

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The Royal Mail magazine for stamp collectors

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Bulletin

The National Trust • Stamp
poll results • Software guide



PLUS THE FUTURE OF PHILATELY • MUSICALS • MAGICAL REALMS • WWF

Issues and withdrawals



Cover Main photograph by David Scheinmann. The Billy Elliot 97p value is new this month, one of the Musicals special issue, released during Stampex on 24 February

Royal Mail Talents House

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1 February

Issue Classic Locomotives of England: Miniature Sheet, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards, Great British Railways Nameplate Cover, and Railway Heritage Portfolio No 2
Withdrawal Girlguiding UK: Miniature Sheet, Presentation Pack and Stamp Cards

2 February

Issue Olympics and Paralympics: Covers 5 and 6, Stamp and Coin Retail Packs 5 and 6

12 February

Issue Indipex Smilers® Exhibition Sheet. Indipex Souvenir Cover Envelope

24 February

Issue Musicals: Stamps, Presentation Pack and Stamp Cards. British Heart Foundation Stamp Book
Withdrawal The Royal Society: Stamps, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards and Prestige Stamp Book

28 February

Withdrawal Castles of the UK Smilers® Generic Sheets including England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland

8 March

Issue Self-adhesive definitives. Magical Realms: Stamps, Presentation Pack and Stamp Cards

10 March

Withdrawal Battersea Dogs and Cats Home: Stamps, Presentation Packs and Stamp Cards

17 March

Issue City of Belfast coin cover

22 March

Issue WWF: Stamps, Miniature Sheet, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards, Prestige Stamp Book and Coin Cover. Stamp Book varieties

24 March

Issue Olympic and Paralympics: Stamp and Coin Retail Packs 7 and 8; Sports Covers 7 and 8
Withdrawal Royal Society Medal Cover

29 March

Issue Tariff change 2011: Machin and country definitives, Presentation Packs
Withdrawal Tariff 2009: Machin and country definitives Presentation Pack

30 March

Issue 50th Anniversary of E-type Jaguar Smilers® Commemorative Sheet

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Musicals Britain's favourite musical productions are the inspiration for one of this month's special issues **170**



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Call of the wild Upon the WWF's 50th anniversary, a new issue revels in the beauty of some of the wildlife in danger **176**



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Postbox and inbox

Excitement in the ether

Kathryn Saville
reports on a fab
chorus of tweetings



January's stamp issue of FAB: The Genius of Gerry Anderson had the twitterati all of a flutter last month. In a matter of moments after the official release, the 'hashtag' #FABstamps was all over the net. And it wasn't just philatelists who were discussing the thickness, lenticular printing and subject matter. Radio 2 DJ Simon Mayo tweeted about his excitement on seeing his favourite characters on stamps, and then spent a good deal of his drivetime show discussing FAB.

Royal Mail Stamps offered five Presentation Packs if tweeters retweeted about the launch and also became followers, which really brought the Gerry Anderson fans out of the woodwork. The BPMA were the first official body to join in the fun, *Stamp Magazine* tweeted about the YouTube behind-the-scenes video on the issue's production. GBH, the design agency behind the first ever 'motion stamps',

were blogging about their work and were justifiably proud of the wide media attention the stamps received. Just goes to show that those who assume philatelists are technophobes are mistaken!



Among the hottest blogging on the FAB first day of issue was at gregorybonnerhale.blogspot. Anderson fans in the GBH team put their hearts and souls into the Presentation Pack and even managed to blog a clip of the BBC One O'clock News on 11.01.11, announcing the stamp launch.

This winter's bad weather has brought Twitterers out in force. Martha Roberts, head of Royal Mail customers service communication told us, 'We gained around 4,000 extra followers over Christmas'.



1st Class
up to 100g

002010 9 51840 01



2010 Stamp poll results

First of all a big thank-you to all who took part in our 2010 stamp poll to find out Bulletin readers' favourite stamps of the year. Your clear favourite stamp turned out to be the charming Dormouse from the Mammals issue of April 2010. The Dormouse finished significantly ahead of the pack, earning more votes than the second and

third favourite choices put together:

Top three favourite stamps: Dormouse, Wallace & Gromit 1st Large, Finch from the Birds of Britain.

Favourite 2010 sets: Great British Railways, Mammals, Birds of Britain 2.

Winner of the leather-bound 2010 Yearbook: Ian Mulligan of Surrey, whose vote was the first drawn from the postbag.

The Editor answers your correspondence

Letting off steam

Well I waited and waited and am still waiting, but as they are already off sale at local Post Offices I believe the opportunity has been missed. Yes, I am talking about the promotion of the Christmas Wallace & Gromit stamps, surely a perfect opportunity to try and promote stamp collecting to young people.

Then again, we now have the January special issue of FAB: The Genius of Gerry Anderson stamps, issued 11 January with little promotion on TV, other than the usual *Blue Peter* and a bit on *Breakfast Time* to again take maximum advantage of these children's issue. There was even a full page in the *Sun* about the 50th anniversary of *Thunderbirds*, advertising a new series that is to appear on television, with the advantage of new technology showing no strings.

But again a missed opportunity not to piggy back on this publicity with no mention of the current stamp issue. It's not the newspapers job to do the Royal Mail's work but to for Royal Mail to issue information for them to use.

John Killick

Dear Mr Killick,
Thank you for your letter. You'll see we've been sharing similar thoughts with John Baron on page 180. As a point of principle we do not advertise directly to children – even for products intended for children – but to adults who might choose their gifts.



The world is my album

I wonder how many hostelries around the world are named after famous stamps?



I thought *Bulletin* readers might be interested in a favourite haunt of mine in Singapore – the Penny Black at Boat Quay. It's a pleasant pub, with all the atmosphere of an old-style British inn. There's an oak bar, draught beer, John Smith's, Guinness, Boddingtons and roast beef and fluffy roast potatoes for Sunday lunch.

The Penny Black also has a good view of the statue of Sir Frances Raffles, believed to have been the first man to set foot on what was then Lion Island or the island of Singapura. The pub is directly opposite the erstwhile Singapore Post Office, a rather grand Palladian-style building that opened in 1926 and is now a five-star luxury hotel, The Fullerton.

John Howe

Dear Mr Howe,
I do hope other readers write in about pubs with stamp names. We could end up with a valuable list of stamping grounds worldwide!

Keep the mail coming...

Karin Ward, Editor of the *Bulletin*, welcomes your letters and has a topical selection of philatelic delights to give as a thank-you to the senders of those published. The sender of the 'First Class letter' award will receive the *Bulletin* binder and Penny Black tie shown left. Please note, however, that Royal Mail cannot reply to all letters and reserves the right to edit for length. Send your letters to: The Editor, *British Philatelic Bulletin*, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London WC1 1HQ. Please include an email address if possible.



What's new? Issues, products and events

Changes to definitives and new tariff values Three batches of definitive values, currently in sheets of 200 and gummed, are subject to recently announced changes. Firstly, the 1p, 2p, 5p, 10p and 20p convert from PVA gummed to self-adhesive but without the iridescent overprint. There will be 25 stamps to a sheet.

Secondly, there will be Machin new tariff values issued on 29 March, which will be self-adhesive with the iridescent overprint. Again, these will be in sheets of 25. The new values and colours are as follows: 68p Sea Green, 76p Pink, £1.10 Lime Green, £1.65 Sage.

The third change involves Country new tariff values, also issued on 29 March. The new values will be 68p and £1.10. Sheet size will be 25 stamps to a sheet, but the stamps will remain PVA-gummed. Print process will change from gravure to litho, and the printer from DLR to Cartor.

Full details of the new stamps colours and new tariffs for 4 April will appear in March's *Bulletin* and are due to be announced at www.royalmail.com. All the old-style Machin Definitives will be available at Tallents House until 2012, depending on stock levels ●

Right: one of this month's new retail stamp booklets celebrates the 50th anniversary of the British Heart Foundation and includes two self-adhesive versions of the 'beta blocker' stamp from the Medical Breakthroughs issue



Retail book with heart Available on 24 February, this retail stamp booklet is specially issued to mark the 50th anniversary of the British Heart Foundation. It contains four 1st Class gold security Machin definitives and two 1st Class stamps from the Medical Breakthroughs issue. The latter carry an image of Propranolol, the first beta blocker, 'invented' by Sir James Black in 1979. The gravure printing on self-adhesive paper is by Walsall Security Printers and the definitives will carry the new security code.

Among the many events organised in support of the BHF this year is the Mending Broken Hearts exhibition. It will tour 20 UK galleries, showing

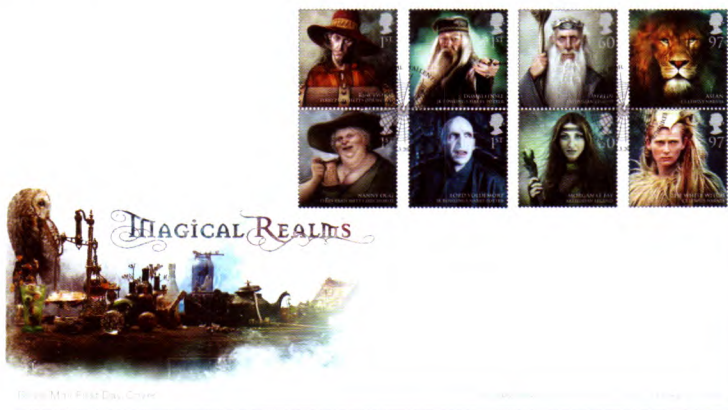
the work of prominent contemporary artists including Peter Blake, Barbara Rae and Donald Hamilton Fraser. The aim is to help raise £50 million to fund regenerative research that could literally mend the broken hearts of millions of people. To take part in fundraising or find out more about events in your area, including sponsored cycling and walking, visit www.bhf.org.uk ●

Technical details

British Heart Foundation 4 x 1st Class stamp book

Printer	Walsall Security
Print process	Gravure
Perforations	Kiss die cut simulated perforations
Phosphor	Bars – Machins; All over – Heart stamps
Gum	Self-adhesive

Magical event on 8 March From the legendary tales of King Arthur and his court magician Merlin to the million-selling books of Sir Terry Pratchett and JK Rowling, the British have always enjoyed an epic tale of magical adventure. Magical Realms is the name of the set of special issue stamps, released on 8 March, which salutes some of the heroes and villains that have enchanted generations of readers.



Left: Magical Realms FDC.
Above: the non-pictorial
Merlins Bridge postmark and
two pictorial versions

Stamp Design and background Royal Mail commissioned research from experts in British folklore and cultural history to determine the most appropriate characters from myth, legend and literature to populate this issue.

It soon became obvious that most of these tales, whether ancient or modern, involved more than one magical character so it was decided to look at four different sets of stories and select two characters from each set.

The stories chosen were the myths and legends of King Arthur, the Narnia stories of CS Lewis, JK Rowling's Harry Potter series and the Discworld of Sir Terry Pratchett.

Royal Mail worked with So Design to create the images using a combination of film imagery and newly commissioned work by cinema special effects illustrator Howard Swindell.

Other products associated with the Magical Realms stamps include a Presentation Pack, First Day Cover, Stamp Cards and special handstamps. The Presentation Pack is designed by So Design Consultants and presents the views of cultural historian, author and critic Kim Newman on magical literature. ►

Magical Realms: Technical details

Number of stamps	Eight
Design	So Design Consultants
Acknowledgements	
1st Class stamps x 4	Rincewind and Nanny Ogg illustrations by Howard Swindell; Discworld® characters © Terry Pratchett. Harry Potter characters™ & © Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc. Harry Potter Publishing Rights © JKR.
60p stamps x 2	Merlin and Morgan le Fay illustrations by Howard Swindell.
97p stamps x 2	Narnia characters © DISNEY ENTERPRISES INC. and AND WALDEN MEDIA, LLC. All rights reserved. THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA, NARNIA and all book titles, characters and locales original thereto are trademarks of C.S. Lewis Pte Ltd. and are used with permission
Stamp format	Square
Stamp size	35mm x 35mm
Printer	De La Rue Security Print
Print process	Gravure
Number per sheet	30/60
Perforations	14.5 x 14.5
Phosphor	All over
Gum	PVA



WWF Miniature Sheet The Amazon Rainforest is home to one in ten known species of life on earth, but every minute an area the size of three football pitches is lost. The special issue WWF Miniature Sheet released next month shows four endangered species in lush Amazon foliage: Miniature sheet (face values subject to change), left to right:

Hyacinth Macaw, 60p. In the 1980s an estimated 10,000 hyacinth macaws were illegally captured and sold, while the forests of the species' natural habitat were being destroyed.

Jaguar, 97p. These are the largest American cats and strong swimmers and climbers. They weigh over 300 pounds and grow to more than eight feet in length, including a two-foot tail.

Poison Dart Frog, 88p. With its striking appearance and unique features, the poison dart frog is one of the most interesting – and dangerous – Amazon species. The poison dart frog uses its brightly coloured skin to warn predators that it is 'unfit to eat' and the skin secretes a poison that can paralyze predators.

Spider Monkey, 1st Class One of the largest primates in South America. Their prehensile tail allows them to find stability when sitting on branches and to reach out for food at the tip of fragile branches by suspending themselves with it.

Forests are the Post Europ theme for 2011; the WWF Miniature Sheet depicts the Amazon Rainforest where the WWF are involved in a number of projects and its 1st Class stamp carries the Post Europ logo as well as the WWF logo ●

WWF Miniature Sheet – Technical details

Number of stamps	Four
Size of sheet	115mm x 89mm
Stamp size	41mm x 30mm
Design	Rose
Illustration	Janice Nicholson
Stamp format	Landscape
Printer	Cartor Security
Print process	Lithography
Number per sheet	Four
Perforations	14.5x14
Phosphor	Allover
Gum	PVA



Snail mail? Not us! This picture of a snail crawling over the official collection times displayed on a pillar box was sent in by a reader with a sense of humour and certainly made us smile at its depiction of 'Snail Mail'.

However, the final performance figures for the Christmas season have just been circulated at Royal Mail and represent a significant achievement. Statistics compiled over the December holiday period show an improvement in postal services, from collection to delivery, despite the exceptionally cold and dangerous weather in most parts of the country •



Farewells Coming off sale 1 March are the Castles of Northern Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales, £8.50 each. And on 11 March it's goodbye to the brave and beautiful pets from the Battersea Cats and Dogs Home; the stamp set (above, £4.10), Presentation Pack (£4.60) and Stamp Cards (£4.50). The Medal Cover (£14.95) lingers until 11 April. Nine Country stamps are withdrawn on 29 March, as well as the 2009 Tariff Presentation Pack (DP055, £2.45) and the definitive values 17p, 22p, 62p and 90p •

Coming soon In the midst of another cold dark winter, we're all looking forward to the day '...When proud pined April, dressed in all his trim, Hath put a spirit of youth in everything'. So wrote William Shakespeare in Sonnet 98 and we'll be reminded of more of the Bard's evergreen words on the Royal Mail special issue of 12 April (the month of his birthday in 1564), which is dedicated to the Royal Shakespeare Company.

Still to look forward to before the Shakespeare season in April are the beautiful WWF stamps and Prestige Stamp Book Panes of March, and also an exceptionally handsome Jaguar E-Type 50th Anniversary Commemorative Sheet – find out more in your next *Bulletin* •



Exhibitions

Last Post:

Remembering the

First World War This exhibition is touring the country throughout 2011 and explores the role that the Post Office played during World War I in delivering mail and providing communications technology in the battlefield. To find its current location check at www.postalheritage.org.uk

Designs on delivery

Posters from the days of the General Post Office are at the centre of this show, celebrating the artists and designers of the 1930s to 1960s. It's another touring exhibition and you can find more details at www.postalheritage.org.uk

The Englishman Who Pestered Himself and Other Curious Objects

John Tingey speaks at the Phoenix Centre – next door to the BPMA Search Room. Thursday 31 March, 7pm to 8pm

Remember that song? Great British musicals



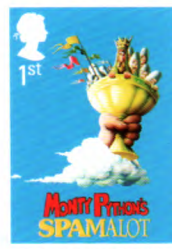
Signalling the rebirth of the musical, *Oliver!* succeeded by working all the emotions



Blood Brothers was written as a play for Fazakerley Comp in Liverpool in 1981



We Will Rock You took six years to write and features 30 of Queen's best songs



Spamalot parodies the genre through songs with wrenching key and tempo changes

LONDON'S WEST END HAS a long history as a hub of theatrical excellence and many of its millions of visitors are attracted by the quality of its stage

musicals. While music has always had its place in the theatre, a turning point for the genre came in the 1960 with Lionel Bart's *Oliver!* which triumphed over the onslaught of American singing-and-dancing movies and paved the way for the home-grown British musicals to follow.

Musicals stamps: design and technical details

Number of stamps	Eight
Design	Webb and Webb
Acknowledgements	<i>Oliver!</i> foreground © Catherine Ashmore for OPL, background photo by Michael Le Poer Trench © Cameron Mackintosh Ltd, logo TM © OPL 2005. <i>Blood Brothers</i> copyright © Bill Kenwright Ltd. <i>We Will Rock You</i> © Queen Theatrical Productions Ltd. <i>Monty Python's Spamalot</i> © Ocean Music Ltd & Rutsongs Music; SPAM® is a registered trade mark of Hormel Foods Corporation. <i>The Rocky Horror Show</i> – Richard O'Brien's Rocky Horror Show 2006: illustration by leighgallagheart.blogspot.com, design and artwork by swd.uk.com; <i>Me and My Girl</i> © Noel Gay, artwork by Dewynters; <i>Return to the Forbidden Planet</i> – illustration by Garen Ewing © Josef Weinberger Ltd/Bob Carlton. <i>Billy Elliot</i> © Billy London Ltd/David Scheinmann
Stamp format	Portrait
Stamp size	27mm x 37mm
Printer	Cartor Security Printing, France
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	14 x 14
Phosphor	All over
Gum	PVA

An evolving form of entertainment Fans will be pleased to find their favourite show featured on a stamp in the special Musicals issue, released on 24 February (during Spring Stampex). In choosing the subjects, Royal Mail focused on various criteria including the shows' origin, writers and composers, longevity and success. A conscious effort has been made to represent the evolution of musical theatre over the years since the 1960s; the eight Musicals stamps, Presentation Pack, First Day Cover, Stamp Cards and Handstamps feature some of the oeuvre's all-time favourites.

There are four 1st Class options. The first subject is Lionel Bart's *Oliver!* which first opened in the West End at the New Theatre (now the Noel Coward Theatre) on 30 June, 1960. It ran for 2,618 performances and launched the careers of several child actors.

Willy Russell's *Blood Brothers* is also featured on a 1st Class stamp. This 1983 musical is one of the longest-running plays of all time, with the 1988

are applauded in this special stamp set



A heady mix of rock 'n' roll, science-fiction spoof, transvestism and a classic horror plot



A cockney unexpectedly inherits a title and a country estate but must first win the family's approval



The show has featured interesting guest stars in the role of narrator, including Sir Patrick Moore



Auditioning for boys to share the title role led to an academy being formed to train future cast members

West End production still running after over 20 years. The next subject is *We Will Rock You*, the jukebox musical based on the songs of Queen. Written by Ben Elton in collaboration with Brian May and Roger Taylor, it opened in the West End on 12 May 2002 and has been extended indefinitely, making it the longest running show at London's Dominion theatre.

Finally and most funnily, Monty Python's *Spamalot* by Eric Idle and John Du Prez features on the fourth 1st Class stamp. Based on the screenplay of *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*, the musical includes three songs from the 1975 film of that name. It retells the legendary tale of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table, and their quest for the Holy Grail. Its Pythonesque characters include a chorus line of dancing divas and serfs, flautulent Frenchmen, killer rabbits and a legless knight.

The four 97p stamps show a further quartet of musicals. *The Rocky Horror Show* was written by Richard O'Brien and premiered in 1973, before establishing itself at the Comedy Theatre in the West End until September 1980, when it closed after 2,960 performances of its initial run. Another 97p stamp has *Me and My Girl* as its focus. This musical by Douglas Furber, L Arthur Rose and Noel Gay takes place in the late 1930s in Hampshire, Mayfair and Lambeth. It had a successful West End run in 1937 and successful revivals in London and New York in the 1980s.

The third 97p stamp shows *Return to the Forbidden Planet* by Bob Carlton, based on Shakespeare's *The Tempest* and the 1950s sci-fi film *Forbidden Planet*. It started life as a production for performance in a tent. A revised version opened at the Everyman Theatre in Liverpool in the mid 1980s and later moved to London's Tricycle Theatre. After some reworking, a final version opened in the West End in 1989. Finally, Billy Elliot dances across another 97p stamp. With music by Elton John and lyrics by Lee Hall and based on the film, it's set in the North East during the 1984-85 miners' strike and tells the story of a young boy's determination to dance. The show opened in London in May 2005 and is still going strong •

The three special Musicals handstamps use Dancers End to complement the theme



Stamp scene – a broader picture from John Holman

Spring Stampex update Held at its customary venue of the Business Design Centre, Islington, London N1, Spring Stampex will run from Wednesday 23rd to Saturday 26th of this month and, as is the popular custom, admission is free to all visitors. There will be no competition displays but a large display by the Postal History Society marks its forthcoming 75th anniversary in September. The Postal History Society display comprises over 3,000 album pages, provided by about 40 members and covering

all types of postal history from pre-stamp to very modern material. Most countries will be represented among the items shown. The Society is producing a 50-page booklet, with free copies available at the exhibition and is also running a competition for the public to vote for the favourite display. All visitors who vote for the winning display will automatically be entered into a draw for prizes of one year's free subscription to the Postal History Society.

A number of philatelic societies will hold meetings at Stampex on Saturday 26 February, including the GB Philatelic Society; Egypt;

Concorde; Ceylon; Aden, Yemen & Somaliland; and Malta Study Circles; and the British Postmark Society. Members of the National Philatelic Society will man the information stand and the Youth area will exhibit the entries in the Stamp Active competition.

The free postcard for this Spring Stampex reproduces a design by Cooper, Thirkell Ltd, created for the 1986 Halley's Comet issue but unused. The customised exhibition sheet costs £12 and contains 'Hello' stamps with space exploration images on the labels and margin. Over the years the exhibition has provided collectors with many interesting souvenirs – special postmarks and covers, souvenir sheets, and publicity labels, and more recently postcards and customised sheets. Some 19 postcards have now been issued at Stampex, many reproducing unused stamp designs held in the British Postal Museum & Archives. To date 15 customised sheets have also been produced, and the labels attached to the stamps have featured stamp topics including Rotary International (spring 2005), Nelson (autumn 2005), the Victoria Cross (autumn 2006), birds (autumn 2007), aircraft (autumn 2008), and railways (autumn 2010). For both the Spring and Autumn Stampex of 2003 special stamp sheets were produced to commemorate the exhibition's 50th anniversary of its beginning in 1953, as the British National Stamp Exhibition. It was first called Stampex in 1956 and, when it took over the British Philatelic Exhibition in the 1980s, was subsequently was called Super Stampex for a while. It has been held twice a year – as Spring and Autumn Stampex since 1987.



This 1964 underpaid cover illustrating the use of French and Italian postage due stamps is an item from the Postal History Society display at spring Stampex

This month, as always, there will be a Royal Mail stand at Stampex, offering the full range of current issues and products.. And meanwhile, across in London SW1, on three days that coincide with Spring Stampex, is another popular stamps fair... ●

Philatex meetings for non-members The popular Philatex stamp fair takes place on 24 to 26 February at the Royal Horticultural Halls (Lawrence Hall) just a short walk from London's Victoria Station. Over 80 dealers will have stands and on the Saturday a number of specialist philatelic societies hold meetings that are open to non-members:

Meeting in Room 21 are the GB Overprint Society, 10.30am to 12.30pm; Burma (Myanmar) Philatelic Study Circle, 12.45pm to 2.45pm; and Thailand Philatelic Society, 3pm to 5pm. Meeting in Room 22 will be OPAL, 10.30am to 12.30pm; the Austrian Philatelic Society, 12.45pm to 2.45pm; and France & Colonies Philatelic Society, from 3pm to 5pm. The TPO & Seapost Society meets in Room 31 between 10.30am and 12.30pm, followed by Pacific Islands Study Circle at 12.45pm until 2.45pm, and the Society of Olympic Collectors from 3pm to 4pm. Members of the Transvaal Study Circle will meet in Room 32, 11am to 12.30pm, then Cape and Natal Study Circle, 12.45pm to 2.45pm, and Bechuanaland and Botswana Society, from 3pm to 5pm. Meeting in Room 33 will be the Postal Mechanisation Study Circle, 10.30am to 12.30pm, the Scout & Guide Stamp Club, 12.45pm to 2.45pm, and Polar Postal History 3pm to 5pm.

For opening hours and further information see www.stampshows.net ●

Indipex innovation The international highlight of this month is Indipex 2011, the big philatelic exhibition held from 12 to 18 February at the Pragati Maidan Exhibition Complex, New Delhi, India and organised jointly by India Post and Philatelic Congress of India (it is FIP accredited). To mark this event a unique stamp is to be released by India Post – printed on *khadi* (a cloth) and bearing the image of Mahatma Gandhi. Harpreet Singh, director of Indipex 2011, told us about the launch: 'President Pratibha Patil will inaugurate the special stamp at a ceremony in the National Museum on Saturday 12 February, the first day of the week-long international exhibition.

'There is also a new "My Stamp" issue, a personalised stamp, where a picture or photograph can be added and used along with other real stamps,' Singh explained.

More than 3,000 schoolchildren have already taken part in an Indipex letter-writing and stamp-designing competition on the theme of 'Save the Tiger'. The winners' work will form a display at the exhibition and the best designs will be printed as official government stamps. To commemorate Indipex, Royal Mail will issue an A4 Exhibition Sheet on the first day of the show. As shown right and featured on page 136 in last month's *Bulletin*, the Indipex sheet ►



The Society of Olympic Collectors is one of a wide variety of philatelic groups holding open meetings at Philatex on Saturday 25 February



comprises 20 Union Flag self-adhesive stamps, each with adjoining labels consisting of appropriate images of old and new Delhi, including the official Indipex logo, a photo of the centre where the exhibition is held and a



reproduction of the Gandhi Centenary stamp issued by the British Post Office in 1969. The background design of the sheet incorporates vibrant colours synonymous with India •

ABPS May exhibition venue A national stamp exhibition, under the auspices of the Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS), takes place at the Pond's Forge International Sports Centre in Sheffield from 6 to 7 May. The event is sponsored by Grosvenor, Corbitts and Spink

auction houses. There will be major exhibits of George V stamps from the Royal Philatelic Collection, to mark the centenary of the King's coronation, and on the History of the Olympic Games by John Crowther. For more information, visit www.sheffield2011.org.uk or email secretary@sheffield2011.org.uk •



Above: the Sheffield venue of May's national stamp exhibition.

Auction news The Cavendish auction in Derby on 25 November included an interesting George V postal history collection of unusual frankings and cancels; the 53 items estimated at £200 realised £260. A two-album specialised collection of Machins (face value £256) made £240 (estimate £200). The next Cavendish auction, on 9 and 10 March, will comprise the Dr James Kyle Collections of British Empire (New Zealand, Australia etc), John Bodman Collection of Papua (with Cocos Is), 'Bentwaters' Collection of Mulready and Penny Black covers, a specialised study of South Australian postmarks and covers, 1870s stamped covers to Thailand, plus fine Worldwide and GB Revenues. For further details contact Cavendish on 01332 250970.

Realisations at the Grosvenor auction in London on 9 and 10 December 2010 totalled £871,517 – some 20 per cent over estimates. There were many lots of GB material including numerous Penny Blacks (where do they all keep coming from!) A collection of Elizabeth II in five Windsor albums, containing many thousands of stamps, made the lower estimate of £1,800 and a 1877 Telegraph £5 orange achieved £14,997. There were several lots of Machin decimal books. A three-album collection of 183 65p to £1.40 2nd class counter books, the majority with cylinder numbers, achieved £1,250 (est £700-800). A collection of 71 mixed value and Christmas books, 1978-83, was sold for £420 (£220-250). For details of future auctions contact Grosvenor on 020 7379 8799 or visit www.grosvenorauctions.com •

Publications: GBCC Chronicle The October 2010 issue of the Chronicle published by the Great Britain Collector's Club in the USA contains much interesting reading covering both stamps and postal history. Jerone Hart wrote on the reuse of a 1841 Penny Red imperf which had been affixed to the cover using red sealing wax! Surprisingly the Post Office let it go

unchallenged and even cancelled the stamp at the London Chief Post Office. Mr Hart stated that it was the first such example he had come across in 40 years' collecting this particular stamp.

Michael Peach writes about King Edward VIII, illustrating the Tree King's miniature sheet of 2006, a cover posted on the King's Abdication Day and a cover bearing both Edward VIII and George VI stamps, which was posted on 10 May 1937 – the day of issue of the first George VI definitives. Fred Smallbone continues his study of the George V Downey Heads stamps, Thomas Myers shows a cover of 1937 bearing the 'Poached Egg' testing label and Jerone Hart's second article deals with unusual use of Machin definitives, for example on certificates of posting for letters and parcels, change of address cards, and telegram forms. For details of the GB Collector's Club visit www.gbustamps.com/gbcc, or email Larry Rosenblum at lr@gbustamps.com •

The GBCC CHRONICLE

Quarterly Publication of the Great Britain Collector's Club



Volume 33, no. 4 October 2010 Number 126



Wald Stamps features a cover to prove that an acceptable image of the Downey head could be produced. See article on p. 14

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Visit our website: www.gbustamps.com/gbcc

London diary notes

- The Strand Stamp Fair has been held in London since 1969 and the next one is on 9 February at the Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, London WC1. About 20 or 30 dealers attend each month.

- The National Philatelic Society, based at the BPMA where its famous library is held, has its next meeting on 12 February, with a display 'Irish Life' by Peter Wood. The Society's Library will also be open on that day,

- On 3 March The National Philatelic Society is to hold a seminar – an Appraisal of Thematic and Social Philately – led by Christine Earle FRPSL. For full details of NPS activities write to NPS, c/o BPMA, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL, visit www.ukphilately.org.uk or email nps@ukphilately.org.uk •

Mike Holt We are sorry to record the death in December of Mike Holt, dealer in GB stamps, of Stourbridge. Mr Holt began his business in 1974 and was noted for his impressive lists, in particular of Machin issues. We extend our sympathy to his wife and family.

Jerone R Hart of New Haven US died in November. As a director of the Great Britain Collectors Club, Jerone displayed tremendous support to members and devotion to the hobby. His character and scholarship will be sadly missed by a great number of friends in many different philatelic organisations on both sides of the Atlantic •

This month's postal traditions

Valentine's Day, 14 February

The Valentine's Day stamps that have caught the eye of the *Bulletin* team this year are from China and Ireland, but of course we haven't received any – yet. Several countries have issued love stamps for Saint Valentine's Day, including Belgium, France, Sweden, Norway and Denmark. In 1985 An Post, the Irish Post Office, started issuing annual Love stamps and the US Postal Service has done so since the 1973 issue, designed by Robert Indiana. Although a number of Royal Mail stamps have carried the word LOVE, only one makes a direct connection with the heart of Valentines Day – the 14p stamp shown right, issued in 1981 as part of the Folklore series.





Wildlife at risk

Adrian Keppel explains the background to the forthcoming WWF stamps, issued in the year of the charity's 50th anniversary

The first ever WWF stamp, issued in 1969



UNTIL THE 1960s, A NUMBER OF SEPARATE organisations were active in trying to preserve our natural world but, being small, they each faced financial obstacles. The idea for a fund on behalf of endangered animals was first formally proposed by Victor Stolan to the renowned biologist Sir Julian Huxley in response to articles he published in the *Observer*. Julian Huxley put Stolan in contact with Max Nicholson, an ornithologist with 30 years' experience of linking campaigning intellectuals with big business interests.

Eventually, a small group of scientists, naturalists, influential businessmen and others founded the World Wildlife Fund on 29 April 1961. Its founding document is known as 'Morges Manifesto', as its first office opened in the September in the small town of Morges on the northern shores of Lake Geneva. Thus WWF was registered as a charity and the international fundraising mission could begin in earnest.

Meanwhile, Chi-Chi the Chinese panda had been making himself at home at London Zoo, as the first giant panda to reside in the West, having arrived in London from Beijing zoo via America, where he had been turned away by US customs. Chi-Chi's arrival and charming way with visitors fuelled publicity across Europe, drew attention to the problems of endangered animal

species and gave the naturalist and painter Sir Peter Scott an idea for the WWF symbol. The first logo was designed by Scott from the preliminary sketches made by a Scottish naturalist, Gerald Watterson, and is based upon the first giant panda to reside in the West (at London Zoo). And so, over the last 50 years, a black and white panda in various renditions has become visually linked with the conservation movement as a whole.

Reflecting changing needs

Half a century later, WWF is still synonymous with safeguarding the natural world, but now in a broader sense. Today this includes addressing climate change and the way we are using the earth's natural resources, both issues which are inseparable from the plight of endangered animals. WWF aims to help people to strike the right balance between using and protecting the environment. Its projects aim to develop our world in ways that meet the basic needs of human beings without compromising those of future generations.

In accordance with its broad concern with the natural world and the scope of its activities, in 1986, WWF changed its name to World Wide Fund for Nature (though US and Canada have kept the old name) but is now known simply as WWF. In its early days WWF focused mainly on endangered animals, but over time it became clear that all our human actions have consequences in the world of nature, and so the focus is now much more on protecting our natural world and trying to educate people on matters such as climate change and its impact on our wildlife.

Fakes and forgeries

It took a good couple of years after the formation of WWF before stamps were embraced as a means for raising awareness among the public. The first official WWF stamp was issued by France on 11 October 1969 and depicts the European Mouflon (as shown far left). It was to be the first of many stamp issues worldwide, making the WWF theme a very popular one among stamp collectors.

Unfortunately, the theme has proved so popular that many unofficial and bogus WWF stamps have also been issued. Only official WWF stamps are allowed to depict the WWF logo, but some of the bogus issues do imitate this logo. Stamp collectors should therefore only buy those issues that are for sale through authorised dealers or at least only buy those sets that have been granted catalogue status by the catalogue producers.

Striking additions

Fifty years on and the need for the work of WWF is sadly as urgent as ever. It is therefore an anniversary worthy of marking with a stamp issue, which is exactly what is happening on 22 March 2011. As a logical continuation of the annual Action for Species series, introduced in 2007, this issue also consists of ten first class sheet stamps, designed by Rose Design Consultants, each depicting an endangered mammal. Only the heads of the animals have been photographed and are depicted on the stamps to striking effect. The ten animals chosen in collaboration with WWF are detailed on the next page. ►



Magnificent close-ups of endangered animals feature on the WWF special issue



For collectors

The animals included in this new GB issue have been featured previously on the following sets:

African elephant

– Uganda (1983)

Mountain gorilla

– Rwanda (1985)

Siberian tiger

– Russia (1993)

Polar bear – USSR (1987)

Amur leopard

– North Korea (1998)

Iberian lynx

– Portugal (1988)

Red panda

– Bhutan (2010)

Black rhinoceros

– Central African Republic (1983)

African Wild Dog

– Guinea (1987)

Hyacinth Macaw*

– Brazil (2001)

Jaguar* – Belize (1983)

*Featured on the Miniature Sheet, see page 168



Earth Hour 2011 The WWF special issue stamps are released on Tuesday 22 March, just in time for you to pop them on a letter to post as a welcome reminder to friends and relatives that WWF's Earth Hour takes place on the following Saturday. At 8.30pm on 26 March, WWF asks everyone on earth – businesses and households alike – to turn off their non-essential lights for one hour to help raise awareness of the need to take action on climate change. In the four years since the First Earth Hour, conceived by WWF and *The Sydney Morning Herald* in 2007, it has become a global event with billions of people participating. Why not sign up and switch off at wwf.org.uk/earthhour.

African elephant The African elephant is the largest land animal on Earth with a typical height of up to 4m (13ft) and it can weigh as much as 6,000kg. Over the generations, it has been ruthlessly exploited for its ivory, and although illegal killing for its tusks has declined, it remains a widespread problem in west and central Africa.

Mountain gorilla The largest of the great apes lead tranquil lives in family groups – but they live in an area of Africa dogged by conflict. Around 700 survive in the border regions of Rwanda, Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo. WWF carries out its work to protect the species and its habitat as part of the International Gorilla Conservation Programme alongside the African Wildlife Foundation, Fauna & Flora International and the protected-area authorities of the three countries.

Amur or Siberian tiger The Amur tiger is found in the Russian far east and north-east China. In the 1940s it was on the brink of extinction, with just 40 in the wild. Thanks to vigorous conservation work the population recovered and increased to around 450. Even so, recent estimates show that numbers have declined in the past few years. Poaching, logging and infrastructure development are largely to blame.

Polar bear The polar bear inhabits the ice fringes of the Arctic. It spends much of its time at or near the edge of the ice, where it's most likely to find prey. But climate change is causing the ice to melt – and what remains is thinner and more treacherous. WWF is working to maintain a healthy Arctic environment by addressing climate change and protecting the polar bear's habitat.

Amur leopard With fewer than 40 individuals left in the wild, the Amur leopard is probably the rarest big cat in the world. In the 1970s it lost an astonishing 80% of its territory to logging, forest fires and land conversion. WWF is working to increase the protection of its habitat and prey, and to stop

the illegal traffic in leopard skins and body parts.

Iberian lynx The Iberian lynx is found only in two isolated areas of southern Spain. Twice the size of a domestic cat, it has leopard-like spots and a short coat. It's thought that as few as 180 lynx remain in the wild, and there are real fears it may become extinct. Despite the population showing some signs of recovery, the future of this cat is very uncertain.

Red panda Found only in the temperate forests of the Himalayas, the red panda is more closely related to the raccoon and weasel than to the giant panda. It spends most of its life high in the tree canopy but it comes to the ground at dusk and dawn to feed on bamboo, acorns and fruit. Like so many forest-dwelling animals, the red panda is vulnerable to losing its habitat due to logging and conversion to agriculture.

Black rhinoceros Critically endangered because of the demand for rhino horn for traditional Asian medicines, the black rhinoceros has recently enjoyed a gradual increase in its population – to around 15,000 – as a result of conservation work.

African wild dog Wild dogs are among Africa's most efficient predators, hunting in packs and often taking prey much larger than themselves. Litters average ten pups, and all pack members of this highly sociable animal care for the young. But due to loss of habitat and persecution by humans, this animal is one of the most endangered carnivores in Africa. Through the African Wild Dog Conservation project, WWF is working to help its populations recover.

Golden lion tamarin Forty years ago, the squirrel-sized golden lion tamarin was on the brink of extinction. In 1971, when WWF started working to protect the primate, there were fewer than 200 in the wild. Today, thanks to tireless conservation efforts, there are more than 1,000. A member of the monkey family, the tamarin is found only within a thin strip of coastal forest in Brazil. While there's still more to be done to secure its future, this represents a true conservation success. ●

Adrian Keppel's blog on all things philatelic can be found at akphilately.blogspot.com

WWF stamps: design and technical details

Number of stamps	Ten
Design	Rose Design Consultants
Acknowledgements	African elephant © Bill Coster/Alamy; mountain gorilla © Steve Bloom/stevebloom.com; Siberian tiger © Konrad Wothe/Minden Pictures/National Geographic Stock; polar bear © Tom Mangelsen/naturepl.com; Amur leopard © Darren Green Photography/Alamy; Iberian lynx © Jose B Ruiz/naturepl.com; red panda © Heather Angel/Natural Visions; black rhinoceros © Art Wolfe/Getty Images; African wild dog © The Africa Image Library/Alamy; golden lion tamarin © Eric Gevaert/Alamy
Stamp format	Square
Stamp size	35mm x 35mm
Print process/printer	Lithography/Carlor Security Printing, France
Perforations	14.5 x 14
Phosphor	All over
Gum	PVA



The view from the crossroads

John Baron, chairman of the ABPS Executive Committee, considers the future of philately



NEVER HAS THERE BEEN a more crucial time to examine the way philately works. I see a pressing need for a review of the whole hobby, and a change in the way individuals collect. During 2010, the Festival of Stamps helped to regenerate interest in collecting but it is we the collectors who will determine the future of the hobby. In a SWOT-style analysis of philately today – to identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats – the number of passionate collectors in the UK would certainly count as a great strength. But this strength is offset by the unwillingness of many collectors to commit their time to ‘maintenance’ of the hobby. This is partially due to an ageing community; the average age of collectors is steadily increasing and sadly there are relatively few junior collectors being attracted to the activity.

The next generation During 2010 areas were arranged for the junior collectors at a number of the regional Festival events. These were manned by volunteers from local societies and schools. The Nephilex ‘design a stamp’ competition attracted more than 500 entries from local schoolchildren. These initiatives need to be adopted countrywide. There seems to be an over-emphasis on the obstacles rather than a determination to succeed. There are certainly successful examples to follow – if junior collecting can be encouraged in Scotland, South Wales, Hampshire and Newcastle why not throughout the UK? Philanippon has 3,000 children entering its ecology-related design competition; why can’t we drum up such enthusiasm?

There’s also a ‘support-gap’ for 18 to 30 year olds. The hobby provides little assistance or encouragement for this age group and this is an area in which the more mature collector could easily assist. Without young collectors, philately will face a challenging future, which could see the demise of stamp

Inspiring future generations is clearly among the chief challenges for philatelists who care about the future of the hobby



collecting in the long-term. One of the disappointing statistics to emerge from the BPMA's recent survey confirms that over 50 per cent of collectors don't belong to any formal society. These non-members would benefit both on a knowledge and collecting basis if they joined a society, and there's the added plus of the social side of membership. I believe this is an area of the opportunity. Local societies can benefit in many ways from an ongoing membership drive instead of sitting back, stuck in their old ways and – let's be honest – sometimes enjoying a good moan about the status quo.

Recently, a number of Societies have started offering daytime meetings, which has proved more convenient for many people. These daytime groups have tended to develop a more informal atmosphere and this has encouraged members to bring along friends. Some of these meetings incorporate workshops, enabling the newer members to ask the questions that they may not feel comfortable about asking in the regular club meetings.

Changing direction Collectors are facing increasing cost of new issues from the philatelic bureaux and are looking to alter their collecting interests.

This is exacerbated by the difficulty in purchasing special issues over the Post Office Counters and the increasing use of postage labels. Collectors of used material also have the disadvantage that the use of postage stamps is diminishing and in many cases the stamps are defaced by Biro cancellations. Consequently, it is becoming more rewarding and easier to concentrate on older material. An increasing focus on the social history aspects of philately allows displays to present collections in a broader context and to include non-philatelic material. Official guidelines for these displays suggest that only 50 per cent of the material has to be philatelic. This area, along with postal history and thematic segments of the hobby, are becoming more and more popular and leading to an increase in numbers of collectors.

The pillars of success The hobby is at a crossroads, the challenges are well known and our philatelic societies have a major role to play. People are our strength; the people that make up the societies have a unique wealth of experience to bring to the task. There are many progressive organisations out there, but there are also a few where the society is dominated by a clique who, often unintentionally, make meetings somewhat unwelcoming.

Societies are the key to the future and their committees need to look at ways of developing connections with different age groups, particularly youth groups. The danger is that, unless attitudes alter and a 'can do' response is adopted, by 2030 there will be little interest in the hobby. There is a need to relate to people who may wish to return to the hobby and to create a structure to assist the younger collectors.

In my view these are the pillars for building a successful future for philately. Everybody involved in stamps and stamp collecting can help to address these issues and preserve the hobby for the generations to come. I welcome views and initiatives from *Bulletin* readers ●

‘The challenges are well known and our societies have a major role to play’

The Baron manifesto

Philately has been described as 'the world's greatest hobby' and is well placed to build on its fascinating heritage, provided that we can:

Challenge

the status quo

Change

where necessary

Commit

to those changes

Communicate

with all – especially youngsters



National treasures

Julia Lee discovers places and spaces owned by the National Trust on a variety of GB stamps

Stamps from the 1995 Centenary of the National Trust issue, left to right: details of a fireplace and table leg at Attingham Park, Shrewsbury, and a window at Little Moreton Hall, Cheshire

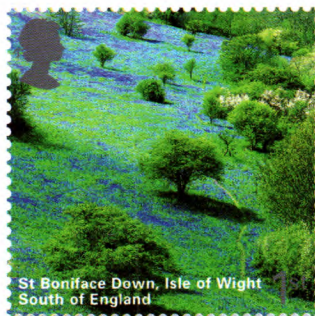
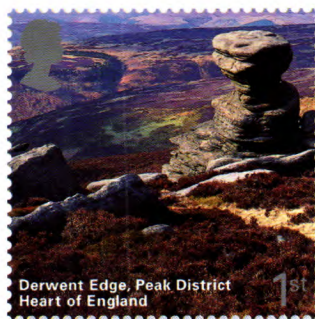
2008 Celebrating Northern Ireland, this stamp features the Giant's Causeway



THE NATIONAL TRUST was founded in 1895 to protect open spaces and a variety of threatened buildings in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Its three main founders were Victorian philanthropists who were concerned about the effects of industrialisation on the nation's natural landscape and architectural heritage: Octavia Hill, Canon Hardwicke Rawnsley and Sir Robert Hunter, who worked as legal adviser to the Post Office from 1882–1913. They were encouraged by the earlier success of Charles Eliot and the Kyrle Society and received considerable support from the 1st Duke of Westminster (1825–1899).

The charity's centenary was celebrated in 1995 with a five-stamp issue portraying different aspects of its work. Two of the stamps feature details from Attingham Park, an 18th-century mansion in Shrewsbury, donated to the Trust in 1947. The 19p value, titled 'Celebrating 100 Years' shows part of a fireplace decoration, while 30p is 'Conserving Art' and features a carved table leg. The rest of the stamps carry images of exterior architecture: a section of the Elizabethan window at Little Moreton Hall in Cheshire, a classic Tudor half-timbered building ('Repairing Buildings'); a view of St David's Head in Wales to denote 'Saving Coast', and a reference to the Trust's logo of an oak leaf with an oak seedling for 'Protecting Land'.

Land rovers It is the Trust's *land*, rather than its buildings, that features on the most stamps, with the British Journey series deserving special mention for the sheer number of striking English and Welsh landscapes it shows. The



2008 Northern Ireland series featured several sites and established a pattern for further sets in the series. Most impressive is the Giant's Causeway, a stunning series of basalt columns around 60 million years old and a World Heritage Site. The Causeway also features on Northern Ireland's country definitives and in the 2008 Celebrating Northern Ireland miniature sheet.

Also included in the British Journey series are Trust-owned Banns Road in the Mourne Mountains and Islandmore in Strangford Lough. The Welsh set in the same year showed a variety of land types under the care of the Trust – from the mountains of the Brecon Beacons to the ancient Silurian cliffs at Marloes Sands. A third of the subjects of the 2005 six-stamp issue, which covered the South West, is owned by the National Trust. Old Harry Rocks, at Studland Bay, is a pair of chalk stacks which originally stretched ►

From top, left to right: A British Journey – England issue of 2006 – Carding, Brancaster, Derwent, Robin Hood's Bay, Buttermere and St Boniface Down; from 2005's A British Journey – South-West England, Old Harry Rocks and Lundy Island; and from 2004's A British Journey – Wales, Brecon Beacons

towards the Isle of Wight. 'Old Harry' refers to the devil, who is supposed to have lain down by the cliff. Studland Bay, much of which is owned by the National Trust, also featured in the 2002 issue on British Coastlines. Lundy, in the Bristol Channel, is also owned by the National Trust, though it is leased by the Landmark Trust. It has the distinction of issuing its own local stamps. The stamp image on the GB stamp shows St James' Stone, a huge granite slab that is very popular with climbers.

Journey's end In 2006, the British Journey series, which was supposed to have several sets taking in different parts of the country, came to a rather sudden halt with a set on 'England' rather than one of its regions. Again, it provides rich pickings for fans of the National Trust, because six of the ten stamps depict the organisation's land.

One of the values shows Buttermere in the Lake District, which has been entirely owned by the Trust since 1935. In fact, it was a campaign to save the valleys above Buttermere from railways carrying quarried stone that brought together the three founders of the Trust. Two other areas close to the hearts of walkers are also in the set. Carding Mill Valley is the name the National Trust gives to 2,000 hectares of the Shropshire Hills. The valley leads from the major town of Church Stretton up towards the Long Mynd and has Iron Age settlements. Derwent Edge in the Peak District is prime walking country, too, and the stamp carries a view of the Salt Cellar, a gritstone tor (which actually lies outside the boundary of National Trust land by just 30 yards).

The National Trust owns 709 miles of coastal land, so it's appropriate that we include two stamps featuring coastlines. The organisation owns the whole harbour area of Brancaster Staithe, a fishing village since Roman times, which is depicted on the 'Brancaster' stamp. On the Robin Hood's Bay stamp, the National Trust uses the Old Coastguard Station as both a visitors' centre and a holiday cottage, and just the back of the building can be seen on the stamp. What a find if, perhaps, you wanted to actually stay somewhere that had featured on a stamp.

St Boniface Down is the last National Trust landmark on the set, a chalk down which rises to the Isle of Wight's highest point.

Gardens of England More cultivated aspects of the British countryside have also featured on stamps, as the National Trust's gardens were honoured on the British Gardens set of 1983. Issued to mark the 200th anniversary of Capability Brown, the stamps imagery showed 'gardens through the ages'. Sissinghurst in Kent, once home of the writer and gardener Vita Sackville-West, was selected for the 20th-century garden. The 19th-century garden is also a National Trust one but, as it was acquired in 1988, it didn't actually belong to the Trust at the time of the stamp's issue. The fascinating Biddulph Grange was owned by horticulturalist James Baldwin between around 1840 and 1861. Baldwin was a member of the Royal Horticultural Society's Plant Exploration Committee and used the gardens to represent different parts of the world, hence the topiary Egyptian pyramid, temple gateway and sphinxes that feature on the stamp.

The 1983 British Gardens issue featuring Sissinghurst and Biddulph



20TH CENTURY GARDEN
SISSINGHURST



19TH CENTURY GARDEN
BIDDULPH GRANGE



Stackpole Head Wales



Derwentwater England



Giant's Causeway N. Ireland

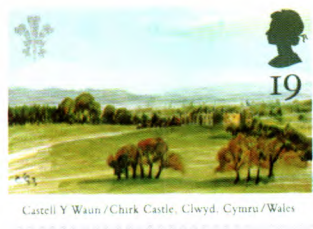
The 1981 National Trust for Scotland issue shows Stackpole Head in Wales, Derwentwater in England and the Giant's Causeway of Northern Ireland – but no view of Scotland

Special issues Perhaps the oddest stamp issue with National Trust associations is that of 1981, designed to mark the 50th anniversary of the National Trust for Scotland (NTS) in the same year. Instead of concentrating on NTS properties, it tours the UK with Derwentwater, England, Stackpole Head, Wales, and the Giant's Causeway of Northern Ireland, all featured in paintings by Michael Fairclough (who was born in Blackburn).

The Prince of Wales' art gained a significant honour when his own paintings were used on stamps to mark the 25th anniversary of his Investiture in 1994. One shows Castell Y Waun (Chirk Castle) in the distance. National Trust land even appeared on the stamps of the Prince's grandfather, King George VI, as the White Cliffs of Dover are depicted on the 1951 high values. They were also used in the 2002 British Coastlines set.

It's clear from these stamps, that you cannot feature British landscapes without including some of the National Trust's many properties. The sheer variety and amount of land own by the Trust – more than 630,000 acres – means the institution is bound to crop up again and again. From the angular columns of the Giant's Causeway to the smooth, flat sands of Brancaster, from Buttermere to the Isle of Wight, Cornwall to Kent, the National Trust has taken an inspiring British journey on GB stamps and provides another way for us to enjoy our wonderful heritage •

A view of Chirk Castle, painted by the Prince of Wales and chosen for the 1994 stamp marking the 25th anniversary of his Investiture



Castell Y Waun/Chirk Castle, Clwyd: Cymru/Wales

A box of distinction Martin Robinson celebrates the noble Penfold pillar box



Above: Fig 5 – the most common Penfold (Type 4). Seventy are known to exist. This one is at the Black Country Museum, Dudley

THE PENFOLD IS THE best known and most distinctive of our surviving Victorian pillar boxes, with its hexagonal shape and cap decorated with acanthus leaves and balls, and topped with an acorn-shaped finial. We have mentioned the Penfold in passing earlier in the *Bulletin's* occasional post box series, and this month we give it the attention it deserves.

Named after its designer, the architect and surveyor John Wornham Penfold (1828-1909), this box was manufactured by Cochrane, Grove & Co (later Cochrane & Co) of Dudley between 1866 and 1879. Although Penfolds have given 145 years of service in some cases, they are not as rare as many other old pillar boxes, and more than 100 are still in use in various parts of the country – or preserved in museums. In addition there are replicas, commissioned by Royal Mail from Machan Engineering of Denny, Stirlingshire, from 1988, for placement at historical or tourist sites where a more modern box might look out of keeping. Although the replicas are exact, they are easy to distinguish because of the different maker's name at the foot (shown below left).

There were five different types of the original Penfold, and three sizes, giving 15 possible combinations, of which 12 are known still to exist, some much scarcer than others. For example, only two of the original large size boxes remain. One stood in Alcester Road, Studley, Warwickshire, until it was made unserviceable by a vehicle in 2001. Fourteen of the medium and four of the small size survive. Cheltenham is the best place to see examples: there are eight Penfolds in the town, of which seven are of the first type.

Size matters Let us deal with the sizes first of all. Visual estimates can be unreliable, for the appearance of the boxes depends on how low in the ground they are set. The front door panel is 10½ inches wide on the large box, 9½ inches on the medium and 8½ inches on the small. If you don't have a tape measure with you when you spot one (should you want to measure the box), it also helps to know that the large and medium sizes have ten balls along each top edge, while the small has only nine.

Five different forms The original Penfold pillar boxes are hexagonal and under the projecting decorative cap already described is the posting aperture, then the royal arms and the words POST OFFICE enclosed by two horizontal bands. At the top of the door is the plate with the times of collection and below that the royal VR cipher. The different appearance and order of these features enable us to distinguish quite easily between the first and later types.

The original 1866 box (Fig 1) has an aperture with an inward-opening enamelled flap bearing the word LETTERS (sometimes missing), but from 1871 the aperture was modified by fitting an upshoot, which usually gives it a raised surround (Fig 2). The upshoot was intended to provide additional



Replica Penfolds bear the manufacturer's name Machan at the foot



Fig 1



Fig 2



Fig 3



Fig 4

security for posted items and more protection from rain. This second type is rare, with only half a dozen examples being known.

The 1872 Penfold, following complaints that letters could become trapped inside the top of the box, has the aperture lowered to change places with the royal arms below (Fig 3). Only four examples of this type exist.

The commonest of the Penfolds by far is the fourth type to be made, introduced later the same year. There are about 70 examples, half of them in the London area. We can see three detectable differences from the previous type: the collection plate has a moulded instead of a flat surround, it has been moved down an inch from the top of the door, and the door itself has protruding hinges at the left (Fig 5, left).

In the fifth and last type the royal cipher and collection plate have changed places, with the cipher near the top of the door and the plate lower down (Fig 4). There are only eight of these left.

I hope that these details will enable readers to take a more informed look at our remaining Penfold pillar boxes and appreciate even more these well-loved Victorian icons •

Readers' photos Among the post boxes sent in by *Bulletin* readers this month are a number of unusual colours, including a green Penfold. Martin Robinson says, 'There are still a few Penfolds left in the Republic of Ireland, painted green like all An Post's boxes'.

This month's winner: Jo Allen of County Wexford wins a copy of *Old Letter Boxes* (£4.95, Shire Books) and Presentation Pack of the 2009 Miniature Sheet.

For more information: visit www.lbsg.org or contact the Membership Secretary at 38 Leopold Avenue, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham B20 1ES (email membership@lbsg.org).

Send your photographs to: The Editor, *British Philatelic Bulletin*, 1st Floor, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ. We regret we cannot return your photographs.

Above, left to right: Penfold Type 1, formerly in Alcester Road, Studley. Type 2 at Gosport Station. Type 3 in Park Town, Oxford and Type 5 enjoying the sea breezes on the promenade at Llandudno



Stamp software Collector and blogger, Keijo Kortelainen, shares his experience of the programs designed to help philatelists



GENERATING A COMPUTERISED RECORD is a useful way of keeping track of your stamp collection, but there are dozens of commercial and free software programs intended to help you, so choosing the right tools for the job can be something of a minefield when you start out. It's all too easy to plump for the first software recommended by a friend, but, as someone who has tried and tested many of the programs, I would recommend a little research to find the software that best suits the needs of your particular collection.

Firstly, there are two distinct types of stamp inventory software: those with pre-entered data, for handling items such as images and catalogue values, and those where you define and manually enter in the data.

Pre-entered data This first group consists of tools that are mainly supplied by catalogue publishers. These are essentially digital reference catalogues that provide some additional features for tracking the state and value of a collection. In my humble opinion, the most successful software packages in this group are web-based SG MyCollection (which uses Stanley Gibbons' catalogue numbers) and EZStamp (using the American Scott numbering system and containing mostly US and Canadian stamp details although additional discs for other countries are available). Sadly none of these solutions comes anywhere near the high standards of the printed catalogues and nor do they meet the requirements of advanced stamp collectors. Even these, the best of the breed of software with pre-entered data, are riddled with problems, including poor quality of pre-entered images, outdated and simplified data, and lack of user-friendliness. It's an area I hope to see some distinct improvement in over the next few years.

User-defined data The second, more common species of stamp inventory software provides the collector a blank 'skeleton' in which to type all the required information and notes. Though this method is much more labour-intensive, many collectors prefer it because it enables them to track down small bits and pieces of information with a far higher degree of detail and accuracy than any of the publisher-backed software. You have more control and that suits the attention to detail that we collectors value. I can heartily recommend StampCAT in this category. It is quite easy to use and the quality of the software and its support services are very good.

An individual solution For more computer-savvy collectors, the preferred option is a DIY inventory solution which combines a personalised blend of available software. These are usually based upon some common software packages like Microsoft Office suite or Open Office suite. For example, I use an Excel spreadsheet (which is simple if you already have experience of spreadsheet programs) to keep an inventory of the 65,000+ items in my



stamp collection. It allows you to sort data by whichever field entered – for example, by year, country, value, colour; any quality you care to think of. You could also include a column that monitors the level of ‘completeness’ of your collection – to let you know quickly how many more items you need to find before you have a complete set.

However, based on several years of trial and error with stamp inventory solutions, I have come to conclusion that there is no single, magical ‘one-size-fits-all’ solution. Selecting a tool for keeping a detailed stamp inventory has never been easy, but I hope the above guidelines make the decision slightly simpler for those who are interested in using a computer in the task. In an ideal world, we’d be able to amalgamate our individual research and findings to make a universal online resource that could increase learning and, with a bit of luck, encourage others to collect. I am ever-hopeful and publish my findings regularly (at www.stampcollectingblog.com) – do let me know if you have found this article helpful or have some better answers! ●

Are you interested in generating a shared resource to help all collectors to keep track of their collections? Write to us at the address on page 162 or tweet at www.twitter/philbulletin to let us know your ideas and inspirations.

Where to find the software

SG MyCollection mycollection.stanleygibbons.com/. 12-month subscription costs £29.95.

EzStamps ezstamps.com. Free trial available. Prices from \$24.99.

StampCat fnprg.com/stampcat/. Free trial available, programme cost £19.92.

Microsoft Excel emea.microsoftstore.com/UK. Free trial available, programme costs £119.99 but can be used for more than just cataloguing stamps. Keijo’s Excel template can be seen at stampcollectingblog.com/about-stamp-inventory-programs.php.

Open Office openoffice.org. Similar to Microsoft’s ubiquitous spreadsheet programme but completely free. Again, can be used for other tasks.

We know how he feels:

don’t let your stamp cataloguing give you a headache! The posters above are made up of stamps featuring Sibelius, designed for the Finnish Stamp 150 Year Jubilee Exhibition in 2007

Covers of the month

Orders and enquiries

Benham

Unit K Concept Court
Shearway Business Park
Folkestone, Kent CT19 4RG
Phone 0844 994 9400
www.benhamcovers.com
benham@benham.co.uk

GB Covers

51 Longman Court
Stationers Place
Aspley, Hertfordshire
HP3 9RS
Phone 01442 267 383
derek@gbcovers.co.uk

Phil Sheridan

PO Box 99, Widnes, Cheshire
WA8 0NN
Phone 07939 832 184
sheridanfcds@aol.com
(Please make cheques payable
to P Sheridan)

The Stamp Centre

79 Strand, London WC2R 0DE
Phone 0207 836 2341
www.stamp-centre.co.uk

Royal Mail

Royal Mail Tallents House
21 South Gyle Crescent
Edinburgh EH12 9PB
www.royalmail.com
Orders for serviced FDCs must
reach Tallents House by the
date of issue.

Cover producers wishing to
announce a recent or
forthcoming cover should
submit copy of up to 75 words
and an image of the cover.
Announcements are published
on a first-come-first-served
basis or around a theme, at the
discretion of the editor.
Please send submission for
April Bulletin to the address on
page 165 to arrive by
22 February 2011.



Scott Tracy Mini Sheet A great range
of signed covers of the FAB: The Genius
of Gerry Anderson issue is available
from The Stamp Centre. In the one
shown left, autographed by Gerry
Anderson, we are reliably informed that
the photograph of Gerry held by Scott
takes pride of place in the Tracy sitting
room! **Price** £17.50 + £1.25 including
UK p&p ●

First of the month Four Classic Locomotives of
England on the Miniature Sheet, issued 1 February,
are teamed on this Benham cover with an image of
all four engines. The handstamp is for GWR Dean
Goods class. **Price** £15.45 including UK p&p ●



**Lenticular take-off FAB: The Genius of Gerry
Anderson First Day Cover Miniature Sheet** from
Royal Mail showcases the lenticular printing of four
new stamps featuring Thunderbirds 1 to 4. The
filler card carries details of each of the shows.
SLOUGH was chosen as the postmark because it
is the location of the studio where many of the
shows were filmed. **Price** £3.26 including p&p ●

St Helens Theatre Royal Cheshire theatreland is
celebrated in Phil Sheridan's limited-edition cover
for this month's Musicals issue. Illustrated with
exterior and interior shots of St Helens Theatre
Royal, it also carries the theatre's name on the
handstamp. **Price** £16.20, including UK p&p ●



London's theatreland An issue of 31 official
covers, as shown above, handstamped with
'DRURY lane' and the masks of Tragedy and
Comedy, illustrated with an image of London's
theatreland by night. **Price** £16 + £1.50 UK
postage, from GBCovers ●

Prize draw rules and regulations

1 The closing date is 10 March 2011. 2 Promotions are open to all readers aged 18 and over, except employees of Royal Mail Group Ltd, their business associates and immediate families. 3 Responsibility cannot be accepted for entries which are incomplete, damaged or not received for any reason. Proof of posting is not proof of receipt. Prizes must be accepted as offered; they are not transferable and there are no cash alternatives. 4 Winners are notified within 28 days of closing date. 5 For prize draws where readers must answer a question or solve a crossword, winners will be the senders of the first correct entries drawn at random by an independent service after the closing date. 6 Promoter's decision on any aspect of the promotions is final. No correspondence will be entered into. 7 Entry implies acceptance of these rules. 8 Prizes are subject to suitability and 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. 9 Winners' names are available 28 days after closing date; send an SAE to Karin Ward, *British Philatelic Bulletin*, Royal Mail 1st Floor, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ. The promoter is Royal Mail Group Ltd, 100 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0HQ.

WIN a steam-train driving lesson!

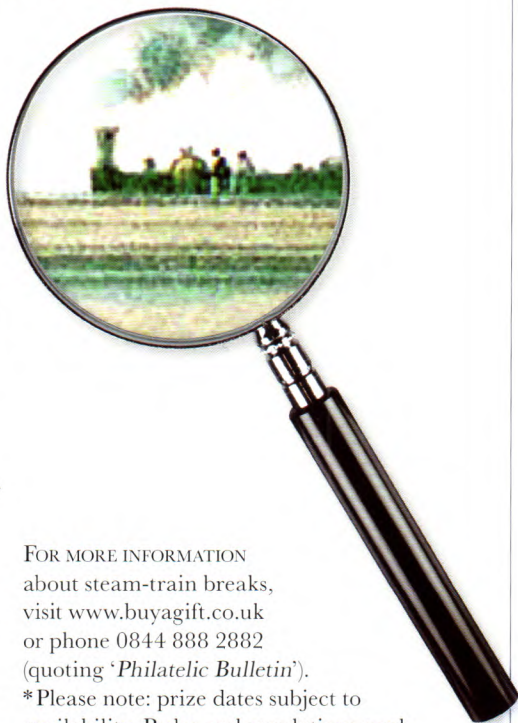
Plus the entire Classic Locomotives of England issue

IDENTIFY

TO CELEBRATE the 1 February special issue of the Classic Locomotives of England we are offering three prizes of the complete collection of stamps, First Day Envelope, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards, Locomotive name badge and the Railway Heritage Portfolio part 2.

FIRST PRIZE There's an extra treat for the first prizewinner – the chance to drive a steam train! This unforgettable prize event takes place in the idyllic village of Wirksworth, in Derbyshire's picturesque Gentle Valley*. An experienced professional driver is on hand to give you helpful tips and guide you to the point where you are able to take control of the train yourself and explore the extensive yard at Wirksworth.

HOW TO ENTER Identify the stamp from the detail above right, write its name and date of issue on a postcard and send it with your name and contact details to: February *Identify*, 1st Floor, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ. Closing date: 10 March 2011. The senders of the first three correct answers drawn after the closing date receive the prizes as described.



FOR MORE INFORMATION about steam-train breaks, visit www.buyagift.co.uk or phone 0844 888 2882 (quoting '*Philatelic Bulletin*').

*Please note: prize dates subject to availability. Rules and regulations apply, see page 190. Transport to and from Wirksworth is not included in the prize ●

KNOWLEDGE

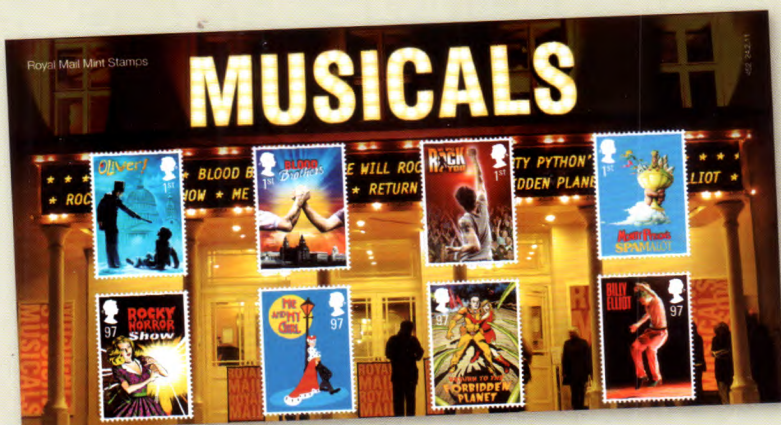
Test your philatelic general knowledge by answering the following questions and you could win a selection of recent Royal Mail covers and stamps, including the Musicals, Magical Realms and WWF, as described in this *Bulletin*.

- a) In which country is an international philatelic exhibition being held this month?
- b) In what UK city will the ABPS National Stamp Exhibition be held in May 2011?
- c) Name the printing process used to make images appear to move on the Miniature Sheet of FAB: The Genius of Gerry Anderson. Send your answers to February *Knowledge Prize* Draw at the above address ●

DECEMBER RESULTS

Winner Mr H Moon, Glasgow. **Answer** Bantams.

'Mastermind' solutions: 1 May. 2 Yellow (rather than bluey-green). 3 Stanley Gibbons. 4 Diamond. 5 Mauritius. 6 'Key Type'. 7 Do not deliver on a Sunday. 8 Bull's eyes. 9 Advertisements. 10 Emperor Franz Joseph I. 11 Black swan. 12 Stock exchange Post Office. 13 Benjamin Franklin. 14 Peru. 15 Ceres, goddess of agriculture. 16 William B Perot. 17 Blue. 18 'and Inland Revenue'. 19 Sarawak. 20 British East Africa Company. 21 British Army in Crimea. 22 British Postal Agencies in Eastern Arabia. 23 Tierra del Fuego. 24 Japan. 25 Western Australia, black swan issues. 26 Lundy. 27 A new design prepared for use but cancelled following the death of King Edward VII. 28 Nicaragua. 29 Nyassaland. 30 Letters VR in upper corners. 31 A surface-printed issue of Queen Victoria from a plate that was prepared but not put into regular use. 32 Uganda. 33 Graphite lines printed on the rear of the stamp. 34 Griqualand West. 35 An example of the early line-engraved issues of Queen Victoria where a chemical reaction between the printing ink and the paper causes a white inverted queen's head to appear on the rear of the stamp. 36 A type of cancellation used by the Victorians ●



Left: springtime is showtime at Stampex! The new Musicals stamps are issued on the Thursday of the exhibition

Souvenirs of Stampex

From 23 to 26 February Spring Stampex 2011 is held at the Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, Islington, London. Entry is free on all days. For exhibition details, see page 172.

The Royal Mail stand will be just inside the entrance, offering the very best in GB stamps, including a special issue of the Musicals stamps released on Thursday, 24 February. There will be a dedicated posting box at the show for those wishing to obtain the Stampex First Day of Issue handstamp. For more details of the Musicals issue, please turn to page 170.

A Bulletin handstamp souvenir is available (in the space above right) to those who take this page to the Royal Mail desk.

One year's free subscription goes to the companion of the first 10 visitors presenting this copy of the *Bulletin* at the Royal Mail stand on each day of the event.



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