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Royal Mail

Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 57 No.9



Joy and grief

END OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR 75th ANNIVERSARY

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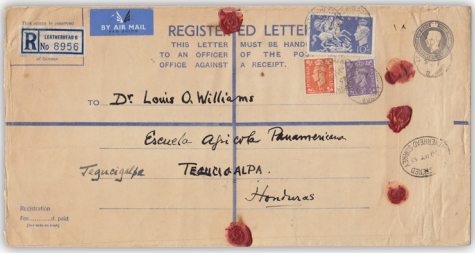






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Relief,



A serviceman returns home to Oreston, South Devon, from his airbase in Lincolnshire



Ecstatic crowds celebrate VE Day in London's Piccadilly



Jubilant nurses celebrate VE Day in Liverpool



Evacuees return home to London after a wartime stay in Leicester

End of the Second World War	Stamp Specifications
Date of issue	8 May
Number of stamps	Eight – four vertical se-tenant pairs (2 x 2nd Class, 2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.42, 2 x £1.63)
Design	hat-trick design
Photo colourisation	Royston Leonard
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	41mm x 30mm
Number per sheet	30/60
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	14.5 x 14
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA

Out of the dirt and dust of war they came, into the clear light of peace. Soldiers, sailors, pilots, artillerymen, tank crewmen, sappers, medics and nurses. Five million men and women who had served Britain from Dunkirk, El Alamein and Anzio to D-Day, Berlin, Burma and back again. Now they were coming home, veterans of the European and Far East conflicts, and a grateful nation celebrated their return. Victory in Europe Day (8 May) and Victory over Japan Day (15 August) would become the official tributes to these heroes. Yet every day became a celebration for their relieved families, reunited with loved ones they had watched march off to war several years before.

jubilation...



Troops march along Oxford St, London, during a parade for the 'Victory over Japan' exhibition



Allied prisoners of war at Aomori Camp near Yokohama, Japan, cheer their rescuers



Soldiers and sailors leave a demobilisation centre carrying their civilian clothes in boxes



A Wren (member of the Women's Royal Naval Service) proposes a toast during the VE Day celebrations in Glasgow

Now Royal Mail also salutes those who served, with a new issue that marks the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. The eight-stamp set expresses the jubilation of peace at last, showing scenes of happy homecomings. All the images are black and white photos that have been brought to vivid life by Cardiff-based colourist Royston Leonard. So detailed is his painstaking artwork that the pictures, 'colourised' for the first time since they were taken 75 years ago, could have been taken yesterday…

An accompanying Miniature Sheet reminds us of those who did not come home. Here the stamps focus on memorials to the fallen of the three armed services and the Jews murdered in the Holocaust. Also available with the End of the Second World War set, out on 8 May, is the First Day Cover, Miniature Sheet First Day Cover, Prestige Stamp Book Pane First Day Cover, Presentation Pack, Prestige Stamp Book, Stamp Souvenir, Stamp Sheet Souvenir, Press Sheet, Postcards, Framed Stamps and three Coin Covers. The main issue portrays celebrations across Britain, from London to Liverpool and Glasgow, as civilians and servicemen and women were being stood down from the global battle against Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan, and families were reunited. On one of ►

and

the two Second Class stamps, for example, proud, flag-waving children surround an RAF sergeant as he comes home to his loved ones in Oreston, South Devon. He is clearly the local hero. A First Class stamp shows children returning home from evacuation, the joy bright on their faces. Evacuation had been a huge wrench for the youngsters, their parents and for society. In only the first three days of September 1939, 800,000 children, clutching gas mask cases and a change of clothes, were moved out of cities across Britain to the countryside, in what was disconcertingly called Operation Pied Piper. Some found happiness, others were bewildered by separation. Rural families in turn were shocked that many of the city children they hosted had never eaten vegetables or seen farm animals. When peace came, millions of children would be happily reunited with their parents, though often they could barely remember them.

The set also, of course, pays tribute to those who served – for the celebrations of 1945 were a vindication of all that their courage and forbearance had won. One £1.63 stamp features British and Allied POWs rejoicing with unrestrained relief as they're rescued from the Aomori prison camp near Yokohama, Japan. And no wonder. Harsh treatment of our servicemen in the Far East theatre is very well documented – escaping it and coming home was surely a miracle to be cheered to the skies.

The cardboard suitcases in their hands are symbols of a new life for the servicemen grinning away on one of the £1.42 values. Inside are their new demob suits, part of their passage into civvy street, and a career after years of combat. The full kit comprised a double-breasted, three-piece pinstripe suit, or jacket and flannels, felt hat or flat cap, a couple of shirts with matching collar studs, tie, shoes and raincoat. By the autumn of 1945, some 75,000 were being made a week, a quarter of them by menswear legend Burton. Indeed, the phrase 'the full Monty' originates not from comedian Ben Elton's on-stage patter, but, it seems, from ex-soldiers, who jokingly used it as a nickname for the demob suit, after Burton founder Montague Burton. Yet the returnees were serious about winning the peace as well as the war. Many carriers of those cardboard cases believed the 'land fit for heroes' promised after the Great War had never materialised. So in the 1945 General Election they voted out Churchill, the Conservative born in Blenheim Palace and schooled at Harrow, in favour of a Labour government.



Yad Vashem, Jerusalem – *First Class*
Israel's official memorial to the victims of the Second World War Nazi genocide of 6 million Jews, Yad Vashem – from the Hebrew for 'A Memorial and a name' was established in 1953. The Hall of Names memorial holds the names of millions of Holocaust victims, with some 600 portraits displayed on the exhibit's cone-shaped ceiling



Runnymede Memorial – *First Class*
Located near Egham, Surrey, and maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission, the Runnymede Memorial (Air Forces Memorial) – was unveiled by The Queen in 1953. It commemorates over 20,000 airmen and women who were lost during operations from bases in the UK and Europe during the Second World War and who have no known grave

tears

On a Second Class stamp, jubilant nurses crowd together on an ambulance in Liverpool as the conflict ends. Nurses tended civilian casualties of Hitler's Luftwaffe, of course, but they also served in the front line. In fact, nurses were in action at the very beginning. Members of the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service were at Dunkirk, saving lives under fire as their hospital ships were hit by German dive bombers. They also ferried injured soldiers across France to the embattled beaches. One, nursing sister Lillian Gutteridge, heroically confronted a Waffen SS officer who tried to commandeer her ambulance and throw out the wounded men – slapping him across the face. He stabbed her in the thigh, and Lillian only escaped death when passing British troops shot the German officer down. Without the likes of Lillian and the men whose lives she saved, there would have been little to celebrate in 1945.

Beyond the spontaneous street parties, dancing crowds and victory parades lay an ocean of grief. The conflict had claimed the lives of 264,443 British service personnel. Too often those they left behind had no grave at which to grieve. Many of the casualties were buried under the soil of foreign fields or lost to the sea, their remains missing for ever. Thus memorials were built around the world to mark the sacrifice of those with no known last resting place. The Miniature Sheet stamps show three: the Runnymede Memorial in Surrey for airmen and women; the Plymouth Naval Memorial; and the Rangoon Memorial in Myanmar, for almost 27,000 British and Commonwealth troops killed in campaigns against the Japanese in what was then Burma. Featuring Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, Israel's official Holocaust memorial, the fourth Miniature Sheet stamp remembers the victims of the greatest crime of the Second World War. Even as celebrations broke out in London and elsewhere in 1945, much of the evidence of the genocide was only just emerging: Bergen-Belsen and Buchenwald had been liberated less than a month before VE Day. For the Jews, there had been no military victory over the Nazis, only the personal victories of those who survived. Yet importantly, like any humane memorial of war, this new stamp issue doesn't seek to mark victories; rather it celebrates the end of misery, and the beginning of something akin to hope ●



Plymouth Naval Memorial – *£1.63*
Originally unveiled in 1924 to commemorate more than 7,000 sailors who died in the First World War and have no known grave, the memorial was extended in the early 1950s to include nearly 16,000 sailors who perished during the Second World War



Rangoon Memorial, Myanmar – *£1.63*
Situated within the Taukkyan War Cemetery, the Rangoon Memorial commemorates almost 27,000 dead of the British and Commonwealth Land Forces who fell during the Second World War campaigns against the Japanese in Burma (Myanmar) with no known grave

The Miniature Sheet First Day Cover has the alternative handstamp. London, SW1 has been chosen as the postmark location in reference to Buckingham Palace, where the iconic VE Day balcony photo was taken, and Downing Street from which Churchill's radio broadcast was delivered. The Miniature Sheet (below) focuses on the memorials which honour the servicemen and women around the world who gave their lives to serve their country during the Second World War as well as victims of the Holocaust. It includes memorials in Jerusalem and Rangoon as well as Runnymede and Plymouth in the UK







End of the Second World War	Miniature Sheet Specifications
Date of issue	8 May
Number of stamps	Four (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.63)
Design	hat-trick design
Miniature Sheet size	192mm x 74mm
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	60mm x 30mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	14.5 x 14.5
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA







First Day Cover with Tallents House handstamp that features St Paul's Cathedral which was illuminated by searchlights in the night sky on 8 May 1945 to mark victory. Below: First Day Cover with the alternative handstamp

Serviced (i.e. stamped and postmarked) Royal Mail First Day Covers are available by Mail Order from Royal Mail Tallents House. Royal Mail is extending the First Day Cover deadlines for this issue - and upcoming issues - due to the uncertainty and restrictions on movement arising from COVID-19. This applies until further notice to First Day Covers ordered directly from Royal Mail as well as to those submitted from Post Office branches for cancellation at a Special Handstamp Centre



FD2011-TH



FD2011-PL



FD2011-NP

Prestige Stamp Book Pane First Day Cover with Tallents House handstamp



Prestige Stamp Book pane one: (2 x 2nd Class, 2 x 1st Class)



Pane two: (4 x 5p, 2 x 50p, 2 x £1.63)



Pane three: (2 x £1.42, 2 x £1.63)



Pane four: (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.63)

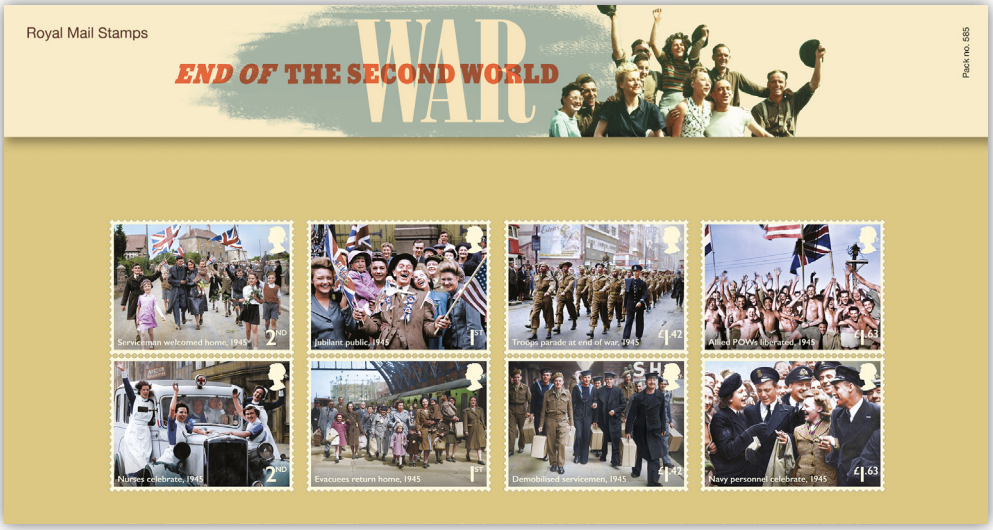
The Prestige Stamp Book comprises imagery and information about key moments during the Second World War which ultimately led to victory for the allies. All twelve stamps are included in panes as well as an additional pane of definitive stamps, which is unique to this stamp issue



BU Coin Cover: the stamps have been postmarked with a special handstamp marking the VE Day Anniversary on 8 May



Serviceman welcomed home © Hulton-Deutsch Collection/CORBIS/Corbis via Getty Images; Evacuees return home © Hulton-Deutsch Collection/CORBIS/Corbis via Getty Images; Navy personnel celebrate © Mirrorpix/Bridgeman Images; Allied POWs liberated © Everett Collection/Bridgeman Images; Nurses celebrate © Mirrorpix/Bridgeman Images; Jubilant public © Picture Post/Hulton Archive/Getty Images; Demobilised servicemen © photo by Reg Speller/Fox Photos/Hulton Archive/Getty Images; Troops parade at end of war © Mirrorpix/Bridgeman Images. Miniature Sheet: Background image – stone carved lettering by Gary Breeze and photography by Joe Howat; Hall of names, Holocaust History Museum, Yad Veshem, Jerusalem © Israel images/Alamy stock photo; Plymouth Naval Memorial and Runnymede Memorial – photographs by Mike Sheil © Royal Mail Group Limited 2020; Rangoon Memorial, Myanmar © Commonwealth War Graves Commission





The Presentation Pack includes all eight stamps and the Miniature Sheet in a separate carrier. Left: the Presentation Pack Inner

End of the Second World War	Prices
Set of 8 Special Stamps	£8.92
Miniature Sheet	£4.78
Presentation Pack	£14.60
First Day Cover - Stamps	£11.35
First Day Cover - Miniature Sheet	£6.40
Stamp Souvenir	£11.35
Stamp Sheet Souvenir	£6.40
First Day Envelope	£0.30
Postcards (13 in set)	£5.85
First Day Cover - Prestige Stamp Book Pane	£6.00
Prestige Stamp Book	£19.80
Press Sheet	£73.61
Framed Stamps	£29.99
BU Coin Cover	£17.50
Silver Coin Cover	£67.50
Gold Coin Cover	£1055.00



'In all our long history we have never seen a greater day than this. Everyone, man or woman, has done their best. Everyone has tried. Neither the long years, nor the dangers, nor the fierce attacks of the enemy, have in any way weakened the independent resolve of the British nation.'
Winston Churchill, 8 May 1945

Memories are made of this

Richard West MBE FRPSL reflects on happier seasons and London's international stamp exhibitions of 1990 - 2015

1990

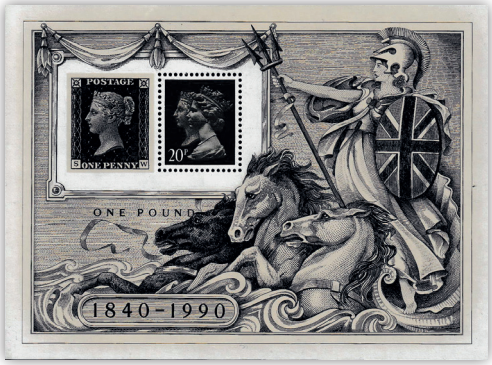
May 3-13

London 1980 was a hard act to follow. Planning for the next international stamp exhibition in London began in the mid-1980s, with focus initially on four aspects: dates, venue, name, finance. With 1990 marking the 150th anniversary of the Penny Black, it was essential 6 May was included: the dates were agreed as 3 to 13 May. There were calls for the venue to be the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham, but most favoured London. Alexandra Palace in north London was chosen, nearing reconstruction following a devastating fire in 1980: the exhibition would be its first major event following re-opening. The philatelic community was asked to suggest a name: Stamp World London 90 felt right. Finance again came from the premium on three miniature sheets: the novelty had worn off since 1980 so income was lower, but still more than sufficient. Although the venue was utilised to the full, plans could not be as ambitious as 1980. Nevertheless pride of place went to the stand of Royal Mail, linked with areas for the three main British stamp printers, Harrison and Sons, The House of Questa and Walsall Security Printers. This time, however, there was not room for the printers to include working equipment.



Stamp showing Alexandra Palace to publicise Stamp World London 90

Publicity for the event had come from a 20p stamp issued on 6 March 1990 showing the main entrance to Alexandra Palace. It was part of a set of four that also featured the frontage of the Philatelic Bureau in Edinburgh (29p), and marked Glasgow being the European City of Culture for 1990. Particularly stunning was the third miniature sheet issued on the opening day. The border of the sheet reflected the high value definitive 'Seahorse' design of King George V, surrounding the 20p 'Double Head' definitive showing the portraits of Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth issued in 1990 to mark the anniversary of the Penny Black. Alongside the 20p was a facsimile of the Penny Black. The sheet was printed in photogravure (20p stamp) and recess and sold for £1.



Exquisite miniature sheet reproducing the Penny Black

Each day of the exhibition had its own designation, such as Penny Black Day on 6 May, with individual pictorial handstamps. The Court of Honour also naturally focused on the Penny Black, with material from the Royal Philatelic

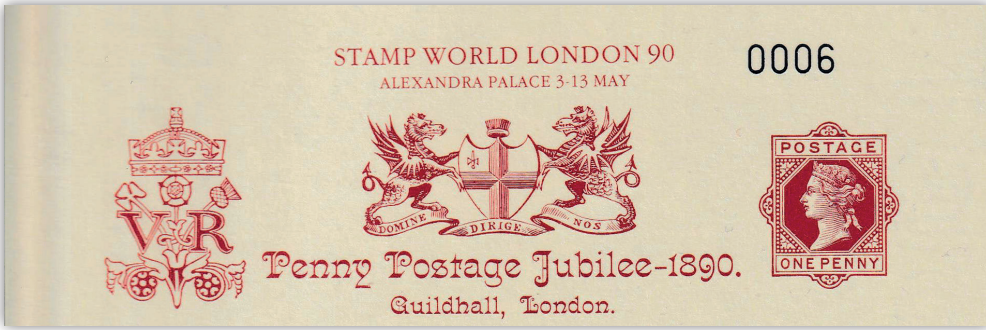
Collection, National Postal Museum, and British Library Philatelic Collections. The displays were divided into seven sections: early postal history including the Dockwra Penny Post; postal reform; the Treasury Competition of December 1839; the Penny Black and Twopenny Blue including proof material and the Mulready stationery; stamp issues from around the world inspired by the Penny Black; the 50th anniversary of Penny Postage and 1890 exhibition; the anniversaries in 1940 and 1990.

In addition, the National Postal Museum provided a display that focused on thoughts for letterpress-printed definitives during the Second World War and for Regional stamps in 1946/7. Notable were the exhibition souvenir items. These were: reproductions of the Penny Black and Twopenny Blue; reproductions of the Guildhall postcard and South Kensington envelope produced in 1890; designs submitted for the 1940 Centenary issue of stamps. Also available were two souvenir sheets – one in black, the other in blue – that had been produced in 1940 by Perkins Bacon in anticipation of a stamp exhibition that year.

Not everything was aimed at the committed collector. On arrival visitors were greeted by the promotional 'Stampway to the World' exhibition created by the Stamp Publicity Board. Nor were the young forgotten: outside the Palace was a large marquee called Stamp Land, hosted by Royal Mail's Stamp Bug Club, with stamp design competitions, videos on collecting, and a look at the development of the post since the Penny Black. ►



Exhibition souvenirs reproducing the Penny Black and Twopenny Blue, and showing designs for the 1940 Centenary







Reproductions of stationery marking the Jubilee in 1890





Souvenir sheets produced in anticipation of an exhibition in 1940

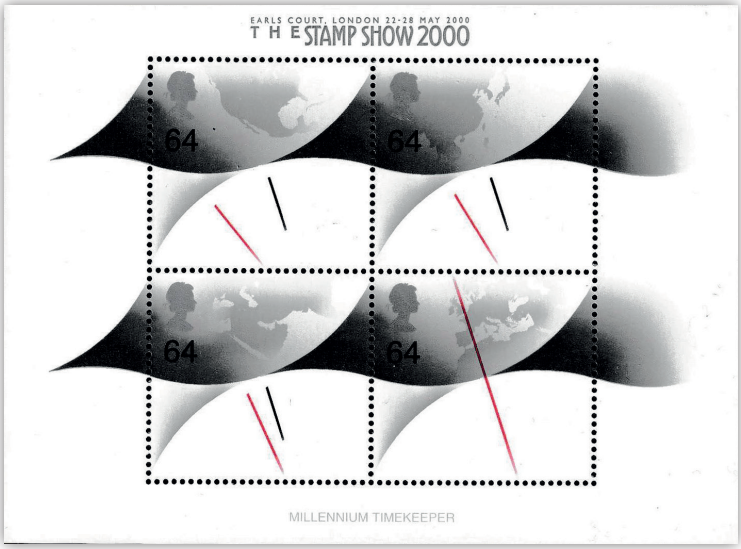
2000
May 22-28

The owners of Alexandra Palace were keen to host the exhibition for 2000, but Royal Mail had already reached an agreement with P&O Events jointly to organise the event at Earls Court. With a year to go, the agreement was terminated leaving the organisation in the sole hands of Royal Mail. It was decided not to help finance The Stamp Show 2000 through premiums on miniature sheets. Instead three Prestige stamp books were issued: in 1998 (The Wilding Definitives), 1999 (Profile on Print) and 2000 (Special by Design). Additional publicity came from a retail stamp book on 21 March that focused on Postman Pat, plus a slogan postmark in use from March.

The exhibition was held on 22 to 28 May, admission costing £5 each day, or £10 on the opening day. A season ticket, valid throughout and costing £10, comprised a wallet that included the Millennium Timekeepers miniature sheet, first issued on 14 December 1999, but now with an exhibition overprint in the margin. However, the main inspiration for the publicity was the launch of the Smilers stamps, the opportunity to have one's own picture ►



Publicity using Postman Pat and a retail stamp book



The exhibition season ticket included an overprinted Millennium Timekeepers miniature sheet

alongside a postage stamp. Posters on London's Underground and leaflets promoted the idea of 'Get into stamps' by visiting the exhibition. The Smilers sheets, using the 'Smiles' designs of the Greetings stamps first issued in 1990, comprised ten stamps each with an adjoining label, either depicting the exhibition logo, or with a personal photograph. This photograph was taken in a booth at the exhibition, the completed sheet, at £5.95



'Get into stamps' – publicity for The Stamp Show 2000 focused on the new Smilers stamps



The Exhibition Souvenir using colours from the Jeffery Matthews' palette used on a first day cover autographed by Jeffery



The author on a personalised meter mark from Neopost

each, ready a few minutes later. Another personal touch came from Neopost, offering meter marks with a photograph. Naturally the Royal Mail stand was impressive, taking the theme of 'Perspectives on Britain', Britain's history, events and culture as seen through stamps. This was inspired by the Millennium stamp series of 1999, the original artwork for many of the designs being on display. Colour coding was used throughout the stand, based on the Jeffery Matthews' palette for the Machin definitives. The respective eight definitives appeared on the Exhibition Souvenir, on sale from 22 May (and also available in a souvenir wallet). A second miniature sheet was available from 23 May, called 'Her Majesty's stamps', comprising four Millennium 1st class definitives, and a 1953 Coronation stamp design.

Close by Royal Mail's stand was a plethora of other attractions. The entries in a stamp design competition for young visitors were reduced to stamp size and printed by The House of Questa. Other stamp printers also had stands: De La Rue, Joh Enschedé and Walsall Security Printers. There was no shortage of rarities to be seen, most notably from the Royal Philatelic Collection. The focus was 'The Collector King' King George V and featured many scarce items from his and subsequent reigns. The British Library Philatelic Collections likewise displayed a wealth of rare items. From the Post Office Heritage Services (now The Postal Museum) came the exhibit 'Post Haste!' tracing the developments of the delivery of mail, and 'Post Early', a selection of classic Post Office posters.

Could there be a London international that does not in some way include the Penny Black? The Stamp Show 2000 did not disappoint: 'Eyes Right! The Definitive Story' took a journey from the Penny Black, including the proof sheet, through to the Millennium definitive. However, for many possibly the star of the show was the printing press from Perkins, Bacon and Petch kindly loaned by the British Library. A contemporary of that used to print the Penny Black, it was used to demonstrate the printing process involved, printing off facsimile sheets of 240 of the stamp without corner letters, each sheet individually printed. Packs containing a block of four of the facsimiles were available. ►



The Smilers stamps, available with exhibition labels or a personal photograph



'Her Majesty's stamps' miniature sheet



Reproductions of the Penny Black, sold in presentation packs

2010

May 8–15

Come the planning for 2010 reality had to be faced. An ambitious event could no longer be entertained – sufficient funding was not available. Perhaps there needed to be thinking 'outside the box'. London 2010: Festival of Stamps was conceived. Still the international stamp exhibition, but supplemented by other events staged throughout the year across the country. For the exhibition itself, held on 8 to 15 May, the venue would be the Business Design Centre in London's Islington. It had already proved itself as ideally suitable, hosting the national exhibition Stampex from 1996. The venue has more space than needed for Stampex, but still cannot accommodate sufficient frames to show all the exhibits at one time. Instead the exhibits were shown in two sections: half in the first days of the exhibition, followed by the remainder.

The focus of the event was clear: the accession of King George V, the 'Collector King', on 6 May 1910. This provided the theme for two miniature sheets from Royal Mail. The first, issued on 6 May, comprised 1st and £1 stamps, marking the Accession, the 1st class value also available in standard sheets. This miniature sheet was additionally overprinted 'BUSINESS DESIGN CENTRE. LONDON 8 – 15 MAY 2010', available only at the exhibition. A second sheet was titled 'The King's Stamps' reproducing the two stamps for the 1924 British Empire Exhibition, and the 10/- and £1 King George V 'Seahorse' high values. A third miniature



The exhibition miniature sheets: remembering King George V's Accession (available at the exhibition additionally overprinted), and classic stamps of his reign



New stamps available specially packaged from the Royal Mail stand

sheet featured, as in 2000, examples of the Jeffery Matthews' colour palette, used for eleven Machin definitives. Smilers also featured as in 2000, two sheets being available. One specifically marked the exhibition with iconic sights of London, while the second celebrated ten years of Smilers sheets (the second could have a personal picture).

On 13 May Royal Mail issued a set of stamps and a miniature sheet to mark 'Britain Alone' recalling the days of the Second World War. Prestige stamp books were produced for both the King George V and Britain Alone issues. The Royal Mail stand sold the sheet stamps of both of these issues pre-packaged in selected formats such as gutter pairs, cylinder blocks and 'traffic light' blocks. Also, for the first time at a London stamp exhibition, a Post & Go machine was in use. A retail book of six 1st class gold Machin definitives issued on 30 March, and a slogan postmark in use from 4 May, publicised the exhibition. As usual, activities for young collectors were not forgotten, provided by the Stamp Active Network.

However, the aspect that made London 2010 different was the 'Festival of Stamps' with many philatelic societies and Federations hosting events (coordinated by the Association of British Philatelic Societies) during the year. London venues that staged specific exhibitions included the British Postal Museum & Archive (BPMA), the British Library Philatelic Collection, British Museum, Museum of London Docklands and Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum, plus the Bath Postal Museum. However, the highlight of the 'Festival' events was the special exhibition staged at Guildhall Art Gallery. Called 'Empire Mail: King George V and the GPO' it featured outstanding material from both the BPMA and the Royal Philatelic Collection. Centrepiece of the Guildhall event was a printing press provided by Dutch stamp printer Joh Enschedé printing reproductions in blocks of four of the classic £1 Postal Union Congress stamp issued in 1929. Packs were sold containing a block of four of the reproduction stamps printed in black. Back to the exhibition, the Business Design Centre had proved to be an ideal venue, and would continue to be used for future London 'internationals'. ►



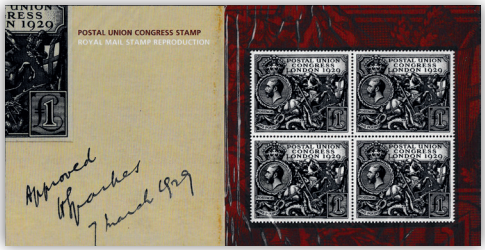
Smilers sheet for London 2010 with iconic views of London



Ten years of Smilers: Smilers sheet, also available with a personal photograph



Publicity using a retail stamp book



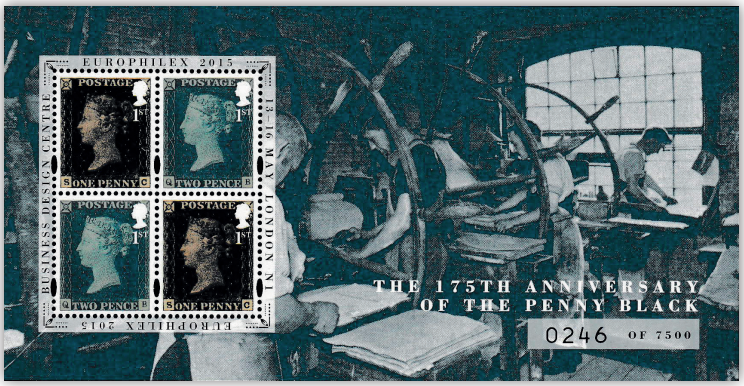
Reproduction of the £1 Postal Union Congress in blocks of four, available in a special pack

2015

May 13-16

Since 1990 there had been ideas of London hosting a 'mid-way' exhibition, to fill the gap each decade. However, such thoughts only came into fruition in 2015 with London 2015 Europhilex. As the name implies, this event was organised in conjunction with the Federation of European Philatelic Associations (FEPA): thus the competitive displays could only come from collectors in member countries. It ran from 13 to 16 May and again the Business Design Centre was the venue, and once more the exhibits were shown in two halves. As this was not a full 'international' there was no pre-event publicity (slogans and/or booklets) from Royal Mail. Nevertheless several noteworthy items were produced for the exhibition. Once again, there was no escaping from the Penny Black – and Twopenny Blue – a miniature sheet issued on 6 May marking their 175th anniversary. This attractive sheet featured new stamps based on the original designs. As in 2010, the sheet was also produced with an additional overprint, only available as such at the exhibition.

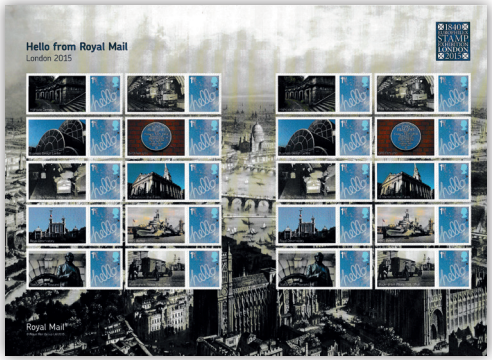
The Penny Black design also appeared in a booklet of six stamps, while both Penny Black and Twopenny Blue designs were used for a very attractive Smilers sheet, both issued on 6 May. Another Smilers sheet, specifically for the exhibition and again focusing on London, was issued on 13 May.



Exhibition miniature sheet celebrating the 175th anniversary of the Penny Black and Twopenny Blue – also available overprinted, but only from the exhibition



Smilers sheet celebrating the Penny Black and Twopenny Blue



Smilers sheet for London 2015, with London the natural focus

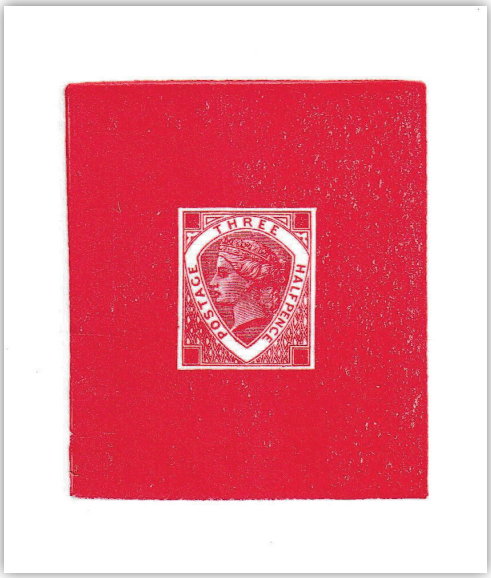
For those wanting 'customised' Smilers sheets the Union Flag design was available. Since 2010 Post & Go had found great favour with collectors, and several pictorial sets had been produced. New designs appeared on 13 May depicting Heraldic Beasts. Finally, on 14 May, came the second set in the series from Royal Mail that from 2014 to 2018 recalled the years of the First World War: a Prestige stamp book accompanied this set.

The exhibition offered its own souvenirs. First were two Business Smilers sheets, one showing the flags of European nations, the other marking Magna Carta. Sadly these two sheets did not sell well. Second was a series of 15 postcards, each one recalling an international stamp exhibition staged in London from the first held in 1890. As before, Stamp Active provided activities for young collectors, while the British Postal Museum & Archive offered a tantalising glimpse at its plans for the new Postal Museum and Mail Rail experience. However, this exhibition offered some new ideas. The highlight was the display from the Club de Monte-Carlo that featured 'Philatelic Events that Changed the World'. From the earliest written letter in private hands (of 1190) to the Royal Charter of 1635 setting up the General Post Office; from a drawing for the design of the Penny Black to a cover dated 15 May 1840 bearing three Penny Blacks and two Twopenny Blues; from the first trans-Atlantic mail and the first airmail flight to the first journey to the Moon; from the first catalogue produced by Stanley Gibbons to the unique Sweden 3 skilling banco yellow. A special display was also provided by the Confederate Stamp Alliance featuring stamps and postal history of The Confederate States of America.

Finally the Royal Philatelic Society London demonstrated printing on the press that had been used by the famous forger, Jean de Sperati. This time it produced reproductions from the original Perkins Bacon dies for the 1879-1880 Post Office stamp tender. Sadly the start to the new decade will not see an international stamp exhibition hosted in London. But there will be a return to the Business Design Centre in two years on 19 to 26 February for London 2022 ●



The exhibition organisers produced a separate Smilers sheet



Print taken from the original Perkins Bacon die using the Sperati press at London 2015

Registering mail – other than standard letters



Registration on demand for a fee was originally introduced as a necessary measure to provide security for letters containing valuable items. At the time it would have been unlikely for it to be used for any other kind of mail – partly because those initial registration fees were very expensive (1s when the inland service was introduced in 1841), and partly because under the Uniform Postage reforms most inland postal items were considered letters. In due course though the Post Office began to offer concessionary rates for other types of mail, and registration became cheaper (6d in 1848, 4d in 1862, 2d in 1878), meaning it was practical to register more often.

However, registration of items other than standard letters was not common practice. It would only be resorted to when it was necessary to do as much as possible to ensure delivery – this could be because the contents were valuable (either in cash terms, or simply of importance to the sender and/or addressee), or because the message being sent just had to get there. Examples are therefore not especially easy to find, either because the items were of a type that was seldom important enough to merit registration, or occasionally because they are of a class of mail that is hard to find in general. What follows is a short survey of some of the possibilities, ordered by date of introduction of that class of mail.



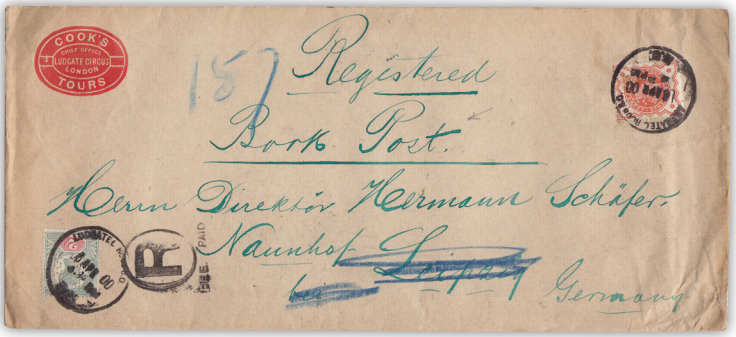


1875 and 1882: two examples of notices to creditors sent by solicitors under the terms of the Bankruptcy Act 1869 – ½d printed papers rate plus registration fees of 4d or 2d. Although the Act contained no specific statutory requirement that registered post be used, these were important legal notices and so would normally merit being sent as such

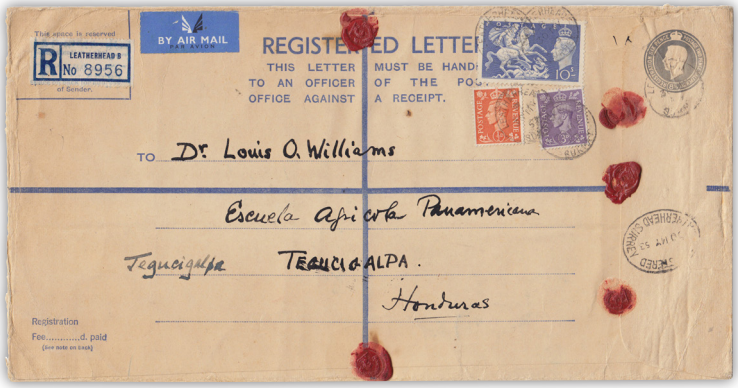
Book Post/Printed Papers This was the first 'new' class of mail after 1840. The inland 'book post' began in 1848 and expanded to cover a wide range of 'printed papers' (i.e. printed and partially printed materials), especially after 1870 when a ½d basic rate was introduced. From 1875, this class of mail was one of the key Postal Union services. Legal notices of creditors' meetings under the Bankruptcy Act 1869 are perhaps the most frequently seen from the early period, although the expectations that the reduction of the fee in 1878 would 'doubtless induce solicitors to register almost everything' were a little exaggerated! The commonest types of item sent at the printed paper rate were circulars, bills, newspapers and other such articles of everyday commerce. There was rarely any good reason to register them, although examples can be found. Most registered printed paper items are where the papers themselves were important or represented value, even if not directly convertible into cash. ►



1909: ½d newspaper wrapper uprated by 2d for registration to Germany from a small post office in Stoke Newington (using a C label with hand-stamped sub-office number). Nothing to suggest what exactly the contents were



1900: overseas 'book post' from Cook's Tours in their heyday, a large envelope but sent at the minimum rate of ½d for up to 2oz (+ 2d registration) – most likely originally contained tickets and/or printed travel documents?



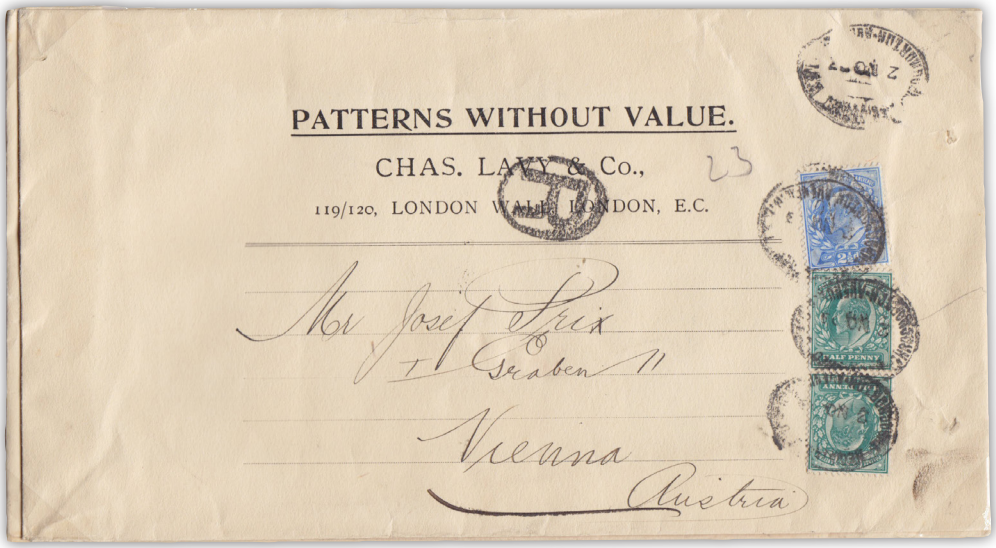
1953: large K size registered envelope from Leatherhead to a leading agricultural education centre in Honduras, endorsed on reverse 'Contains a report on a botanical question'. 10s 6d postage is not a multiple of the 1s 3d Zone B letter rate, so must have qualified for the cheaper 'second class airmail' that covered printed papers, small packets, etc – 21-fold rate at 6d per ½oz (+ 6d registration)

Samples and Patterns The sample or pattern post service offered a concessionary rate for small quantities of goods sent as a 'taster' by businesses. An inland service was first introduced in 1863, although it was withdrawn and restored three times over the years before finally disappearing upon the introduction of two-tier post in 1968. An overseas service was part of the original Postal Union agreement, and was available from 1875 to 1971. The rule was that the samples should not have any resale value in the form supplied – but in practice, of course, it was important that they arrived in good condition, and registration could help with that.

1936: stout envelope printed for samples used by a famous biochemical manufacturer, used inland, with handstamp to indicate that this one should be sent registered. 1d minimum sample rate for up to 4oz (basic letter rate was 1½d for 2oz) + 3d registration



1903: specially printed envelope for sending patterns, 'concertinaed' to allow it to stretch to accommodate bulky contents, sent to Austria by a firm of merchants in London. 1½d second step postage (4-6oz) + 2d registration



Postcards These were introduced in 1870 in the inland post and 1875 to overseas. In this case, registration, when resorted to, was generally related to the importance of the message (one short enough to save money by using a postcard instead of a letter). Sometimes it was simply vital that it get there, in which case registration would offer extra peace of mind. In other cases it was important to ensure there would be a record of its arrival. ►



1940: 1d overseas surface postcard uprated with 9d stamp for registered airmail – 7d postage + 3d registration. Sender Otto Rothschild had received no reply to his earlier correspondence ('I can hardly understand that both letters did not arrive') and urgently needed the money he had sent to be refunded, as an application had been rejected. A letter would have cost 1s 3d postage. Written in German – possibly by a Jewish refugee who had hoped to resettle in Australia?



1921: an irate message following up a cablegram, and demanding to know where the sender's 'missing December monthly income' was. Sent with advice of delivery ('AR' = Avis de réception: an additional service available with registration that gave confirmation that the item had arrived), as there had been no response to a previous cable! 1d postage (a letter would have been 1½d) + 2d registration

Commercial Papers This was a special category for documents that could be wholly or partially handwritten, but were not in the nature of 'actual and personal correspondence', and again was one of the initial Postal Union services (available from 1875 to 1966). Many business documents fell under this heading, as did such things as music and manuscripts for publication. Items tend to be uncommon in general, but ironically, my impression is that a non-trivial proportion of them are registered. This is presumably because the service was often used for important paperwork and so registration was worthwhile to make sure it got there.

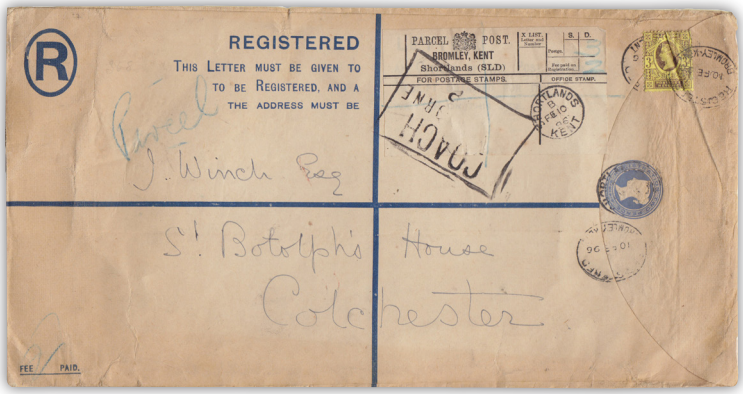


1894: uprated newspaper wrapper used to send a manuscript, probably a medical one – the sender was a Dr Sennen, and the addressee was one of the editors of the multi-volume *Grundriss der klinischen Bakteriologie für Ärzte und Studirende*, published that year. 3½d postage (third step 12-14oz) + 2d registration

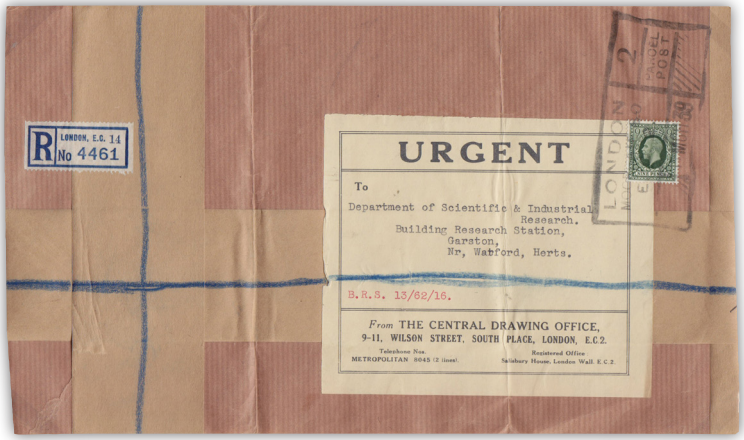
1935: large envelope franked with multiple KGV Silver Jubilee stamps, sent from the London branch of a Swiss trading house to the head office in Winterthur, presumably containing important internal business paperwork. 4d fourth step postage (14oz-1lb) + 3d registration



Parcels The most obvious use case for non-letter registration was inland parcel post, introduced in 1883, and often used to send items of value that did not require accompanying paperwork in the form of a letter. (Overseas parcels could not be registered, although from 1899 the insurance system was an effective alternative.) Registration was obviously desirable in these cases, although it was not available until 1891 and was scrapped in 1972. The difficulty in finding registered parcel items lies largely in the fact that parcel post items in general are uncommon relative to the number of parcels that were sent. Collectors found it impractical to keep complete wrappers, and seldom seem to have kept even large pieces that show all the relevant points of interest – they were often cut up for their postmarks and parcel labels. ►

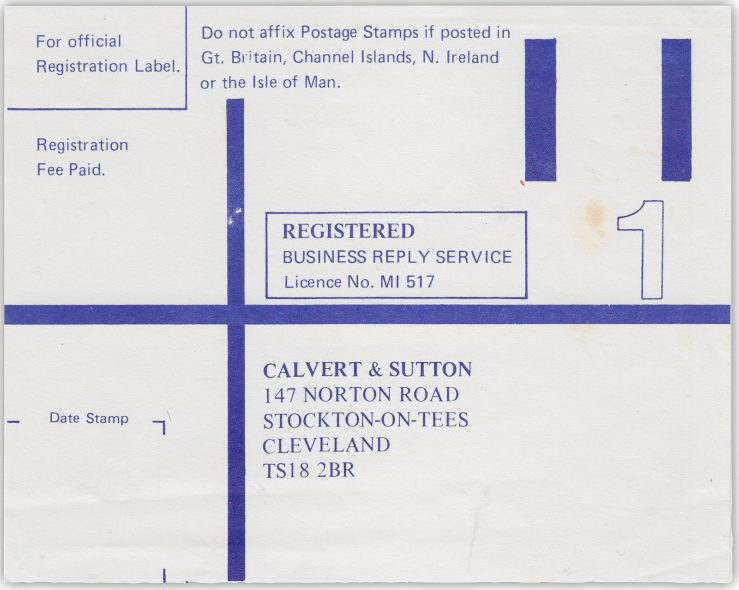


1896: an unusual use of the large K size registered envelope as parcel packaging, complete with parcel post label of an office in Kent and a 'COACH / ROAD BORNE' handstamp to indicate that the parcel was sent entirely by road (and thus the railway companies did not get a share of the postage). Addressed to one of the Winch Brothers, famous early stamp dealers, so presumably contained philatelic material!



1939: large piece from a minimum weight registered parcel (6d postage up to 2lb + 3d registration) sent between two Government offices. Rate paid with a solo usage of the KGV 9d photogravure – the KGVI replacement was still over a month away

Business Reply This service was introduced in 1932 and allowed businesses to supply addressed stationery (in a defined format) that their customers could post back to them without having to pay any postage – this was paid by the firm, plus a small extra charge per item. However, only received items were charged for, so it was generally cheaper than sending out prepaid stationery that might never be returned. It was very unusual for firms to pay for registered post, but examples are known. Conversely, there was nothing to stop the sender registering a business reply item when sending it back, paying only the registration fee, although presumably this would only be done if it was vital that the item get there.



1983: a printed label with the normal Business Reply text and additional blue crossed lines for registration. Presumably intended for return of valuable goods? This was sufficiently unusual that a specific notice was included in the Post Office Gazette to tell postal staff to accept them as fully paid registered packets



1972: a business reply envelope returned to a holiday company, with the 20p registration fee paid with a Royal Silver Wedding stamp. Whatever the reason, it must have been important! As it happens, the sub-post office it was sent from should have required an extra ½p as the envelope paid only 2nd class post, and registration was only available with 1st class. The firm were surcharged 1p double deficiency

Postage Paid Impressions This now very familiar type of mail allows firms to make bulk postings paid in cash, using specially printed envelopes that do not need to be run through a cancelling machine. It was introduced generally in 1966 with standard formats for the postage paid mark that included the sender's authorising serial number (although certain posters had occasionally been allowed to use stationery of this type in earlier years). Most such 'PPIs' are for ordinary classes of mail, as only a very few posters sent out sufficient quantities of registered mail on a regular basis to justify the use of a PPI that paid for registration as well.



1987: PPI registered envelope used by the International Services Branch of National Girobank, then still a Post Office banking service, which needed to send out large numbers of payments

Conclusion While special classes of mail proliferated in the 19th and early 20th centuries, the tendency over the last half-century or so has been to combine them again. In 1968 separate inland printed paper, postcard, sample, and letter services were replaced by 1st and 2nd class post, and from 2013 even standard parcels have been treated the same way. Much the same thing has happened with overseas services, and registration itself has been combined with express services under various names. So registered mail of the kind illustrated here is a window into how things used to be ●

By Maurice Buxton member of the Great Britain Philatelic Society. www.gbps.org.uk

At time of going to press – in recognition of the government's directives relating to containing the spread of the coronavirus, Dane Garrod's Stamp Scene article has been suspended. We are of course all hoping that it won't be too long before philatelic events and activities resume around the country. Until then, we hope you all exercise prudence in your daily activities, enjoy good health, and look forward to better days.



END OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR





1 This stamp of 1995 features British troops and which civilians celebrating the end of the war?
a) British b) French c) Dutch



3 This Miniature Sheet commemorated which anniversary of the end of the Second World War?
a) 40th b) 50th c) 60th



2 R J Mitchell featured on this 50th Anniversary of the End of Second World War Stamp Booklet – he designed the... a) Sherman tank
b) Spitfire c) Bouncing bomb



4 Who is featured on this Stamp Booklet of 1995?
a) Dame Vera Lynn b) Violette Szabo
c) Anne Frank

Stamp Book images: courtesy of collectgbstamps.co.uk



Quiz



5 Who succeeded Winston Churchill as Prime Minister after the first post-war election?
a) Anthony Eden b) Neville Chamberlain
c) Clement Attlee



6 Allied POWs celebrating liberation from which Japanese camp?
a) Aomori b) Kita Corygara c) Ashio



How to enter Please send your answers, with your contact address or phone number, marked 'End of WW2 Quiz', to: Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. Or by email to tim.lees2@royalmail.com

Prizes The first five correct entries drawn after the closing date win the End of the Second World War Presentation Pack.

Closing Date 15 June 2020.

February solutions – Visions of the Universe Quiz
1)b 2)c 3)b 4)a 5)c 6)b

Winners Alan Wyness, Aberdeenshire; John Gregory, Worcester; Irene Pearson, Blairgowrie; Derek Ward, Lowestoft; Mrs M Dungate, Broadstone.

Terms and conditions Promotions are open to any reader aged 18 or over, except employees of Royal Mail Group Ltd, their business associates and immediate families. Responsibility cannot be accepted for entries which are incomplete, damaged or not received. Proof of posting is not proof of receipt. Prizes must be accepted as offered; they are not transferable and there are no cash alternatives. Winners are notified within 28 days of the closing date stated. For prize draws where readers must answer a question, winners will be the senders of the first correct entries drawn at random by an independent person after the closing date. Royal Mail's decision is final. No correspondence will be entered into. Entry implies acceptance of these rules. Prizes are subject to availability. The promoter reserves the right to a) substitute a prize of equal or greater value if circumstances so demand and b) to suspend or cancel or hold void any of the competitions or prize draws at any time without notice. The winners' names are available 28 days after the closing date. To receive this please send an SAE to The Editor.

New Issues and Withdrawals

8 May

Issue End of the Second World War: Stamps (2 x 2nd Class, 2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.42, 2 x £1.63). Miniature Sheet (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.63). Presentation Pack. Stamp Souvenir. Stamp Sheet Souvenir. First Day Envelope. First Day Cover Stamps. First Day Cover Miniature Sheet. First Day Cover Prestige Stamp Book pane. Prestige Stamp Book (pane one: 2 x 2nd Class, 2 x 1st Class, pane two: 4 x 5p, 2 x 50p, 2 x £1.63, pane three: 2 x £1.42, 2 x £1.63, pane four: 2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.63). Press Sheet. Postcards (13 in set). BU Coin Cover. Silver Coin Cover. Gold Coin Cover. Framed Stamps.



9 May

Withdrawal Prince Charles 70th Birthday: Miniature Sheet. Presentation Pack. Postcards. Press Sheet. BU Coin Cover. Silver Coin Cover. Gold Coin Cover.

Withdrawal Stamp Classics: Miniature Sheet. Presentation Pack. Postcards.

Withdrawal Leonardo da Vinci: Stamps. Presentation Pack. Postcards.

Withdrawal Birds of Prey: Stamps. Presentation Pack. Postcards. Stamp Book.

Withdrawal British Engineering: Stamps. Miniature Sheet. Presentation Pack. Postcards. Press Sheet.

Withdrawal Queen Victoria Bicentenary: Stamps. Miniature Sheet. Presentation Pack. Postcards. Prestige Stamp Book. Press Sheet. BU Coin Cover. Silver Coin Cover. Gold Coin Cover.



Withdrawal Curious Customs: Stamps. Presentation Pack. Postcards.

Withdrawal Forests: Stamps. Presentation Pack. Postcards.

11 May

Withdrawal Visions of the Universe: Stamp Souvenir.

28 May

Issue Coronation Street: Stamps (2 x 2nd Class, 2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.42, 2 x £1.63). Miniature Sheet (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.42). Presentation Pack. Stamp Souvenir. Stamp Sheet Souvenir. First Day Envelope. First Day Cover Stamps. First Day Cover Miniature Sheet. 3 x Character Stamp Sets. Rovers Return Miniature Sheet Set. Press Sheet. Postcards (13 in set). Stamp Book. Generic Sheet. Framed Stamps. Framed Miniature Sheet. Framed Generic Sheet. Framed Enlarged Prints: Ken and Deirdre; Jack and Vera; Hilda and Stan; Ena and Elsie; Rita and Norris.

You can order any of the Royal Mail stamp products listed above, by visiting **www.royalmail.com/stamps** or from Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles PO Box 1373, Sunderland SR5 9PG, UK. (Overseas subscribers will need to use a stamp.) Or use the Royal Mail telephone order service on 03457 641 641 (08.30 – 17.00 Monday to Friday). For overseas customers: +44 3457 641 641. Minimum handling charge UK £1.45, Europe £1.55, rest of world (airmail) £2.15.

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