Gateshead on 21-23 May, attracted collectors from all parts of England and Scotland to share a weekend of fun and comradeship. On Friday evening each of over 30 participants showed 10 sheets of stamps on a variety of subjects. Saturday began with interesting and informative displays 'Pot-pouri of Great Britain' and 'Abraham Lincoln and the American Civil War' from Charles Reid and Barry Lobell, followed by a philatelic film show 'Centenary of Cinema' by David Williams, a retired university senior lecturer in film and television studies. He brought back many memories of the silent films and famous film stars. A raffle, book auction, and dinner completed a most enjoyable day. Sunday saw displays on 'Early Sweden' and 'Nobel Prizewinners' by Norman Hughes and Barry Lobell, also a stamp fair which enabled participants to search for a few treasures to take home to add to their collections. All participants found the weekend, organised by Dorothy Martin and Desmond Graham, well worth attending •



1999 Weekend souvenir booklet contains two 'Boots' panes with 1st class NVI stamps with commemorative overprints in the margins of the panes. Price £2 plus SAE from Mrs D Martin, 47 Briardene Crescent, Kenton Park, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 4RY. Mrs Martin can supply details of earlier booklets still available, and details of the next weekend, 12-14 May 2000.

España 2000 This international exhibition, under FIP patronage, will be staged in the Cristal and Pipa pavillions in the Casa de Campo, where España 75 and España 84 took place, from 6-14 October 2000. There will be some 3500 frames of exhibits, as well as the stands of numerous dealers and postal administrations. The exhibition, organised by the Spanish Post Office, the Federacion Española de Sociedades Filatelicas and Asociacion Nacional de Empresarios de Filatelia, will mark the 150th anniversary of the issue of the first Spanish stamps •

España 2000 Coordinator

Patrick Pearson of London, Vice President of FIP.

The British commissioner is

Mrs Yvonne Wheatley, 7 Manor Croft, Leeds LS15 9BW.

Astro Space Stamp Society Stamps have recently been issued, in a Crown Agents omnibus series, to mark the 30th anniversary of the first landing on the Moon. In conjunction with the Crown Agents, the Society has arranged a competition to win a complete mint set of these stamps. Simply answer who was the Apollo XI astronaut crew-member who did not walk on the Moon during this historic space mission? Send your answer, with full name and address and A4 stamped addressed envelope (UK) or three international reply coupons (overseas) to the address opposite. A draw will be made every two months until the end of July 2000. All entrants will be sent a mint thematic set supplied by the Crown Agents •

Competition entries

Should be sent to: Apollo XI Contest, Astro Space Stamp Society, 21 Exford Close, Weston-super-Mare BS23 4RE. All entries should be dated.

Revenue Society of GB The Society hosted a lunch for 58 members and guests at the Royal Philatelic Society London on 8 May. The occasion was the presentation by Gary Ryan RDP, FRPSL of his award winning Hungarian revenues collection. Leading collectors flew over from Hungary to attend, joining many members of the Hungarian Philatelic Society of GB •

Membership of the Society,

which caters for revenues of the world, is £15 per annum. Enquiries: Tony Hall, 53a High Street, Whitwell, Hitchin SG4 8AJ.

For details of the ABPS
contact J N Hammonds, 31
Wheatsheaf Close, Horsham
RH12 5TH.

The next ABPS national exhibition will be held in Glasgow in November 2000. Others are planned for Chester in 2002 and Essex in 2004.

ABPS The Association of British Philatelic Societies has recently published its report and accounts for 1998. Membership of the Association comprises 21 federations, three national societies, 88 specialist and 267 local societies, one overseas society, four honorary members, also 134 UK and seven overseas patrons and friends. The Association published its first booklet – a catalogue of films, videos and slides available for purchase or loan. Future booklets will provide cover association/federation competition rules, organising philatelic events, handling philatelic collections on the death of their owner, and a survival guide for philatelic societies •

Royal Mail news New prestige stamp book • Eclipse miniature sheet • Stamp launches

World Changers Prestige Stamp Book panes

Pane 1 4 × 20p Patients' Tale stamps • **Pane 2** 4 × Scientists' Tale 26p stamps • **Pane 3** 4 × Scientists' Tale 44p stamps • **Pane 4** 4 × Inventors' Tale 63p stamps • **Pane 5** Mixed pane of definitives: top and bottom rows 1p, 19p, and 1p; middle row 26p, pictorial label, and 19p. The 1p and 26p stamps have two phosphor bands, the 19p stamps have band at right.

World Changers Prestige Stamp Book The 1999 prestige stamp book, to be issued on 21 September, commemorates British scientific genius. This new book will cost £6.99 and contains five panes of stamps to that value as detailed on the opposite page. The book will be printed by the House of Questa, all stamps in gravure, except the 26p

and 44p Scientists' Tale stamps which are printed in litho. Note: All the definitive stamps have elliptical perfs on the vertical sides. Specialist collectors may notice differences in the gum and/or phosphor reaction of the stamps in this book compared to other printings. Douglas Myall will report on such differences in his Decimal Stamp Books column in due course.



FIRST DAY ARRANGEMENTS Unstamped Royal Mail first day cover envelopes will be available from the Bureau, PO Counters philatelic outlets and main post offices about a week before 21 September; price 25p. The Bureau will provide a first day cover service – collectors may order the Royal Mail cover bearing the mixed pane cancelled by pictorial first day postmarks for the Bureau or Downe, Orpington, Kent, home of Charles Darwin, subject of the 26p Scientists' Tale stamp. Price £1.44 UK (including VAT), £1.23 elsewhere (no VAT); orders must reach the Bureau by 21 September.

Collectors may send their own stamped covers, on the day of issue, to British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT (Bureau postmark) or South East Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Wexham Road, Slough SL1 1AA (Downe postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FD PSB9903' (Bureau), or 'FD PSB9904' (Downe). Covers can be posted or handed in at main post offices for the Downe postmark. A non-pictorial Downe postmark will also be available, by sending covers to the South East Handstamp Centre, requesting FD PSB9904NP. Bilingual Welsh/English versions of the Downe pictorial and non-pictorial postmarks can be obtained by sending covers to the Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Penarth

Road, Cardiff CF1 1AA quoting reference FD PSB 9904 Bil or FD PSB9904 NP Bil. Details of sponsored handstamps will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin*, available on annual subscription from the British Philatelic Bureau: £10 UK, £21.75 elsewhere (airmail).

Any of the stamps in the prestige book can be used, singly or in combination (subject to minimum 19p postage) on first day covers to qualify for philatelic postmarks in use on 21 September ●

The book yields the following single stamps Some are new to this book, others exist elsewhere

Stamp	New/Other source
1p 2 bands	Sheets (De La Rue), £1 books (Questa)
19p band right	New
26p	Sheets (DLR), £1 & £2 books (Questa)
20p Patients' Tale	Sheets (Questa)
26p Scientists' Tale	Sheets (Questa)
44p Scientists' Tale	Sheets (Questa)
63p Inventors' Tale	Sheets (DLR)

Solar Eclipse Miniature Sheet Details of this sheet were announced in last month's *Bulletin*. Since that issue went to press changes have been made to the first day postmarking arrangements. The Bureau and Falmouth postmarks used on covers serviced by the Bureau will be applied in silver coloured ink. Furthermore covers posted in first day posting boxes in the London area, or sent in to the London Special Handstamp Centre, will receive the Falmouth postmark in silver. Covers posted outside the London area or sent to other Special Handstamp Centres will receive the Falmouth postmark in black.

Covers for the Bureau postmark (FD 9919) should be sent to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT.

For Falmouth postmark in silver (FD 9920) send covers to: London Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Mount Pleasant, London EC1A 1BB.

For the Falmouth postmark in black (FD 9920) send covers to: the Midland SHC, Royal Mail, St Stephens Street, Birmingham B6 4AA; South East SHC, Royal Mail, Wexham Road, Slough SL1 1AA; Northern England SHC, Royal Mail, Forth Street, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 1AA; or Scotland/N Ireland SHC, Royal Mail, 57 Queen Street, Glasgow G1 3AZ. The Wales & West SHC, Royal Mail, Penarth Road, Cardiff CF1 1AA will apply the bilingual Falmouth postmark in black (FD 9920 Bil). The Falmouth non-pictorial postmarks (FD 9920 NP and FD 9920 NP Bil) will be in black only ●

The Solar Eclipse miniature sheet measures 90 × 122mm, not 88 × 120mm as stated last month. Any slight variance in size will be within Royal Mail's specification to the printer.

We must stress that the use of silver ink is experimental, and the quality of impression cannot be guaranteed.

Leeds Mail Centre Royal Mail's new Mail Centre in Stourton, Leeds, was officially opened on 19 May. Covering the Leeds, Harrogate and Wakefield postcode areas, from beyond Addingham and Masham in the north, to the outskirts of Huddersfield and Bradford in the west, the Elmsalls form the southern extremity, with the eastern border between Knottingley and Tadcaster. The area combines the rural beauty of parts of Pennine North Yorkshire with the urban West Yorkshire, one of the UK's industrial heartlands. Royal Mail employs some 3075 staff in the area working at the new centre (1031 staff), 33 letter delivery offices and 18 sub post office delivery offices. The vehicle fleet of 454 covers 13.65 million miles annually collecting from 2124 street posting boxes, 2100 firms and delivering some 292 million items each year to over 607,000 individual delivery points. The new Centre has four Integrated Mail Processor machines sorting 30,000 letters per hour. The IMP machines cancel stamps with ink-jet postmarks ●

Chester and Sheffield can now be added to the list of sorting offices applying ink-jet cancels published here last December.

Ambassadors in miniature

Children from the Stockbridge Primary School near the Philatelic Bureau in Edinburgh, dressed in national costumes for the launch of the Scottish country stamps.



Scottish and Millennium stamp launches The new Scottish country stamps were launched in style at the British Philatelic Bureau in Edinburgh on the day before issue. The theme of the photocall was 'Ambassadors in Miniature' pointing out that the stamps would be seen on mail going to all parts of the world. An estimated 166 million of the new stamps will be sold each year for postage, with thousands more bought by collectors. John Ward, Chairman of the Scottish Post Office Board, commented that '... with their vibrant and modern designs, I am certain they will be worthy global ambassadors for Scotland.' Erick Davidson, Chief Executive of Tayburn, said: 'The aim was to produce a design which was symbolic of the whole of Scotland and not limited to any location or period in history. It was also important that the stamps were treated in a modern, forward-looking way and, just as importantly, were popular.'

1966 World Cup Final heroes Sir Geoff Hurst and Martin Peters, together with Bobby Moore's widow Stephanie, returned to Wembley Stadium on 24 May to launch the 26p Entertainers' Tale stamp featuring the captain who led his team to victory 33 years ago. The launch received considerable attention in the press •



New Recorded label From this month a new design Recorded label will be going into use. Keeping the familiar orange background colour, the new label has bold blue and yellow printing indicating that the Recorded service is available for letters sent by the 1st or 2nd class service and that the letter is to be 'Signed for' on delivery. The label is bipartite – a receipt section which will be datestamped at the post office counter for the sender; and a self-adhesive section which should be affixed to the front of the letter. This section, and the label overall, will now be in the same size and format as the silver-coloured Special Delivery labels introduced last October. The self-adhesive section includes a barcode for tracking purposes.

The new labels will go into use as stocks of the existing labels are used up; it bears imprint P2297 REV August 99 on the reverse. A bilingual version will be available at post offices in Wales, and revised customer labels will be issued to business users of the Recorded service.

Recorded Delivery, introduced in 1961, costs 60p in addition to 1st or 2nd class postage. Advice of Delivery of the letter is available for an additional 33p; this should be requested at time of posting •

Bulletin binders Keep your copies of the *British Philatelic Bulletin* and *British Postmark Bulletin* in good order in our specially produced binders. These are available from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT. Price £7 Philatelic Bulletin binder (order code PB001) or £6.50 Postmark Bulletin binder (PB322). For a free sample copy of the Postmark Bulletin write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 22 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1NL •

Post Office Heritage Collections George v high values from Kenya and Uganda

THIS MONTH'S treasures from the Post Office Heritage Collections (formerly in the National Postal Museum – now closed) are four George v high value stamps from Kenya and Uganda – £20, £25, £75 and £100 denominations overprinted SPECIMEN. They are priced in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue at £1925, although without the specimen overprint at a massive £127,000! The £100 stamp was the highest sterling denomination of any postage stamp. These form part of the Post Office's extensive collection of Commonwealth and foreign stamps, described by the former NPM Manager, Stan Goron, in the October 1993 *Bulletin*. Most of these stamps come from the distribution between member countries by the Universal Postal Union dating back to 1879. In recent years the Post Office has been filling many of the gaps in the collection in order to increase its reference value.

PUBLICATIONS Copies of the National Postal Museum's *Review* of 1996 and 1997-98, also the first four of its *Special Stamp History* books (1929 Postal Union Congress; 1935 George V Silver Jubilee and 1936 proposed Memorial stamps; 1936 proposed Edward VIII Coronation; and 1953 Coronation) are all available from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT. The *Reviews* cost £5 each, the *Special Stamp History* books £7.50 each.

Association of Friends The Friends of the NPM continues with events and visits, also publication of a worthwhile journal, *Cross Post*, and postcards featuring items from the Heritage collections. Enquiries: Ray Pottle, PO Box 40, Uckfield, TN22 2SP. Telephone 01825 766546.

Henry Berry retires After 30 years, Henry Berry left the Post Office at the end of July. For the last 15 years Henry worked as a custodian at the Museum, and will be well-known to many visitors. He enjoyed meeting the public, especially pointing out items of particular interest to them in the Museum's collections. Henry worked for a while in the Museum shop and, since the Museum closed to the public at the end of last year, at Post Office Archives at Mount Pleasant. We wish him well for the future •



British scientific endeavour As Scientists' Tale stamps go on sale, James Mackay looks at a legacy of expertise and achievement

The August set in the year-long Millennium saga is devoted to the Scientists' Tale, although inevitably several earlier Millennium stamps have also touched on British achievements in science and technology. Britain has arguably produced more scientific breakthroughs and innovations than any other country, and it was certainly British scientific expertise at the forefront of the Industrial Revolution, which gave to the world its modern civilisation.

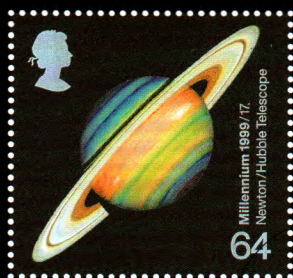
TO SELECT a mere four subjects as representative of British scientific achievement must have been the most difficult task of all facing Royal Mail. The chronological order of themes is in descending order of value. Thus the subject of the 64p stamp is the pioneering work of Sir Isaac Newton in the field of astronomy.

It has been well said that Sir Isaac Newton was one of the most eminent scientists of all time. Born at Woolsthorpe, near Grantham, Lincolnshire on Christmas Day 1642, he was named after his father who had died two months previously. When he was two, his mother married the Rev Barnabas Smith, but the boy continued to live with his grandmother. He attended Grantham grammar school for two years but was an indifferent pupil, until he won a fight with the school bully. This injected such a spirit of self-confidence in young Isaac that he redoubled his efforts and became head boy.

A copy of Newton's reflecting telescope. Based on a mirror instead of the conventional lenses, this six-inch telescope afforded greater magnification than contemporaries over six feet in length.

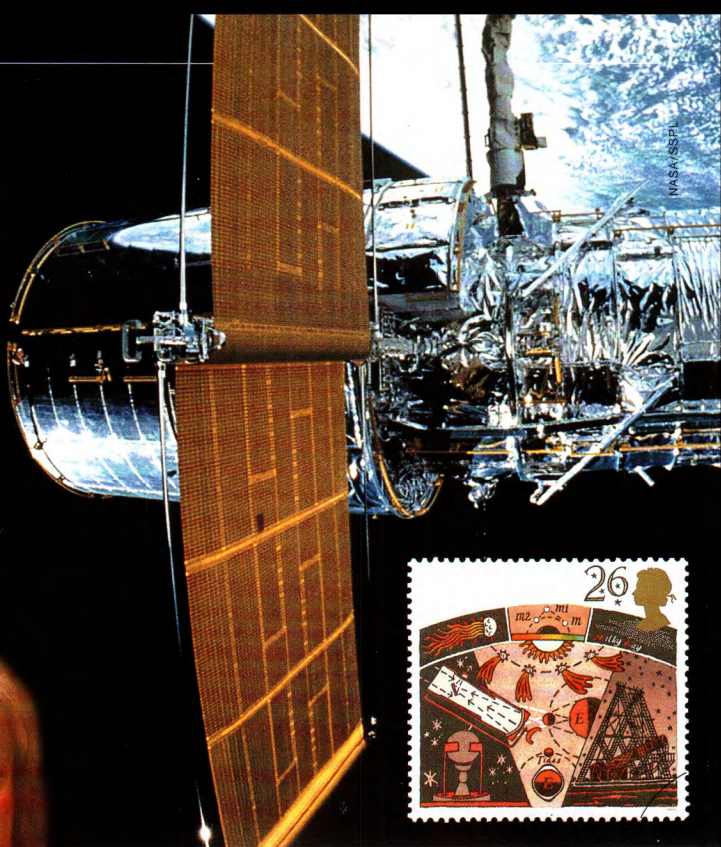
When he was 14, however, his mother, recently widowed again, returned to Grantham and Isaac was taken out of school to help her run the family farm. He had no aptitude for farming, his head forever filled with mathematical problems. Fortunately his mother's brother, the Rev William Ayscough, recognised the boy's budding genius and persuaded his sister to let Isaac return to school. In 1661 he went to Trinity College, Cambridge, becoming a fellow in 1667. By 1665 he had already discovered the binomial theorem and laid the groundwork for differential calculus. In a career spanning 60 years he made numerous discoveries in the fields of mathematics, physics and astronomy which were reflected in the set of four stamps issued in March 1987 to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the first publication of his great work *Philosophiæ Naturalis Principia Mathematica*. This was the subject of the 18p stamp (right); the others in that set illustrating the three parts of his major work, *Motion of Bodies in Ellipses* (22p), *Optick Treatise* (31p) and *The System of the World* (34p). Despite his multifarious scientific interests, Newton also found time to serve as MP for Cambridge University, and as Master of the Mint he was responsible for many improvements in the coinage from 1701 till his death in 1727. He was knighted by Queen





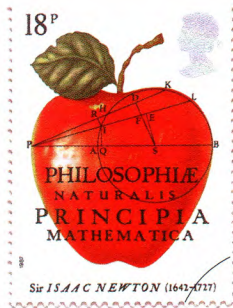
Isaac Newton and the telescope

In 1688 Isaac Newton invented the reflecting telescope, which paved the way for many discoveries. The 64p Scientists' Tale stamp depicts Saturn viewed by the Hubble Space Telescope, right. The HST, an international venture which includes British components, is a reflecting telescope. Below, Newton in his 80s, by John Vanderbank (attr).



The 18p stamp from the 1987 set commemorating Newton's *Principia Mathematica* alludes to the tale that an apple falling from a tree gave him the idea for the principle of gravity.

Early telescopes featured on the 26p in the Astronomy set of 1990, above right, along with Newton's diagram of the moon and tides.





Michael Faraday appeared on a 1991 22p stamp issued to celebrate the bicentenary of his birth.

This set also paid tribute to Charles Babbage, born in the same year. Although his work on calculating machines did not yield practicable results during his lifetime, Babbage is regarded as the father of computer science.

The other stamps in the set marked the 50th anniversary of operational radar and jet engines, pioneered by Sir Robert Watson-Watt and Sir Frank Whittle respectively, both subjects honoured on stamps of 1967.

Left, portrait of Faraday by Thomas Phillips, 1842.

Anne in 1705.

Electricity Next to Newton, Michael Faraday (1791-1867) is probably the greatest scientific genius Britain has ever produced. The son of a blacksmith who had migrated from Yorkshire to Surrey in search of work, Faraday had little formal education, but began his apprenticeship as a bookbinder at the age of 14 and continued in this career till 1813. He developed an interest in chemistry and attended a course of lectures given by Sir Humphry Davy. He meticulously wrote up the lecture notes, illustrated them and then bound them into a handsome volume which he presented to Davy with a request that he might secure for him some appointment at the Royal Institution. Davy, greatly impressed by the young man's enthusiasm, got him a job as a laboratory assistant. Faraday became Davy's protege, and accompanied him on an extensive tour of the Continent's scientific institutions in 1813-15. Ten years later Faraday was promoted director of the laboratory and in 1833 he became Fullerian professor of chemistry, a post which he held until his death.

His early work was in chemistry, particularly of chlorine and its compounds, the liquefaction of gases and the discovery of benzene, but he also experimented with improved steel alloys and glass. However, his name will always be primarily associated with his discoveries in electricity and



Colin Gray's design of the 44p stamp shows the rotation of polarized light by magnetism. Faraday first investigated this problem in 1822, returning to it repeatedly over the ensuing 13 years before publishing his findings in November 1845.



Origin of Species Charles Darwin, the subject of the new 26p value designed by Ray Harris Ching, was previously honoured by a set of four stamps in February 1982 on the centenary of his death. These stamps, designed by David Gentleman, showed Darwin flanked by some of the wildlife he encountered in the Galapagos Islands on the voyage of HMS *Beagle*. Along with giant tortoises and marine iguanas (15½p & 19½p respectively) Darwin appeared with the Cactus Ground Finch and Large Ground Finch, which had evolved from a common ancestor but developed specific features suited to the environment of their respective islands. It was from his close observation of this phenomenon that Darwin developed his theory of the origin of species by means of natural selection, published in 1859.

The 26p shows a Galapagos Finch against a background of fossil remains, clues which led Darwin to develop his theory of the origin of species.

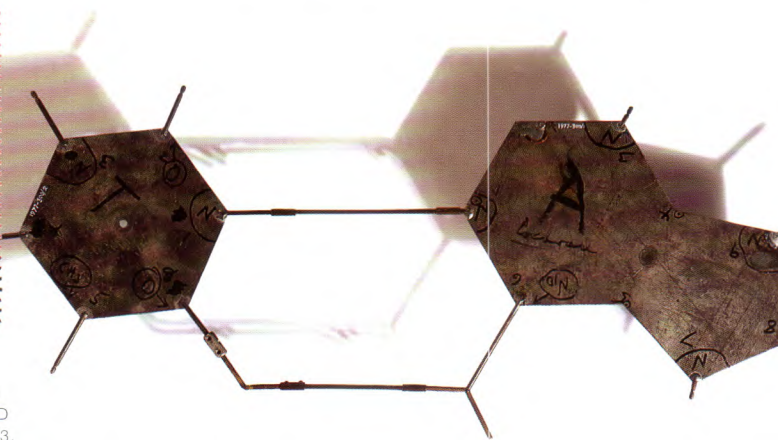




During the *Beagle's* survey of the coasts of South America, Darwin had discovered prehistoric skulls (shown on the 29p stamp of 1982) which led him to question the common belief that the world had been created by God some 5000 years previously. In 1841 Sir Richard Owen's identification of huge bones recently discovered as belonging to extinct creatures whom he named dinosaurs ('terrible lizards'), the subject of five stamps in 1991 (left), further fuelled the controversy between the traditionalists and scientists, though it was not until 1871 that Darwin published his second great work *Descent of Man*. Incidentally four of Darwin's five sons became prominent scientists, in astronomy, botany, eugenics and civil engineering.



A DNA plate from the model built by Francis Crick and J D Watson in Cambridge in 1953.



DNA The 19p stamp, designed by Mark Curtis, deals with the decoding of deoxyribonucleic acid – DNA for short. Although it was discovered in the 19th century, the structure of the DNA molecule eluded successive generations of scientists. Work in this field has to be seen in the context of the enormous strides made in chemistry, as exemplified by the set of four stamps issued in March 1977 to celebrate the centenary of the Royal Institute of Chemistry: the conformational analysis of steroids (8½p), the synthesis of vitamin C (10p), starch chromatography (11p) and the crystallography of salt (13p).

In 1949 Francis Crick teamed up with an American scientist, James Watson, at the Cavendish Laboratory in Cambridge to work on x-ray diffraction pictures of DNA crystals taken by Maurice Wilkins. In 1962 these three scientists shared the Nobel Prize for Medicine. Undoubtedly Rosalind Franklin, an expert on x-ray diffraction who first established the helical structure of DNA in 1951, would also have shared the prize, but for her untimely death in 1958 at the age of 37. Her discovery set Crick and Watson on the right track of a double helix, shown on the stamp. The importance of their discovery is incalculable, opening the way to fresh studies in genetics as well as forensic science, where DNA, the very substance of life itself, is now regarded as infinitely more accurate than fingerprints ●

Previous British stamps on various aspects of scientific achievements include: the development of nuclear power at Dounreay, 1964 and Wind-scale (now Sellafield), 1966; and the hovercraft, 1966.

Other stamps have illustrated the application of technology to safety at sea, 1985, and to industry and agriculture, 1986.

Post impressions Philip Parker previews the major Royal Mail sponsored exhibition at The British Library

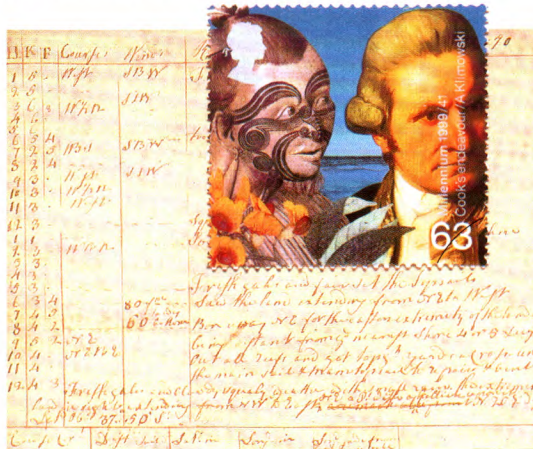
THIS SUMMER promises to be a memorable one for art lovers: a retrospective by one of Britain's most respected artists, Bridget Riley, runs at London's Serpentine Gallery while at the Royal Academy the Summer Exhibition devotes an entire room to landscapes by David Hockney. At The British Library, also, new works by Royal Academicians and their contemporaries, including Riley, can be enjoyed; but this is for lovers of stamps and history, too.

Open from 3 August, the Royal Mail sponsored exhibition 'Post Impressions' celebrates the creativity and achievements of Britain over the past millennium. It draws together the 48 pieces of original artwork used for the 1999 Millennium stamps, representing the cream of contemporary art, illustration, graphic design, photography and craft. For the first time, every one of the 48 Millennium stamps can be seen by the public.

The sheer range of artworks on show will be a source of delight: from the beautiful ten-foot wide painting of *Salts Mill* by David Hockney to the graphic designs for David Gentleman's 99th stamp. From the six-foot high weaving by Peter Collingwood to a small, jewel-like nativity painting by Craigie Aitchison.

In 'The Millennium in 48 Easy Pieces' (*Bulletin*, January 1999), I outlined the conceptual background for the stamp programme. The exhibition is an extension of this project to link 'the art of the stamp' and '1000 years of inspiration'. Treasures from The British Library's collections accompany the artwork. For example, in the section entitled 'Travellers' Tale', Andrzej Klimowski's collage for his 'Cook's endeavour' stamp is juxtaposed with Cook's log-book from his voyage (above), where he recorded in his own hand the sighting of eastern Australia on 19 April 1770. There are also period maps and prints, making history 'real' as the visitor encounters the written and printed materials that mark this moment.

This is repeated throughout the exhibition. Ray Harris Ching's sublime painting ('Darwin's



theory' from Scientists' Tale) is exhibited with correspondence by Darwin on evolution, and a first edition of *On the Origin of Species*. Elsewhere, a plan for the Prince Albert Bridge by Brunel is next to John Lawrence's wood engraving. To change the pace, visitors can inspect Snowdon's 'portrait' of a Dalek for 'Doctor Who' and come face-to-face with the full size Dalek built for the stamp! These are a taste of approximately 200 exhibits in the exhibition, which will also feature video and audio recordings.

Royal Mail and The British Library first discussed a collaboration in 1997, and early this year both began working together in earnest on 'Post Impressions' along with design company Carter Wong and 3-D specialist designers Red Studio. Royal Mail and the Library are natural partners in this creative endeavour. Royal Mail is a major patron of the arts through its stamps, and is a supporter of literacy initiatives. The British Library holds in trust the collective memory of the nation in its collections. This exhibition is a unique experience of the millennium 'at first hand', and aims to appeal to lovers of stamps, art and history in equal measure •

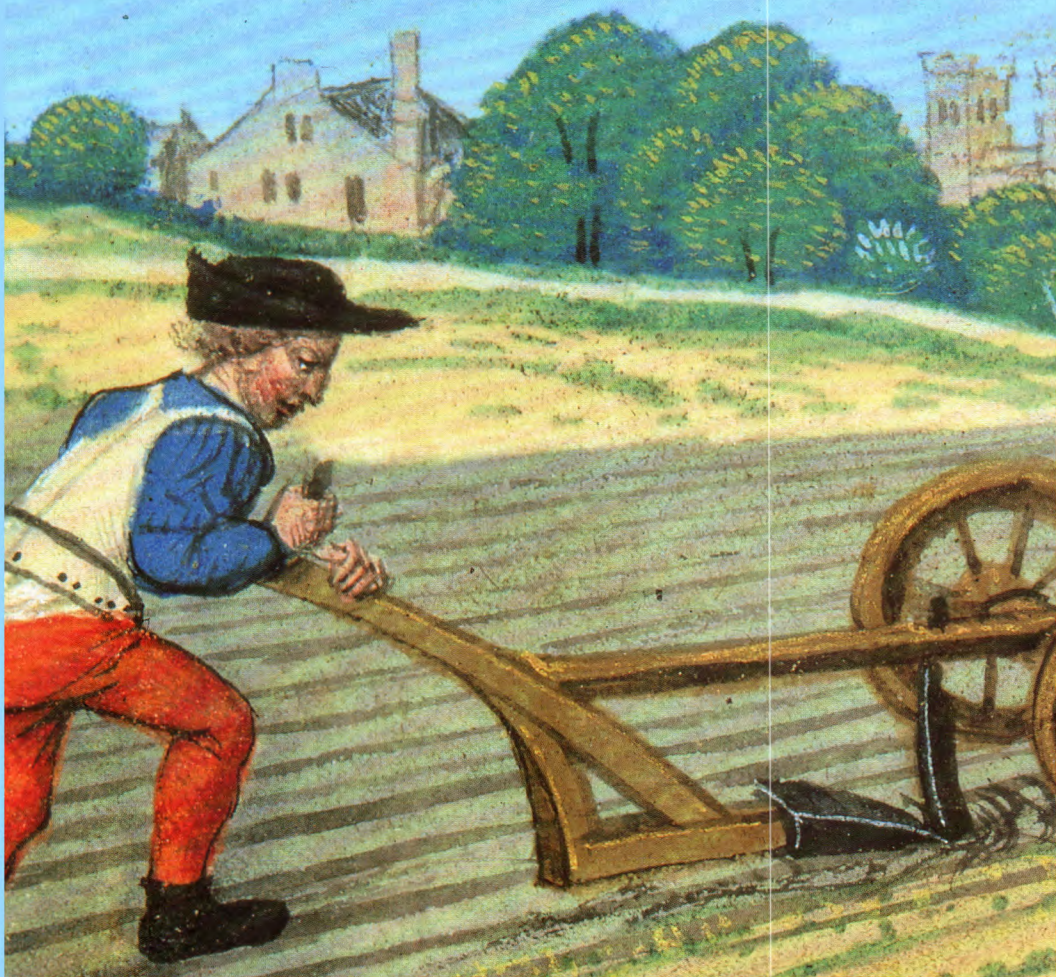
Post Impressions 3 August–18 January 2000, at The British Library, 96 Euston Road, London NW1. Open every day, free of charge. For information telephone 0171 412 7332.

The Farmers' Tale The ninth of 12 sets of Millennium stamps to be issued in 1999 is on the theme of farming

Farmers' Tale stamps will go on sale at post offices and philatelic outlets on 7 September.

The design of the **19p** stamp, by David Tress, features strip farming. This dates back many centuries and was a prevalent form of farming system in England until the Enclosure Movement of the 18th and 19th centuries.

The **26p** value, by Christopher Wormell, depicts mechanical farming. One of the greatest agricultural innovators was Jethro Tull (1674-1741), author of *The New Horse Hoeing Husbandry* (1731). Until the 17th century seeds were sown by scattering over fields by hand. Tull realised if they were sown in rows fewer seeds were needed and it was easier to extract weeds. In 1701 he invented a machine drill that sowed seeds in rows; its rotary mechanism was the foundation of all subsequent sowing instruments.



The 19p stamp, by David Tress, features strip farming. This dates back many centuries and is still practised today at the Nottinghamshire village of Laxton.

The 26p, by Christopher Wormell, represents mechanical farming practices introduced during the agricultural revolution, which preceded the industrial revolution in the 18th century.

The 44p, *Food from afar* by Tessa Traeger, features the potato. Introduced into Britain by European travellers, by the 18th century it was the staple crop to feed the poor.

The 64p stamp, by Richard Cooke, is entitled *Satellite agriculture*. New techniques enable farmers to detect variations in crops and soil, bringing significant environmental benefits.

Below, medieval ploughmen, from a Book of Hours (by permission of The British Library).



Cylinders and colours

19p P84 phosphor ● 1A grey-black ● 1B greenish yellow ● 1C cerise ● 1D new blue ● 1E silver

26p P85 phosphor ● 1A chestnut ● 1B orange-brown ● 1C violet-blue ● 1D grey-black ● 1E pale turquoise-green ● 1F silver

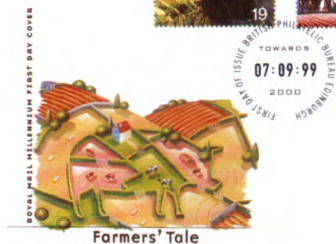
44p P85 phosphor ● 1A silver ● 1B yellow-brown ● 1C brown ● 1D grey-black

64p P85 phosphor ● 1A deep brown ● 1B greenish yellow ● 2C magenta ● 1D new blue ● 1E silver

Phosphor numbers are opposite row 18. On the 26p, 44p and 64p, phosphor bands are vignettes (they fade towards their edges), to reduce their impact on the stamp design.

The **44p** value, inscribed 'Food from afar', features the potato. From the 16th century, the British Empire provided Britons with a range of food-stuff of unparalleled diversity. The potato had a major impact. Grown originally by the indigenous peoples of South America, it was introduced into Britain by European travellers. Initially grown for medicinal purposes, by the 18th century it was the staple crop to feed the poor. The stamp was designed by Tessa Traeger.

The **64p** stamp, designed by Richard Cooke, is entitled Satellite agriculture. New techniques, exploiting photographic and navigation satellites, enable farmers to detect variations in crops and soil. By applying pesticides and fertilisers to those parts, farmers can greatly reduce chemicals and costs. The system has significant environmental benefits.



Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbie Road
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

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

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets about a week before 7 September, price 25p. Orders for FDCs with the stamps cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of the Bureau or Laxton (strip farming) must reach the Bureau by 7 September. 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, St Stephens Street, Birmingham B6 4AA (Laxton postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FD9921' (Bureau), or 'FD9922' (Laxton). Covers can be posted or handed in at main post offices for the Laxton postmark. A non-pictorial Laxton postmark is also available from the Birmingham Handstamp Centre, request 'FD9922 NP'.

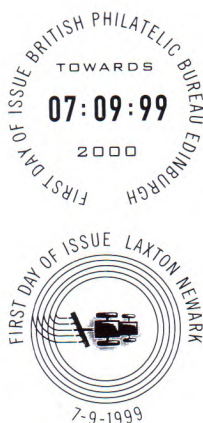
Bilingual Welsh/English versions of the Laxton pictorial and non-pictorial handstamps can be obtained by sending covers to the Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Penarth Road, Cardiff CF1 1AA, quoting reference FD9922 Bil (pictorial) and FD9922 NP Bil (non-pictorial).

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 Farmers' Tale stamp for any philatelic postmark in use on 7 September.

MILLENNIUM PHILATELIC PRODUCTS A well-illustrated Farmers' Tale 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 packs and covers. Enquiries: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT •

Millennium stamp book The second Millennium stamp book will go on sale on 21 September. This contains a pane of eight 1st class NV1 definitives and a pane of two 26p Farmers' Tale stamps with surrounding margin, giving a miniature sheet appearance. The book, price £2.60, will be available from the Bureau and PO Counters philatelic outlets only. The stamps are printed by Walsall in gravure; the Farmers' Tale stamps issued in sheets on 7 September are by De La Rue. Specialist collectors may notice differences in the gum and/or phosphor reaction between stamps from the two printers. There will be no first day facilities and panes from this book will not qualify for First Day of Issue postmarks in use on 21 September for the World Changers prestige stamp book. Covers can, however, be posted for other philatelic postmarks as announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin*.

The first Millennium book, issued on 12 May, contains a pane of eight 1st class NV1s and a pane of one 26p Settlers' Tale and one 26p Workers' Tale stamps •



Technical details

Printer De La Rue Security Print

Process Gravure

Size 37 × 35mm

Sheets 100

Perforation 14 × 14.5

Phosphor One band 19p •
two bands others

Gum PVA

Central sheet gutter Vertical



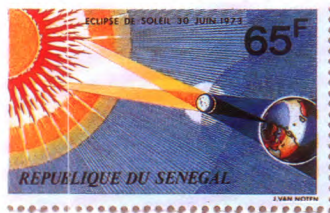
Eclipse! Margaret Morris looks at philatelic

With the announcement by Royal Mail of a special miniature sheet marking the total solar eclipse of 11 August, this is a good time to find out a little about eclipses and their philatelic commemoration.

By A LUCKY ACCIDENT, the apparent angular diameters of the Sun (large but distant) and the Moon (small but close) are approximately equal.

A total solar eclipse occurs at a New Moon when the Moon passes between the Sun and the Earth – but, due to the Moon's orbital inclination, not at every New Moon.

Eclipses are in themselves not particularly rare events (two or three per year), but the path of totality often passes over oceans or uninhabited regions. It is unusual for a total solar eclipse to be visible from a major city (a notable exception being Melbourne on 23 October 1976), and even more unusual for it to be visible at an astronomical observatory – such as over Mauna Kea, Hawaii, on 11 July 1991. This is why the eclipse due in August is particularly interesting because it will traverse populous regions starting with the south-west of England, then across Europe and on to India.



Philatelic interest in Britain has commenced already with one cancellation per month worded '1999 year of the total eclipse of the sun', each with the appropriate sign of the zodiac and from a different town within the path of totality – Capricornus (Penzance), Aquarius (Torquay), Pisces (Falmouth) – and so on.

The British 1s9d stamp from the 1970 Anniversaries issue showed Sir Francis Baily (flanked by Herschels, father and son). Baily observed an eclipse in 1836, and noticed bright spots of light around the Moon just before and after totality. Now known as 'Baily's beads', these are caused by sunlight shining through lunar valleys.

Top, one of the first issues to commemorate the eclipse of 11 August 1999 – the last of the 20th century.

The Moon's shadow-cone is well depicted on the stamps issued by Senegal for the total solar eclipse of 30 June 1973. A diagram of conditions for lunar and solar eclipses is shown on the side panels of a 1969 Polish issue honouring the first moon landing.

commemoration of eclipses past and future

From 1942 there have been intermittent stamp issues, special handstamps and other material relating to individual eclipses. Perhaps one of the most spectacular events took place during the 1973 eclipse when the supersonic Concorde 001 raced the Moon's shadow to give astronomers 74 minutes of totality compared with the seven or so minutes which they would have had at ground level.

A collection on eclipses is colourful and interesting and there are a number of other items that could be included. And of course, mail from eclipse expeditions can be found (my earliest such letter is dated 1851 from the astronomer Antoine d'Abbadie in Christiania, Norway, describing his difficulties with weather!)

A bit of reading and some lateral thinking will add other items to your collection. Good hunting, and – I wish you clear skies! ●

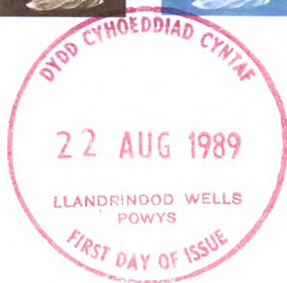


In some countries there is a legend that an eclipse is the result of a demon taking a bite out of the Sun or Moon, as depicted on this stamp from Laos.

The 50fr Togolaise stamp from a series of 1979 honouring Einstein shows the bending of light as it passes the Sun – an effect demonstrated during the total solar eclipse of 1919 and offering verification of the General Theory of Relativity.

Top, the first stamp to depict a total solar eclipse – Mexico, 1942.

A decade of NVIs The different definitive, by Douglas Myall



Far left, the first NVIs: 1st black and 2nd light blue used on first day of issue. Left and above, subsequent colour changes: 1st flame, 2nd dark blue (1990), 1st gold (1997); and large 1st from 1999 prestige book.

What are NVIs? Ten years ago, on 22 August 1989, a new kind of definitive postage stamp was introduced. The distinctive feature was that there was no value printed on it. In fact, there were two stamps. One, in black, had the indication 1st in place of a value and was sold in retail (window) books of four and ten at a cost of 76p and £1.90 respectively. The other, in light blue, was marked 2nd; it, too, was sold in books of four and 10, which cost 56p and £1.40 respectively. These prices showed that the new stamps cost 19p (1st) and 14p (2nd) each. These amounts prepaid the then minimum inland letter rates for the first and second class services. One didn't have to be a brain surgeon to see that this was the meaning of the 1st and 2nd indications, but what was their purpose and why did they make their appearance at that particular time? To find out, we must go back two more years.

On 4 August 1987, a new range of stamp books had become available. These had colourful red and yellow laminated covers with a cut-out through which one of the stamps inside could be seen. This window to the contents led to the books being named 'window' books by Royal Mail. Collectors latched onto this and there was many a joke at the time about 'window panes'. This marketing initiative was aimed primarily at

retail stores, garages, etc. At one time a shop had to have a license to sell postage stamps. The hope was that by making postage stamps readily available as an 'impulse buy' their use would increase. The public could buy their stamps in convenient sized packages while buying postcards, writing paper, pens etc. without making a special visit to a post office. The rest, as they say, is history. Within two years the eye-catching books were obtainable at outlets over the whole of the UK. There had, however, been one hiccup. The minimum letter rates had been increased to 14p and 19p on 5 September 1988. Neither the public nor retailers liked the bother of buying 1p stamps to make up the difference and retailers could return only whole packs of 50 books for a refund. Nor did the prospect that retailers would run down stocks to avoid such problems at a time of a future increase find favour with the authorities. So, when a further increase was being planned it was decided to avoid the problems which had been experienced at the time of the previous increase by replacing the value stamps in these special books with stamps which would indicate a service rather than a monetary value. Hence the appearance of the new kind of stamp. Because they did not carry any indication of value they were dubbed Non Value Indicators or NVIs.

The key decision was to permit the new stamps to increase in purchasing power whenever the minimum postage rates changed. So it was that each of the NVIS of August 1989 became worth a penny more overnight when rates went up on 2 October that year. This automatic change in worth has continued for every subsequent tariff change. A 1st class black NV1 purchased for 19p in 1989 can be used today to prepay the current rate of 26p. Retailers are able to obtain their requirements from Royal Mail Retail in Edinburgh at a discount of 5% from the normal purchase price and an increase in value when rates change is an added incentive for them to maintain stocks. Other postal administrations have introduced NVIS but few of them have this feature. In the USA, for example, the value of the NV1 equivalents is fixed.

These were not Britain's first NVIS; those appeared on stamped postal stationery. First class indicators had been used on inland letter forms, known as Postnotes, issued on 21 April 1982. The earliest 2nd class NV1 appeared on pre-paid Post Office envelopes from 22 June 1983. The 1989 issues were, however, the first adhesive NVIS.

There is no doubt that the flexibility of the UK system has increased the willingness of retailers to stock 'window' books. (The cut-out window in the covers had been dispensed with in October 1988 and replaced with a reproduction of one of the stamps it contained. Royal Mail now calls them retail books but collectors still refer to them as window books.) The tariff changes effective from 26 April this year included a reduction of 1p in the cost of a second class letter. As a result, the value of 2nd NVIS on hand was reduced by 5% at a stroke. However, no special arrangements were made to compensate retailers for this. To adapt a phrase, what goes up may come down, but not as frequently.

Validity The designations 1st and 2nd indicate the inland letter service for which the stamps were intended. At the time they were first issued, the 20g letter rate to European Union countries was the same as the minimum inland 1st class rate. People began to use an NV1 instead of a value

stamp for letters to overseas destinations. Although this was discouraged, it was tolerated as far as European destinations were concerned. Eventually, the practice was sanctioned for all destinations and embraced 2nd class NVIS. The stamps were treated as equivalent to whatever were the inland letter rates at the date of use and any shortfall had to be made up with value stamps. The evolution of the current practice can be traced in the different wording of the validity notices on the inside covers of NV1 books over the years.

Colours Because the new stamps were intended to hold their value indefinitely the colours were also meant to remain unchanged. However, the colours black and light blue had been chosen with the then imminent 150th anniversary of the introduction of the uniform penny postage in mind and were a deliberate echo of the penny black and twopence blue of 1840. It had been intended that these would be on sale throughout 1990 but this plan was frustrated by another tariff change on 17 September that year. In anticipation of this, the colours of the stamps were changed to flame (1st) and dark blue (2nd). Following a further tariff change in September 1991, the colour of the 2nd class stamp reverted to light blue while the 1st class stamp remained flame. These became their permanent colours.

There have been some subsequent temporary changes in the colour of the 1st class stamp. The first was an issue in gold to mark The Queen's golden wedding anniversary in November 1997. These were sold in books of ten from 21 April, Her Majesty's actual birthday. (She has an official birthday in June.) They were withdrawn from sale at the end of that year. Two black versions were issued on 16 February 1999 in the Profile on Print prestige book. These were the first large-size NVIS to be issued and the first to be printed by the intaglio and letterpress processes. In the same book, there was a unique embossed white stamp with the 1st designation printed in grey; this was also self-adhesive. It is possible that other changes in colour may occur in the future but they will always be temporary.



The first self-adhesive NVI, from the 1993 trial book, and self-adhesive NVIs in rolls, 1997.



Perforation Most NVIs, like other definitive stamps, are perforated 15×14 but there have been exceptions. In November 1990, books of four 1st class were issued with stamps perforated 13. This was unintended and was caused by a perforator not being up to specification. The stamps were not rejected by Royal Mail as they were unlikely to cause difficulty in use but the perforator was quickly replaced. The large-format black stamps in the Profile on Print book are perforated 14 (intaglio) and 14×15 (letterpress). The embossed stamp in that book has kiss die-cut perforations. These are only simulated perforations as there are no holes. The first NVIs to be issued with elliptical perforations appeared in window books on 6 April 1993.

Other forms of issue NVIs of both classes have been available in other forms than window books. The first were part of the make-up of the se-tenant pane of nine stamps in the prestige book issued 20 March 1990 to mark the Stamp World 90 exhibition held at Alexandra Palace that year. They were also the first NVIs to be se-tenant with value stamps. (The first NVIs to be issued se-tenant with each other appeared on a pane of six in the Beatrix Potter prestige book of 10 August 1993.) On 19 October 1993, a trial book of 20 self-adhesive 1st class NVIs was issued. These were the first self-adhesive NVIs and, like all GB self-adhe-

sive stamps to be issued to date, had simulated, kiss die-cut perforations. They were also a novel shape, having a horizontal (landscape) format instead of the usual upright (portrait) format. This was done to make them stand out in use so that the degree of take-up could be monitored. They proved to be quite popular although the trial showed that there were some difficulties in separating the stamps from the backing.

The first NVIs to be issued other than in booklets were the sheets of both classes printed by Questa in lithography and issued on 6 September 1993. These were aimed at businessmen whose postage use did not justify purchase of a franking machine. Although a trial, on sale only in selected areas, they were the normal portrait shape. NVI sheets have been available at selected post offices continuously since then, but have been printed by Walsall in gravure since 21 April 1997.

On 17 August 1994, Questa produced a miniature sheet with a single lithographed 1st class NVI for use by Boots the Chemist to promote their sale of greetings cards. Similar sheetlets for other traders have been printed in litho by Enschedé.

On 8 July 1996, the first NVIs in coil form were issued. Rolls of 500 and 1000 of each class were printed by Harrison; they are the normal portrait shape. The 2nd class stamp exists in two forms: as well as one printed from a traditional acid-etched cylinder, a few rolls of 1000 stamps

BRITISH PHILATELIC

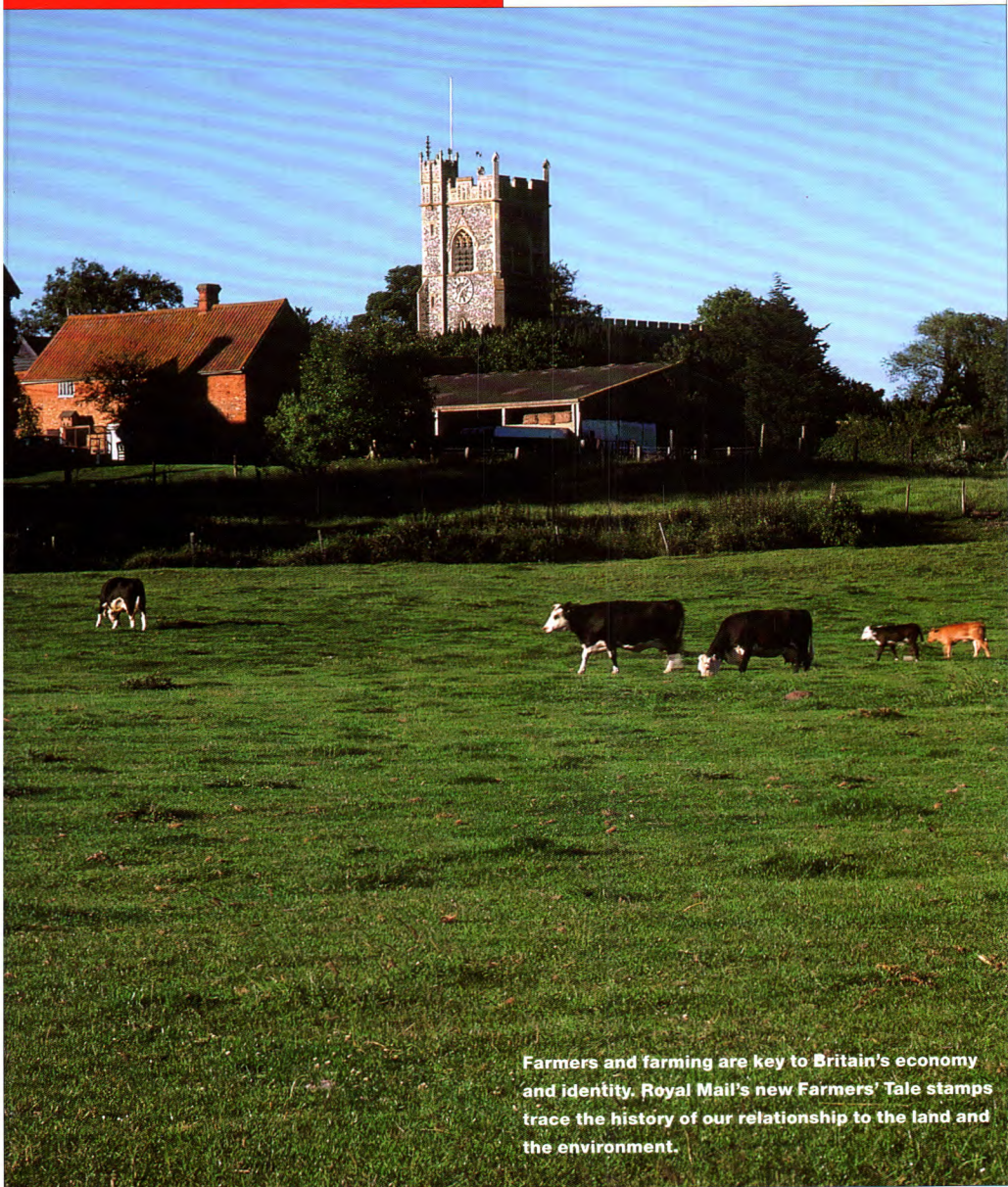
The ROYAL MAIL magazine *for stamp collectors*

Volume 36 Number 12

AUGUST 1999 • 85P

Bulletin

Millennium Farmers' Tale •
Celebrating the solar eclipse



Farmers and farming are key to Britain's economy and identity. Royal Mail's new Farmers' Tale stamps trace the history of our relationship to the land and the environment.

Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



Cover A dairy farm, Stratford St Mary, Suffolk. Royal Mail's new Millennium Farmers' Tale stamps are previewed in this issue, page 372. Photograph by Liz Artindale.

Glasgow 2000 exhibition

The exhibition has a new web site (replacing that given in last month's *Bulletin*): <http://home.freeuk.net/johnmorgan/glas2000.htm>

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

3 August	Issue Millennium Scientists' Tale stamps and presentation pack
11 August	Issue Solar Eclipse miniature sheets (contains four 64p Scientists' Tale stamps)
24 August	Withdrawal Carnival stamps, pack and stamp cards
26 August	Withdrawal Promotional retail stamp book – Camcorder
31 August	Issue Millennium Farmers' Tale stamp cards
1 September	Withdrawal Stamp books 4 × 30p; 4 × 37p (Tourist cover); 4 × 63p (issued 5 May 1998)
1 September	Withdrawal Aircards (issued 1 September 1998)
6 September	Withdrawal Stamp books: 10 × 1st definitives and greetings 'Create a Card'; 4 × 30p; 4 × 37p and Questa 10 × 1st (issued 7 September 1998)
7 September	Issue Millennium Farmers' Tale stamps and presentation pack
21 September	Issue Millennium retail book containing 8 × 1st class NVI stamps and two 26p Farmers' Tale stamps (£2.60)
21 September	Issue World Changers prestige stamp book (£6.99)
28 September	Issue Millennium Soldiers' Tale stamp cards
30 September	Withdrawal Speed stamps, presentation pack, and stamp cards

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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 for single copies, from Post Office Counters philatelic outlets ● **Annual subscriptions** £9.50 in UK and Europe, £13.50 rest of the world. 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 as above) ● Royal Mail also publishes the fortnightly *British Postmark Bulletin*, giving details of forthcoming special handstamps. Available on annual subscription from British Philatelic Bureau (address above) UK and Europe £10, rest of the world £21.75 ● **Copyright** Unless copyright is attributed to a specific author, any article or feature may be reproduced without formal permission, but acknowledgement should be given to *British Philatelic Bulletin*. Requests to reproduce copyright articles should be addressed 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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Stamp scene Stamp shows and Societies •

Northeast Philatelic Weekend

Stamp 2000 will take place at Wembley on 2-6 February.

For information contact Sylvia Cook, Exhibitions Manager at Stanley Gibbons. Telephone 01425 461353.

Stamp shows at Wembley As well as over 20,000 collectors and members of the general public, Stamp '99 at Wembley in April was visited by celebrities to assist Stanley Gibbons and Benham with their Variety Club of Great Britain 'Sunshine Coach Appeal'. Visitors queued eagerly waiting for the autographs of Norman Wisdom (who opened the show), Bernard Cribbins, Sally Thomsett, Brenda Cowling and Henry Kelly who all signed for small donations to the charity. Bill Pertwee also contributed with his book signing. The charity auction on the Friday evening was a lively occasion; comedy actor Christopher Biggins displaying wit and charm as guest auctioneer. Some £10,000 was raised towards the appeal during the show, £5850 from the auction.

One of the most popular attractions was the Design a Stamp Competition, arranged by The House of Questa for young visitors. This attracted over 500 entries judged by Paul Singleton of Questa and John Whittaker and Andra Rigby of Royal Mail. The winning entries, by Oliver Coleman (age 7), Afiya Allen (10), and Zahra Al-Rikabi (13), have been produced in souvenir sheet format. Thanks to Questa we will be including this souvenir sheet as a free gift in next month's *Bulletin* to add to the four previous sheets produced since 1995 •

Membership of the GBCC

is \$15 in the USA, \$22 elsewhere; payment may be made by Visa/MasterCard to Janet Gordon, PO Box 42324, Cincinnati, OH 45242-0324, USA.

The Club's website address

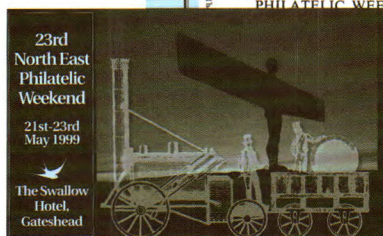
is: <http://www.gbstamps.com/gbcc>

GBCC Chronicle The Great Britain Collectors Club magazine dated April 1999 contains several features of interest to collectors of modern GB stamps, principally an appreciation of Arnold Machin, who died in March, and a lengthy interview with Douglas Myall, compiler and publisher of *The Complete Deegam Machin Handbook*, regular *Bulletin* columnist, and leading authority on Machins. Douglas talks of his career in the civil service as well as his philatelic interests which include Victorian perfins used on cover. Asked about a new edition of the *Machin Handbook*, Douglas replied: 'There are no plans at present to issue such a third edition. When it comes, it will most likely be an electronic version, running in parallel with the second, paper, version... The second edition will be maintained by means of supplements, issued after each major tariff change. The announced changes for April will trigger the first supplement. This will be sent to the printer after I have seen the Northern Ireland Regionals due on June 8th. Depending on the printer, publication is not likely to be before September.'

The *Chronicle* also includes features on covers bearing the 1940 Stamp Centenary stamps, 19th century and unusual modern postmarks, and Guernsey's 1988 and 1989 pre-stamped Christmas envelopes.

The second edition of the Deegam Machin Handbook is still available from John M Deering, The Machins, PO Box 2, South Molton EX36 4YQ, price £26.09 postpaid UK, £29.59 elsewhere surface mail, £38.49 airmail Zone 1, £41.49 airmail Zone 2. It was reviewed here in March 1997 along with other specialised Machin catalogues. ED •

Northeast Philatelic Weekend This annual event, held at the Swallow Hotel, Gateshead on 21-23 May, attracted collectors from all parts of England and Scotland to share a weekend of fun and comradeship. On Friday evening each of over 30 participants showed 10 sheets of stamps on a variety of subjects. Saturday began with interesting and informative displays 'Pot-pouri of Great Britain' and 'Abraham Lincoln and the American Civil War' from Charles Reid and Barry Lobell, followed by a philatelic film show 'Centenary of Cinema' by David Williams, a retired university senior lecturer in film and television studies. He brought back many memories of the silent films and famous film stars. A raffle, book auction, and dinner completed a most enjoyable day. Sunday saw displays on 'Early Sweden' and 'Nobel Prizewinners' by Norman Hughes and Barry Lobell, also a stamp fair which enabled participants to search for a few treasures to take home to add to their collections. All participants found the weekend, organised by Dorothy Martin and Desmond Graham, well worth attending •



1999 Weekend souvenir booklet contains two 'Boots' panes with 1st class NVI stamps with commemorative overprints in the margins of the panes. Price £2 plus SAE from Mrs D Martin, 47 Briardene Crescent, Kenton Park, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 4RY. Mrs Martin can supply details of earlier booklets still available, and details of the next weekend, 12-14 May 2000.

España 2000 This international exhibition, under FIP patronage, will be staged in the Cristal and Pipa pavillions in the Casa de Campo, where España 75 and España 84 took place, from 6-14 October 2000. There will be some 3500 frames of exhibits, as well as the stands of numerous dealers and postal administrations. The exhibition, organised by the Spanish Post Office, the Federacion Española de Sociedades Filatelicas and Asociacion Nacional de Empresarios de Filatelia, will mark the 150th anniversary of the issue of the first Spanish stamps •

España 2000 Coordinator
Patrick Pearson of London,
Vice President of FIP.

The British commissioner is
Mrs Yvonne Wheatley, 7 Manor
Croft, Leeds LS15 9BW.

Astro Space Stamp Society Stamps have recently been issued, in a Crown Agents omnibus series, to mark the 30th anniversary of the first landing on the Moon. In conjunction with the Crown Agents, the Society has arranged a competition to win a complete mint set of these stamps. Simply answer who was the Apollo XI astronaut crew-member who did not walk on the Moon during this historic space mission? Send your answer, with full name and address and A4 stamped addressed envelope (tκ) or three international reply coupons (overseas) to the address opposite. A draw will be made every two months until the end of July 2000. All entrants will be sent a mint thematic set supplied by the Crown Agents •

Competition entries Should be sent to: Apollo XI Contest, Astro Space Stamp Society, 21 Exford Close, Weston-super-Mare BS23 4RE. All entries should be dated.

Revenue Society of GB The Society hosted a lunch for 58 members and guests at the Royal Philatelic Society London on 8 May. The occasion was the presentation by Gary Ryan RDP, FRPSL of his award winning Hungarian revenues collection. Leading collectors flew over from Hungary to attend, joining many members of the Hungarian Philatelic Society of GB •

Membership of the Society, which caters for revenues of the world, is £15 per annum. Enquiries: Tony Hall, 53a High Street, Whitwell, Hitchin SG4 8AJ.

For details of the ABPS

contact J N Hammonds, 31
Wheatsheaf Close, Horsham
RH12 5TH.

The next ABPS national exhibition will be held in Glasgow in November 2000. Others are planned for Chester in 2002 and Essex in 2004.

ABPS The Association of British Philatelic Societies has recently published its report and accounts for 1998. Membership of the Association comprises 21 federations, three national societies, 88 specialist and 267 local societies, one overseas society, four honorary members, also 134 UK and seven overseas patrons and friends. The Association published its first booklet – a catalogue of films, videos and slides available for purchase or loan. Future booklets will provide cover association/federation competition rules, organising philatelic events, handling philatelic collections on the death of their owner, and a survival guide for philatelic societies •

Royal Mail news New prestige stamp book

• Eclipse miniature sheet • Stamp launches

World Changers Prestige Stamp Book panes

Pane 1 4 × 20p Patients' Tale stamps • **Pane 2** 4 × Scientists' Tale 26p stamps • **Pane 3** 4 × Scientists' Tale 44p stamps • **Pane 4** 4 × Inventors' Tale 63p stamps • **Pane 5** Mixed pane of definitives: top and bottom rows 1p, 19p, and 1p; middle row 26p, pictorial label, and 19p. The 1p and 26p stamps have two phosphor bands, the 19p stamps have band at right.

World Changers Prestige Stamp Book The 1999 prestige stamp book, to be issued on 21 September, commemorates British scientific genius. This new book will cost £6.99 and contains five panes of stamps to that value as detailed on the opposite page. The book will be printed by the House of Questa, all stamps in gravure, except the 26p

and 44p Scientists' Tale stamps which are printed in litho. Note: All the definitive stamps have elliptical perfs on the vertical sides. Specialist collectors may notice differences in the gum and/or phosphor reaction of the stamps in this book compared to other printings. Douglas Myall will report on such differences in his Decimal Stamp Books column in due course.



FIRST DAY ARRANGEMENTS Unstamped Royal Mail first day cover envelopes will be available from the Bureau, PO Counters philatelic outlets and main post offices about a week before 21 September, price 25p. The Bureau will provide a first day cover service – collectors may order the Royal Mail cover bearing the mixed pane cancelled by pictorial first day postmarks for the Bureau or Downe, Orpington, Kent, home of Charles Darwin, subject of the 26p Scientists' Tale stamp. Price £1.44 UK (including VAT), £1.23 elsewhere (no VAT); orders must reach the Bureau by 21 September.

Collectors may send their own stamped covers, on the day of issue, to British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT (Bureau postmark) or South East Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Wexham Road, Slough SL1 1AA (Downe postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FD PSB9903' (Bureau), or 'FD PSB9904' (Downe). Covers can be posted or handed in at main post offices for the Downe postmark. A non-pictorial Downe postmark will also be available, by sending covers to the South East Handstamp Centre, requesting FD PSB9904 NP. Bilingual Welsh/English versions of the Downe pictorial and non-pictorial postmarks can be obtained by sending covers to the Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Penarth

Road, Cardiff CF1 1AA quoting reference FD PSB 9904 Bil or FD PSB9904 NP Bil. Details of sponsored handstamps will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin*, available on annual subscription from the British Philatelic Bureau: £10 UK, £21.75 elsewhere (airmail).

Any of the stamps in the prestige book can be used, singly or in combination (subject to minimum 19p postage) on first day covers to qualify for philatelic postmarks in use on 21 September •

The book yields the following single stamps Some are new to this book, others exist elsewhere

Stamp	New/Other source
1p 2 bands	Sheets (De La Rue), £1 books (Questa)
19p band right	New
26p	Sheets (DLR), £1 & £2 books (Questa)
20p Patients' Tale	Sheets (Questa)
26p Scientists' Tale	Sheets (Questa)
44p Scientists' Tale	Sheets (Questa)
63p Inventors' Tale	Sheets (DLR)

Solar Eclipse Miniature Sheet Details of this sheet were announced in last month's *Bulletin*. Since that issue went to press changes have been made to the first day postmarking arrangements. The Bureau and Falmouth postmarks used on covers serviced by the Bureau will be applied in silver coloured ink. Furthermore covers posted in first day posting boxes in the London area, or sent in to the London Special Handstamp Centre, will receive the Falmouth postmark in silver. Covers posted outside the London area or sent to other Special Handstamp Centres will receive the Falmouth postmark in black.

Covers for the Bureau postmark (FD 9919) should be sent to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT.

For Falmouth postmark in silver (FD 9920) send covers to: London Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Mount Pleasant, London EC1A 1BB.

For the Falmouth postmark in black (FD 9920) send covers to: the Midland SHC, Royal Mail, St Stephens Street, Birmingham B6 4AA; South East SHC, Royal Mail, Wexham Road, Slough SL1 1AA; Northern England SHC, Royal Mail, Forth Street, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 1AA; or Scotland/N Ireland SHC, Royal Mail, 57 Queen Street, Glasgow G1 3AZ. The Wales & West SHC, Royal Mail, Penarth Road, Cardiff CF1 1AA will apply the bilingual Falmouth postmark in black (FD 9920 Bil). The Falmouth non-pictorial postmarks (FD 9920 NP and FD 9920 NP Bil) will be in black only •

The Solar Eclipse miniature sheet measures 90 × 122mm, not 88 × 120mm as stated last month. Any slight variance in size will be within Royal Mail's specification to the printer.

We must stress that the use of silver ink is experimental, and the quality of impression cannot be guaranteed.

Leeds Mail Centre Royal Mail's new Mail Centre in Stourton, Leeds, was officially opened on 19 May. Covering the Leeds, Harrogate and Wakefield postcode areas, from beyond Addingham and Masham in the north, to the outskirts of Huddersfield and Bradford in the west, the Elmsalls form the southern extremity, with the eastern border between Knottingley and Tadcaster. The area combines the rural beauty of parts of Pennine North Yorkshire with the urban West Yorkshire, one of the UK's industrial heartlands. Royal Mail employs some 3075 staff in the area working at the new centre (1031 staff), 33 letter delivery offices and 18 sub post office delivery offices. The vehicle fleet of 454 covers 13.65 million miles annually collecting from 2124 street posting boxes, 2100 firms and delivering some 292 million items each year to over 607,000 individual delivery points. The new Centre has four Integrated Mail Processor machines sorting 30,000 letters per hour. The IMP machines cancel stamps with ink-jet postmarks •

Chester and Sheffield can now be added to the list of sorting offices applying ink-jet cancels published here last December.

Ambassadors in miniature

Children from the Stockbridge Primary School near the Philatelic Bureau in Edinburgh, dressed in national costumes for the launch of the Scottish country stamps.



Scottish and Millennium stamp launches The new Scottish country stamps were launched in style at the British Philatelic Bureau in Edinburgh on the day before issue. The theme of the photocall was 'Ambassadors in Miniature' pointing out that the stamps would be seen on mail going to all parts of the world. An estimated 166 million of the new stamps will be sold each year for postage, with thousands more bought by collectors. John Ward, Chairman of the Scottish Post Office Board, commented that '...with their vibrant and modern designs, I am certain they will be worthy global ambassadors for Scotland.' Erick Davidson, Chief Executive of Tayburn, said: 'The aim was to produce a design which was symbolic of the whole of Scotland and not limited to any location or period in history. It was also important that the stamps were treated in a modern, forward-looking way and, just as importantly, were popular.'

1966 World Cup Final heroes Sir Geoff Hurst and Martin Peters, together with Bobby Moore's widow Stephanie, returned to Wembley Stadium on 24 May to launch the 26p Entertainers' Tale stamp featuring the captain who led his team to victory 33 years ago. The launch received considerable attention in the press •



New Recorded label From this month a new design Recorded label will be going into use. Keeping the familiar orange background colour, the new label has bold blue and yellow printing indicating that the Recorded service is available for letters sent by the 1st or 2nd class service and that the letter is to be 'Signed for' on delivery. The label is bipartite – a receipt section which will be datestamped at the post office counter for the sender, and a self-adhesive section which should be affixed to the front of the letter. This section, and the label overall, will now be in the same size and format as the silver-coloured Special Delivery labels introduced last October. The self-adhesive section includes a barcode for tracking purposes.

The new labels will go into use as stocks of the existing labels are used up; it bears imprint P2297 REV August 99 on the reverse. A bilingual version will be available at post offices in Wales, and revised customer labels will be issued to business users of the Recorded service.

Recorded Delivery, introduced in 1961, costs 60p in addition to 1st or 2nd class postage. Advice of Delivery of the letter is available for an additional 33p; this should be requested at time of posting •