

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The ROYAL MAIL magazine for stamp collectors

Volume 44 Number 9

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Bulletin

Birds issue preview • Machin
Anniversary • Postbus routes



Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



Cover This month marks the 70th anniversary of the first King George VI stamp issues. Martin Robinson describes a hectic process of design and production, on page 274.

Correction The price of the 2nd Large business sheet is now £20, not £19.20 as was stated in the March *Bulletin*. The new price started 2 April.

Issues All items are available from Royal Mail Tallents House (address below); selected items are available at Post Office branches and Post Office philatelic outlets at main post offices in Bath, Birmingham, Brighton, Bristol, Cambridge, Canterbury, Cardiff, Chester, Colchester, Coventry, Croydon, Durham, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Grimsby, Harrogate, Leicester, London (Trafalgar Square & Eastcheap), Newcastle upon Tyne, Norwich, Nottingham, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Southampton, Southend-on-Sea, Stevenage, Stratford-on-Avon, Stroud, Truro, Windsor and York.

Royal Mail Tallents House 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB, UK. Telephone order line (08.30 - 17.00 Monday to Friday): 08457 641 641; from overseas +44 131 316 7483. Minimum handling charge UK £1.45, Europe £1.55, rest of world (airmail) £2.15. Some products can be ordered on Royal Mail's website: www.royalmail.com/stamps

2 May	Withdrawal 35p, 40p, 47p, 68p definitives
8 May	Issue Beside the Seaside stamp cards
15 May	Issue Beside the Seaside stamps and presentation pack
15 May	Withdrawal 1st & 2nd class business sheets issued June 2004
17 May	Issue Wembley Stadium miniature sheet and 'Memories of Wembley Stadium' generic sheet
20 May	Withdrawal Queen's 80th Birthday coin cover
24 May	Withdrawal Washington 2006 World Stamp Exhibition generic sheet
25 May	Issue Country coin covers set (Scotland, Wales, N Ireland, England) in folder
29 May	Issue Machin Anniversary stamp cards (three cards: two special stamps and miniature sheet)
5 June	Issue £1 definitive, ruby colour
5 June	Issue Machin Anniversary miniature sheet, presentation pack, generic sheet, miniature sheet press sheet, prestige book, medal cover, Coin and Stamp set, Commemorative Document with Machin silver stamp reproduction, Commemorative Medal, Collectors Pack, Pin badge, retail book: 6 x 1st • Machin pages for Royal Mail Definitives or Universal albums • Book <i>A Timeless Classic: the Evolution of Machin's Icon</i>
5 June	Issue Stamp books: 6 x 1st, 12 x 1st, 12 x 2nd (standard Machin pre-PIP design, with PIP details printed on covers • Business sheets: 100 x 1st, 100 x 2nd with pre-PIP stamps and PIP header to sheet • Definitive: 2nd in pre-PIP design, sheets of 200, printed by De La Rue (previously Walsall)
5 June	Withdrawal World Cup Winners stamps, pack, stamp cards, England's Finest Hour generic sheet



David Gentlemen's woodblock based on the Gillick head, 1965

Off with her head! Part 2 of Douglas Muir's series on the revolutionary philatelic and political events of 1965, and the road to the Machin 277

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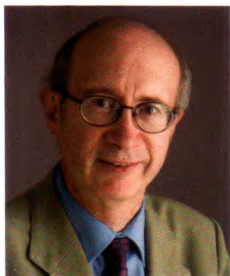


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This month The Editor previews this issue



John Holman, Editor

THIS MONTH we preview the Birds stamps to be issued in September; these feature 10 rare birds including the Dartford Warbler, which is of interest to me as I was born in Dartford, Kent. Today the town is more famous for its tunnel and bridge and the Bluewater Shopping Centre than for the bird named after it. The Warbler used to be found on Dartford Heath but now the only one you are likely to see is a stuffed one in the local museum!

With this month's *Bulletin* you will receive British Philatelic Bulletin Publication No 13 entitled *A Machin Timeline*, written by our Machin columnist Douglas Myall. Further copies of the publication can be ordered from Tallents House, price £2.95. We receive the occasional enquiry about this series of publications – Nos 10 *Travelling Post Offices*, 11 *Castles High Values*, and 12 *British Stamp Printers* are all still available from Tallents House, price £2.95 each. I regret earlier titles are now out of print.

We include this month Part 2 of Douglas Muir's feature on the stamp changes of the 1960s – a chapter from his forthcoming book on the Machin design. Martin Robinson looks at George VI essays in the British Postal Museum & Archive, and also provides a listing of postbus services. Ron Negus tells us about the eminent collector William Stitt Dibden and reports on the Royal Mail website in his popular 'Philately online' feature. I am sure we have articles of interest to all readers. JOHN HOLMAN, EDITOR •

Stamp scene News and upcoming events: Glenn Morgan keeps you posted



Glenn Morgan

Stampex Some 5600 collectors visited Spring Stampex (28 February - 4 March). The Royal Mail stand was kept busy, not least the booth for the 'instant' Smilers sheets incorporating a Stampex logo (see below). Visitors received a free postcard (No 12 in the series) showing unadopted designs for the 1976 British Printing issue. The ninth Stampex Business Customised Sheet featured Great British Innovators on labels attached to the 'Thanks' Occasions stamp of 2001. Some 3000 sheets were produced. The BPMA's 'Horses to Horsepower' display included PO bicycles, a motorbike, a van, and an antique replica of the famous 'Hen and Chickens' parcel cycle, described by one visitor as a 'penny farthing with stabilisers'. The accompanying video and the *Night Mail* film were popular with visitors. The Stamp Active Network stand was well-attended by young collectors at the weekend, particularly the Saturday Free Auction run by Michael Thompson.

One of the 'instant' Smilers sheets produced at Spring Stampex, incorporating the Stampex logo in the margin and on one of the tabs.

Red white & blue



Stampex



Stampex



Autumn Stampex will be held from 19-22 September (Wednesday to Saturday) when the British Forces PO will provide a major display to complement the British Army Uniforms stamps, which go on sale on 20 September.

Note that Stampex will not be open on a Sunday at any future show, due to falling attendances on that day. A Sunday had been announced for Autumn Stampex 2007, so it would be advisable to check any diary entry that you may have made. Autumn Stampex will be held at the usual venue, the Business Design Centre •



The Royal Mail stand on the Village Green at Spring Stampex.

NPS Library The library of the National Philatelic Society moved into its new premises at the British Postal Museum and Archive (BPMA) at the end of March, and re-opened a couple of weeks later on Saturday 14 April. This exciting move of premises has been made possible thanks to the generosity and support of Royal Mail and the BPMA who have made valuable space available in their Search Room and behind the scenes within Mount Pleasant. NPS Treasurer Simon Richards has also kindly housed the overspill material that is rarely consulted at his premises.

The move had been a huge undertaking that involved hundreds of hours of time by the team of Library volunteers, dozens of trips to London, hundreds of e-mails and telephone calls, and all so that collectors can enjoy one of the world's finest philatelic libraries. You can best show your appreciation by using the excellent resources now at your disposal, and *Bulletin* readers especially may be interested to know that the Great Britain section is on open shelves and that no appointment is necessary to view these holdings, although only NPS members can borrow material, of course.

Anyone with a love of the hobby will gain something by using the NPSL – you do not need to be researching deeply into a subject – and you can now also view NPSL records alongside those held by the BPMA, who, as custodians for the National Archives POST series of documents, has amazing material going back to the 1600s •

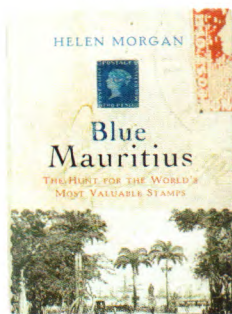
Spelling errors Austria recently issued a triangular stamp in preparation for its next international stamp exhibition with the name of the country spelled incorrectly. There were three 'R's next to each other (ÖSTERRRREICH) and no-one detected this until a dealer, Hermann Walter Sieger, spotted it. Sensibly, the stamps were not recalled as every stamp printed bore the error and not just, say, one in each sheet. This is not something that Britain will ever have a problem with, so long as the UPU agrees that we may exclude the country name from British stamps in recognition of the UK issuing the world's first stamp.

I can recall a couple of British problems with mis-spellings on a stamp card (1998 20p 'Tolkein' for 'Tolkien') and one presentation pack (1970 Anniversaries 'Majorie' for 'Marjorie'), but believe that we have no spelling

Enquiries NPSL, c/o BPMA, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL. Telephone +44 (0)20 7239 2571, e-mail nps@ukphilately.org.uk or see www.ukphilately.org.uk/nps

errors on our postage stamps. It is quite an achievement to have a 167-year unblemished record and demonstrates the lengths that Royal Mail goes to when producing a stamp issue. Unless you know differently...

Before anyone writes in to advise me of 'wrong face values on stamps, these are not errors but changes in tariff rates that somehow got onto the philatelic market. Similarly, most other text-related errors (missing © symbol, missing £ sign on the recent DLR £2 stamp, etc), are invariably found on just a single stamp in a sheet and are a stamp printing production mistake and have nothing to do with Royal Mail's thorough checking and approval of the final artwork prior to releasing it to the printer ●



Blue Mauritius is published by Atlantic Books. ISBN 184354 435 0. Price £17.99 hardback. 332 pages, 22 illustrations.

Book review Sub-titled 'The hunt for the world's most valuable stamps', *Blue Mauritius* is the biography of the world's most famous and expensive stamps – the 1847 'Post Office' stamps of Mauritius. The story of how these stamps came about is well-known to most collectors and dates back to September 1847 when admission cards to a fancy-dress ball hosted by the Governor's wife were despatched. Three of these envelopes survive and each is now worth in excess of a million dollars. The book, by Helen Morgan, tells the fascinating story behind the stamps in 234 pages, and then goes on to include a postscript, glossaries, biographies, notes and sources, bibliography, acknowledgements and an extensive index amounting to another 100 pages. The author (no relation to me) trained as an art historian and archivist and lives in Australia with her Mauritian husband. This, her first book, was written because she was intrigued by the story of the French schoolboy and the Bordeaux letter and imagined his delight reading of the stamps' rarity and value, astutely searching through the archived correspondence of the French wine importing firm and discovering the 'Post Office' stamps. Helen does not consider herself to be a stamp collector, but there is hope as she intends collecting Mauritius and Botswana one day!

Enquiries: visit www.helenmorgan.net and www.groeatlantic.co.uk for details about the author and publisher respectively. There is a *Blue Mauritius* Research Companion website at www.helenmorgan.net/bm/home.html where biographical and bibliographical information about the Post Office Mauritius stamps and subjects related to them can be found ●



Barrie Jay

Obituary Professor Barrie Samuel Jay, a noted authority on London and military postal history, died in March. Born in 1929, he was a distinguished ophthalmic surgeon, educated at Cambridge, and Consultant Surgeon at Moorfields Eye Hospital in London 1969-92. He was Secretary and Vice President of the Royal Philatelic Society London, becoming President 1993-2000. He gave the Stuart Rossiter Lecture in 1995, and exhibited at the Rare Stamps of the World Exhibition, London 1997; the same year he was awarded the Silver Mailcoach trophy at Autumn Stampex. His published works included *The Postal History of Great Britain and Ireland* (with R M Willcocks, 2nd edn, 1981); *The British County Catalogue of Postal History* (ed with R M Willcocks, 5 vols.); and *Early Forces Mail* (1997). A profile of Professor Jay, by Richard West, was published here in June 2005 ●

Major Richard Pratt FRPSL Further to the brief *Late News* item in the April *Bulletin*, I can advise that around 50 people attended Dickie's funeral which was held on 7 March at the Royal Garrison Church of All Saints in Aldershot, the home of the British Army. The split was roughly 50/50 between philately and the Army Swimming Union, his two great loves in life outside of military service. Sadly he had no living family to represent him. He was cremated at a private committal immediately after the funeral service at Aldershot Crematorium.

Dickie, a graduate of the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst, saw distinguished military service in Aden, the Middle East, the Far East and the Falklands where he was Purser on board the *Uganda*. (On 13 April 1982 this vessel was hastily called-up to help out in the Falklands Crisis. She was converted in six days at Gibraltar into a hospital ship, and sailed with the Task Force.) Upon his return he served tours of duty in Northern Ireland, and retired from the Army in 1987.

Francis Kiddle RDP FRPSL spoke on behalf of the hobby, recording contributions in the form of Dickie's extensive involvement with exhibition organising, his writing (important works on Aden and three volumes on China, the third of which is due for publication) and his Presidency of the National Philatelic Society, a position he held at the time of his death.

I first met Dickie at Philymphia in 1970 when he bellowed loudly at me for having entered an area where an exhibit frame was being re-glazed! I was just 14 and Dickie a mere 38. He died on 17 February and will be sadly missed by his many friends in the swimming and philatelic fraternities. It was a privilege to have known Dickie and to have been at his funeral •



Major Richard Pratt FRPSL

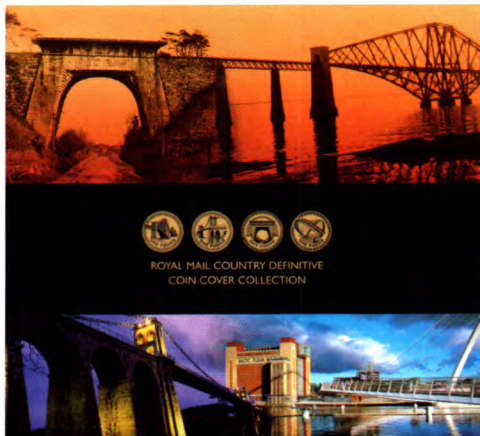
Late news A copy of a CD-ROM catalogue designed to run on PCs, relating to British advertising booklet panes has just been received. It will be reviewed in Stamp Scene next month. It is by Graham M Wilson and its full title is 'An illustrated guide to the advertising booklet panes of George v, Edward VIII and George VI'. The guide contains illustrations of the different panes, which number more than 200 and will prove of immense interest and value to collectors of these often-rare items •

Orders Price £10 (including postage). Send a cheque payable to Graham M Wilson to: Advert Pane Catalogue, Bulls Head Barn, Honeyholme Lane, Cliviger, Burnley BB10 4SR.

Prize draw Coin Covers set

FOR THIS MONTH'S PRIZE DRAW we have a set of the four Country Coin Covers (Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and England) as the main prize for the sender of the first card to be drawn on 31 May. Five runners up will be sent a Celebrating England miniature sheet. To enter, simply write your name and address on the back of a postcard and send it to: Coin Covers Draw, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London

EC1V 9HQ •



Royal Mail news New issues and products



This page: the reverse design of the medal in the two covers shown opposite, by Arnold Machin's son Francis (above); coin and stamp presentation set (below); commemorative document (bottom), with the silver stamp contained within it (shown at actual size).

40th anniversary of the Machin The Machin definitive started life in June 1967 with the issue of 4d, 1s and 199d stamps. Few would have then imagined that the design would still be in use 40 years later and the vast range of values, colours and printing variations that now exist. The Machin has been studied exhaustively by collectors worldwide, there are Machin study groups, a range of publications, and specialist dealers – almost a little Machin industry.

To mark the 40th anniversary, Royal Mail is issuing the £1 definitive in an anniversary ruby colour, a miniature sheet and prestige book and a range of other products, some of which will interest coin as well as stamp collectors. It should be remembered that Machin produced the head of The Queen used on the first decimal coinage (1968-84); it was his work on the coinage that led to Machin being commissioned to produce a suitable head for the new definitive stamps. The anniversary is being commemorated by the British Postal Museum and Archive with exhibitions and an authoritative book, *A Timeless Classic*, written by Douglas Muir. ►

1962
1 APRIL 1962 DECIMAL COINAGE COMING INTO BEING
1 APRIL 1962 COINAGE COMING INTO BEING
1 APRIL 1962 COINAGE COMING INTO BEING

1963
29 JANUARY 1963 REVERSE OF MACHIN COINAGE
29 JANUARY 1963 REVERSE OF MACHIN COINAGE
29 JANUARY 1963 REVERSE OF MACHIN COINAGE

1964
EARLY LONDON'S FIRST POSTAGE OF MACHIN COINAGE
29 APRIL 1964 REVERSE OF MACHIN COINAGE
29 APRIL 1964 REVERSE OF MACHIN COINAGE

Machin definitives have been produced by 7 different printers employing 5 different techniques. Bradbury Wilkinson (intaglio), De La Rue (intaglio, gravure, letterpress), Enschiede (gravure), Hammons (gravure), Waddington (litho), Wallis (gravure, litho, embossed), Questa (gravure, litho).

It has appeared on stamps from 16 places around the world. Antigua, Ascension Island, Bahamas, Barbuda, Bermuda, British Antarctic Territory, British Indian Ocean Territory, Cayman Islands, Fiji, Gilbert Islands, Gibraltar, Guernsey, Hong Kong, Isle of Man, Norfolk Island, Solomon Islands.

Collectors recognise some 400 basic types (without simple phosphor variations) and there are more than 2000 variations in all.

The rarest Machin definitive is priced at more than 25,000 times its face value, and in 1968, a philatelist was fined £30,000 for forging prime examples.



Since 1967, at least 200 billion stamps bearing the Machin Head have been reproduced in more than 100 different colours, and production is still in full spate.

The Machin Head has been adapted for use on at least 8 types of British stationery: Airmail, air mail, envelopes, letter cards, postcards, priority service, envelopes, registered envelopes, reply postcards.



THE COLOURFUL ART OF ARNOLD MACHIN

BY DOUGLAS MUIR

THE COLOURFUL ART OF ARNOLD MACHIN

THE COLOURFUL ART OF ARNOLD MACHIN

THE ICONIC ART OF ARNOLD MACHIN

CELEBRATING FORTY YEARS OF STAMP DESIGN



№ 11111



This page: stamp medal cover (left); coin medal cover (above, on sale June 2008); and retail book (bottom).

The Machin effigy was used on coins struck in 5 different metals. Gold, Silver, Nickel-brass, Cupro-nickel, Bronze.

Over 16 million coins bearing the effigy were struck in the UK.

3,528,008,250 halfpennies
4,907,875,875 pennies
3,102,637,250 tuppences
1,129,833,250 five pence pieces
1,768,538,250 ten pence pieces
964,628,965 twenty pence pieces
798,829,404 fifty pence pieces
589,310,011 one pound coins

It also appeared on coins minted overseas in 33 different places across the globe.

Ascension, Island Australia, Bahamas, Belize, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Canada, Cayman Islands, Cook Islands, Dominica, East Caribbean States, Falkland Islands, Fiji, Gambia, Gibraltar, Guernsey, Hong Kong, Isle of Man, Jersey, Lesotho, Mauritius, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Rhodesia, Saint Helena, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, Swaziland, Tokelau, Tristan da Cunha, Turks and Caicos Islands, Tuvalu



MACHIN FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY

Arnold Machin is remembered as the creator of the iconic image of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth that has, since 1967, appeared on more than 175 billion Royal Mail stamps. He was also a skilful sculptor, illustrator and ceramics designer.

Discover more about
Royal Mail Special Stamps
at royalmail.com/stamps



ARNOLD MACKIN 1911-1999



Answer Machine

Machin Anniversary products price list See also p267

Miniature sheet (see February Bulletin p175)	£ 2.68
Retail book 6 x 1st class (left)	£ 2.04
Medal cover (this page, top)	£14.50
Coin & Stamp presentation set (above)	£24.95
Commemorative Document (opposite page)	£48.00
Collectors Pack (not shown)	£ 8.90
Pin badge (not shown)	£22.95
Commemorative Medallion (not shown)	£89.95

THE MACHIN DEFINITIVES



FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY

THE MACHIN DEFINITIVES



FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY

THE MACHIN DEFINITIVES



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FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY

Arnold Machin is remembered as the creator of the iconic image of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth that has, since 1967, appeared on more than 175 billion Royal Mail stamps. He was also an accomplished sculptor, tutor and ceramics designer.



"The most familiar piece of 20th century British sculpture is, without doubt, the beautifully chiselled head of the Queen on the postage stamps. Many people would be unable to name the artist who produced these archetypal images. The bas-relief on the stamps is so right that we take it for granted, as if it had come about automatically. Such are the artistic good manners of the sculptor that we do not even notice the 'style' in which the stamps are made. They are truly classical works of art. Had the Romans used postage stamps, they would have undoubtedly wanted ones which resembled our own – austere, authoritative, perfect."

Thus wrote AN Wilson in the *Daily Telegraph* in 2001 at the time of the Royal Academy retrospective exhibition which took place in the schools where Machin had spent many years teaching.

Throughout his life Machin developed a breadth of knowledge in art, sculpture, mechanical matters and construction (always inquisitive). He was dedicated to teaching others and enjoyed imparting this knowledge to his showing interest. A very patient instructor, he grasped what knowledge his student possessed, and would help him develop in his own way, never trying to influence him or deter him from his own course of learning, but to impress upon him the need to seek further for some deeper truth – a rare ability.

Although considered traditional, he was not afraid of new expression, and much of his work was contemporary in its expression of the materials, techniques and circumstances of the time. His *Turn* bull, designed for Wedgwood, was a classic of its time, appropriate for manufacture during wartime conditions, expressive of power and

determination, and carrying the symbolism of life and eternity in the signs of the zodiac – in a way expressive of his own personality. He had enormous energy, drive, and determination. He had a natural gift for creating, and quickly produced an initial sanding effect, but his constant search for perfection, often to the exasperation of those around him, took his work beyond the ordinary. In his memory he wrote: "I must have been born with a pencil in my hand for I was drawing from the very earliest days and I used to sit on a little stool, made by father, using his armchair as a work table. The entire family would sit themselves to provide me with books, pencils, watercolours, scraps of paper and wrapping paper with which to work."



A life-modelling class, he left, at the Royal College of Art, 1947-1949. Machin, behind the model, was a 1950s model scholarship in sculpture, under Professor Richard Gough, at the Victoria and Albert Museum. 1949. The day of Machin's acceptance to be taught by the Tate Gallery, June 1949, when, on his arrival, and, before Machin, working on a portrait of his wife Patricia at Tate, Villa, Stoke-on-Trent, 1951, with his son Francis in the background.



Royal Mail®

The Machin generic sheet will differ from the reproduction in February's *Bulletin*: 1/2d to 10s stamps will bear defacement marks, as shown above, and the £1 will not show a value.



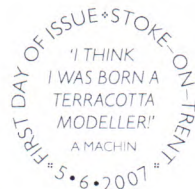
Arnold Machin, the Master of Sculpture at the Royal Academy Schools during the 1960s

Machin Anniversary products price list continued

Presentation pack (opposite page, bottom)	£ 3.20
Generic sheet (opposite, far left)	£ 7.35
Miniature sheet press sheet (opposite, top)	£43.45
Prestige book (see February Bulletin p177)	£ 7.66
Royal Mail Definitives/Universal album pages	£15.99
A Timeless Classic book	£19.95

Left: a pane from *The Machin: the Making of a Master-piece* prestige stamp book. Below: Stoke postmark.

Stoke postmark There will be an additional pictorial First Day of Issue postmark for the Machin miniature sheet and prestige book pane – for Stoke on Trent, where Arnold Machin was born in 1911. Covers bearing this postmark will not be sent automatically to FDC customers, and you should order from Tallents House by the day of issue, 5 June. Price £3.63 UK/£3.09 overseas with miniature sheet or £2.78/£2.37 with PSB pane. Covers for the Stoke postmark can be submitted to any Royal Mail Special Handstamp Centre, requesting postmark FDO739 •



Forthcoming issues 8 May: Beside the Seaside stamp cards. 15 May: Beside the Seaside stamps and presentation pack. 17 May: Wembley Stadium miniature sheet and 'Memories of Wembley Stadium' generic sheet. 25 May: Country coin covers (Scotland, Wales, N Ireland, England) set folder. 29 May: Machin Anniversary stamp cards (3 cards – 2 special stamps and miniature sheet). 5 June: £1 definitive, ruby colour. 5 June: stamp books (standard pre-PIP Machin design, with PIP information printed on covers) – 6 × 1st (£2.04), 12 × 1st (£4.08), 12 × 2nd (£2.88). 5 June: business sheets – 100 × 1st (£34), 100 × 2nd (£24) with pre-PIP stamps and PIP header to sheet. 5 June: definitive – 2nd in pre-PIP design, sheets of 200, printed by De La Rue (previously Walsall). 19 June: stamp ingot – 1937 George VI Coronation stamp (£27.95). 26 June: Grand Prix stamp cards. 3 July: Grand Prix stamps, presentation pack, and Brooklands medal cover (£14.95). 19 July: Scouts stamp cards. 26 July: Scouts stamps, presentation pack and coin cover (£15.50). 28 August Birds: (Action for Species no 1) stamp cards (£3 set). 4 September: Birds (Action for Species no 1) stamps – 10 × 1st class (£3.40 set). 20 September: British Army Uniforms – 3 × 1st class, 3 × 78p. Details next month •

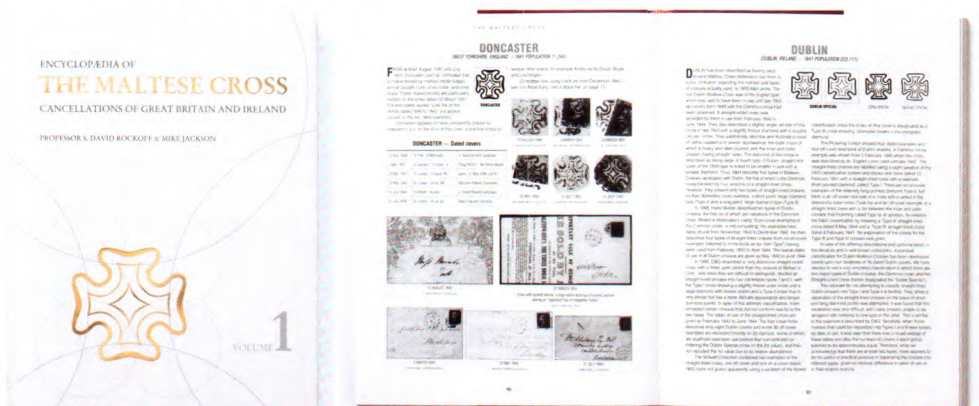


£1 definitive in ruby colour, to be issued 5 June.

Bulletin back issue service Maynard Davies, who runs a service to provide back issues of the *Bulletin*, now wishes to hand over this role. It is not a time-consuming task, and anyone interested in taking it over should contact him by 10 May. He has a large stock of back issues to pass on to his successor •

Bulletin back issue service
Telephone Maynard Davies
on 01789 459292 or 07967 275592.

Book review An important new study of the Maltese Cross



The Encyclopædia of the Maltese Cross Cancellations of Great Britain and Ireland Volume 1, by Professor S David Rockoff and Mike Jackson, is a handsome book. It begins by establishing the characteristics of the 'common cross' in order to be able to describe accurately the distinctive nature of some of the marks; and a clear division is made between unique 'specials', crosses that are not unique but characteristic of a group of towns, those that are the product of damaged, degraded or dirty hand-stamps, poor strikes or non-standard inking, and crosses that are of interest and value to collectors by their rarity. The examples included are of real photographs as well as line drawings, which by themselves can be misleading.

Before the main listing is an introduction covering the background of postal reform, the issue of the first stamps and obliterations, and the Post Office's desire to prevent the fraudulent re-use of the new stamps. There is an examination of the shape of the Maltese Cross, which concludes that it is wrongly named, being more like a blend of a Tudor Rose and a croix pattée. The history of the Maltese Cross postmarks and the issue of the obliterations follows, with the trials concerning ink removal during 1840, and the testing and eventual issue to postmasters of a standard black ink. Examples are listed of its unofficial early use.

The common Maltese Cross is carefully analysed as to its three basic components – the outer cross, inner cross and central diamond – and the

variation of size, thickness, concavity, bulges and loops; and the single surviving obliterator (from Wangford, in Suffolk) is examined. The authors go on to consider variations which may be due to multiple master patterns, differences in finishing; variations due to striking, inking and wear; and thick-lined marks due to worn obliterations being resurfaced or ground down.

The main part of the book consists of a well-illustrated town-by-town list, with descriptions and discussions of the evidence, with extended space devoted to the larger offices. The Channel Islands have a special article as does London with its numbered crosses used in the Inland Section. Much consideration is given to the possible effect of variation in the manufacture, wear, distortion, damage, uneven impressions, retained debris and watery ink before admitting that some offices had more than one obliterator, and that some impressions or groups of impressions are genuinely different. 'Special' status is given to Maltese Crosses from only 13 offices.

This well-produced and important book takes the study of Maltese Cross postmarks on a further stage, and postal historians, especially devotees of postmarks of the Victorian era, will find it essential reading. **• Martin Robinson**

Price £65. Postage UK £7, Europe £8.50 (air), rest of world £15.50 (surface £8). Available from Mike Jackson Publications, 3 Cottesmore Avenue, Melton Mowbray, Leics LE13 0HY. Telephone 01664 859199, email mike@mjpublications.com, website www.mjpublications.com

Philately online Ron Negus revisits the Royal Mail website

www.royalmail.com/portal/stamps/home An e-mail service is available that provides regular information about Royal Mail products. Details of how to register for this are included in the 'Stamps & Collectibles' site described below.

A tab with the legend 'Giving stamps' reveals a page with another three articles. Philatelic items sold by Royal Mail, and suitable as gifts for collectors, are described in the first of these. Then some ideas are listed that adults can adapt as a way of introducing children to the hobby. Finally, a descriptive piece about Smilers stamps concludes this section.

The next tab is called 'Advanced collector' and is described as bringing into focus stories behind the stamp issues – news, history and – thanks to a comment area – plenty of debate as well. Written with the serious collectors in mind, this section includes the 'Specialist', which tackles an issue on which collectors can give their own feedback. The topic under discussion, when I viewed the site, was whether the introduction of innovative production processes on GB stamps, such as holograms, was a gimmick or was fulfilling a genuine demand. Also in this part of the site are two other background articles – one on the Royal Philatelic Collection, and the other an introduction to Astronomy as a thematic subject.

A final tab bears the words 'How to buy'. The page that is connected to this heading provides a link to the Royal Mail online shop, and also describes the various ways in which users can place an order for stamp products.

A facility is provided on the site for users to maintain an individual record of their transactions with Royal Mail, which are protected by a password. This section, called 'My profile', keeps information such as full name and address, payment details and order history. These facts are useful for collectors who make regular purchases from Royal Mail and avoid them having to repeat basic data each time a new order is placed.

This website is obviously of interest to all GB collectors. Regular return visits are recommended, however, as the content will alter as the year progresses, and new stamps appear ●

WHEN I reviewed Royal Mail's website in March 2002, it had a significant emphasis on the Millennium issues. Since then, the site (address above) has been given a new design.

A revised page layout now contains six navigation tabs along the top allowing a user to select the prime areas covered. The first two are entitled 'Latest stamps' and 'Future stamps'. Selecting the first of these changes the screen to display pictures and text about the most recent GB issue. The text gives the basic facts about the design. A page that provides full details of the issue, including complete production data, supplements this.

At the time of writing, the current issue was the Sea Life set. As well as the content listed above, there were also articles about marine animals, a holiday promotion to Sea World in Florida, and information about 11 sea life attractions around the UK. These articles will obviously change with the different new issues as they arise. The 'Future Stamps' tab gave background on the next three stamp sets in Royal Mail's stamp programme.

The third tab on the home page is titled 'New to stamps'. Selecting this reveals three short articles. The first is a brief history of GB stamps from the Penny Black onward that would be instructive to an absolute beginner. The second, entitled Starting Up, explains the basic facts about stamp collecting, such as the use of catalogues, how to handle and store stamps, etc. In the third article, Michael Sefi, the Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection, describes how he came to take up the hobby and how his interest developed.

Birds The first set in Royal Mail's new series



Technical details

Printer De La Rue

Process Litho

Stamp size 35mm square

Sheets 30 and 60

Perforation 14.5 x 14.5

Phosphor Two bands

Gum PVA

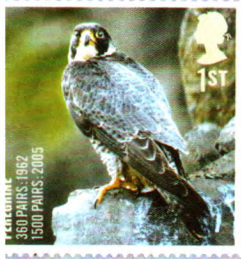
Gutter pairs Vertical

ISSUED on 4 September, Birds is the first in our new series entitled 'Action for Species'. As the name implies, this series will focus on rare and endangered species in the UK for which action is being undertaken to conserve them. Each of the birds in the block of ten stamps is enjoying a recovery in numbers, and the captions on the stamps demonstrate this increase.

The birds featured are: White-tailed Eagle, Bearded Tit, Red Kite, Cirl Bunting, Marsh Harrier, Avocet, Bittern, Dartford Warbler, Corncrake, and Peregrine. The stamps were designed by Kate Stephens, who previously designed the popular Woodland Animals set. Photography is by Mark Hamblin, Ernie Janes, Richard Brooks, Mike Lane, Duncan Usher, Erwin van Laar, Alan Williams, Robert Smith and Simon King.

A fully-illustrated presentation pack accompanies the stamp issue. In it, the well-known naturalist and wildlife film maker Tony Soper explains the importance of nature reserves and habitat management in the recovery of many of the species celebrated in the stamps, as well as the RSPB's role in conservation. A particular success of this conservation organisation has been the luring back of the avocet through the creation of ideal wetland habitats for this wader at the RSPB's Minsmere reserve in East Anglia. Having been extinct in the UK for a century, it is now increasing in numbers (and is also the species on the RSPB's logo). Information about each of the ten birds is also featured in the pack. Serviced First Day Covers (Tallents House or Dartford postmark) are also available. Orders must be received by the date of issue. Covers for the first day postmarks must be sent to Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH21 9PB (Tallents House postmark) or your nearest Special Handstamp Centre (Dartford postmark). See *British Postmark Bulletin* for details of sponsored handstamps. A set of stamp cards are also available •

of stamps on the conservation of UK species



Birds prices

Set of stamps	£3.40
Presentation pack	£3.90
FDC envelope	£0.30
Serviced FDC (UK customers)	£4.47
Serviced FDC (overseas customers)	£3.81
Stamp card set	£3.00

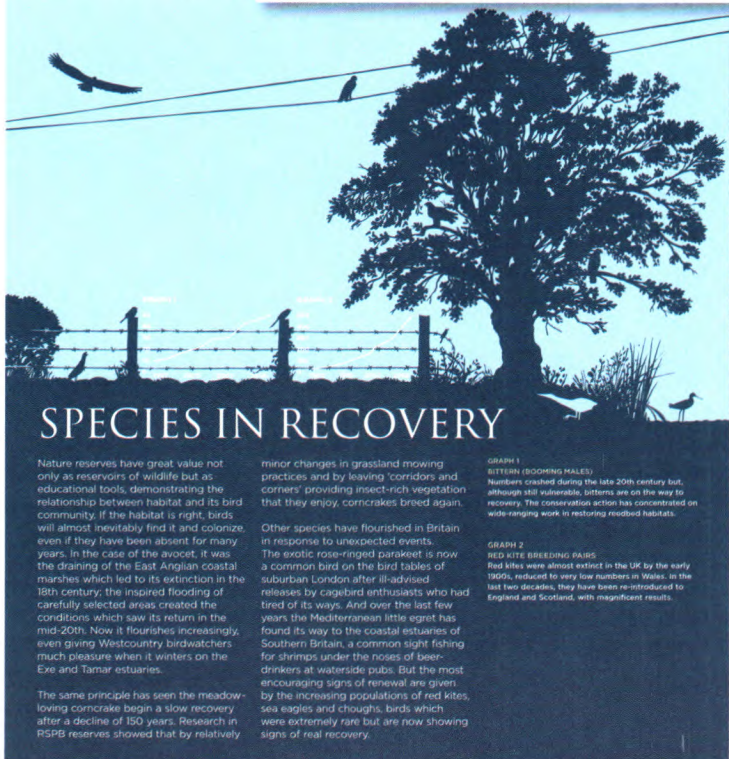


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BIRDS DEPEND ON THE EXISTENCE OF THE BRITISH LANDSCAPE IS FARMED FOR BENEFITS FROM THE SYMPATHETIC ATTITUDE AND EVEN OUR HOUSES AS MINI-RESERVE

UK SPECIES IN RECOVERY

ROYAL MAIL TALLENTS HOUSE ST. JAMES'S PLACE, EDINBURGH EH1 1BB



SPECIES IN RECOVERY

Nature reserves have great value not only as reservoirs of wildlife but as educational tools, demonstrating the relationship between habitat and its bird community. If the habitat is right, birds will almost inevitably find it and colonize, even if they have been absent for many years. In the case of the avocet, it was the draining of the East Anglian coastal marshes which led to its extinction in the 18th century; the inspired flooding of carefully selected areas created the conditions which saw its return in the mid-20th. Now it flourishes increasingly, even giving Westcountry birdwatchers much pleasure when it winters on the Exe and Tamar estuaries.

The same principle has seen the meadow-loving corncrake begin a slow recovery after a decline of 150 years. Research in RSPB reserves showed that by relatively

minor changes in grassland mowing practices and by leaving 'corridors and corners' providing insect-rich vegetation that they enjoy, corncrakes breed again.

Other species have flourished in Britain in response to unexpected events. The exotic rose-ringed parakeet is now a common bird on the bird tables of suburban London after ill-advised releases by cagebird enthusiasts who had tired of its ways. And over the last few years the Mediterranean little egret has found its way to the coastal estuaries of Southern Britain, a common sight fishing for shrimps under the noses of beer-drinkers at waterside pubs. But the most encouraging signs of renewal are given by the increasing populations of red kites, sea eagles and choughs, birds which were extremely rare but are now showing signs of real recovery.

GRAPH 1
BITTERN (BOOMING MALES)
Numbers crashed during the late 20th century but, although still vulnerable, bottom are on the way to recovery. The conservation action has concentrated on wide-ranging work in restoring reedbed habitats.

GRAPH 2
RED KITE BREEDING PAIRS
Red kites were almost extinct in the UK by the early 1900s, reduced to very low numbers in Wales. In the last two decades, they have been reintroduced to England and Scotland, with magnificent results.

The first day cover envelope (above) and filler card, and the presentation pack (left) were designed by hat-trick design.

Beside the Seaside The new issue on sale



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Royal Mail "Salmon House" 27 South Eye Crescent Edinburgh EH11 1BB

BESIDE THE SEASIDE stamps go on sale on 15 May (see January *Bulletin*). The main previous special issue on this theme was the seaside postcard set of 1994, issued for the centenary of the picture postcard. The stamps featured holidaymakers on a beach, the 19p design against a background showing Blackpool Tower. Punch & Judy shows, a popular seaside entertainment, were commemorated with stamps in 2001, and Mr Punch also featured on greetings stamps in 1990 and 1991, and on a £1 stamp book

cover in 1991. A seaside bucket and spade featured on one of the 1992 greetings stamps, and Newquay's sandy beach can be seen on one of the 2002 Coastlines stamps. The depiction of the comedians Les Dawson, Tommy Cooper, and Eric Morecambe on stamps of 1998 may remind many collectors of the seaside 'end of pier' shows. The sending and receiving of postcards was an annual tradition valued by many holidaymakers; special holiday postcard stamp books were issued 1963-64 and 1982 •

Beside the Seaside

Royal Mail First Day Cover

this month suggests a theme for a collection



Treasures of the BPMA Martin Robinson looks at designs for the first King George VI stamps, issued 70 years ago

LOOKING AT THE MATERIAL held by the British Postal Museum and Archive relating to the first stamps of King George VI, issued in May 1937, one comes to the conclusion that it holds enough stories to fill several of these articles. The period between the abdication of Edward VIII in December 1936 and the coronation of 12 May 1937, when his younger brother would take his place, was filled with intense, if not frenzied, activity on the part of the Post Office and its designers, printer (Harrison's) and advisory bodies.

The main problem was the short timescale and the need to develop new designs from scratch after the abandonment of the work done for the projected Edward VIII coronation issue. Another was a sharp division of views between the new King, who thought that projected designs showing his brother's head prepared by Eric Gill were too plain, and wanted a fresh design with some ornamentation in it, and Gill, who thought there should be 'no ornament except such as is strictly required'. A third was the lack of an acceptable effigy of the King: various photographs were considered and rejected, and the Royal Mint supplied photos of the plaster models produced by Humphrey Paget for use on coinage. The effigy eventually preferred was a relief portrait drawn by Edmund Dulac, which even his erstwhile adversary Gill believed was 'much superior to using a photograph of a plaster cast'.

As for the rest of the design, some sort of compromise was inevitable, and following dozens of submissions, both invited and uninvited, and the involvement of Gill, Dulac, the Stamp Committee of the Council for Art in Industry and the Royal Fine Art Commission, the recommended version consisted of the crowned head, the value in a circle below, POSTAGE and REVENUE at the sides and the four national floral emblems (rose, thistle, daffodil and a shamrock) in the corners. Every part of the design was argued over in the smallest detail, and artwork was revised time and again until satisfactory essays were produced and

the King was then asked to express a preference between designs by Dulac and Gill; he approved a version with Dulac's head and Gill's frame.

This design, with a light head on a dark background, was used for the lower values issued on 10 May 1937 (1/2d, 1d, 2 1/2d), 30 July 1937 (1 1/2d) and 31 January 1938 (2d, 3d). A very similar design but with a dark head on a light background was used for the 4d and 5d stamps issued on 21 November 1938 and the 6d on 31 January 1939. These stamps were generally well received, with some reservations about the 'washed-out' colours of the 4d, 5d and 6d and, in a typically favourable comment the *Glasgow Herald* said 'it certainly makes a pleasant change both from the rather dismally photographic effect of the Edward VIII stamps and from the tastelessly fussy elaboration that marked those of King George V'. A different design of Dulac's, using a hexagonal frame, was used for the higher values issued on 27 February 1939 (7d, 8d) and 1 May 1939 (9d, 10d and 1s). This was also well received, without any of the controversy caused by the Edward VIII issues in 1936. The 11d value was to be issued later, on 29 December 1947.

The first three stamps were issued two days before the coronation, but the 1 1/2d, the most-used value, was held back until July because it had been decided to issue a single commemorative coronation stamp in that denomination on 13 May, the day following the coronation; there was insufficient time to produce a set of stamps. Both Gill and Dulac were asked to submit designs, and the King chose Dulac's, subject to a few minor modifications. There was some experimentation to achieve the desired rich deep brown colour; the addition of some violet to the brown ink gave the best result, which Harrison's called 'plum brown' rather than Gibbons' 'maroon'. The stamps were generally well received and popular. They remained on sale until 2 October (at London Chief Office until the end of the year) by which time almost 389 million had been sold ●



BPMA holds artwork and essays for these issues. Correspondence and minutes are in files 33/5577 (Edward VIII and George VI postage stamps, general papers), 52/0992 (George VI issue ½d-3d and Coronation 1½d) and 52/0993 (George VI issue, 4d-1s).

Giles Allen's *George VI Definitives: Low Values 1936-39* and Alan Griffiths' *Special Stamp History 4: Coronation of King George VI*, both published by BPMA, are required reading.



Essays above, from top: 24 February by Mark Severin; 24 February rectangular design from Edward VIII Coronation by Gill; 18 March Edmund Dulac accepted design approved by the King; 19 March Dulac's accepted design; and 20 March rejected design by Gill. Right: 20 March rejected design by Gill.

Essays above, from top: 24 February Eric Carr; 24 February Gill; and three 19 March essays of Dulac's accepted design, showing variations of colour. Centre: top, plaster cast of Humphrey Paget's portrait for use on coinage, as supplied by the Royal Mint; below, cast of the relief portrait by Dulac.

Eminent collectors W G Stitt Dibden, by Ron Negus

WILLIAM George Stitt Dibden was known to friends and associates as either Bill or Stitt. He was acknowledged universally as one of the leading students of British postal history, and wrote numbers of booklets and articles on his chosen speciality.

He joined the Postal History Society in 1954, was soon elected to their Council and, ten years later, became Vice-Chairman. Each year, the postal historians held a conference in different parts of the UK, and a feature at each was the production of a commemorative postcard. Bill designed many of these.

His own collection covered the period from the year 1400 onwards, and filled no fewer than 200 albums. From this vast accumulation, Bill was always willing to give displays that were a delight to attend. He gave them regularly to Postal History Society members at their meeting room in the Shaftesbury Hotel in London, where he showed some of the unusual items he had found during his researches, weaving them into a fascinating story enlivened by his keen sense of humour.

As a research student, Bill was a regular visitor to the GPO Records Room and the Bruce Castle Museum. From both sources, he located copies of many significant official documents and was able to pass on his findings through some 300 articles and handbooks. Many collectors of British postal history say that their enthusiasm for the subject began with something written by Stitt Dibden.

At his suggestion, the Postal History Society began to publish a series of monographs. This was a long time before desktop publishing and to keep costs down these monographs were produced by stencil duplicating. Some criticised this, and said the quality of the contents deserved a printed work. Bill explained the choice was not between duplicated or printed books, but between duplicated ones or none, saying 'I would rather the results of research be available on paper for all to purchase than for them never to be seen at all'. This sentiment was echoed when fellow students of postal history challenged him for document-



ing controversial research findings. His response was: 'No one can know the whole truth about any particular subject and it is far better to publish what one knows, even if it is incomplete and provokes controversy, than not to publish at all.'

Bill was also the founder secretary of the Wembley & District Philatelic Society, in 1953. He built this into a thriving society, and in 1954 wrote a book entitled *Wembley and the Posts*. This related the area's postal history and gave a comprehensive study of the British Empire Exhibition stamps and cancellations of 1924-25.

To earn his living, Bill worked as a Youth Officer for both Wembley and Tottenham local councils, and in 1960 he moved to Leicester to take up a similar post. Sadly, soon afterwards he suffered ill-health, and was often in hospital; illness prevailed, and he died on 6 October 1966, aged 50.

In an appreciation, his friend Bill Newport, then Assistant Editor of *Stamp Collecting*, wrote: 'It can truly be said that in the past decade nobody has done more to popularise postal history than Bill Dibden.' Fellow postal historian William Piggott said 'Gone from our midst is not only one of the leading postal historians of our time but also a very pleasing personality who, ever cheerful even in adversity, appealed to all who sought his advice or had the good fortune to meet him.'

Bill Dibden's legacy is in his many articles, and his Postal History Society Special Publications series which includes: *The Newspaper Branch Killers* (1951); *London Date Stamp Codes* (1958); *The Post Office 1635-1720* (1960); *A Priced Catalogue of British Exhibition Postmarks* (1962); *The Additional Half-penny Mail Tax 1813-1839* (1963); *Postage Rates HM Forces 1795-1899* (1963); *Squared Circle Postmarks* (1964); *Ralph Allen's Oven Narrative 1720-1899* (1964); *Early Stamp Machines* (1965); *400 Years of Anglo-Dutch Mail* (1965); *The Mail Routes to the West Indies* (1966); *Leicester and the Posts* (1966). After his death, the Great Britain Philatelic Society published two studies he had written for them on 'Late Fee' and 'Too Late' stamps ●

Off with her head! Part 2 of Douglas Muir's series adapted from his forthcoming book

FOLLOWING his meeting with The Queen, Tony Benn's letter to her, dated 12 March 1965, was addressed in deferential terms. He was 'delighted, and not at all surprised' to learn that there was no ban on submitting new ideas. He felt that the

first step was to seek the views of designers themselves. New techniques and treatments could then be submitted to The Queen for consideration. He wanted to be able to announce this by a parliamentary answer in these terms: 'Her Majesty has graciously consented to consider for approval new designs, both traditional and non-traditional, for new definitive, commemorative and pictorial series. Designers will therefore, in future, be invited to submit any designs they wish and these will go to the Stamp Advisory Committee for transmission for Her Majesty's consideration and approval in the normal way. Her Majesty has also consented to the use of a new profile photograph for use in the new definitive series'.

A letter came back the same day from The Queen's private secretary, Sir Michael Adeane. He wrote, at her command, to say she was grateful to him for explaining the position. The Queen agreed to the terms of Benn's statement. However, there was a gentle, added warning which Benn was to misinterpret or ignore. 'She hopes that you – like herself – will keep an open mind as to whether her effigy should invariably appear on commemorative and pictorial stamps, in accordance with tradition, or whether it might be more appropriate in some cases to replace it by an emblem of sovereignty such as the crown or her own cipher. This question can, no doubt, be considered when the album of new designs is ready for inspection.'

The next day, Saturday 13 March, David Gentleman and his wife Rosalind Dease came to tea with Benn. Gentleman agreed to prepare a sample album of stamps, showing what could be done with different treatments of the head, royal ciphers, and crowns. Thus ended a dramatic few days which had thrown British stamp design policy into turmoil. The normally quiet Stamp Advisory Committee demanded a meeting with Benn, the same day as their next formal meeting (25 March), and he gave them the news that The Queen had agreed to consider non-traditional designs 'for example, pictorial series on regional landscapes, great houses, English Kings and Queens, and other similar subjects. These could be printed in blocks comprising differing designs of one denomination: the stamps to be sold as a block or singly. Such series need not incorporate the traditional monarch's head. They might incorporate the crown or the royal cipher, and/or possibly some other indication of the country of origin, eg the letters 'UK'. He suggested that an album of examples to show the possibilities opened by this policy should be prepared and shown to the Queen. It was agreed that the Postmaster General should commission David Gentleman to produce such an album.' ►

This is the second of three articles abridged from chapter 5 of Douglas Muir's new book, *A Timeless Classic: The Evolution of Machin's Icon*, soon to be published by the British Postal Museum & Archive. The series will be concluded next month.

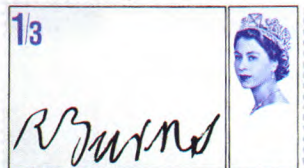


The Battle of Britain stamps: an essay of David Gentleman designs as a se-tenant block, with The Queen's head on one stamp only, and UK postage on the others. May 1965.

The fight over The Queen's head was to continue throughout 1965. On the one side were Benn and Gentleman; ranged against them were the SAC, postal officials and the Palace. The first clashes came over the Battle of Britain stamps. Gentleman prepared artwork for the three chosen designs with The Queen's head included and these were then essayed. In private conversations with Benn he continued to press for se-tenant blocks of designs, so, on 12 April, Benn instructed postal officials to prepare essays of six of Gentleman's designs as a block. One set was to be with The Queen's head on all of them; another was to have it only on the top right design.

Benn saw these essays on a visit to the stamp printers, Harrisons, on 14 May and asked that they be shown to the SAC at their next meeting on 27 May. However, this was not done and the SAC recommended other designs. In late June Benn discovered to his surprise that the se-tenant block was not included in the submission to the Palace. Furious, he rewrote the letter to the Palace with new recommendations, reminding The Queen of her agreement in principle to the idea of unconventional designs. First choice was now the Gentleman block with The Queen's head on only one stamp; the alternative had The Queen's head on all. Sir Michael Adeane, her Private Secretary, indicated that she was not happy approving designs without her effigy, so Benn made it clear that the Post Office would be happy to issue either se-tenant set, and left the choice to The Queen. She approved the set with her portrait included.

Thus the Stamp Advisory Committee had been bypassed. Benn did not get his wish for stamps without the monarch's head, but he did succeed in having blocks of Gentleman's designs printed together. Members of the SAC were understandably unhappy at their treatment and the Chairman, Sir Kenneth Clark, resigned. In a short letter to Benn he cited only the fact that he had been on such a committee for over 30 years under 13 Postmasters General, but it was clear that he did not agree with present trends. Years later he wrote: 'There had been a change of outlook in the production of stamps with which I was not in sympathy. I cannot say if I was right or wrong but it was evident to me that there should be a Chairman with more liberal views. I was afraid that the admission of pictorial stamps would lead to complete banality, and I have been proved right.'



From top left: essay of a design by A B Imrie with the Scottish crown; essays of designs by Jock Kinnear, with and without The Queen's head; and the issued pair of stamps by Gordon Huntly. Below: essay of another 'non-traditional' design by Jock Kinnear, October 1965.

Special stamps for Robert Burns The bicentenary of the birth of Robert Burns had fallen in 1959, when stamp-issuing policy was still very conservative. As a result, despite much lobbying, no stamps were issued. With the new policy there was renewed pressure for stamps, and it was agreed that two would be issued in January 1966, even though there was no event or anniversary to be celebrated.

For this issue revised instructions to artists were sent out at Benn's instigation. Traditional design incorporating The Queen's head was now only one option. Artists were also given 'absolute freedom as to size, features of design, colour and art work' being encouraged to submit any designs they wished. Importantly, they were also given the alternative of omitting The Queen's head, to be replaced by the inclusion of the words UK POSTAGE, the crown or royal cipher.

The result was a total of 40 designs of which 21 could be described as non-traditional – in other words minus The Queen's head. One even had the cipher ER (not EIR) and Scottish crown. The Stamp Advisory Committee, now under the chairmanship of James Fitton, initially chose two of the non-traditional versions featuring Burns' signature. However, they asked that they be proofed with the addition of The Queen's head.

At their meeting of 20 October, the Post Office representative informed them that it was very unlikely that any design without The Queen's head would be chosen, despite the freedom given in the 'Instructions to Artists'. So designs by Gordon Huntly featuring the two main portraits of Burns, after Alexander Nasmyth and Archibald Skirving, together with the Wilding portrait of The Queen, were proposed as first choice, and approved.

The Gentleman Album In March The Queen had agreed to the creation of an album of experimental designs with symbols other than her head, but asking Benn to keep an open mind about whether her portrait should invariably appear. Benn discussed this with David Gentleman and asked for his proposals. A list from Gentleman provided a myriad of ideas, from regional landscapes to transport, and plants and animals to the industrial revolution. There were some 15 major headings including famous men and women and a series of 'most-interesting-looking sovereigns'. ►



Opposite page, top: a 1965 print from David Gentleman's woodblock (shown on page 259), based on Mary Gillick's coinage head; and examples of different applications of the same image.

Below: Mary Gillick's original plaster cast for the first coins of Queen Elizabeth II, 1952.
© Royal Mint

The final commission was dated 9 August. Listed were requirements for definitive and commemorative stamps and then the experimental designs. 'Pictorial Stamps: Sets of designs, three low values in each, are required on any typically British themes which allow the artist maximum scope for effective design. As with the commemorative topics mentioned above, the stamps need not be of standard size. If designed without the Queen's head the legend "UK Postage" and the value should be prominently shown.'

Gentleman had asked if he had to adhere to the standard size for his designs. As a result the commission was amended so that the question of size and format was left to him. He subsequently created his designs in a new size, $1:\sqrt{2}$, and perforating tools had to be changed accordingly.

Work continued on the experimental designs over the summer, but just before they were completed a letter arrived from the prime minister's private secretary, Derek Mitchell, who had taken the opportunity to discuss various matters with Sir Michael Adeane, The Queen's private secretary. Adeane had said that he was 'a little apprehensive in case the Postmaster General persisted with his ideas about postage stamps not bearing a portrait of the Sovereign'. When Mitchell enquired if The Queen's views had changed since March Adeane replied: 'the fact was that the Queen had pretty strong views on this, not from any personal *amour-propre* but because she was against a departure from long-standing tradition. In her relations with her Ministers it was proper for her to keep an open mind but there was no doubt at all that she would greatly prefer not to be faced with an unpalatable decision and one in which she might feel bound to reject the advice offered to her.'

When informed, the Prime Minister apparently thought the PMG should not even commission experimental designs. Benn was furious. His position had clearly weakened. 'It looks as if my new stamp policy has been torpedoed. Whether or not the Queen cares personally about it, Adeane and all the flunkies at Buckingham Palace certainly do.'

Immediately thereafter, he went to see David Gentleman and had first sight of the designs he had been producing with his wife Rosalind. Benn regarded them as 'superb' but they also seemed to provide a solution to the problem of The Queen's head.



The Gillick cameo head and other symbols When the first photographs were taken of The Queen by Dorothy Wilding in 1952 Wilding was briefed beforehand by both Post Office and Royal Mint officials. Four artists attended personal sittings, among them Cecil Thomas and Mary Gillick. The effigy chosen for use on British coinage was one by Gillick, uncrowned and facing right.

Looking for a new profile head in 1965, Gentleman now took Gillick's coinage head and reversed it so that it faced left, as all monarchs' heads had done on stamps. Changing the



portrait from a three-quarter angle photograph to a flat cameo, and further formalising it by reducing it to a silhouette without any internal detail or modelling, enabled the head to take its place within a wide range of stamp designs more appropriately and effectively than the three-quarter angle Wilding photograph. Gentleman also created a variety of different sizes and shapes (above right) – solid within an oval or frame, and reversed out of a colour.

Gentleman brought his finished designs to Benn, and in discussion they came back to alternative symbols to represent the country, other than The Queen's head. Ideas included the E II R cipher, the crown or the royal coat of arms. Gentleman returned with a variety of symbols including the royal coat of arms in various formats (right).

Benn took the designs to show Harold Wilson, whose support would be crucial. Wilson had discussed the matter with the Queen at his latest audience. 'With regard to The Queen's head, he said that he had spoken to The Queen personally about it and that she didn't want her head removed from the stamps. There was no argument and I told him that it would create no problems as I could put a head on every stamp and showed him the cameos.'

In practice this was the final decision though both Benn and Gentleman pressed on, and when the album of experimental designs was eventually produced it contained alternative essays with the royal coat of arms in a variety of guises.

Benn now wrote to his officials to confirm the change of plan. 'You will recall that in March I had an audience with The Queen as the result of which it was agreed that non-traditional designs could in future be submitted. The Queen's Private Secretary confirmed that the royal cipher might be used on certain stamps in place of The Queen's head.'

'Following this the brief sent to designers was amended to take account of this decision, which had been announced in the House of Commons. As you know, a number of designs bearing different inscriptions and some with the royal cipher or a crown were submitted.'

'Since then the Prime Minister has discussed the matter with The Queen. Arising from these discussions it has become plain that The Queen does now wish her head to appear on stamps, though she is content for this to be represented by silhouette.' ●



Above: Symbols suggested as alternatives to The Queen's head, by David Gentleman.

Royal Mail's postbus services A listing of

IN FEBRUARY we celebrated the 40th anniversary of Royal Mail's postbus services. As background to this, we offer a list of all the services that have run during those 40 years. This list is in chronological order of the introduction of the services, and start and end dates are given where possible. To keep the list within reasonable bounds, some simplification has been necessary: in reality many other minor route changes have been made over the years. The information has been compiled from several sources, to which acknowledgement is made below, and it has been interesting to try to reconcile them. There are differences of opinion on exact dates, routes, nomenclature and spellings, and no doubt the list contains inaccuracies and omissions, for which apologies are made. Most routes run from Monday to Friday or from Monday to Saturday, and only major exceptions to this are shown. The remainder of the list will be published next month ●

Service	Region	Start	End
1 Llanidloes-Llangurig (Wye Loop added 02.10.67)	Wales	20.02.67	05.08.06
2 Honiton-Luppitt	South West	23.10.67	02.01.04
3 Penrith-Martindale (later together with service 207)	N West	30.10.67	05.06.06
4 Dunbar-Innerwick-Spott	Scotland	04.06.68	
5 Elgol-Broadford, Isle of Skye	Scotland	17.04.72	10.01.07
6 Lochmaddy-Benbecula Airport, North Uist	Scotland	16.06.72	
7 Lochmaddy-Sollas-Newton (merged with service 6)	Scotland	16.06.72	01.04.77
8 Castlebay-Airport-Eoligarry (replaced by service 265)	Scotland	17.08.72	03.04.04
9 Melrose-Galashiels-Lillesleaf	Scotland	28.08.72	
10 Kylesku-Skiag Bridge-Elphin (later Scourie-Elphin-Lochinver)	Scotland	15.09.72	18.09.06
11 Canterbury-Crundale	South East	23.10.72	
12 Craignure-Lochbuie, Isle of Mull	Scotland	01.12.72	16.01.81
13 Tigharry-Lochmaddy, North Uist (later to Airport, further route revisions later)	Scotland	01.12.72	
14 Cupar-Peat Inn	Scotland	04.12.72	19.07.05
14A Cupar-Newburgh via Letham <i>Tues pm</i>	Scotland	01.08.78	04.04.98
15 Skerry-Tongue (later to Melvich)	Scotland	29.01.73	28.04.01
16 Nairn-Glenferness	Scotland	28.02.73	28.12.01
17 Lockerbie-St Ann's	Scotland	21.04.73	
18 Lockerbie-Hightae (merged with service 91)	Scotland	23.04.73	12.04.78
19 Scourie-Laxford Bridge-Kylestrome	Scotland	01.06.73	18.09.06
20 Alligin-Kinlochewe (later Diabaig-Achnasheen)	Scotland	02.06.73	
21 Strathconon-Muir of Ord (later to Beaully)	Scotland	02.06.73	27.05.05
22 Muir of Ord-Tomich (with service 21)	Scotland	11.06.73	31.05.81
23 Lochinver-Drumbeg	Scotland	02.07.73	18.09.06
24 Ardgay-Strathoykel	Scotland	21.07.73	01.04.06
25 Dorking-Ockley	South East	02.08.73	
26 Bettyhill-Kinbrace	Scotland	10.08.73	28.04.01
27 Biggar-Tweedsmuir	Scotland	11.8.73	

routes and dates, by Martin Robinson: part 1



Royal Mail Post Bus

Halstham - Bodle Street Green EARLY MORNING SERVICE

Monday to Saturday	dep	0630
Halstham - North Street	arr	0640
Stunt Green - Chatham Lane	dep	0735
Yarnhill	arr	0810
Summerfield - post box		
Bodle Street Green	dep	0900
White Horse Inn	arr	0920
Buckfield - post box		
Bodle Street Green	dep	0940
White Horse Inn	arr	0945
Chilworth	dep	1000
Windmill Hill - post office	arr	1005
Heavenstow - post box		
Crofters Croft - post office	arr	1010
Chilworth	dep	1020
Heavenstow - post box		
Chilworth	arr	1025



Royal Mail Post Bus

Halstham - Bodle Street Green

Monday to Saturday	dep	1155
Halstham - North Street	arr	1225
Stunt Green - Chatham Lane	dep	1235
Yarnhill	arr	1245
Summerfield - post box		
Bodle Street Green	dep	1300
White Horse Inn	arr	1310
Buckfield - post box		
Bodle Street Green	dep	1320
White Horse Inn	arr	1325
Chilworth	dep	1330
Windmill Hill - post office	arr	1335
Heavenstow - post box		
Crofters Croft - post office	arr	1340
Chilworth	dep	1345
Heavenstow - post box		
Chilworth	arr	1350
Heavenstow - post box		
Chilworth	arr	1355

Service	Region	Start	End
28 Billesdon-Tilton	Midlands	07.09.73	28.08.79
29 Billesdon-Rolleston-Ilston	Midlands	07.09.73	28.09.79
30 Oxted-Lingfield	South East	24.09.73	
31 Thornhill-Moniaive	Scotland	28.09.73	
32 Portnahaven-Port Ellen, Isle of Islay	Scotland	01.10.73	
33 Port Askaig-Port Ellen, Isle of Islay	Scotland	01.10.73	28.09.02
34 Killan-Dornie (later Kyle-Letterfearn)	Scotland	07.11.73	18.09.06
35 Louth-Goulceby	North East	07.11.73	30.04.04
36 Anstruther-Arncliffe	Scotland	03.01.74	04.04.98
37 Aberfeldy-Lawers-Bridgend (later to Killin)	Scotland	03.01.74	
37A Aberfeldy-Kenmore alternate Tues	Scotland	28.09.78	28.08.00
38 Aberfeldy-Glenlyon-Lubrecht	Scotland	03.01.74	10.06.06
39 Broughton-in-Furness-Cockley Beck	North West	01.03.74	
40 Sittingbourne-Wormhill (brief extension to Bicknor)	S East	04.03.74	
41 Petworth-Bignor	South East	04.03.74	30.08.85
42 Diss-Eye-Gislingham	East	25.03.74	29.06.85
43 Tunbridge Wells-Wadhurst-Mayfield	South East	01.04.74	
44 Heathfield-Waldron	South East	03.06.74	01.12.84
45 Altnaharra-Portnacoon (later Durness-Altnaharra-Laig)	Scotland	20.06.74	15.02.07
46 Tomatin-Coignafearn (later from Inverness)	Scotland	20.06.74	01.04.06
47 Ardgay-The Craigs	Scotland	20.06.74	01.04.06
48 Haddington-Garvald	Scotland	20.06.74	
49 Hungerford-East Garston-Lambourn	South East	02.07.74	27.08.04
50 Hungerford-Great Shefford	South East	02.07.74	26.09.81
51 Hungerford-Kintbury	South East	02.07.74	? .11.91
52 West Calder-Tarbrax (later from Livingstone)	Scotland	22.08.74	30.04.04
53 West Linton-Romanno Bridge-Blyth Bridge (later Peebles-West Linton)	Scotland	28.08.74	04.04.98
54 Castle Douglas-Corsock	Scotland	29.08.74	
55 Castle Douglas-Mossdale	Scotland	29.08.74	



Service	Region	Start	End
56 Kirriemuir-Glen Clova	Scotland	02.09.74	
57 Kirriemuir-Glen Prosen	Scotland	02.09.74	31.05.05
58 Hailsham-Bodle Street Green	South East	19.09.74	14.09.84
59 Rogart-Sciberscross	Scotland	30.09.74	15.11.06
60 Hawick-Bonchester Bridge-Southdeanrig	Scotland	15.10.74	
61 Kelso-Nenthorn-Hume-Stichill	Scotland	15.10.74	
61 A Kelso-Peel Hospital Wed <i>pm</i>	Scotland	06.04.77	15.04.88
62 Portnahaven-Port Ellen, Islay (merged with service 32)	Scotland	01.11.74	19.05.79
63 Melrose-Maxton	Scotland	07.01.75	04.04.98
64 Aberfoyle-Kinlochard	Scotland	08.01.75	20.11.06
65 Newport-Newtown (Isle of Wight)	South East	21.01.75	08.06.88
66 Newport-Brightstone (Isle of Wight)	South East	21.01.75	08.06.88
67 Froxfield-Petersfield	South East	11.02.75	27.06.98
68 Gorthleck-Killin (later from Inverness)	Scotland	18.02.75	01.04.06
69 Applecross-Toscaig (later to Torridon)	Scotland	27.02.75	
69 A Kishorn-Shieldaig (later to Strathcarron & Torridon)	Scotland	30.03.81	
70 Grantown-on-Spey-Lochindorb	Scotland	04.03.75	15.11.03
71 Selkirk-Ashkirk	Scotland	07.03.75	04.04.98
72 Dingwall-Heights of Dochcarty	Scotland	25.03.75	18.09.06
73 Kelso-Roxburgh	Scotland	25.03.75	21.06.03
74 Leven-New Gilston	Scotland	26.03.75	31.03.06
75 Drumnadrochit-Grotaig-Achtermarack	Scotland	26.05.75	31.12.05
76 Castle Douglas-Auchencairn	Scotland	06.06.75	
77 Newbury-West Ilsey (later to Farnborough)	South East	18.08.75	10.06.06
78 Newbury-Brightwalton-Chaddleshworth	South East	18.08.75	10.06.06
79 Colchester-East Bergholt	East	01.09.75	18.04.81
80 Durness-Rispond-Rhigoltar	Scotland	09.09.75	30.12.78
81 Lairg-Atlass (later to Rosehall)	Scotland	09.09.75	04.04.98
82 Plockton-Strome Ferry (later from Kyle)	Scotland	11.09.75	
83 Poolewe-Cove	Scotland	12.09.75	04.04.98
84 Arnisdale-Gleneig (later to Kyle)	Scotland	20.10.75	25.02.06
85 Lochport-Sidinish (North Uist)	Scotland	27.10.75	
(later Lochmaddy circular; routes revised 1996)			
86 Grimsay-Carinish (later from Lochport)	Scotland	27.10.75	01.04.79
87 Melvich-Forsinard (later from Kinbrace)	Scotland	03.11.75	04.04.98
88 Dalwhinnie-Drummin	Scotland	05.11.75	
89 Rothbury-Alwinton-Morpeth	North East	11.11.75	
90 Annan-Powfoot-Cummertrees-Newbie	Scotland	17.11.75	19.10.06
91 Lockerbie-Hightae <i>pm</i> (later merged with service 18)	Scotland	17.11.75	03.06.06
92 Lockerbie-Waterbeck	Scotland	17.11.75	
93 Tarbert-Skipness	Scotland	17.11.75	05.01.02
94 Killin-Ardeonaig-Callander-Brig o' Turk	Scotland	24.11.75	05.10.05
95 Isle of Tiree	Scotland	27.11.75	05.01.02
96 Laide-Achnasheen (later from Braemore Junction)	Scotland	05.01.76	27.09.97
97 Forres-Braemory	Scotland	19.01.76	11.10.03
98 Lockerbie-Corrie Common-Millriggs	Scotland	19.01.76	03.06.06

Service	Region	Start	End
99 Annan-Creca	Scotland	19.01.76	19.10.06
100 Glenluce-New Luce-Stranraer (later to New Luce)	Scotland	20.01.76	04.04.98
101 Aboyne-Logie Coldstone	Scotland	26.01.76	08.03.07
102 Invergarry-Kinlochourn	Scotland	02.02.76	02.10.04
103 Balfon-Fintry	Scotland	09.02.76	09.02.02
104 Isle of Colonsay	Scotland	16.02.76	
105 Newtonmore-Kinlochlaggan	Scotland	08.03.76	14.07.01
106 Callander-Trossachs	Scotland	30.03.76	
107 Aberfoyle-Inversnaid	Scotland	21.04.76	
108 Isle of Luing	Scotland	03.05.76	
109 Halkirk-Glutt-Altnabreac	Scotland	19.07.76	18.09.06
110 Biggar-Newbigging	Scotland	16.08.76	23.08.03
111 Henley-on-Thames-Frieth	South East	20.09.76	31.03.88
112 Dunblane-Braco-Langside	Scotland	21.09.76	07.12.02
113 Invergordon-Kildermorie	Scotland	18.10.76	28.12.01
114 Kirkcudbright-Borgue (later to Lennox Pluckton)	Scotland	25.10.76	
115 Aberfeldy-Gilmerton-Birnam	Scotland	25.10.76	27.05.00
116 Hawick-Craik	Scotland	15.11.76	05.01.02
117 Pitlochry-Dalnaspidal	Scotland	22.11.76	10.06.06
118 Dollar-Glendevon	Scotland	29.11.76	22.02.99
119 Isle of Bressay	Scotland	06.12.76	
120 Kelso-Smailholm	Scotland	06.12.76	05.01.02
121 Kinross-Rumbling Bridge	Scotland	07.02.77	31.05.05
122 Abington-Crawfordjohn (later from Biggar)	Scotland	22.03.77	
122A Abington-Lanark	Scotland	24.10.77	31.03.78
123 Castlebay-Eoligarry via Borge, Isle of Barra	Scotland	01.04.77	24.04.94
124 Bernera-Callanish, Isle of Lewis	Scotland	04.04.77	06.04.96
125 Timgarry-Callanish-Stornoway, Isle of Lewis	Scotland	05.04.77	
126 Huntly-Lumsden	Scotland	02.05.77	08.03.07
127 Inveraray-Drishaih-Dalmally (later Lochgilphead-Inveraray)	Scotland	07.05.77	? .06.05
128 Crianlarich-Killin-Callander-Tyndrum	Scotland	23.05.77	
129 Llandovery-Cilycwm-Rhandirmwyn-Myddfai	Wales	18.07.77	
130 Peebles-Manorhead	Scotland	16.08.77	04.04.98
131 Duns-Abbey St Bathans	Scotland	18.08.77	
132 Brodick-Shannochie (later South Arran circular)	Scotland	30.08.77	
133 Brodick-Blackwaterfoot (later North Arran circular)	Scotland	30.08.77	
134 Brodick-Pinnmill	Scotland	31.08.77	06.08.05
135 Biggar-Lanark	Scotland	19.09.77	
136 Wadebridge-Treburrick	South West	20.09.77	07.04.06
137 Rhyl-Meriadog	Wales	31.10.77	03.08.84
138 Brodick-Kilmoryn (merged with service 132)	Scotland	16.01.78	29.08.94
139 Roy Bridge-Moy	Scotland	06.03.78	28.07.84
140 Denny-Fintry	Scotland	13.03.78	06.12.97
141 Dalmally-Bridge of Orchy	Scotland	20.03.78	29.06.05
142 Isle of Rousay	Scotland	23.03.78	

The author acknowledges the late Ben Jenkins, Robin Farmer, Colin Peachey, the Post Office Vehicle Club and to Royal Mail's own postbus timetables, which seems no longer to be published.

Timetables and route maps can be found on the website www.royalmail.com/postbus

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



February identify The detail was from the 2002 Astronomy stamp. The winner: A Laxon of Wiltshire.

February knowledge The answers: 1) bright green; 2) Water & Coast; 3) CDT Design (with illustrations by Tatsuro Kiuchi). The winner: K Webb of New Zealand.

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 May *Identify* Competition. Secondly, test your philatelic knowledge by answering the questions below. Send your answer to May *Knowledge* Competition.

- 1 In which year did Michael Faraday feature on a stamp?
- 2 What colour was the George V 2s6d definitive?
- 3 In which hall is the Thematica exhibition held?

Send your answer (addressed to either the May *Identify* competition or the May *Knowledge* competition), name and address on a postcard or back of a scaled envelope to: British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ. The senders of the first cards drawn in each competition on 15 June will receive £100. Runner-up prizes of presentation packs, FDCs or stamp cards will be awarded in each competition. The competitions are not open to Royal Mail employees ●

Events

until 31 October Vehicles from the 'Moving the Mail' exhibition on display at Grampian Transport Museum, Alford, Aberdeenshire. Exhibition organised by the British Postal Museum & Archive. **Enquiries** 020 7239 2570

28 April Assn of Sussex Phil Socs Spring Convention at University of Brighton, Lewes Road, Brighton. Talk on The Queen's Philatelic Collection by Michael Sefi.

3 May UFN 'A Timeless Classic: The Evolution of Machin's Icon' exhibition at British Postal Museum & Archive, London WC1. **Enquiries** 020 7239 2570

5 May Federation of South Wales Phil Socs Annual Convention Stamp & Postcard Fair at Princess Royal Theatre, Civic Centre, Port Talbot, 10.00-16.30. Admission 50p. Dealers, kids activities, refreshments, souvenir postcard. **Enquiries** G Prior 01656 740520.

5-26 May Bolton Philatelic Society 75th Anniversary exhibition at The Gallery, Bolton Museum, Le Mans Crescent, Bolton. 09.30-17.00 daily except Sundays and Bank Holiday. **Enquiries** J Fryer, 01204 523733

12 May Worpex 2007, Oldbury Park Primary School, Oldbury Road, St Johns, Worcester, 10.30-16.00. 30 dealers, specialist society meetings, free car park. Hosted by Worcester & District Philatelic & Postcard Society – website www.worpex.com

18-20 May North East Philatelic Weekend, Swallow Hotel, Gateshead. Talks, displays and banquet. **Enquiries** Val Beeken, 162 Canterbury Rd, Newton Hall Estate, Durham DH1 5XT, 0191 3861931

16 June Yorkshire Philatelic Assoc Stamp & Postcard Fair, Pudsey Civic Hall, Leeds, 09.30-17.00. Approx 30 dealers. **Enquiries** M Lewis, 01904 701464 ●

Late news

2008 stamp programme The stamp issues for next year will be: January, James Bond • February, Working Dogs (Europa issue) • February, The Houses of Lancaster and York • March, s.o.s. – Rescue at Sea • March, Celebrating Northern Ireland • April, Insects • May, Cathedrals • June, Classic Film • July, Airshows • August, Olympics • September, RAF Uniforms • September, 50th anniversary of the country definitives • October, Women of Achievement • November, Christmas • November, Lest We Forget. This list is subject to change; the titles are provisional •

London 2010 – Festival of Stamps As readers will know, the central event planned for 2010 will be at the Business Design Centre, 8 – 15 May. It will include postal administration and dealers stands, and the main competitive exhibits will be on display. At separate venues will be shown items from the BPMA, Royal Philatelic Collection, and British Library Philatelic Collections, among others. David Springbett had been proposing ideas that ExCel, in London's Docklands, should also be utilised for the event. However, he has released a statement to announce that 'Following a congenial meeting held with the Advisory Board of London 2010 on 12 March, I have decided to take no further action relative to holding an additional exhibition at ExCel in May 2010.' •

Midpex This bi-annual event takes place at the Midland Sports Centre for the Disabled, Cromwell Lane, Tile Hill, Coventry on Saturday, 30 June (10.00-16.00). There will be at least 48 dealers and 44 specialist societies, with more than 150 frames of display material covering many different aspects of collecting. Sponsored by Cavendish Philatelic Auctions and the Association of British Philatelic Societies; the ABPS will hold its AGM and Council Meeting during the day •

Travelling Post Office Since 4 April, it has been possible to visit a restored Travelling Post Office (TPO) at The Railway Age in Crewe. The British Postal Museum & Archive (BPMA) has spent over

four years and more than £100,000 returning a TPO to its former glory. This story was told by Martin Robinson in last month's *Bulletin* •

Stuart Rossiter Lecture The 2007 Stuart Rossiter Trust Lecture will be given by Pat Grimwood-Taylor at 17.00 on 2 November 2007 at the Royal Philatelic Society London, on 'Social Postal History – Opening Windows on the Past'. Whereas much postal history is purely the outside wrapper or the envelope, most of what can be termed 'social postal history' also contains the letter, and it is the contents of these letters, and what they reveal about events, places and people through the ages, that fascinates. Entry by free by ticket only – apply to Stuart Rossiter Trust, c/o D F Tett, PO Box 34, Wheathampstead AL4 8JY, enclosing a stamped self-addressed envelope •

Stamp Active competition Entries in this year's Stamp Active competition were shown at Spring Stampex. The major awards were: Kidstamps Cup (for the overall best entry), Rory Whittle; Cavendish Cup (for most promising entry), Lara Whittle; Royal Horticultural Society Trophy (for a good entry on a horticultural theme), Abhirami Navaneethanathan; Schools Trophy (for the school achieving best average results), Sageston School; Society Trophy (for the society achieving the best overall results), RAFLET; Myers Trophy (for the best Group Entry), Neyland Junior School; Class A Cup (for the best entry in the 14-16 age group), Maathumai Navaneethanathan; Class B Cup (best entry in the 12-13 age group), Rory Whittle; Class C Cup (best entry, 10-11 age group); Jacqs Scourfield; Class D Cup (best entry up to 9 years), Catherine Estcourt •

New Trust address With the closure of the British Philatelic Centre, the address of the British Philatelic Trust is: Suite 101, Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, London N1 0QH; telephone 020 7688 8423. The office is open for phone calls and visitors, by appointment only, 09.30-12.30 Monday-Friday. E-mail: susanellis@btconnect.com •

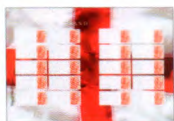
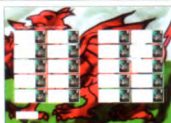
Customised Stamp Sheets of Great Britain

A collectors guide to Generic Smilers Sheets, Customised Smilers Sheets and Business Customised Sheets



Christmas 2006 (1st)
Catalogue No. CS-0310
Royal Mail Ref. D515
Available From 2006 (7 Nov)
Theme Christmas
Stamp design Santa
Printed by Carfax
Perforated 15 x 14 Die-Cut
Initial Price £ 14.95
Price Guide £ 50.00
Notes see page 4-29

Glorious Wales
Catalogue No. CS-032
Royal Mail Ref. D515
Available From 2007 (1 Mar)
Theme Regional
Stamp design Country Definitive
Printed by Carfax
Perforated 15 x 14 Die-Cut
Initial Price £ 14.95
Price Guide £ 40.00
Notes see page 4-30
The image provided here is a print-represented publicity image and may differ from the issued sheet



Glorious England
Catalogue No. CS-033
Royal Mail Ref. D516
Available From 2007 (23 Apr)
Theme Regional
Stamp design Country Definitive
Printed by Carfax
Perforated 15 x 14 Die-Cut
Initial Price £ 14.95
Price Guide £ 40.00
Notes see page 4-30
The image provided here is a print-represented publicity image and may differ from the issued sheet

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Appendix A – Smilers Stamps

Smilers stamps are so-called because they have appeared on a Customised Smilers sheet, and have been designated as such by Royal Mail. In fact, these are stamps selected from various special issues and intended to be used on mail with adjacent, specially printed, Customised labels bearing a picture of Aunt Sam, the dog or the sales member of the family. SM1-2002 (these were) referred to by name e.g. TEDDY but with the introduction of the 2002 Customised sheet (which duplicated some of the earlier named stamps e.g. LOVE, each has been given a Royal Mail reference number in Smilers publicity material. The following reference guide will assist the reader in interpreting the reference information provided in the listing of Themed Customised Smilers Sheets in Section 2 – Appendix B. Others sheets had multiple stamp designs the stamp design used by Royal Mail in their publicity material see Section 4.4. is (italicised).



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Royal Mail

Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB
Telephone orders: UK 08457 641 641; overseas +44 131 316 7463. Internet orders: www.royalmail.com/stamps



With Smilers stamp sheets, launched at the Stamp Show 2000, the public could for the first time have their own photo-image printed next to a British postage stamp – customised mail had arrived! Customised stamp sheets opened up a whole new area of collecting, and are now detailed in a new catalogue listing nearly 60 generic sheet designs, over 100 attractive business customised sheets, and customised sheets. Over 150 colour illustrations and price guide to current market value.

Published by Ridgewood Publishing and available from Royal Mail Tallents House. Price £19.95 plus handling charge: £1.45 UK, £1.55 Europe, £2.15 elsewhere.

An attractive Smilers album (2000-2005) is also available, priced at £44.99, slipcase £7.50. Continuation pages for 2006 price £5.99. Handling charge for album and slipcase £2.95 UK, £5 Europe, £14 elsewhere. 2006 pages only £1.45/£1.55/£2.15.



Royal Mail