

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The ROYAL MAIL magazine *for stamp collectors*

Volume 41 Number 2

OCTOBER 2003 £1.10

Bulletin

Postboxes of colonial India •
Christmas stamps preview



Royal Mail welcomes the season with sculptures in the winter landscape: the Christmas issue goes on sale on 4 November.



Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



Cover A stone cairn, by Andy Goldsworthy. Royal Mail's Christmas issue, featuring ice and snow sculptures by Andy Goldsworthy, is previewed on page 48.

Sculpture/photography on cover and p35 and 50-51 by Andy Goldsworthy.

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

30 September	Issue Christmas Smilers sheet (generic) – 20 x 1st class Robins (2001 Christmas stamp) self-adhesive ● British Museum stamp cards.
30 September	Withdrawal Smilers sheets – Christmas Cracker and Teddy/Dennis the Menace (both issued 1 October 2002).
7 October	Issue British Museum stamps, presentation pack and medal cover ● Victorian ingot pack No 4 (1881 Penny Lilac).
7 October	Withdrawal Pillar to Post stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards.
14 October	Issue Revised country stamps for England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. As current issue but with white border around stamp design. Also presentation packs and stamp cards.
14 October	Withdrawal Northern Ireland E stamp printed by Walsall.
21 October	Issue Pillar Boxes Ingot cover No4.
28 October	Issue Christmas stamp cards.
31 October	Withdrawal 1st class 'Boots' promotional stamp pane ● 1st and 2nd class coils of 1000 issued 29 April 1997.
4 November	Issue Christmas stamps, presentation pack, stamp books, Smilers sheets, and airmailers (national and Welsh) ● 2003 Year Pack and Year Book (standard and leather-bound versions).
4 November	Withdrawal 2002 Christmas stamps, presentation pack, stamp books, stamp cards, and airmailers (national and Welsh versions) ● 2002 Year Pack and Year Book (standard and leather-bound versions).

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Snow sculpture by Andy Goldsworthy, Grise Fiord, North Pole.

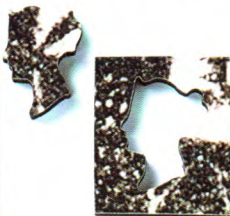
Christmas This month, we preview the new Christmas issue: six stamps along with seasonal philatelic products and a range of Royal Mail's own cards **48**

The British Philatelic Bulletin is published monthly by Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ • **Editor** J R Holman • **Price** £1.10 single copies from Post Office Limited philatelic outlets • **Annual subscription** £11.75 in UK and Europe; £16.75 rest of the world. Subscriptions should be sent to Royal Mail Talents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB • **Binders** to hold 24 issues, price £7, are available by post from Royal Mail (Edinburgh address above) • Royal Mail also publishes the fortnightly *British Postmark Bulletin*, which gives details of forthcoming special handstamps. Available on annual subscription from Edinburgh address above: £12.25 UK and Europe, £24.95 rest of the world • **Copyright** Design & text Royal Mail Group plc, unless attributed to a specific author. All requests to reproduce any article should be sent to the Editor, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ • **Design** by Robert Maude • **Printed** in Great Britain by the Perivan Group Limited • **ISSN** 0953 8119 • Royal Mail is a trading name of Royal Mail Group plc. Registered in England and Wales, number 4138203, registered office 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ

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Scotex enquiries Telephone A Wishart on 01698 356337 or see the Scottish Philatelic Traders Association website: www.spta.biz

Exhibitions The Irish national stamp exhibition STAMPA will be held at the RDS Hall, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4 on 10-12 October. SCOTEX, the major stamp fair in Scotland, takes place at the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre, Glasgow on 18-19 October. Open 18th 11.00-18.00 and 19th 10.00-16.30, admission free •

The second of this year's Thematica exhibitions will be held at Carisbrooke Hall, Seymour Street, London W1 on 28-29 November. Admission will be free. Visitors will receive a souvenir sheet reproducing one of Jeffery Matthews' unadopted designs for the 1978 Coronation Anniversary issue. As always there will be plenty of dealers with material for thematic collectors – and others! The venue is a short walk from Marble Arch underground station •

Singapore exhibition The UK Commissioner is: Brian Sole, 3 Stockfield Road, Claygate, Esher KT10 0QG. For Bulletin 1 and application forms, send five 2nd class stamps to cover postage.

An international stamp exhibition will be held in Bangkok, Thailand, 4-13 October. The international planned for St Petersburg in November has now been cancelled. Internationals next year will be staged in Valencia, Spain (22-30 May), Athens (August), Singapore (28 August - 1 September), and New Delhi (7-13 December). The Singapore exhibition will include the World Stamp Championship. Bulletin 1 and application forms are available from the UK Commissioner, Brian Sole (see left) •

Details of the RPSL available from the Hon Secretary, Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY, or see website www.rpsl.org.uk

Royal Philatelic Society London The following were elected at the AGM on 30 June. President: David Beech; Past Presidents: Professor Barrie Jay and Gavin Fryer; Vice Presidents: Christopher Harman and John Sacher; Hon Secretary: Keith Fitton; Hon Treasurer: Alan Moorcroft; and Hon Librarian: Philip Lindley. The outgoing President, Gavin Fryer, presented the Society with three important publications for its Library and Archives: Rowland Hill's pamphlet *Post Office Reform; its Importance and Practicability* (February 1837); William Ashurst's pamphlet on *PO reforms, Facts and Reasons in support of MR ROWLAND HILL's plan for a Universal Penny Post* (June 1838), and Sir Henry Cole's one-act playlet *A Report of a Scene at Windsor respecting the Uniform Penny Postage* (1839). *Bulletin* contributor Ron Negus was presented with the Society's London Medal for his work as the Society's Archivist. Our congratulations to Ron •

Harmers For details of future sales write to Harmers, No 11, 111 Power Road, London W4 5PY, telephone 020 8747 6100 or see website www.harmers.com

Auction news In 1941 Harmers were delighted when a GB 1867-83 watermark Maltese Cross 10s stamp realised £160 – £20 more than its then catalogue value. On 30 July 2003 the very same stamp was auctioned again by Harmers; this time it sold for £44,698 (catalogue £40,000). In 1941 it was sold as part of the H B Wane collection of GB, now it has found a new home with an overseas collector. The auction opened with a strong section of collections. An All-World selection smashed its £350 estimate to achieve £1862 and a valuable Commonwealth collection in *New Ideal* album achieved £9410 (est £5000). The sale included some fine GB items

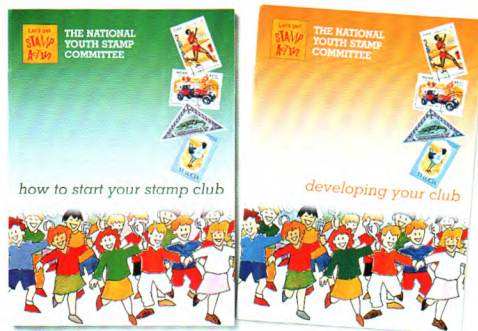
such as two Treasury Competition essays by Charles Whiting which went for £1300 and £700 (both estimated at £700), and a 1d Mulready wrapper (A254) with printed Argus Life Assurance Company advertisement made £100 over its estimate of £120. A pair of the 1969 Ships 5d with perforation error so one stamp was smaller size and without inscription and the other larger with 'RMS Queen Elizabeth 2' at top and Queen's head at centre right realised £1100 (est £1000), and an imperf sheet of the 2001 Cats and Dogs stamps went for £1700 (£1500). Cylinder blocks of ½d, 1d, ½d and 2d Wildings signed by the designer, Enid Marx, made their estimate of £200. The total sale value was over £500,000 including buyers premium.

Harmers will auction the collections of GB, Italian States and World Wide Air Mails formed by the late Gaetano Vullo on 11-12 November. Amongst the GB material are Penny Black proofs and essays, mint singles, blocks, covers (including four first day), and used multiples, two pence blues in mint blocks and on covers, Mulready envelopes and caricatures, 1841 Penny Reds with 'Black' plates, Archer roulette and perf, etc •

The next Grosvenor sale of GB and all World stamps will be on 6 November. For details contact Grosvenor Auctioneers, 399-401 Strand (3rd floor), London WC2R 0LT, telephone 020 7379 8789 or see their website •

Grosvenor Auctioneers
www.grosvenorsauctions.com

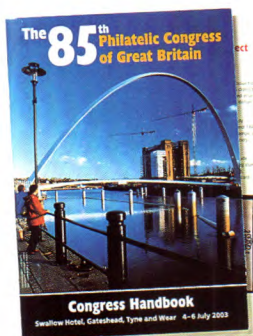
The National Youth Stamp Committee The Stamp Active Programme has now been re-launched and is in a new format as well as being updated. There are five different leaflets for club organisers full of helpful hints and ideas to make your youth stamp club even better. There will be a newsletter telling you what is happening in the stamp world, what there is to interest the youngsters, competitions they can enter, ideas and comments from other club leaders who run junior stamp clubs, also any questions answered and much more. The five leaflets are free and can be obtained by writing to The National Youth Stamp Committee, British Philatelic Trust, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1M 6PT. If you wish to join the Stamp Active Programme the cost is £10. This will entitle you to many special offers as well as the newsletter, free stamps and other give-aways for young junior collectors, also an activity book full of ideas for your club. The Stamp Active Newsletter will be sent once every term keeping you updated on events. The NYSC is grateful to the Trust and Royal Mail who have sponsored this project •



NYSC For further information telephone Anne Dummer on: 01536 519959 or e-mail anne@dummerah.freemove.co.uk

Autograph collecting Buckingham Covers publish an interesting magazine for autograph and signed cover collectors. They are keen to hear from readers who could provide articles about autographs, and would like to include features on readers' collections. For a copy of the magazine or to offer articles and features contact Buckingham at the address opposite •

Buckingham Covers Church House, 136 Sandgate Road, Folkestone CT20 2BY. Telephone 01303 850688.



Congress Handbook Limited number available (first come first served) from Pat Rothnie, 16 Curlew Hill, Lancaster Park, Morpeth NE61 3SH (enclose 50p UK postage).



Publications A well-produced *Handbook* was produced for the 85th Philatelic Congress of Great Britain, which was held in Gateshead, 4-6 July 2003. It contains the text of Michael Sefi's Kay Goodman Lecture 'What is it about GB?' explaining his fascination with the issues of George V. Other papers were presented by Francis Kiddle on '100 Years of Poster Stamps' and 'Philately 100 Years Ago' by C S Holder. He writes: 'Stamp collecting was a relatively minor interest as far as the general public was concerned, and was still very much presumed to be something that inter-

ested young people. The idea of grown men studying the dirty bits of used paper and writing learned treatises about their findings would have seemed ludicrous to most people. And yet, the rudiments of amateur and professional philately were very much established by 1903, and in many ways they have only been modified since that time, not significantly changed.' As a historian of philately, Mr Holder notes the great names of the past 100 years, Melville being the most significant up to 1940 and Robson Lowe thereafter. Although the hobby has adopted 'different views and approaches of collecting, exhibiting, display, mounting of material (and) the changes in fashion', much remains as it was in 1903. That is both the strength and weakness of the hobby, the staid ways of Edwardian times have limited appeal to the youth of today – the serious collectors of the future. In another paper, Richard West looks at youth philately over the past 100 years – an excellent summary of the attempts to interest the young and channel their philatelic energies. For today's young collectors, videos, CD-ROMs and the web will be the main source of information rather than the printed word. But, as Richard rightly points out, 'can there ever be any substitute to actually seeing stamps, handling stamps, and receiving personal encouragement?' In 'British Postal Stationery in Retrospect', Dr Alan Huggins shows a proposal by Charles Whiting for stamped envelopes (adapted from a banknote and printed by the Congreve multiple plate process), a 1d Mulready envelope sent on Boxing Day 1840 and the evolution of inland postcards from 1870 to 1970. The front cover of the Congress Handbook shows the Gateshead Millennium Bridge – the subject of one of the People and Places stamps of June 2000. A limited number of Handbooks remain available, from Pat Rothnie at the address opposite •

GBCC For details, contact Parker A Bailey, 17 Greenwood Road, Merrimack NH 03054, USA, or visit their website at www.gbstamps.com/gbcc

The July issue of the *Chronicle*, journal of the Great Britain Collectors Club, includes Larry Rosenblum's 'Mostly Machins' feature looking at the postal rate increases of 8 May and the new 'Universal' stamps; part 1 of Paul Phillips' study of Machin First Day Covers; and an interview, by Larry Rosenblum with John and Tina Carlson, proprietors of Jet Stamps. They specialise in GB stamps being 'very keen Anglophiles since our childhoods, one of the things that initially brought us together when we met, and has kept us together since. We also strongly feel that the quality of British stamps is unparalleled' •

Ron Hall and Stanley Brown have recently published *The Scottish Replica Penfold Pillar Boxes* which details 18 of these attractive replica boxes to be seen north of the border in Nairn, Iona, Falkland, South Queensferry, Edinburgh (four sites), Rothesay, Kingsbarns, Jedburgh, Hawick, Dundee, Drummur Castle, Sanquhar, Dumfries, and Glasgow. This interesting booklet includes photographs of the boxes, and examples of relevant postmarks and covers. The boxes in Nairn and on Iona have featured in our Posting Boxes feature here in October and December 1989 and January 2001. The Kingsbarns box is shown on page 61 this month •

The August issue of *Picture Postcard Monthly* includes the usual news reports on exhibitions, postcard fairs, and local clubs and societies as well as worthwhile reference articles on topics such as early Bamforth stars, the Music Hall superstar Vesta Tilley, the Delhi Durbar, and In Search of Gaudi. There is a useful listing of forthcoming fairs and numerous adverts for postcard dealers and auctions. The magazine is available at postcard fairs, price £2.40, or on subscription from the publishers. The UK subscription is £29, Europe £34, USA/Canada airmail £45, and rest of world airmail £47 or £34 surface mail •

Bears on Stamps by Nancy H Phillips and Terri Waddell is the latest American Topical Association handbook (no 146). It lists bears by family with sub-division into the different species. The book also has sections on Teddy and Toy Bears, Fictional Bears and miscellaneous Bear topics such as bears on coats of arms, flags, circus bears, bears in art, etc. Some 143 stamps are reproduced in colour •

Stanley Gibbons catalogues The 2004 edition of the *British Commonwealth* catalogue, listing the stamps of 1840-1952, was scheduled for publication in mid-September, price £44.95. It now includes illustrations in colour. A *Commonwealth Simplified Catalogue* listing stamps from 1840 to date, with most illustrations in colour, is now available, price £39.95. A full colour *Stamps of the World* in four volumes will be available from November, price £34.95 per volume or £109.95 for the set in a slipcase. Pre-publication prices are £29.95 per volume or £99.95 for the boxed set. The 2004 edition of *Collect British Stamps* will be published in November •

Forces Postal History Society The Society was established in 1952 to bring together the many collectors interested in the Postal History of the Armed Forces of all countries, including those representing the United Nations. The Society covers all times, whether in peace or war, and includes the study of postmarks, cachets, postage rates, stamps and stationery, POW mail, censorship and the organisation of postal services for all arms of the Forces. Membership over recent years has been in the region of 300-350 with both UK and overseas members. London meetings are held each month, except August, at the Union Jack Club (near Waterloo Station), usually on the second Saturday, and occasional meetings in other areas. Full details of the Society are given in the ABPS Directory. There is a regular journal and newsletter, auctions, a packet and library •

Scottish Replica Penfolds Stanley Brown, 14 Buchan Drive, Perth PH1 1NQ. Price £1.30 postpaid.

Picture Postcard Monthly 15 Debdale Lane, Keyworth, Nottingham NG12 5HT. Telephone 0115 937 4079.

Bears on Stamps American Topical Association, PO Box 57, Arlington, TX 76004-0057 USA. Price \$15; postage \$2 USA, \$3 Canada and Mexico, \$7 elsewhere.

Enquiries Stanley Gibbons Publications, Parkside, Ringwood BH24 3SH. Telephone 01425 472363, or mail order freephone 0800 611622.

Enquiries Keith Tranmer, 020 8599 9390. Subscription to the Society is £12 per annum.

Royal Mail news Country stamps • Special issues • Ingots • New website • Collectibles

Country stamps New country stamps for England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales go on sale on 14 October. Details were given in last month's *Bulletin*. They will be available that day from Tallents House in Edinburgh, Post Office philatelic outlets (Postshops Plus) throughout the UK, and ordinary postshops at offices in the respective countries. All other Post Office branches will use up existing stocks of country stamps before putting the new ones on sale. The cylinders (plates for Northern Ireland, printed in litho) and colours seen so far are listed below •

England	Northern Ireland	Scotland	Wales
2nd class D1 slate-green • D1 silver	2nd class D1b black • D1b new blue • D1b bright magenta • D1b greenish yellow	2nd class D1 new blue • D1 blue • D1 silver	2nd class D1 yellow-orange • D1 orange-brown • D1 black
1st class D1 lake-brown • D1 silver	1st class D1b black • D1b new blue • D1b greenish yellow	1st class D1 rose-red • D1 greenish yellow • D1 deep rose-red • D1 silver	1st class D1 blue-green • D1 greenish yellow • D1 silver • D1 black
E D1 olive-green • D1 silver	E D1b black • D1b new blue	E D1 bright lilac • D1 deep lilac • D1 silver	E D1 greenish blue • D1 deep greenish blue • D1 grey-black
68p D1 deep reddish lilac • D1 silver	68p D1b black • D1b bright magenta • D1b greenish yellow	68p D1 bright magenta • D1 greenish yellow • D1 new blue • D1 grey-black • D1 silver	68p D1 violet • D1 gold • D1 silver • D1 black
Phosphor D1 all values	Phosphor D1b all values	Phosphor D1 all values	Phosphor D1 all values

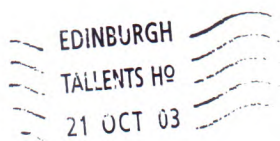
Special issues Stamps marking the British Museum's 250th anniversary go on sale on 7 October, as previewed last month. The 2003 programme concludes on 4 November with the Christmas issue, previewed on page 48 •

2004 special stamp programme Dates are provisional.

The number of stamps in each issue is given in parentheses. MS = miniature sheet.

13 January	Steam Locomotives (6 + MS)	10 August	Royal Society of Arts (6)
3 February	Occasions (6)	16 September	Woodland Animals (10)
26 February	Lord of the Rings (10)	12 October	Crimea (5)
16 March	A British Journey: Northern Ireland (6)	2 November	Christmas (6)
27 April	Merchant Ships (6 + MS)	A Railways PSB will be issued in February/ March and one for the Royal Horticultural Society on 25 May. The British Journey: London issue has been postponed.	
25 May	Royal Horticultural Society (6)		
15 June	A British Journey: Wales (6)		

Ingot covers and packs The fourth Pillar to Post ingot cover will be available from 21 October. The ingot reproduces the 47p Pillar to Post stamp (October 2002). A pair of the stamps is cancelled by a special Edinburgh Tallents House postmark in the style of a Krag machine cancellation. Available from Royal Mail Tallents House, price £29.95 (order code A1007). The fifth and final cover in this series is scheduled for 27 January.



Pillar to Post cover postmark.

The fourth in the 'Victorian Stamp Ingot Collection' series of attractive folders containing silver ingots of Victorian stamps will be available from 7 October – this features the 1881 Penny Lilac stamp. Price £26.95 (order code AC005). The fifth and sixth in the series are scheduled for 2 December and 3 February. The Collection, and a box in which to house them (free with regular orders), is available from Tallents House, Edinburgh only •



Stamps for kids website The new home of Sammy, the familiar Collectors Club magazine character. Coming soon: a unique opportunity for young collectors to post questions about their stamps or stamp collection.

Stamps for Kids www.royalmail.com/stampsforkids is Royal Mail's new website for young collectors. This has many of the features that we offered in the former Collectors Club magazine. The site includes stamp-related news and features, international stamp news and will be a source of information for new collectors as well as established ones. The site will also feature games, competitions and giveaways, safe surfing tips as well as the opportunity to buy stamps on line •

New Special Delivery service On 21 August Royal Mail launched a new Special Delivery service for letters to be delivered by 9am; this is in addition to the existing Special Delivery service which provides deliveries by 12 noon. The new service costs from £6.95 to £13.65 depending on the weight of the package (2kg maximum) and compensation level required. A new 9am Special Delivery envelope (c4 size) is available from Post Office branches, price £7.65 prepaid to 500g. Additional postage needs to be affixed to packages over that weight. A Welsh version of the envelope is available from branches in the Principality •





Ties From top

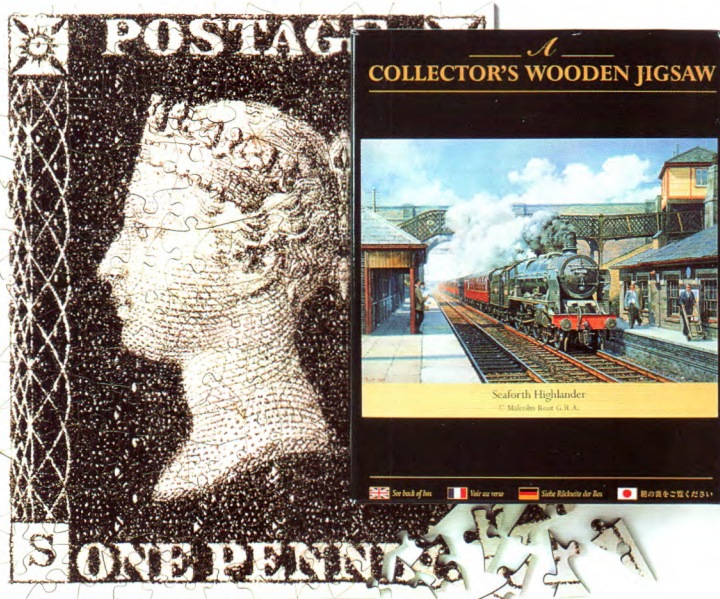
Maltese Cross postmark in gold on a mauve background.

Maltese Cross postmark in light blue on mauve.

Postmarks in black and white on a grey background.

Machin stamps (1p, 5p, £1, 2nd and 1st gold) on maroon.

Machin stamps (as above) on a blue background.



Collectibles Three jigsaws of interest to stamp collectors and railway enthusiasts are now available from Tallents House. Priced £19.95 each, these feature the Penny Black (above), the Coronation Anniversary stamp showing Cecil Beaton's portrait of The Queen, and *Scaforth Highlander*, the locomotive from the *Night Mail* train (above right). Order codes PY799, PY783 and PY800 respectively.

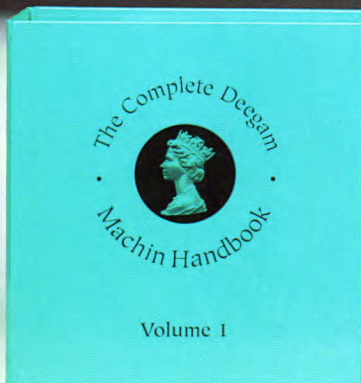
Also now available are five ties (see left and above). The ties cost £14.95 each. Orders to Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. Please add a postage and packing charge for collectibles of £2.95 UK, £5 Europe, and £14 rest of world ●

Going off sale The Pillar to Post stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards will be withdrawn from philatelic sale on 7 October and the 2002 Christmas stamps and airletters on 4 November ●



Keep your Bulletins tidy Sturdy box files are available for storing this and the *Postmark Bulletin*. The files, in maroon for the *Philatelic Bulletin* and green for the *Postmark Bulletin* are available from Royal Mail Tallents House, price £8.50 each. Order codes: PB349 (Philatelic), PB350 (Postmark). The box files will store approximately 30 copies of the *Philatelic* and about 50 of the *Postmark Bulletins*. Binders are also still available: £7 (BB001, *Philatelic*) and £6.50 (PB322, *Postmark*) ●

10,000 hours later... Don Staddon reviews the new edition of *The Complete Deegam Machin Handbook*



The Deegam Handbook

Orders: John M Deering, 'The Machins', PO Box 2, South Molton EX36 4YZ.
Telephone 01398 341564 or
e-mail deegam@johndeering.demon.co.uk

Price £59.

Postage & packing £9.95 UK,
£20.75 Europe, £17.25 world-
wide surface mail, £35.75 air-
mail Zone 1, £40.95 airmail
Zone 2. Remittances payable
to John M Deering.

WHEN the Editor invited me to review *The Complete Deegam Machin Handbook* third edition, I was pleased to accept. After all, I have known author Douglas Myall for some years, and have been interested in the Machins for even longer.

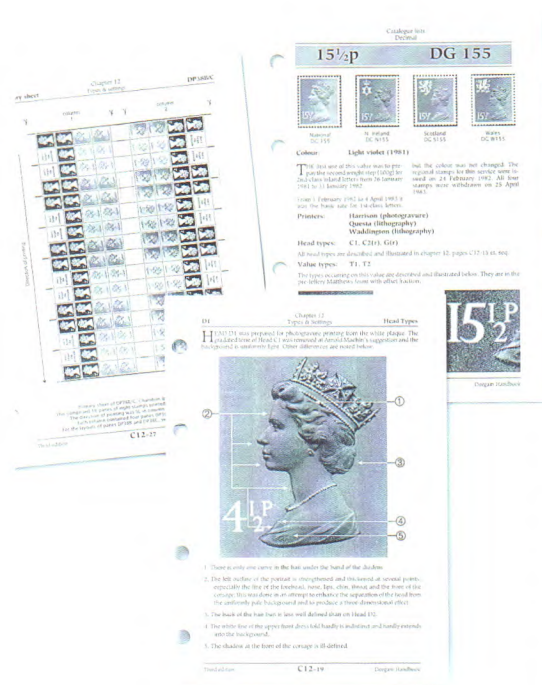
When the package was opened it signified the care which has been taken with such a major piece of work, which is housed in two substantial loose leaf binders. Douglas states that production has involved 10,000 hours of work and when examined more closely it is easy to see why. It clearly is an important study of the Machins, both decimal and pre-decimal. The word encyclopaedia has been used to describe it and I think this is a very appropriate definition. Douglas claims that the work cannot be compared with other specialised Machin catalogues, but that is for you to judge. Certainly the listings are different in that they start with the stamp value then the type, source, printer and issue date plus notes. As one example, the long running 1p takes up nine listing pages, plus an introductory page and two pages on value types and settings.

Perhaps the first thing I should say is that it is not a catalogue in the sense of being a price list. These lists are produced by stamp dealers and very useful they are too. However Douglas does provide numerical indicators in the Deegam listings which give an idea of value. Combine these

with the footnotes and you will soon know whether or not you have the less common items. There are 13 chapters, many of which give background information on basics such as Colours, Printing Processes, Papers & Gums, Luminescence, Perforations etc. One of the chapters which I find most useful is that on postal rates. Other chapters show the results of work carried out by Douglas in preparing systems for source identification and classification purposes.

Following the chapters are 12 appendices on such specific subjects as Booklet Pane Layouts, Self Adhesives, Postal Stationery, Cylinder and Plate Blocks, even non-Machin Definitives. I was a little surprised to see Training Stamps covered in appendix 8, especially as I have always understood that the possession of such material is illegal. Nevertheless I read what it says with some personal interest! This is just one of several new subjects introduced including non-UK Machins, Se-tenant pairs, Framas, Perfins and Miniature sheets, plus non Machin items such as Castles, Country Pictorials and Wilding Decimals, also Trials and Proofs, Presentation Packs and First Day Covers. There are also Priced Coil Leaders and a paragraph on Silk screen printing.

A significant release of information in recent years concerns the use of a head drawn by Rory Matthews, son of the well-known stamp designer



Jeffery Matthews. This drawing was used for most of the regional stamps printed in litho by The House of Questa from 1984 onwards, a few items of postal stationery, and possibly some Questa printed national definitives. It was part of the work done by Jeffery to improve the appearance of the litho-printed definitives, and included such design changes as a range of new symbols for the regionals, and the use of two colour printings instead of one. Royal Mail authorised the release of this information with the approval of Jeffery Matthews but it only gets a small mention in the *Handbook*. The drawing is not illustrated and no mention is made of the stamps affected despite there being a simple method of distinction. Perhaps Douglas has this as work in hand for future publication?

Volume 2 contains the listings of decimal and pre-decimal Machins, including Regionals, NVIs, and the 1840 Anniversary issue. There is a vitally important glossary of technical terms, and the understanding of complex subjects is aided by the generous use of monotone illustrations.

Douglas has aimed the *Handbook* at beginners, average collectors and specialists, even to the extent of providing advice to help determine your own level of collecting and writing-up. However my own opinion is that *The Complete Deegam* is not for the faint-hearted, and requires close and careful reading to become familiar with the contents. That being done it is a valuable work of reference, especially for those like me who continue to be interested in this long-running series. Take self-adhesives for instance. The index directs the reader to appendix 4 containing 20 pages of background information and illustrations. Self-adhesives also appear in chapter 7 on perforations, and in chapter 9 on the Deegam TCTC system for source identification. They are then included in the listings under the appropriate value. Armed with this I can throw away many of the bits of paper I have filed on the subject. Furthermore the loose-leaf format allows for it to be kept up to date as new material is issued.

Douglas is clearly concerned about copyright and makes this clear in copyright notices intended to prevent unauthorised use of his material. I am sympathetic to the reasons for this, especially in view of the amount of work undertaken by the author in designing the various Deegam systems, especially those used for identification purposes. However in another respect I am sorry this has to be the case, as it can lead to the creation of rival systems which may only serve to confuse collectors. It would be helpful if the producers of other published works on the subject can come to an agreement with Douglas and obtain the written permission which is required.

The *Handbook* is priced at £59 plus £9.95 p&p; overseas extra. Purchasers receive a registration card which can be posted to receive Deegam Reports as free e-mail attachments, advance notice of Deegam supplements, and notice of availability of Deegam Profile sets. It is not cheap but quality costs money, and there is no shortage of quality here. ●

Information on the Rory Matthews head referred to by Mr Staddon was published in Stamp Magazine, May 2000. ED

Concorde

Featuring another two items from
Brian Asquith's famous collection



AT SPRING STAMPEX and at the Royal Philatelic Society London in April, Brian Asquith displayed part of his famous collection of stamps, postmarks, covers and ephemera relating to Concorde. Brian has kindly agreed to us featuring some of the pages from his collection.

The first page shows the official GPO poster for display at post offices, announcing that the three Concorde stamps 'will be on sale here soon after the first successful flight'. This took place on 2 March 1969 and the stamps went on sale the following day. The second page shows imperf blocks of four progress proofs of the 1s6d stamp with The Queen's silhouette in silver-grey and the head and background colour of deep blue.

Brian is Chairman and Newsletter Editor of the Concorde Study Circle; for details write to him at: Alandale, Radcliffe Gardens, Carshalton Beeches SM5 4PQ •

Relics of the Raj

Manpreet Singh describes some rare reminders of India's colonial post



To escape the intense heat of the plains, the British made Simla (now Shimla), in the cooler foothills of the Himalayas, their summer capital. Simla's post office and church are shown above, in a photograph dating from the 1920s.

IN THE BACKLASH of India's independence from the British, most things associated with the Raj were done away with, but some of the pretty letterboxes survived the angry patriotic onslaught. Today these pillar boxes have attained a nostalgic aura; some are over 150 years old. Now they all bear the Indian Postal Services logo.

Under British rule, many such letterboxes were put up in important places. However, after independence most of them were done away with but some are still found at Shimla, Chennai and Bangalore. For instance, one such crowned letterbox still stands firmly opposite the house of a British army officer in Kassauli, a small town near Shimla. It is due to the individual efforts of the 90-year old Major R E Hotz (ret'd), who didn't return to England and settled in Kassauli, that the beautiful letterbox still stands and functions. When the government was ripping away these letterboxes, this one was spared on the request of Major Hotz who wanted it to stay as a reminder of old times. 'This letterbox has been here as long as I can re-

member. It was always of the red colour', says Major Hotz, from his wheelchair, passing his twilight years in his Kassauli house. Lately, the government again wanted to remove this letterbox and consign it to the four walls of a museum. But the Indian Army officials, saying that the letterbox is the property of the Army since it is located in an army area, refused to accept the government's proposal of shifting it. The sleek letterbox continues to be functional and receives a couple of letters every day.

But other letterboxes may not have been so lucky. In Shimla, you can find only a couple of such antique letterboxes of the British era. A few are functional still, and a beautiful one adorns the entrance of Shimla Museum. Besides the senior postal department employees, the elderly citizens feel a certain attachment with these rare, red relics of the Raj days and want them to continue. Ladli Ram, an old man residing in Shimla since his birth, reflects 'I remember these letterboxes being here since I was a child. They have stood solidly and look elegant. No one should remove them senselessly. They are our bond with our old times.'

True, compared to the modern, thin-metal-sheeted, different coloured letterboxes of today, these ones stand apart. Manufactured out of wrought iron in cylindrical, pillar and sleek shapes with crowns on the top they stand majestically: a symbol of nostalgic postal days in this age of electronic mails ●

Solid, sleek and crowned, the red letterboxes of the British era stand elegantly still in Shimla and among its surrounding hills. They have held ground for over a century and withstood the ravages of time.



Christmas A new stamp issue welcomes the



Technical details

Printer De La Rue

Process Gravure

Size 32 x 30mm

Sheets 50

Perforation 14.5 x 14 die-cut

Phosphor 2nd class one band, 1st class all-over, others two bands

Gum Self-adhesive

Gutter pairs Vertical

Cylinders and colours

All values D1 magenta ● D1 yellow ● D1 cyan (blue) ● D1 black ● D1 phosphor

Stamp books

2nd D1 magenta ● D1 yellow ● D1 cyan ● D1 black ● D1 blue (book panels) ● D1 phosphor

1st D1 magenta ● D1 yellow ● D1 cyan ● D1 black ● D1 gold (book panels) ● D1 phosphor

ROYAL MAIL has issued Christmas stamps annually since 1966. This year's Christmas stamps – the 38th issue – go on sale at Post Office branches, Tallents House and Post Office philatelic outlets on 4 November. As in 2001 and 2002, they are printed on self-adhesive paper, the stamps having die-cut perforations, and can be removed from sheets by rouletting which surrounds the 'perforations'. The stamps are the same size as last year's issue, but do not have matrix (paper) surrounding each stamp as in previous years. They were designed by Dick Davis using photography by Andy Goldworthy of his own ice sculptures. The stamps are as follows.

2nd class: Ice Spiral, Glen Marlin Falls, Dumfriesshire 1995. 1st class: Icicle Star, Scour Water, Dumfriesshire 1987. E (European basic rate): Wall of Frozen Snow, Izumi-Mura, Japan 1987. 53p: Ice Ball, Scour Water, Dumfriesshire 1987. 68p: Ice Hole, Capenoch, Dumfriesshire 1996. £1.12: Snow Pyramids, Grise Fiord, Ellesmere Island, North Pole 1989.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets about a week before 4 November, price 25p. Orders for FDCs with the stamps cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of Tallents House Edinburgh or Bethlehem must reach Tallents House by the date of issue. Price £3.99 UK or £3.40 overseas.

Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB, or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Penarth Road, Cardiff CF11 8TA (Bethlehem postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FD0323' or 'FD0324'. Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for the Bethlehem postmark. Details of sponsored handstamps will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House. For a sample copy write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ.

STAMP BOOKS Two Christmas stamp books (folded sheetlets) will be available from 4 November – 12 x 1st class stamps (£3.36) and 24 x 2nd class stamps (£4.80). The books have been printed by De La Rue. There is a line of rouletting below the first and third rows of stamps on the 1st class book and below the first, third, fifth and seventh rows on the 2nd class.

season, with sculptures drawn from the land



Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

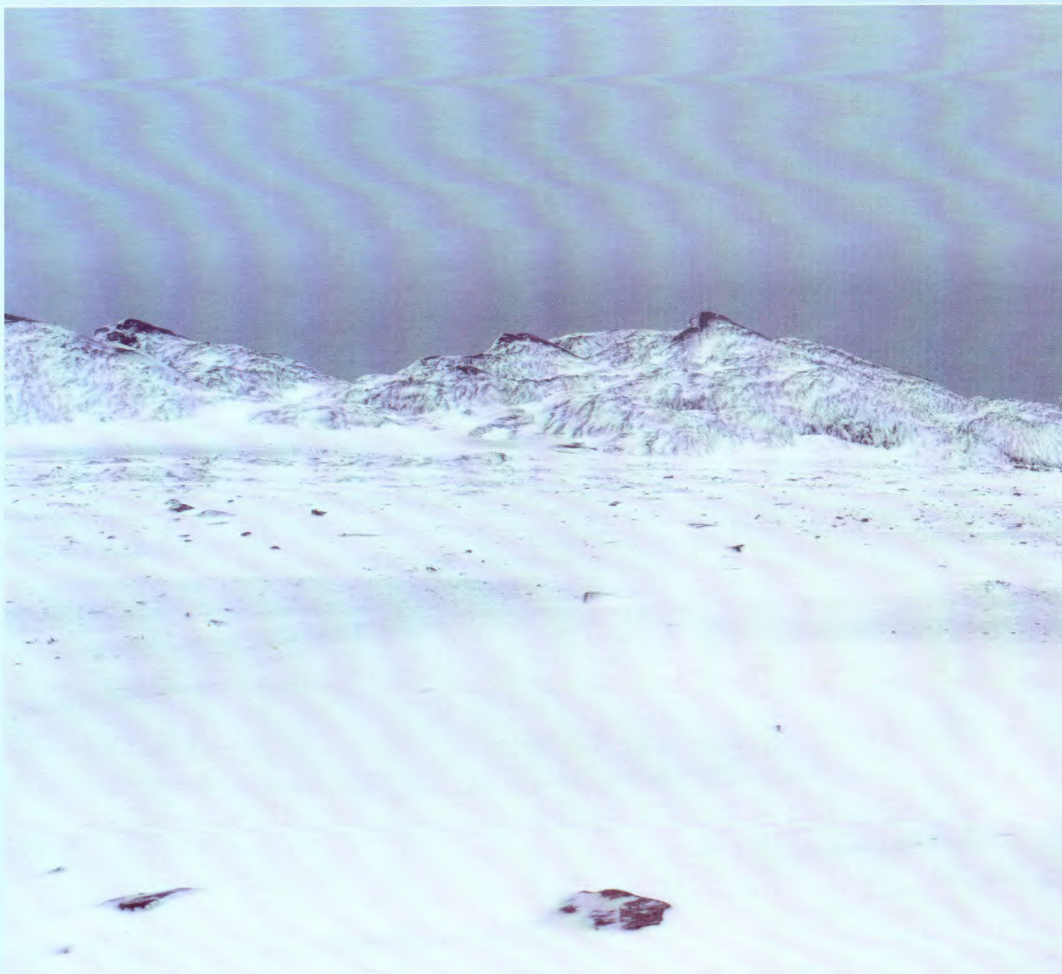


SMILERS SHEETS FOR CHRISTMAS There will be three Smilers sheets for Christmas. The first, on sale from 30 September, contains 20 × 1st class robins 2001 Christmas stamps, price £6.15. The other two sheets – 20 × 1st class 2003 Christmas stamps, and 20 × 2nd class 2003 Christmas stamps – will be available from 4 November, price £6.15 and £4.20 respectively. All three sheets will be printed in litho by De La Rue and have self-adhesive stamps. The stamps in sheets and books are printed in gravure. Smilers sheets are available from Royal Mail Tallents House and Post Office philatelic outlets. A Smilers sheets album is available from Tallents House, price £16.50 (order code PA665).

A well-illustrated Christmas pack (above, price £3.55) and stamp cards (30p each) will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets. The pack was designed by Typearea Ltd, with text by Andy Goldsworthy.

12 × 1st class (above left) and 24 × 2nd class stamp books will be available.

'When I work with winter, I work with the north. For me, north is an integral part of the land. I can touch it in the cold shadow of a mountain, the green side of a tree, the mossy face of a rock. Its energy is made visible in snow and ice.'



The Christmas stamps are:

Ice spiral 2nd class
Reconstructed icicles
around a tree
catching the sunlight

Ice star 1st class
Icicles
thick ends dipped in snow
then water
held until frozen together

Wall of frozen snow E rate
Carved with a stick
almost through
to the other side

Dumfriesshire-based Andy Goldsworthy (born 1956) creates sculpture in the landscape using the materials of nature immediately to hand and the chance conditions of place, time, weather and season. He has exhibited and worked around the world, including the Northern Territories of Canada and the North Pole. Goldsworthy's plant sculptures were shown on the Springtime stamps of March 1995. Dick Davis (born 1945), designer of these stamps, has designed a number of Royal Mail issues – 1986 Medieval Life, 1997 Lighthouses and 2001 Submarines and Flags & Ensigns.


Ice ball 53p

Thin ice
welded with water from
dripping ice
hollow inside

Ice hole 68p

Filled in under the branch arch
with snow
made a hole
that changed with the light

Snow pyramids £1.12

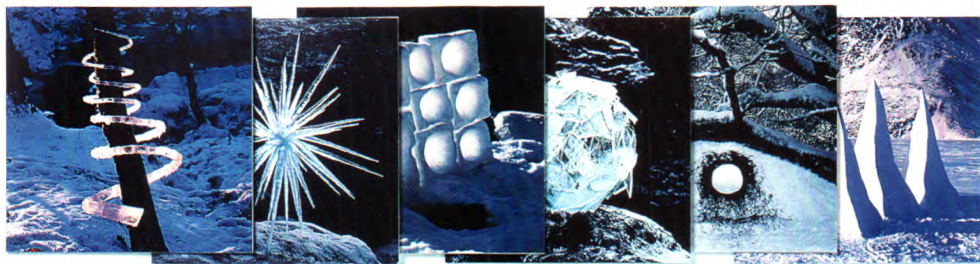
Spires
moulded from snow

The airletter was designed by Dick Davis and printed by Mail Solutions Ltd. The design is continuous over one complete side of the sheet, featuring ice sculptures made and photographed by Andy Goldsworthy. The front and back panels are shown below, as folded.



CHRISTMAS AIRLETTERS Two airletters (aerogrammes) will be available from 4 November. As last year there will be national and bilingual (Welsh/English) versions. The bilingual version will be available only from Post Office branches in Wales, Tallents House and Post Office philatelic outlets. Price 52p each. The airletter does not qualify for 'First Day of Issue' postmarking. Christmas airletters were first issued in 1965, one year before the first Christmas stamps appeared.

CHRISTMAS CARDS Boxes containing the Christmas stamp images (without Queen's head and value) reproduced as Christmas cards will be available from Tallents House from 4 November. Price £5.95 per box of 18 cards (three of each design), order code PY827. Also available will be cards in a traditional style depicting pillar boxes – nine each of two designs for £5.95 (order code PY828). These colourful cards are ideal to send to stamp collector friends and relatives at home and abroad •



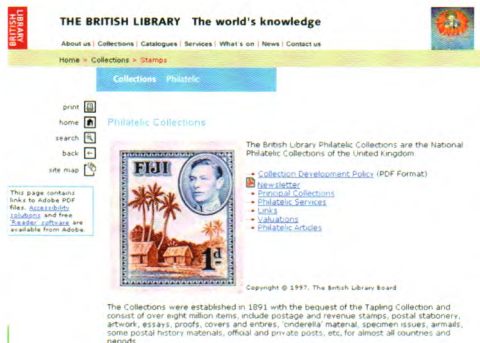
Royal Mail Christmas cards

£5.95 per box of 18 (three of each design), above.

£5.95 per box of 18 (nine each of two designs), right.



Philately on-line Ron Negus 'visits' our national collections



www.bl.uk/collections/philatelic Details of how to get to the British Library, including a street map, can be found under the heading 'About Us', and the sub-heading 'Location' on the main page of the website.

the final area details the Collection Development Policy. A short list of links to other websites for other philatelic resources is also provided.

The 'Principal Collections' pages are arranged under the following groupings: General, Great Britain, Airmail and Country Collections. Within each heading, the constituent gifts received over the years are arranged alphabetically by their donor's names. A short description is added to each one that explains its major contents. For the larger holdings, these brief summaries are expanded in the 'Philatelic Articles' section.

The Philatelic Collections also publish a newsletter from time to time, with descriptions of the holdings and related information about their activities. The website contains an example of this publication which has been created as an Adobe PDF (Portable Document Format) file. This allows it to be printed out as originally published.

Under 'Philatelic Services' the site provides details of opening times when the collections can be viewed. A note is given on the research facilities offered and information on how to obtain an obligatory Reader's Pass. Reference is also made to the extensive philatelic library holdings, which number over 30,000 volumes. These include the famous Crawford Library, the gift of Lord Crawford, containing about 4,500 volumes of stamp books, catalogues, etc covering the period 1861 to 1913. Some of these earlier examples of philatelic literature in the Crawford holdings are the only copies known to exist.

On display in the Library are approximately 80,000 items, on 6,000 sheets in 1,000 frames. Classics, revenues, forgeries, modern material, postal stationery, locals, Cinderella, proofs, and much more from all over the world are included in these national collections. Those on view are just a fraction of the overall holdings, and collectors are recommended to visit this website to discover the full extent of what is available ●

THIS MONTH'S appearance of the stamps marking the 250th anniversary of the founding of the British Museum is a timely reminder that for many years this historic institution was the home of our national stamp collections. Started in 1891 with the gift of the famous Tapling Collection, further philatelic treasures were added to the Museum as further donations followed in succeeding years. In 1973, the various collections were transferred from the British Museum to the newly formed British Library, but were still housed in the Museum buildings in Bloomsbury. A new British Library building was commissioned, near St Pancras, and this building was opened by HM The Queen in 1998. The collections were transferred to this new home, and the Library's website outlining their contents can be found at the website address given above.

Because the site is a subset of the main British Library one, users can access other aspects of the Library's work from drop-down menus available on the title page of the philatelic section. For example, it is possible to move to the general catalogue of books held in the Library, or find details of forthcoming non-philatelic events and exhibitions being promoted there.

The philatelic section, however, has its own navigation bar that directs users to one of four main areas. The first describes the Principal Collections, the second outlines the Philatelic Services available to researchers and other interested collectors, the third contains a number of articles describing selected collections in depth, and

Philatelic Congress at Gateshead A viewpoint of a North East Philatelist, by Cliff J Garside



Above left New signatories of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists: Joseph Wolff (Luxembourg), Dr Alan Drysdall (GB), Dr Pichai Buranasombati (Thailand), Gustaf Torsten Johansson (Sweden) and Christopher Harman (GB).

Above Peter Chantry FRPSL receiving Congress Medal from Brian Asquith, ABPS.

Left The Organising Committee: Mike Oxley FRPSL, Tony Walker FRPS (Editor, Vice Chairman), Pat Rothnie MBE FRPSL (Secretary), Cliff Garside (Treasurer), Mrs J Wood, John Jeffery (Chairman) and Miss Val Beeken.

THANKS to the expert organisational skills of Pat Rothnie, MBE, FRPSL, the 2003 Congress was a huge success, as the many post event testimonials have proved. After the success of the 2002 Congress at Dawlish, it had to be good to maintain the high standard required. The event handbook set the theme for the event, which resulted in a very fine, colour printed publication. The attendance was very high, and the Thursday and Friday evening 'sessions' involved displays by local thematic collectors and noted North East philatelists respectively. Audiences of 80 to 90 people attended these displays, and the reception given was a heart-warming testimonial to the NEPA people.

Local philatelists Mrs Anthea Stout, Mrs Gwyneth Lewis and David Williams, were all presented with ABPS Awards of Merit by Mrs Margaret Morris, for their services to philately. The Congress saw excellent displays and lectures throughout the weekend by: Michael Sefi (Kay Goodman

lecture – GB collecting over the past century, with a terrific insight into The Queen's Collection), Francis Kiddle (A century of poster stamps), Dr Alan Huggins (postal stationery), Stephen Holder (a centenary of stamp collecting), Richard West (a centenary of youth collecting), and a fascinating lecture by Dr Alan Drysdall, a newly elected RDP. Sunday morning was nicely rounded off with an excellent display of Holland between the wars by the event's Chairman, John Jeffery.

The ceremony of the signing of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, held on Saturday afternoon in the Gateshead Civic Chambers, was a splendid occasion, at which 17 RDP signatories were present. The new signatories for 2003 were Dr Alan Drysdall and Christopher Harman (GB), Dr Pichai Buranasombati (Thailand), Gustaf Johansson (Sweden), and Joseph Woolff (Luxembourg). Peter Chantry was deservedly awarded the Congress Medal for his service to philately at all levels. The Mayor of Gateshead, who was in

attendance, was eager to point out that it had been many years since the Council Chambers had seen so many people in any meeting. There followed a very significant banquet in the evening which was a very enjoyable function attended by over 120 guests. The food was good, and excellent receptions were provided by Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council, Stanley Gibbons, and Harmers.

On reflection, the most noticeable feature of Congress 2003 was the warmth and friendliness

given to the people of the North East by the many guests present. This, coupled with such fine lectures not only made this event a huge success, but also marks a fine gesture to the North East in their celebration year •

For a review of the Congress Handbook see Stamp Scene, page 38. A profile of Pat Rothnie was published here in August, and in July Cliff Garside wrote on the centenary of the North East of England Philatelic Association. ED

Mainly Machins D G A Myall looks at De La Rue definitives, Country pictorials, the Machin market and a missing £ sign

More on De La Rue's definitives As I write, most of the Byfleet reprints of the low value (below £1.50) Machin sheet definitives have appeared, with only the 68p to come, although I expect the £1 mauve to be reprinted without the Iridion ink. As expected, all the reprints are from cylinders D1/D1 dot and no dot and have Novaglo, or A2B, phosphor bars. In my August article I mentioned that a residue of High Wycombe paper was used for this job as well as the now normal Tullis Russell paper. It now transpires that the 34p has also been printed on both papers.

Some more phosphor shifts have also been seen, although none affects the number of bars on a single stamp. Incorrect registration can produce more than the four possibilities mentioned in my previous article. Reader Colin Armstrong has reported a double shift on the 20p stamp on HW paper. Here, the phosphor is displaced downward and to the right. This provides stamps from row 1 with short bars at the top and stamps from column 1 with the left bar inset. It also provides just one stamp showing both movements. It is from the top left corner. One word of caution: stamps with off-centre perforations can give a false impression of a phosphor shift.

I may not have mentioned it before but all four high values printed in gravure and issued on 1 July were also on the High Wycombe paper. No doubt any reprints will be on the Tullis Russell paper.



The De La Rue country pictorials with Novaglo phosphor issued to date.

Country pictorials Some more of these have been reprinted at Byfleet pending the issue of all 16 stamps in the revised designs this month. The complete list of De La Rue printings with Novaglo phosphor issued to date comprises: England 1st, 2nd and 68p; Scotland 2nd; Wales 2nd (see above). Make sure you obtain these before the new designs appear.



Books The latest in the series of six 1st class self-adhesives featuring a block of four Machins and two special issues was due to appear on 18 September. The two specials on this occasion are the Biplane stamp from the *Transport of Delight* issue. The book was printed by De La Rue while the sheet and miniature sheet issues were printed by Enschedé with conventional PVA. The seven colour cylinders and the phosphor cylinder are all D1 with serifs. I am not sure that the gold cylinder D1 is the same as that used for the Machin stamps in the Scotland book of 15 July which had six colour cylinders. For one thing it appears in a different position on the white strip on the books. It may be that De La Rue are following Questa's practice which was to start at number 1 for each new layout.

The Machin market New values and new printings help to sustain interest in this long-running series, making for a steady, even buoyant, market. Most obsolescent Machin stamps are available for modest prices but there are some really scarce ones which differ in small details and which you may not know you have. I am not referring to errors, such as those with phosphor bands omitted, but to stamps which were freely available at face value at the time of issue. Many of these are to be found in the series of prestige books, which often included a value on the definitive set-tenant pane that differed from the one issued in sheets. There cannot, I think, be many people who have not heard of the ½p with sidebar phosphor from the first Wedgwood book of May 1972;

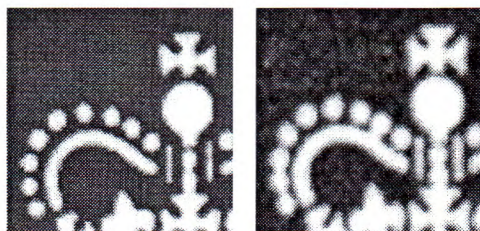
today, this could cost you anything from £20 to £50 depending on perforation and centring.

The scarcity of some other goodies was recently brought to my attention by seeing dealers' lists which included their buying prices. One was for the 17p greyish blue Northern Ireland stamp printed in lithography by Questa on 'Advanced' coated paper and issued in sheets in September 1986. This was first issued on 25 February that year and was from a single colour plate; it normally sells for around 50p. A later printing used two colour plates and it is this stamp which is the scarce one (N143Ea in the *SG GB Concise* catalogue). Today, a dealer will pay you £50 for one so you can assume that it will cost you about £75 if you don't have one. How can you tell non-plate singles apart? There are two ways; by the country symbols and by the backgrounds. On the common stamp, the pearls along the left of the crown are all clearly separate from each other. On the scarce one, the second one on the left is joined to the crown and the leftmost three are joined to each other. The background of the common stamp is screened, showing a regular pattern of cross-hatching. On



Opposite The latest self-adhesive book, featuring a block of four Machins and two Transports of Delight special issues.

Above Two more Byfleet reprints of the low value Machin sheet definitives. All the reprints are from cylinders D1/D1 dot and no dot and have Novaglo, or A2B, phosphor bars.



1986 17p Northern Ireland printings: on the common stamp (left), the pearls on the left of the crown are all separate from each other. On the scarce one, the second one on the left is joined to the crown and the leftmost three are joined together.

now. You may, of course, have obtained a pair at face if you received yours from Edinburgh; have a look now.

The above examples show that study of your stamps and even a small degree of specialist knowledge can pay handsome dividends. A good specialised catalogue will list all these and other varieties with sufficient detail to enable you to know what to look for.

the scarce one it is solid colour, achieved by the extra plate.

A similar change took place on the equivalent Wales printings where the several differences in the symbols are easier to see. The dragon on the scarce stamp (*Concise* w441a) has a solid eye and the tail is much thicker. (This was from the set of country symbols re-drawn for lithographic printing by Jeffery Matthews.) The two backgrounds have the same features as those of the Northern Ireland stamps. The current selling prices for the two Wales stamps are about 75p and £17.

Another big increase in value affects the pair of self-adhesive horizontal format 1st and 2nd NV1s printed in sheets of 100 by Walsall and supplied by Tallents House to customers with a standing order for new singles. These were perforated 14 instead of 15 × 14 and have unusually shaped corners which the original discoverer christened 'dagger' (see *Bulletin* November 2001.) These did not achieve catalogue status until late last year (SG 2039b, 2040b) after a dealer discovered a small supply in his stock. They rapidly sold for £50 a pair but you might have to pay about £200 a pair

Missing £ sign If you look at the cylinder block of £2 stamps which illustrated my report of a visit to Byfleet published in the July *Bulletin* you will see that the £ sign is missing from the stamp next to the cylinder number. All the other stamps on the cylinder are normal. It seems that a mistake was made at the pre-press stage. The master artwork is converted by the cylinder engravers to their own system programme. The programme deconstructs the artwork into a series of layers. In this instance, each layer repeated onto the cylinder as an individual stamp during the engraving process. It was during this process that the £ symbol was inadvertently removed.

This has aroused great interest, as it is a rare thing to find a constant variety on a cylinder created with the aid of a computer. The variety is found on the no-dot sheet. No further supplies of the no-dot sheet are being sent out from Royal Mail's supply centre, but sheets may still be found at some post offices. No doubt a replacement cylinder will be required, possibly D2. Reports of any new cylinders welcome ●

From Library to 'Royal' Richard West talks to David Beech, new President of the Royal Philatelic Society London

WHAT IS IT LIKE to be surrounded by one of the finest collections in the world? For the past 20 years David Beech has enjoyed such an enviable position as Curator, and from 1991 as Head, of the Philatelic Collection at the British Library.

Not all may be aware, but David Beech and the *Bulletin's* Editor, John Holman, are related, being cousins (John is four years older than David). It was John who influenced David in his interests early in life, passing on the enthusiasm for both stamps and railways. Thus, from the age of nine, David started collecting, first generally, thanks to the familiar packets of stamps from shops such as Woolworths, before concentrating on British local issues. Even in this, the interest was shared by both John and David, for these items were affordable while allowing for a touch of originality. The two cousins were instrumental in forming the British Private Posts Study Group, now part of the Cinderella Stamp Club; David was the Group's first Chairman and John was the Newsletter Editor. Meeting regularly to discuss stamps, they wrote a number of articles together but their interests later diverged. John is still actively collecting and writing, whereas David has developed a career in philatelic administration. They still meet occasionally, but sadly no longer really have a shared interest.

Then came a moment of decision, and David sold part of his collection to fund the purchase of a flat. While he still has some of his original collection, he no longer actively collects, his professional life fully satisfying his philatelic needs.

At an early stage David realised he had a penchant for organisation. He soon became involved with his school stamp club, as both secretary and newsletter editor, culminating with organising a public exhibition at school, complete with dealers, a special cover and postmark. Thirty years later he has just been elected President of the



Royal Philatelic Society London, the most famous and prestigious society in the philatelic world.

Shortly after organising his school exhibition David left school, deciding that an academic career was not for him. He joined a leading firm of stamp auctioneers, staying almost 10 years, during which time he saw and handled a wide variety of material and, equally importantly, met many of the world's leading collectors.

Career change The need to be involved led David to become a member of the team organising the British Philatelic Exhibition (now Autumn Stampex), which resulted in him being invited to be Controller of Exhibits at London 1980, the international stamp exhibition held at Earls Court. This brought David into contact with Bob West, in charge of exhibition security, who was then Head of the Philatelic Collections at the British Library. In 1983 David joined the British Library, where he has been since, now in the fine building on Euston Road, close to St Pancras Station.

The Philatelic Collections are vast and ever-growing, yet the section is small in terms of personnel (normally just three including David). As a result it enjoys a fair amount of freedom. As Head of the department, he needs to show both managerial and curatorial skills. Over the years he feels he has changed the reputation of the Collections, which are now more accessible for research. When a new philatelic work is published which has been researched at the British Library, David feels a certain satisfaction in the part the Collections were able to play.

One of the most daunting tasks which David has faced was moving the Collections when the Library left the British Museum building for its magnificent new premises. He has nothing but praise for the way the move was managed by the Library. He needs not only philatelic knowledge,

but an understanding of conservation and archival practice. Twenty years ago he set himself the goal of making the department the best of its kind in the world. He accepts there is still some way to go, especially in making the Collections better known in Europe. He also plans to make greater and better use of the web, creating a virtual exhibition, on which the highlights can be viewed.

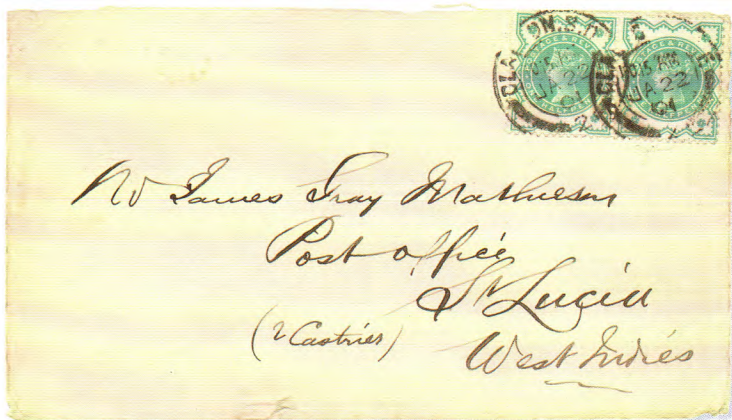
Organised philately David's involvement in organized philately has been far and wide, including the British Philatelic Federation, its successor the Association of British Philatelic Societies, the Philatelic Writers Society and the National Philatelic Society. He had particular responsibility for the Court of Honour at Stamp World London 90 and is a trustee of both the Stuart Rossiter and Revenue Philately Trusts. He is a member of many societies world-wide, and a founder of the International Philatelic Libraries Association.

David now begins his term as President of the Royal. He wants to further the Society's long-term plans to maintain and improve the standard and quality of all it undertakes, and consequent-

ly increase the membership. He hopes that the collections owned by the Society, its museum, and unrivalled library can be made more accessible for serious research. Non-philatelic matters which need to be addressed include meeting the requirements of the Disabled Discrimination Act. He will certainly be busy and, fortunately for him, the British Library and the Royal are just a short walk apart.

Although somewhat shy as a youngster, David now enjoys meeting people, chairing committees and giving talks. He gave an impressive Stuart Rossiter lecture on the research facilities at the British Library in 2001, and this month presents the Maynard Sundman lecture at the National Postal Museum in Washington on the subject of the Grinnell Hawaiian Missionaries. When not working at the Library or involved in philatelic organization, he enjoys long walks in the country and has developed a taste for holidays to remote places. Earlier this year he visited the Falkland Islands, no doubt recalling a booklet he co-authored on Falkland Franks in 1977 •

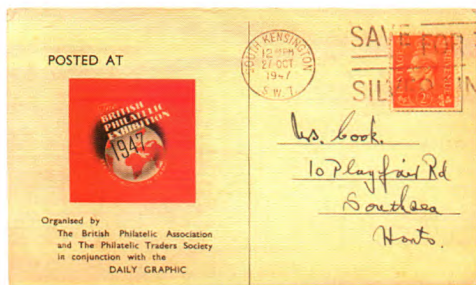
Cover corner A 1901 cover to St Lucia, by Robert Phillifent



SENT TO ST LUCIA from Clacton-on-Sea, the pair of ½d green 'Jubilees' on this cover are cancelled 22 January 1901 – the day Queen Victoria died at Osborne. The back stamp of Casteries,

St Lucia, dated 5 Fe 01 means that its delivery, probably by sail-assisted steam boat, took around 14 days. Even today mail to the West Indies sometimes takes longer to arrive •

Postbag Letters to the Editor



A postcard from the British Philatelic Exhibition of 1947, and the sign at the Porter and Sorter, another pub sign with a postal connection.

1947 philatelic exhibition I was interested to read in the May *Bulletin* (page 260) that 'it is 50 years since the first National Philatelic Exhibition (now Stampex)'. I enclose a copy of a postcard (above) from the 1947 British Philatelic Exhibition, which predates the 'first' National Philatelic Exhibition. It is from 'Eddie' who says 'Just a line from the Exhibition to say I am enjoying myself fine'. I have no more information about this card, or the 1947 Exhibition itself, so I wonder if you, or any of your readers, can enlighten me. H J LUSH, ST ALBANS •

First time lucky Many thanks for the £100 cheque that I received in respect of the prize for the June *Bulletin* competition. Ironically, although I have been purchasing the *Bulletin* for more years than I care to remember, it was the first time that I had ever entered the competition. I was therefore delighted to have beginner's luck. Even though they say that lightning rarely strikes twice in the same place, it will certainly encourage me to take part in another *Bulletin* competition in the future. T MCGILL, BRISTOL •

Fruit & Veg stamps I wonder if I am doing something wrong in soaking stamps from the March Fruit & Veg issue which have had the fun labels affixed by the sender. Soaking, of course, detaches the stamp from the paper but also the labels, leaving a mark on the stamp or at worst, damaging the surface altogether. Is there an answer? How do other collectors deal with this matter? BRIAN DICK, CHESTERFIELD •

Pub Signs Details of the forthcoming issue published in the July *Bulletin* brought to mind a pub located in a side street between East Croydon station and Croydon Sorting and Delivery Office called the Porter and Sorter. One side of the pub sign shows a railway porter carrying luggage and the other a postman sorting mail. I wonder how many other pub signs have a postal connotation? KEITH PALMER, REDHILL

For some other pub signs with postal connections, see the August Bulletin, page 357. ED •

Stamp programme With regard to A Pelling's letter (July) about the 2004 new issue programme, I have written to the Special Stamps Manager in the recent past about combining the commemorating of anniversaries into one issue as happened in the 1960s and 70s on occasion. The Extreme Endeavours issue proves it can be done. There are, still, poor design decisions being made by the Stamp Advisory Committee (I well remember the furore over the Croydon stamp in the Fire and Light issue of February 2000). However, the Fun Fruit and Veg was an excellent concept, and I can only agree with Mary Thornton's sentiments in her letter (July again). P KIRSTEN, MORDEN •

The Editor is always pleased to receive contributions for Postbag, especially letters adding information to that already published, so benefiting fellow philatelists. All letters are carefully read; matters of general interest will be dealt with in Postbag. The Editor regrets he is unable to reply personally to letters.

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



July identify The detail was from the 42p Pub Signs stamp. The winner was J Captao of Belgium.

July knowledge Answers: 1) P Gauld; 2) 1998; 3) Peter Chantry. The winner was P Brooker of West Sussex.

Ten runner-up prizes were also sent for each competition. Our thanks to all who entered.

FIRSTLY, identify the stamp from the detail above. Send your answer to October *Identify* Competition. Secondly, test your philatelic knowledge by answering the questions below. Send your answer to October *Knowledge* Competition.

- 1 Who designed the 1973 Christmas stamps?
- 2 In which city was the 14th World Orchid Conference held in 1993?
- 3 Who is the new Editor of the Stanley Gibbons Stamp Catalogue (also Editor of *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*)?

Send your answer (addressed to either October *Identify* competition or October *Knowledge* competition), name and address on a postcard or back of a sealed envelope to: British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ. The senders of the first cards drawn in each competition on 14 November will each receive £100. Ten runner-up prizes of presentation packs or FDGS will be awarded in each competition.

The competitions are not open to Royal Mail employees •

Posting boxes 217

THIS MONTH'S PHOTOGRAPHS are of boxes in Scotland. The first is of a Penfold box outside the post office at Kingsbarns, Fife. The Scottish crown is shown on a plate positioned between the words POST OFFICE below the Letters posting aperture. The photograph was submitted by Bill Forrest.

The second photograph shows three modern boxes, all with Scottish crown, outside the Frederick Street post office in central Edinburgh. The boxes were photographed by the *Bulletin* Editor last year. One of these modern boxes features on the 68p value of the Pillar Boxes stamps issued in October 2002 •



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

Events

4 October Kent Federation of Philatelic Societies Autumn Rally and Stamp Fair (hosted by Gravesend and District Stamp Club) at St George's Church Hall, Gravesend. 14 dealers, KFPS competitions, displays by Gravesend Stamp Club. Refreshments, car parking nearby. **Enquiries** M Thompson, 01474 325507.

4 October Welsh Philatelic Society meeting, Oswalds (University Conference Centre), Menai Drive, Bangor, starts 10.30. Mini displays by members, dealers, chat with fellow collectors, excellent hospitality. **Enquiries** Marion Turner, 2 Coed Glyn, Gellilydan, Blaenau Ffestiniog, Gwynedd LL41 4EL.

4-13 October Bangkok '03, general international exhibition, IMPACT Convention Centre, Muang Thong Thani, Nonthaburi Province, Thailand. **Enquiries** UK Commissioner, K Fitton, 01932 840549.

11 October Assn of Sussex Philatelic Societies Ardingly Stamp Show & Sussex Convention at South of England Show Ground, Ardingly, about 4 miles north of Haywards Heath. 30 dealers, guest speaker. **Enquiries** M Pullan, 01892 655269.

11 October Leytonstone, Wanstead and District PS Stamp Fair at United Reformed Church Hall, Grosvenor Road, off Wanstead High Street, 10.00-16.30. Dealers, refreshments, admission free. **Enquiries** 020 8491 6235.

18 October Hampex 2003 (Hampshire Federation Convention), Romsey School, Priestlands, off Greatbridge Road, Romsey, 10.00-16.30. **Enquiries** 01256 476937.

18-19 October Scotex (Annual Scottish Stamp and Postcard Fair) at Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre, Glasgow. 18th 11.00-18.00, 19th 11.00-16.30. Admission free. Organised by Scottish Philatelic Traders Association. **Enquiries** A Wishart, 01698 356337 or see website www.spta.biz

24-26 October Dundee Philatelic Weekend, Queen's Hotel, Dundee. Displays, mini auction, social events. **Bookings** Ken Norris 01698 425120.

25 October Association of Essex Phil Socs Autumn Rally at Cheshunt Club, Albury Ride, Herts (near Theobalds Grove rail station). 10.30-16.30. Dealers with stamps, postal history and postcards. Free parking, refreshments available. **Enquiries** T Hawkins, 01992 637788.

25 October Bolton Philatelic Society Annual Stamp Fair and North West Federation of Philatelic Societies Annual Competitions at Canon Slade School, Tonge Moor Road, Bolton, 10.00-16.30. Free parking and entry. **Enquiries** Brian Fielding, 01204 307252.

25 October Thatcham District PS Stamp Fair at Memorial Hall, Bath Road (A4), 10.00-16.00. In conjunction with Thatcham Festival of Arts. 11 dealers, auction lots on view (auction 20 November). Admission free, car parking. **Enquiries** 01635 866942.

30 October - 1 November Philatex at Royal Horticultural Hall, Greycoat Street, London SW1. Thurs 11.00-19.00; Fri 10.00-18.00, Sat 10.00-17.00. Over 100 dealers. Admission free. Refreshments available. **Enquiries** 01793 513431 ●

Special draw Win one of 20 mystery prizes

OUR PREVIOUS mystery prize draws have proved very popular and we are pleased to offer another. Again we have 20 mystery prizes: yearbooks, prestige books, first day covers, presentation packs and Royal Mail publications to give away to the send-

ers of the first cards drawn on 31 October. To enter, simply write your name and address on the back of a postcard and send it to: Mystery Prize Draw, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ ●

Late news

Royal Mail update Royal Mail is making good progress with its plans for a charitable trust to safeguard its historical collections and develop access to them. The Chief Executive of the new trust will be Tony Conder, until recently curator of the Waterways Trust and formerly Director of the National Waterways Museum. Mr Conder will take up his post this autumn. The Trust will be responsible for the collections of the former Post Office Archives and National Postal Museum (see February *Bulletin*, page 190).

Some revisions are being made to the International Priority Services. From 9 October the number of services will be reduced from three to two with the withdrawal of Swiftair. The Airsure service will not change but International Signed For will now include the speed of Swiftair. New International Signed For prepaid c4-size envelopes will be available from main Post Office branches from 9 October, price £5.49 for European destinations, £6.49 worldwide. Bilingual versions of these envelopes will be sold at branches in Wales. The prepaid c4-size Swiftair envelope (standard and Welsh versions) will be withdrawn from sale on 8 October.

Some modifications have been made to the design of the postage labels printed on machines at Post Office branches and affixed to mail by counter staff. The revision involves the use of a new clearer font and the positioning of the service indicator (1st, 2nd, etc) in the centre rather than to the right of the label. This change was introduced at Post Office branches across the country between 7 August and 25 September •

Publications The July Newsletter of the Methodist Philatelic Society includes details of recent MPS covers, including one for John Wesley's tercentenary, and features on Methodist churches and missions in Ciskei, Jamaica, and the USA, and meter marks connected with Methodism. For details of the Society, formed in 1970, contact Terry Smart, 11 Northwood Park, Woodlesford, Leeds LS26 8PE, telephone 0113 282 6988. The annual subscription is £8 UK, \$14 overseas •

The Exhibition Study Group has recently published an updated listing of *Publicity Labels of the British Empire Exhibition Wembley 1924-25* by Alan Sabey and Bill Tonkin. This new work combines the information in the 1994 book, the supplement of 1996 (both out of print) and recent discoveries. Well illustrated in black and white, the different types of labels are shown in their various sections and there is a useful index/checklist at the back. Price £6.50 postpaid UK, £7.50 Europe, £9 elsewhere. Orders to Mike Perkins, 4 Churchill Drive, Amblecote, Stourbridge DY8 4JS. For details of the Group see website: www.studygroup.org.uk •

The June Newsletter of the Concorde Study Circle contains features on the aircraft's return to service after the crash in Paris, and listings of Concorde postcards, souvenir and flown covers, new stamps, postmarks and meter marks. There is mention of a new catalogue of Concorde postcards reproducing some 2000 cards. For details of the Circle, celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, contact Brian Asquith, Alandale, Radcliffe Gardens, Carshalton Beeches SM5 4PQ •

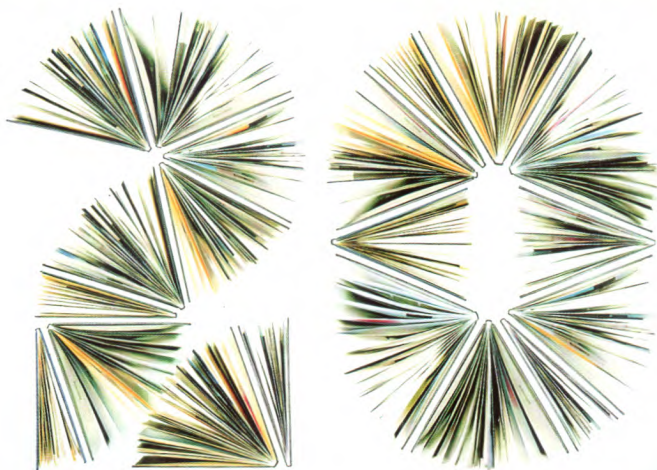
The July Newsletter of the British Decimal Stamps Study Circle is, as always, essential reading for any serious collectors of modern British stamps, dealing with both definitive and special issues. Covered this time are the new definitive printings by De La Rue at its Byfleet plant, the second Wilding miniature sheet, and Extreme Endeavours, Coronation Anniversary and Prince William issues. Supplied with the Newsletter are the invaluable NewsSheets giving detailed, tabulated information on new printings of definitives, country stamps, booklets, and special stamps. For details of the Study Circle contact Dave Threadgold, 39 Scrub Rise, Billericay CM12 9PG •

Royal display Michael Sefi, Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection, has announced that material from the Collection will be shown at the Washington 2006 international exhibition. The display will probably concentrate on the British Caribbean. For exhibition information see website <http://www.washington-2006.org/> •

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