

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The ROYAL MAIL magazine for stamp collectors

Volume 45 Number 10

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Bulletin

RAF Uniforms: a preview of
September's special issue



**Carry On Hammer: celebrating 50
years of the classic British comedy
and horror films, Royal Mail's new
stamp issue is on sale this month.**



Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



Cover Detail from the poster for the 1958 Hammer Horror film *Dracula*, with Christopher Lee as the Count. The Classic Carry On and Hammer Films stamps are issued this month. Poster © Coolabi plc, reproduced by kind permission.

Availability All items available from Royal Mail Talents House (address below). Selected items are available at Post Office branches and Post Office philatelic outlets at the main post offices in: Bristol, Cambridge, Chester, Colchester, Coventry, Croydon, Durham, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Grimsby, Harrogate, Lichfield, London (Eastcheap & Trafalgar Sq), Newcastle upon Tyne, Norwich, Nottingham, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Princes Risborough, Southampton (High St and Hedge End), Southend-on-Sea, Stevenage, Stroud, Trowbridge, Truro and York.

Royal Mail Talents 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/shop

4 June	Withdrawal Definitives: 12p, 42p, 44p, 72p and £1 mauve; 2nd class definitive issued April 1997.
4 June	Withdrawal Standard size 1st and 2nd definitives in PIP design from coils and sheets of 200 (gummed) and business sheets of 100 and booklets (self-adhesive).
4 June	Withdrawal 44p and 72p country stamps: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, and the pack containing these stamps
4 June	Withdrawal Machin 40th Anniversary miniature sheet, presentation pack, generic sheet, stamp cards, PSB and retail book of 6 x 1st definitives and Machin panel
5 June	Issue Machin 'Coin Medal' cover
10 June	Issue Classic Carry On and Hammer Films stamps, presentation pack, stamp cards, stamp book with Carry On advert, and stamp cards/stamps pack
17 June	Issue Edward VIII/George Ingot No 5
2 July	Withdrawal Grand Prix stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards
16 July	Withdrawal Harry Potter stamps, miniature sheet, presentation pack, stamp cards and generic sheet
17 July	Issue Air Displays stamps, presentation pack, stamp cards, generic sheet; Farnborough Air Show medal and cachet covers
24 July	Issue 1908 Olympics Centenary commemorative sheet and coin cover
25 July	Withdrawal Scouts Centenary stamps, presentation pack, stamp cards and pre-stamped postcards

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Pilot 1918

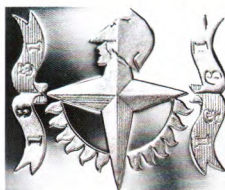
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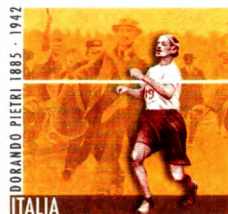
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Stamp scene News and upcoming events: Glenn Morgan keeps you posted



Glenn Morgan

South African Service The Post Office in South Africa recently announced that it is time to move forward, while still maintaining and improving its current processes and products. Johan van Wyk, Senior Manager, Philatelic Services, has stated that they intend implementing new plans to promote philately, including: improved communication to staff at post offices throughout the country to increase knowledge of all aspects related to philately; increased usage of technology to promote stamps and stamp collecting, including sms marketing; and appointment of staff in some areas who will be dedicated to the promotion of philately in those areas. The collector is clearly recognised as an important partner of the South African Post Office, whose interests are to be nurtured •

Australia Stamp Design Awards 2007 The Designers' Choice Award is determined by the Australia Post Stamp Advisory Committee (SAC) at the end of the stamp issue programme each year. Designers from all fields of the visual arts who have made a contribution to the stamp design process are then invited to attend a dinner. Australian stamp designs are usually generated by commissioning an artist; be they graphic designer, illustrator or photographer, to fulfill the design brief. The SAC is responsible for evaluating stamp designs against the stamp design brief which outlines the overall design elements required. When approving the design of Australian stamps, the SAC's objectives are to maintain Australia's high reputation in design quality; to promote Australian culture, flora and fauna through outstanding stamp imagery and design to the rest of the world, and to offer stamp issues that appeal to philatelic collectors and the public alike.

The Australia Post Stamp Design Award 2007 – Designers' Choice Award went to the Landmarks: Australian Modernist Architecture stamp issue, designed by Gary Domoney of Spark Studio. Australian collectors' favourite stamp for 2007 depicted the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne, one of the stamps from the Australian Botanic Gardens stamp issue. The Melbourne photographer Simon Griffiths produced the winning stamp in the 'People's Choice' category •

Enquiries ATA, 411A Lillard Road, Arlington, TX76012-3698, USA. A new website has been launched at www.americantopicalassn.org of which more in a future issue of Stamp Scene.

Topical Time The latest 'journal of thematic philately' has been received from the American Topical Association. Within its 92 pages are some interesting features, including steam locomotives (the evolution of engines), how to lift a boat (moving ships), Meghdoot postcards (Indian postal advertising) and Castillo da San Marcos (a Florida Fort). There are also the usual features covering topical meter stamps, postal stationery, postmarks, Cinderellas, and much more besides. The advertising is worth paying careful attention to, as there are many dealers that collectors in Europe would potentially not otherwise come across. Annual subscription is US\$30 outside the USA; two years for \$55; or a lifetime subscription for \$1000 •



Cyprus enquiries Dept of Postal Services, Stamps & Philatelic Service, CY-1900 Nicosia, Cyprus; e-mail philatelic@dps.mcw.gov.cy

Vatican enquiries Ufficio Filatelico e Numismatico, Governatorato, Vatican City; e-mail order.ufn@scv.va

Europa 2008 The theme for this year's stamps is The Letter, and member countries of PostEurop will generally take part. Cyprus Post has a se-tenant pair depicting letters on one stamp and letter boxes on the other. These have been issued in counter sheets and in a booklet, where either the top or bottom margin is imperforate. The issue from the Vatican comprises two stamps, one of which shows His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI writing a letter. They are printed by PrinTEX of Malta – perhaps the first overseas issue for this firm of printers •



Jersey bus stamps Available from Jersey Philatelic Bureau, Postal Headquarters, Jersey JE1 1AB; telephone 01534 516320.

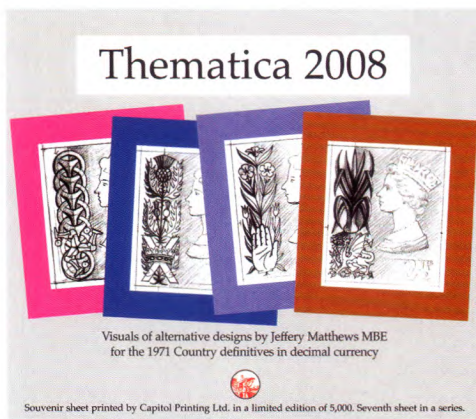
Offshore issues Jersey Post has recently issued a set of six stamps and a miniature sheet depicting a second series on the popular transport theme of buses. The six counter sheets are in panes of 10, with the common decorative margin that has become the norm for stamps from this lovely island. Perhaps I am simply old-fashioned in my outlook, but I still struggle with the idea of a miniature sheet having a face value of £2.50 for just a single stamp, albeit having an attractive depiction of a c1977 bus on its island route. ►



Isle of Man enquiries

Isle of Man Philatelic Bureau,
PO Box 10M, Douglas, Isle of
Man IM99 1PB; telephone
01624 698430.

Meanwhile, Isle of Man Post has produced a set of eight stamps, on the highly original theme of Interceltique. This celebrates the Celtic languages of Kernow, Mannin, Alba, Breizh, Eire, Asturias, Cymru and Galicia with each stamp depicting the national flag. Two of the values additionally bear the PostEurop logo. In August, the Isle of Man is participating for the first time ever in its history in a huge festival of all things Celtic, being held at Lorient in Brittany, France, and a set of postcards and a sheetlet will additionally be issued at that time ●



Exhibitions The main show held this month is the Efiro 08 international exhibition in Bucharest, the capital of Romania, to mark the 150th anniversary of the first Romanian stamps, the famous 'Bull Head' design. It will be held at Romexpo, from 2-27 June, organized by the Romanian Post Office and the Romanian Philatelic Federation, with the patronage of the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie (FIP). The first Efiro exhibition with international participation was held in 1932 during the reign of King Carol II, who was a noted philatelist. The Romanian Post office has issued a number of stamps to mark the anniversary, and to promote this exhibition. Enquiries: www.efiro2008.ro as patron.

Further international exhibitions will be held in Vienna and Prague in September – see the April *Bulletin*, page 197, and May, page 261 for more information.

Back in the UK, the popular Thematica exhibition will be held at the Carisbrooke Hall, Seymour Street, London W2 (near Marble Arch) on 28-29 June – see the April *Bulletin*, page 229 for further details. Shown above is the souvenir sheet featuring designs for Regional stamps, which will be free to Thematica visitors ●

Stafford show Further details available from the organisers, John and Jane Rice (JRS Fairs): phone 01785 259350, email info@john-rice-stamps.co.uk or see www.jrs-stamp-shows.co.uk

Stafford Stamp Show 2008 Later this month, 50-plus national and international dealers will be offering their wares at the Staffordshire County Showground. No doubt some will avail themselves of the helicopter landing pad in order to avoid the traffic! The event will be held between 11.00 and 18.00 on the Friday, and 10.00-16.00 on the Saturday in the Ingestre Suite, which is located in Weston Road, Stafford ST18 0BD. Saturday will also see the hosting of the Midlands Philatelic Federation Spring Convention and Inter-Society Competition ●

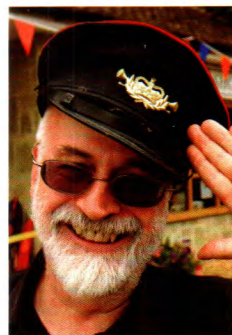
Olympex Show It has recently been announced that a stamp and cultural exhibition will take place 8-18 August in conjunction with the summer Olympic Games. Coins, pins and works of art portraying the Olympic movement, culture and history will be displayed, and stamps, of course plus exhibits from the IOC Olympic Museum in Lausanne, Switzerland ●

What the Victorians did for us Author Terry Pratchett opened this new exhibition last month at the Bath Postal Museum, coinciding with the subject of the Museums and Galleries special month. Designed for the whole family to enjoy, the exhibition includes the ideas and innovations which the Victorians employed, with great energy, ingenuity and foresight, many of which are still affecting our lives today. Actors re-create the stories of the harsh conditions of Victorian workers, appearing within picture frames that talk to you.

Victorian displays at the museum now include: a version of a Victorian Post Office with an original sorting frame; Victorian writing implements and post office scales and balances; letters sent during the Victorian era; inkwells and Victorian pens with metal nibs; the only Victorian stamp perforating machine in this country; a model steam train showing methods used to pick up and drop mail bags at high speed; a Penny Post display; and a display of Victorian transport – models of a sailing ship, the ss *Great Britain* and a steam train with items of mail carried by such transport.

On sale in the Museum shop will be found Terry Pratchett's Disk World stamps, and children's activities include permanent dressing-up boxes, interactive displays and games.

The Bath Postal Museum is located on the corner of Northgate Street and Green Street, underneath the City of Bath Post Office. Opening hours are 11.00-17.00 Monday to Saturday; last entry 16.30. Telephone 01225 46033 and ask for Janine or Ruth. For further information on the Museum's attractions see the February 2007 *Bulletin* •



Author Terry Pratchett

What a Carry On! 2008 marks the 50th anniversary of the release of the first Carry On film *Carry On Sergeant*. Throughout the 1960s and 70s Carry On films were to form a staple diet of British cinema audiences, going on to influence future film and TV productions, both at home and abroad. The very first of the Carry On films, released in 1958, followed the adventures of a hapless group of National Servicemen as they faced the culture shock of Army life.

A new Adrian Bradbury Business Customised Sheet, shown here, has been issued to mark the anniversary. *Carry on Screaming*, one of the films featured prominently on the sheet, was a pastiche on the then popular Hammer Horror films, and follows the adventures of a pair of Victorian detectives as they investigate a suspicious showroom dummy factory. The sheet can be obtained for £30 (postpaid worldwide) from Adrian Bradbury, 3 Link Road, Stoneygate, Leicester LE2 3RA – or go online at www.bfdc.co.uk and type 27463 in the Quick Search box •





Stoneham 2008 GB Catalogue As mentioned last month, this new edition was published at Philatex in February by the Machin Collectors Club. Covering all reigns from Queen Victoria to Elizabeth II, it covers all aspects of GB stamps.

Until now, I have owned and used the 12th edition (1998) of this catalogue, and I was immediately impressed by improvements in this, the 14th edition. (Not having seen the 13th edition of 2006, it is inevitable that some improvements new to me had already been introduced last time round.) It goes up to the Christmas sets of 2007 and now

weighs in at more than a kilo. Page size has increased both in dimensions and number (from around 300 to 544) and it is in full colour throughout, with useful coloured tabs printed on the vertical edge to enable users to go to the section that they are interested in more readily. In a decade the price has increased by less than £2.50 and the improvements are certainly worth this tiny increase.

The Smilers phenomenon first occurred in 2000 and all Generic sheets are included up to the Machin commemoration. The range of sheets issued by the Stampex organisers is also included; these would perhaps benefit from a note mentioning that these Business Customised Sheets can be ordered from Royal Mail, and that there are many dozens of non-Stampex sheets also available. The three most recent Stampex sheets are wrongly shown as having been issued in 2005, caused, no doubt, by the use of copy and paste when compiling the listing. We've all been there!

Stamp booklets and panes are well covered and it is nice to see that every Prestige pane is illustrated and not just the multi-value one. I understand that the stitched booklets section has been extended with prices for each edition now shown. The window, counter, prestige and stitched booklets are now in separate sections and this makes checking entries much easier.

Other improvements have apparently been made since the 13th edition: imperforates and 'printed on the gummed side' errors are now included in the Queen Victoria section; King George VI has benefitted from imperforates; and tête-bêche errors and the GB Used Abroad sections have been enhanced. In the current reign, Wilding-era cylinder blocks are now listed and priced, which will please many collectors of these issues.

The catalogue will now be published every two years, with the next one being produced in time for Spring Philatex and, therefore, also the London 2010 Festival of Stamps exhibition. The publishers did not feel justified in making collectors shell-out for an annual edition, and I think that this is a sensible policy decision. I have enjoyed using this new catalogue and have no hesitation in recommending it to anyone requiring a half-way-house between a simplified and a specialised publication.

Priced at a very reasonable £17.95, it is available from your favourite philatelic stamp or literature dealer, plus the usual non-philatelic high-street and online outlets ●

Auction news Cavendish's auction on 6 March included a strong GB line-engraved section. A pair of covers franked with 1841 1d imperfs with marginal inscriptions was sold for £847 (estimated at £300); a set of 1d plates (excluding 77) on cover made £632 and a single plate 225 on cover made £483. The February 1855 Plate 1 (Q-F), on cover with red cancel, topped out at £2300, nearly double the estimate, while a great surprise soon followed when a plate 15 (K-C) with inverted watermark on cover achieved £2760 (est £300). A June 1855 plate 3 (H-B) on Scottish cover achieved £2070 (£500). An Edinburgh & Leith Circular Delivery Co postal notice made £920 and 10 Electric Telegraph Company issues (1855-60) went for a handsome £1150 (£200). For enquiries and details of future Cavendish auctions, see opposite •

The Edward Young collections of Gibraltar, Malaya and States and St Lucia, offered as a special sale at Grosvenor Auctions on 18 March, realised £328,429 against a pre-sale estimate of £265,540. Among the many highlights were the Straits Settlements 1884 '4' on 4c on 5c trial surcharge in red (lot 143), one of just seven known examples, which achieved £14,703. The Pahang Kuala Lipis Provisional bisect 3c on half of 5c (SG18dc, lot 369) used on cover found a new home for £8970; while the Malayan Postal Union 50c black on St Edwards' Crown Block CA watermarked paper (lot 261), believed to be the only mint block in private hands, sold for £5980. The rare and very striking Gibraltar 'Skull' error (1973 Discovery 4p with gold omitted, lot 83) has become a key item among collectors of QEII errors and rose to £6116 after much bidding.

Prices for St Lucia material are holding up well. A fine mint example of the 1891-92 inverted 'ONE HALF PENNY' on 3d die II (lot 526) realised £965 (catalogue price £1900); while a most interesting 18-page document sent from the Administrator of the Colony, Sir Edward Baynes, in 1937 to the Governor, Sir Selwyn Grier, discussing the forthcoming definitive issue, sold for £1647.

Charles Napper has joined the Grosvenor Auctions team, bringing with him a breadth of philatelic knowledge and experience gained over many years. Having worked as a botanist for 14 years in Cambridge, after graduating from university in 1973, he entered the philatelic trade in 1989, joining Stanley Gibbons Auctions in 1990. He subsequently moved to Phillips (later Bonhams) in 1992 as a describer and valuer, responsible for cataloguing GB, British Commonwealth and Foreign countries, travelling throughout the UK and overseas looking at collections and conducting valuation days, before leaving in February this year. Charles lives in Cambridge, and has two sons. For enquiries and details of future Grosvenor auctions, see opposite •

Cavendish Telephone 01332 250970 or see website www.cavendish-auctions.com

Grosvenor Auctioneers and Valuers Third Floor, 399-401 Strand, London WC2R 0LT. Phone 020 7379 8789, email info@grosvenor-auctions.co.uk or see their website: www.grosvenorauctions.com



Charles Napper of Grosvenor

Obituary Two noted philatelists have recently died – Colonel James DeVoss of the USA, born 1916, and Max Hertsch of Switzerland, born 1923. They respectively signed the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists at the Congresses in Guernsey and Bath in 1981 and 1983. Both made major contributions to philately at the highest level •

Royal Mail news New issues and products

2008 issues The special issues are listed below, with the alternative First Day of Issue postmarks. Miniature sheet is abbreviated 'ms' •

10.06 Carry On and Hammer Films Bray, Maidenhead, Berks	29.09 Country Definitives anniversary (MS) to be announced
17.07 Air Displays Farnborough, Hants	14.10 Women of Distinction Aldeburgh, Suffolk
22.08 Olympics Handover (MS) London E15	04.11 Christmas Bethlehem, Llandello
18.09 RAF Uniforms Hendon, London NW9	06.11 Lest We Forget (MS) London SW1

The Carry On issue will include a new product – a 'Postcard & Stamp Set' – which comprises a special printing of the stamp cards together with three 1st class (Carry on Sergeant) and three 56p (Curse of Frankenstein) stamps within specially designed packaging. Aimed at film buffs and tourists, the Postcard & Stamp Set will be available from Tallents House and selected Post Office outlets, priced £4.39.

The Air Displays stamps, shown here in March, will be issued to coincide with the Farnborough Air Show, 14-20 July 2008. The RAF Uniforms stamps and prestige book (18 September) are previewed in this *Bulletin*. The programme continues with a miniature sheet marking the 50th anniversary of Regional (Country) stamps on 29 September. This bears the 3d, 6d, and 1s 3d Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales stamps of 1958, all uprated as current 1st class stamps. These stamps will also feature in a prestige book. Details next month.

The Women of Distinction stamps go on sale on 14 October; they depict Millicent Garrett Fawcett (suffragist), Elizabeth Garrett Anderson (physician), Marie Stopes (pioneer), Eleanor Rathbone (campaigner), Claudia Jones (activist), and Barbara Castle (politician).

The Christmas issue (4 November) features traditional pantomimes. The Madonna and Child stamps, issued last November, will again be available for those who prefer religious-themed Christmas stamps. The 2006 Christmas airletter will again be reissued.

The year ends with the final Lest We Forget miniature sheet (6 November) marking the Armistice ending the First World War, at 11 o'clock on 11 November 1918. Remembrance Day is especially poignant this year, the 90th anniversary of the end of a war which cost over eight million lives •

Definitive withdrawals A number of definitive and country stamps will go off sale on 4 June: 21p, 42p, 44p, 72p and £1 (mauve) definitives; 2nd class stamp in sheets of 200, printed by Walsall and issued in 1997; 2006 44p and 72p country stamps for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (and pack containing these stamps); 1st and 2nd class standard size definitives in the PIP (Pricing in Proportion) design of 2006 – the stamps issued in coils, business sheets (self-adhesive), and standard sheets of 200 (gummed). Also being withdrawn are 6 × 1st, 12 × 1st and 12 × 2nd stamp books issued 12 September 2006, and the 6 × 1st book with Machin panel issued June 2007 •

Medal Covers and Ingots A Machin 'coin medal' cover will be available from 5 June, commemorating the 40th anniversary of the first decimal coins, designed by Arnold Machin. A 40th anniversary Machin stamp cover was issued last June – see the May 2007 *Bulletin* for illustrations of the 2007 Machin product range.

For details of a new London Games 1908 coin cover, see the Olympic Commemoration articles on the following page.

The fifth Edward VIII & George VI ingot pack will be available from 17 June. The ingot (shown at right) reproduces the 1951 Festival of Britain 4d stamp which featured the Festival Symbol designed by the eminent graphic artist Abram Games. The stamp, with its companion 2½d value, were the last commemoratives of King George VI's reign, as he died nine months later. The ingot pack costs £27.95.

The sixth and final ingot in this series will feature the George VI 1951 5s stamp of the 'Festival' high values set, depicting the White Cliffs of Dover. This will be available from 16 September and replaces the 1948 1s Olympic stamp, the cancellation of which was announced here in April. If you have a subscription for this Collection you will receive a letter from Royal Mail offering you the final ingot at £13.97 and a replacement Collection Box, or a full refund. If you have placed a one-off order for the Olympic stamp ingot, you will be offered the chance to order any one of the other ingots from the Collection at £13.97. Both offers are available until 24 June. Any new ongoing subscriptions placed before 24 June for the complete Edward VIII & George VI Collection will include the final stamp ingot at £13.97. The total price for the Collection will be £153.73 instead of £161.70 •



The 4d Festival of Britain ingot (larger than actual size).

2009 issues The issues for 2009 are shown below. Exact dates of issue, stamp values, and other information will be published nearer the time of issue. Miniature sheet is abbreviated 'MS', and prestige stamp book 'PSB' •

January	Design Classics (10 stamps and PSB)	June	Mythical Creatures (6 stamps)
January	Robert Burns (MS)	July	Olympic Disciplines (10 stamps)
February	Charles Darwin (6 stamps, MS and PSB)	August	Postboxes (MS)
March	Celebrating Wales (MS)	September	Fire Brigade (6 stamps)
March	Pioneers of the Industrial Revolution (8 stamps)	September	Navy Uniforms (6 stamps and PSB)
April	Kings & Queens Part 2 (6 stamps and MS)	October	Best of British (10 stamps)
May	Action for Species Part 3 – Plants (10 and MS)	November	Christmas (7 stamps and MS)
May	Treasures of the Archives (PSB)		

Coming off sale Any remaining stocks of the Machin miniature sheet, presentation pack, stamp cards, generic sheet, and prestige and retail books will be withdrawn from sale on 4 June. Three special issues will be taken off sale during July: Grand Prix (2nd), Harry Potter (16th) and Scouts Centenary (25th). Order now if you still require these for your collection •

Olympic Commemoration The second in a new series of Commemorative Sheets will be available from 24 July, to mark the centenary of the 1908 Olympics at the Great Stadium at White City, London. The sheet contains 10 Union Flag 1st class stamps with labels alongside featuring Baron Coubertin, founder of the modern Olympic Games, and scenes and personalities from the 1908 Games.

The sheet margin depicts the Olympic Stadium. Numbered limited edition of 10,000, supplied in a pack (numbered cs2) with details of the 1908 Games and stadium. The sheet and pack were designed by Neon design agency, and the sheet printed by Cartor in litho. Price £13.50.

The commemorative sheet to be issued 24 July.

THE LONDON 1908 OLYMPIC GAMES
THE GREAT STADIUM at WHITE CITY

FOUNDER OF THE GAMES
The modern Olympic Games are attributed to French-born Baron Pierre de Coubertin. With his great personal wealth and organisational prowess, he successfully re-assembled the modern Olympic Games in the modern era. The first Games took place in Athens on 6 April 1896.

THE FIRST STADIUM
The London 1908 Olympic Games were the first to have a specially designed 60,000-seat stadium. It was constructed at White City, West London, in less than two years, and housed the athletes, cycling and swimming competitions.

PARADE OF ATHLETES
For the first time in Olympic history, athletes marched into the stadium behind their national flags at the 1908 Opening Ceremony. This heightened sense of patriotism, raised the excitement greatly, thereby raising the profile of the Games.

MASTERS OF CEREMONIES
The City of London Transport acted as a Master of Ceremonies at the London 1908 Olympic Games, announcing events and results. Masters took the place of the army band for 1908.

STAMPING THE TIE
From 1908 to 1920 the tie-dye shirt was a popular part of the Olympic athletic programme. Shown here in the United States team, but in 1908 gold silver and bronze medals were all won by teams composed wholly of British politicians.



NEVER GIVE UP
After winning three AAA titles between 1904 and 1906, British boxer Richard Gamble was asked to enter that in his 'unorthodox' category. However, in 1906 he came out of retirement to take part in the Olympic Games, and at just over 30 years of age, he won the Featherweight title.

AGENCY AGENCY
In 1908 US athlete Ray Ewry won gold medals in both the standing high jump and the standing long jump. Phil had continued him as a wheelchair on a young boy, and it was thought that he might be paralysed for life. Through determination and practice, however, he became a fine athlete.

A PASSION FOR SPORT
British sportsman Leslie Doolittle was one of the most versatile athletes of all time. Apart from taking a silver medal for archery in 1908, Doolittle won Wimbledon five times, a national golf title and helped to found the England women's national field hockey team.

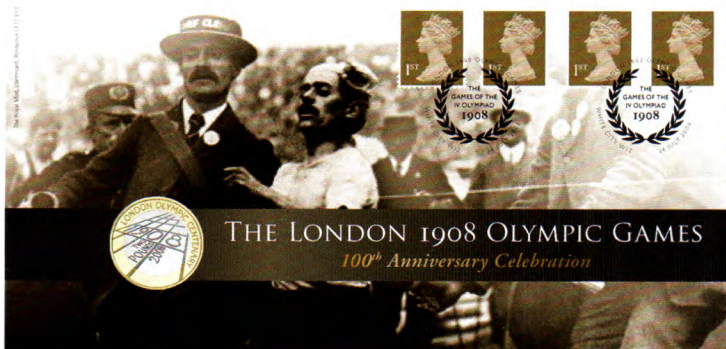
BREACH OF PROTOCOL
Expenses were raised in 1908 when the US flag bearer, Ralph Rose, failed to fly the US flag and helped to King Edward VII. Fellow US athlete Martin Sheridan played a national anthem, was widely reported to have remarked, "This flag ship is an earthly king".

AGE AND ABILITY
In 1908, world's fastest runner Oscar Nashua was already 60 years old when he won his first Olympic gold medal. In the running deer triple, that event he was criticised in both the individual and team events, and also took home in the running deer double event.



No. [] of 10,000. The men's 10,000m Olympic record of 27:03.10s, currently held by Ethiopian Kenenisa Bekele (2001).

Also on sale from 24 July will be a joint Royal Mail/Royal Mint coin cover commemorating the centenary of the 1908 London Olympic Games. The cover, bearing four 1st class definitive stamps cancelled by a special White City w12 postmark, has the new Royal Mint 1908 Olympics Centenary £2 coin encapsulated. The front of the cover depicts Dorando Pietri of Italy, the unfortunate disqualified winner the 1908 marathon. Eight of the 12 challenge cups presented to athletes at the 1908 Games are featured on the reverse. The insert card gives details of the IV Olympiad, and of the 1908 Olympic medals which were designed by Sir Bertram Mackennal, a well-known name to collectors of George V stamps •



The Royal Mail/Royal Mint coin cover, also to be issued 24 July. Price £16.50.

British Postal Museum & Archive A BPMA Machin exhibition is on display at the Wedgwood Visitor Centre, Barlaston, Stoke-on-Trent – see Events listing for further details. An exhibition marking the 50th anniversary of the Regional (Country) stamps is now on show at the BPMA, at Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL. Entitled 'Lions, Leopards, Unicorns & Dragons: the first "Regional" stamps', the exhibition includes some of the many stamp designs submitted in 1958 and how the final designs developed. All the various countries and islands are represented as are the initial ideas from the reign of King George VI. The exhibition graphics are by Rupert Denyer of Sedley Place, who also created the new stamps for the forthcoming miniature sheet and the panes for the prestige stamp book, which will be issued in September to mark the anniversary.

The BPMA contains the collections of the former National Postal Museum and Post Office Archives. For further information contact the BPMA on 020 7239 2570 or see website www.postalheritage.org.uk •

Stamp cards Royal Mail stamp cards (PHQ cards) now cost 40p. Sets of the Films and Air Displays cards will be £2.40; these prices supersede those given in the March *Bulletin* •

Bulletin back issues Paul Reed offers a run of the *Bulletin* from March 1968 to date – available for collection or pre-paid delivery cost. Contact him on 0115 9655989 •

Stamp Lover at 100 Richard West looks at



FOR THE Junior Philatelic Society, 1908 proved to be a momentous year. The brainchild of the legendary Fred Melville, the JPS was created in 1899 because Fred, only 17 at the time, had been refused membership of The London Philatelic Society. At its start, the society had fewer than 20 members, all aged under 21. Today known as the National Philatelic Society, the JPS was largely driven by two men – Fred, and Herbert ‘Johnny’ Johnson who joined the society in 1900, when he was 16. For years they proved the inspiration for much that happened. Johnson followed Melville as President while also taking on the roles of Sec-

retary, Treasurer and Exchange Packet Superintendent, and providing the Society with its headquarters at 44 Fleet Street, from which address Johnson ran his stamp-dealing business. For Melville, Johnson and the JPS, perhaps 1908 proved to be one of their most successful years.

It had started in fine style, with the society organising the Imperial Exhibition, from 12 to 14 March. This highly successful event was opened by the Postmaster General, who had intimated in his opening speech that a special department was to be set aside in the new Post Office building at St Martins-le-Grand for its own collection of new and obsolete stamps, an early hint of a National Postal Museum that would take nearly 60 years to come to fruition, and then sadly have to close again after about 30 years. The exhibition had resulted in about 400 new members for the society.

While the society’s offices and library were at 44 Fleet Street, its meetings were held elsewhere, and for a while had been at Exeter Hall in the Strand. The demolition of Exeter Hall necessitated another move, and so in 1908 it was to Prince Henry’s Council Chamber, over the Inner Temple Gateway at 17 Fleet Street.

However, perhaps the most significant move in 1908 was the launch of the society’s own journal, the *Stamp Lover*, first published in June that year. The first editor was naturally Fred Melville, a position he retained until his death in 1940, except for a short period in 1915 as a result of illness. The title was conceived as reflecting the meaning of the word ‘philatelist’, a lover of stamps. The magazine, published monthly and sent free to members of the JPS, could be obtained for an annual subscription of 2s 6d, the same as the annual subscription to the society – the hope being that subscribers would simply join the JPS. As a recruitment drive, the first issue was sent out to 5,000 collectors.

From the outset, the magazine provided a blend of news and more detailed articles, always catering for the enthusiast. The topics in the early issues covered a range of countries including the Bahamas, Ceylon, Confederate States of America, Falkland Islands, Hawaii, Malta and Tierra del Fuego, plus other interests such as the Olympic Games, early postal

the Junior Philatelic Society in the year 1908

stationery, and the Penny Post of 1680, and an intriguing discussion about whether we bore our friends with our stamp collections. A feature in the first few issues was an 'essay' by a young collector on 'Stamp Collecting as a Hobby'. However, this feature did not survive long – perhaps after a while it all became too repetitive.

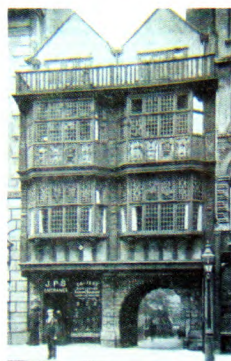
An article in the second issue (July 1908) brought a response from other sectors of the philatelic press. Written by R E R Dalwigg, the author wondered why proofs and essays were not more popular among collectors, and suggested they could be the 'boom' of the future, adding 'yet unpopularity – and unpopularity only – accounts for the fact that the rarest proofs are nothing more than dregs on the market'. Gibbons retorted that they had sold a large number of the proofs they had recently offered. However, E B Evans wrote in *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* that 'Proofs and Essays are not Stamps, and therefore there is no reason why the collector of stamps should admit them in his collection at all. They are never likely to be popular if only on account of the rarity of all those of them that are of any real interest.' He added that proofs and colour trials would interest only a specialist, and for any one country or stamp issue there will be only a few specialists, while for essays 'the demand will never be otherwise than extremely limited'.

The society news makes interesting reading. Meetings were held in the evening, starting with an auction or bourse at 6pm, followed by one or two displays and lectures. One meeting, held on 17 October 1908, concluded with a poem at 9.40pm. Information was given about the society's library, at the time amounting to 157 volumes, and of the exchange packet.

At the time, the society did not meet during the summer months, so social events were substituted, including 'an afternoon in the country' which was spent at Weybridge, although the report added that 'the sun refused to honour the occasion with his presence'. An annual garden party was held at the home of Mrs Field in Hampstead, an event that attracted many members, the highlight being a special cake, which in 1908 took as its design one of the rarities from British Guiana.

During the early years, three branches of the JPS had opened, in Liverpool, Manchester and Brighton. However, ties with the first had been severed by 1908, so reports in the first *Stamp Lover* focused on the other two. The members in Manchester were planning their own exhibition, and the first Congress in the UK, for 1909, and this caused friction with London, where some Council members felt they should be involved in the organisation. The outcome was that Manchester also broke loose, and on 22 October 1908 a separate Manchester Junior Philatelic Society was created, which went on to stage the intended events very successfully in 1909.

One hundred years on, the JPS continues as the National Philatelic Society; its library has grown to be one of the finest in the UK; it has recently established new links with the British Postal Museum & Archive, and *Stamp Lover* maintains the principles for which it was established, now published six times a year, under the editorship of David Alford ●



The JPS meeting rooms at 17 Fleet Street, London (from *The Stamp Lover*, volume 1, number 4).

National Philatelic Society

For membership details write to: National Philatelic Society c/o British Postal Museum & Archive, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL or see www.ukphilately.org.uk/nps

RAF Uniforms The second issue in a series



THE SECOND SET in the series on service uniforms will go on sale at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and Royal Mail Tallents House on 18 September. The issue features RAF uniforms and comprises six stamps and a prestige stamp book. It is appropriate that these stamps are issued this year, as the RAF was formed 90 years ago, on 1 April 1918.

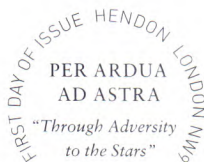
The stamps, like the Army Uniforms set last year, are printed as se-ten-ant triplets – three 1st class stamps and three 81p stamps. Each stamp bears an illustration by the artist Graham Turner, representing a significant stage in the development of RAF uniforms over the past 90 years: a Drum Major RAF Central Band, 2007; Helicopter Rescue Winchman, 1984; and Hawker Hunter Pilot, 1951 (1st class); Lancaster Air Gunner, 1944; Plotter, WAAF, 1940; and Pilot, 1918 (81p). The Queen's silhouette and value/service indicator are positioned top right on all six stamps. Royal Navy uniforms will feature in the third issue, in 2009.

The stamps were designed by Atelier Works design group of north London, and printed in litho by Walsall.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES The FDC envelope has been designed by Atelier Works. Orders for serviced FDCs must reach Tallents House (address below) by the day of issue. Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (Tallents House postmark), or to the nearest Special Handstamp Centre (Hendon, London NW9 postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FD0821' (Tallents House) or 'FD0822' (Hendon). Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for the Hendon postmark.

For details of sponsored handstamps and addresses of the Handstamp Centres see the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House (£12.25 UK/Europe; £24.95 elsewhere). For a free sample copy, write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ.

PRESTIGE STAMP BOOK *Pilot to Plane: RAF Uniforms* was written by Andrew Cormack of the RAF Museum and designed by Silk Pearce. The four stamp panes were printed by Walsall, the other pages by Cartor. The serviced FDC will bear the definitives and label stamp pane, as shown opposite ►



18.9.2008

on the history of military dress



The stamps 1st class (from left to right): a Drum Major, RAF Central Band, 2007; a Helicopter Rescue Winchman, 1984; and a Hawker Hunter Pilot of 1951. 81p: a Lancaster Air Gunner, 1944; a WAAF Plotter, 1940; and a Pilot of 1918.

Prestige stamp book The book, *Pilot to Plane: RAF Uniforms*, contains the four panes shown here. Prestige book first day covers will be serviced with the pane of 1st class definitives and RAF roundel label, as shown below.

Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbie Road
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB



RAF UNIFORMS

Royal Mail First Day Cover

Prestige stamp book The PSB contains four panes of stamps.

Pane 1 81p RAF Uniforms stamps

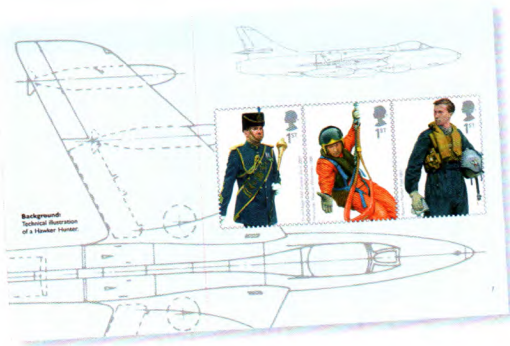
Pane 2 1st class RAF Uniforms stamps

Pane 3 Top row: 1997 20p Spitfire and 2008 1st class Air Displays stamps. Bottom row: 1st class Air Displays, 20p Spitfire

Pane 4 Definitives. Top and bottom rows: 1st class, 2nd class, 1st class. Middle: 2nd class, label (RAF roundel), 2nd class

RAF Uniforms prices

Set of stamps	£3.51
Presentation pack	£4.05
Prestige Stamp Book	£7.15
First day cover (FDC) envelope	£0.30
Serviced FDC stamps (UK customers)	£4.60
Serviced FDC stamps (overseas customers)	£3.92
Serviced FDC prestige book pane (UK customers)	£3.44
Serviced FDC prestige book pane (overseas)	£2.93
Stamp cards set	£2.40
Joint cover (with BFPO)	£9.99





RAF Halton Pipes & Drums, performing at the anniversary celebrations in the Strand, in London.

Anniversary ceremonies To mark the RAF's 90th anniversary, veterans gathered in London on 30 March 2008 to see a plaque unveiled by Air Chief Marshal Sir Glenn Torpy, at the site of the RAF's first headquarters at 80 The Strand (formerly the Hotel Cecil). The ceremony of unveiling was followed by a service at the RAF church, St Clement Danes, where the RAF Halton Pipes and Drums (left) played as the RAF standards were paraded. Amongst the players was Alastair Pether of Royal

Mail's Stamp Design team. Also in celebration of the anniversary, the Red Arrows joined four Typhoon aircraft in a flight down the River Thames, and the Duke of Edinburgh, as Marshal of the RAF, was principal guest at a special sunset ceremony and banquet held by the Trustees of the RAF Museum, Hendon •

RAF on stamps This set of stamps will add to those which have previously honoured the RAF: 1965 Battle of Britain; 1968 Anniversaries 1s stamp; 1986 History of the RAF; 1990 Gallantry (Distinguished Flying Cross and Medal); 1994 D-Day (ground crew reloading RAF Bostons); and 1997 Aircraft Designers. Military aircraft also featured on the covers of 80p and £1 stamp books issued between October 1979 and September 1980 •

Battle of Britain 1940



Mainly Machins Douglas Myall's report for the specialist Machin collector

The James Bond definitive As well as being the first gold Machin to be printed in lithography, the 1st class XVI in the James Bond prestige book has another feature of interest to the specialist. One often sees mention of 'the Machin head' as if there were only one but right from the very first issues in pre-decimal times, even non-specialists were aware that there are several variants. I will remember the controversy over whether what are now called heads A and B really existed or if, as the works manager at Harrison's factory maintained, the differences were caused by overinking. That water passed under the bridge many years ago, but there have been two major official improvements to the Machin head that have had a significant effect on its appearance.

The first came about in 1984 when Royal Mail asked graphic artist Jeffery Matthews to review the colours used. His brief included setting off the head to greater effect with the aim of getting back to Machin's original concept of a light head on a dark background. One consequence was that the head with a gradated background, known as head C and first used for the shilling pre-decimal stamp, was abandoned and the even-toned background of heads A and B were made standard.

The other occurred after 1996 following the introduction of a new method of gravure cylinder making known as electro mechanical engraving, or EME. Soon after this was introduced generally, a new image of the head was produced in digital form and sent to all contracted printers. These had been required to install gravure presses for Machin stamps in view of the greater security against forgery which they provided, compared with lithography. The new head was a variant of head B and was a major improvement on what had gone before.

Lithography was not completely abandoned. It has been retained for issues which have a comparatively short print run and which are less likely to be the target of forgers than the everyday sheet issues. Prominent among these are the panes in prestige books. At the time of the issue of the Army Uniforms book in September last year it was announced that all definitives in future prestige books would be printed in lithography. Hence the stamp in the James Bond book. But what caused the remarkably better image? ►





Lithography and gravure, especially EME gravure, employ very different means of reproducing the image for printing, even if the same artwork is used. One similarity though is that they both have images composed of dots. In acid etch photogravure, the ink is deposited into small square- or diamond-shaped cells made by a cross-ruled screen; the deeper the cells, the darker the tone. There is no screen in the EME gravure process; instead the dots made by the engraving tool vary both in size and depth. When lithography is used for a continuous tone subject, what is known as a half-tone screen is used to break up the image into dots whose size, but not depth, varies with the tonal intensity. Lithography typically uses a screen of about 300 or 350 dots per inch (dpi). During 1998 the House of Questa developed a lithographic process with a much higher resolution, capable of up to 850 dpi. They named it 'Superlitho' and I wrote about it in the *Bulletin* of October 1998. Questa were acquired by De La Rue in 2002, together with their expertise in high resolution lithography. Since then the technology has moved on, and anything over 300 dpi is now referred to as fine screen litho. The resolution used for the Bond definitive was 600 dpi.

So both gravure and lithography now have their high resolution versions of the Machin head. If anything, the litho version looks better than the gravure one!

The litho stamp in the James Bond book qualifies for listing in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue and is given no Y1672 in the catalogue supplement in the March issue of *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*.

New books of six 1st class Three very different books of six 1st class stamps have been seen since I last wrote. All are self-adhesives printed in gravure by Walsall. None has any visible cylinder numbers.

On 28 February, a book of six Smilers stamps was issued with a label slogan 'Add a special moment to your stamp'. On the top row are the Hello, Flower and Flag stamps which appeared in a similar book on 17 July 2006 and on the bottom row are the Balloons, Fireworks and Butterflies stamps which appeared in a similar book on 17 October 2006. Taken together, these three books have a lot of philatelic interest. The 2006 Hello, Flower and Flag stamps do not have ellipses, while those of 2008 do. The same applies to the Balloons, Fireworks and Butterflies. Thus all six stamps in the latest book are new to even moderate specialists. Also, although the pattern of coloured blocks on the strip at the right of the new book appears to be the same as the one used on the 2006 editions, it is in fact different.



On 20 May 2008 a book was issued containing four 1st class gold Machins and two 1st class ice cream cornet stamps from the Beside the Seaside issue of 15 May 2007. The booklet layout is the same used in a series from April 2001 to June 2004, beginning with the now scarce Submarine book. It is a welcome return of the mixed definitive and special issue book and I hope there will be more of them. They are sold through retailers, serving to let the public know of special stamps they may not have seen. The books could prove popular, especially in holiday resorts for 'wish-you-were-here' cards. The cover differs from the earlier series, in that it does not bear an image of the special stamp and is red instead of gold. The ice cream stamps differ from their earlier sheet equivalents (now withdrawn from sale) in being self-adhesive. If you collect them make sure you have this one.

The third book contains six gold 1st class NVIs with a label promoting the special stamps issued the same day, 1 June 2008, celebrating 50 years of the Carry On and Hammer Horror films. There are no cylinder numbers because the strip which would normally carry them is filled with images of the film characters' faces.

It is interesting to compare the gravure Machin head on these Walsall booklet stamps with the De La Rue lithographed image in the Bond book. Using a x10 glass you will see many differences, although it is evident that they came from the same original artwork. To get you started, compare The Queen's lower lip, the curves in her hair and the earring.

Service indicators Finally, a comment regarding stamps produced for the basic rate on large letters under the PIP scheme. As you know, I am not a great fan of these, as I consider the presence of the word Large detracts from the simplicity which is the great strength of the Machin icon. This was achieved when the decision was made to remove the words Postage and Revenue. Last November the ubiquitous Horizon labels for these two services appeared with the indicators 1LL and 2LL. Postal staff recognise the meanings of these, and give the items the correct treatment. They would do the same if they saw them on postage stamps. That change would make these stamps more attractive to Machin collectors •



My cover collection by Martin Robinson

The design for this souvenir label for the 1933 Congress appears to be based on the cover of a song sheet for *The Postman's Knock*. (BPMA Accession No 2005.82/5).



Philatelic Congress of Great Britain 1933 The first Philatelic Congress of GB was held in Manchester in 1909, and the goth will be in Stratford-upon-Avon on 24-27 July 2008. A collection of the postmarks, covers, cards, labels and other souvenirs, not to mention handbooks, invitations, tickets, menus and receipts issued over the years would run to many hundreds of items. My favourite year is 1933, when a very special souvenir was issued for the 20th Congress, in London. This was a set of labels showing the 'Postman's Knock' engraved and printed by Thomas De La Rue & Co Ltd. These were in sheets of 12 (4 × 3), gummed and perforated. They were issued by the British Philatelic Association Ltd especially to mark the Congress.

They were in seven different colours, each on a different stamp printing paper. An accompanying card gave the details: 1) Wove, hand-made (black); 2) Wove, machine-made, showing a typical mesh (blue); 3) Laid (green); 4) Pelure (red); 5) Wove bâtonné (purple); 6) Laid bâtonné (orange); and 7) Quadrillé (sepia). A note at the foot says: 'Except in the case of the pelure example, no attention should be paid to the comparative thickness of the papers, as it was impossible to obtain them in a uniform weight – this applied particularly to No 5 (wove bâtonné) which is represented here by a thicker paper than would be used in stamp production.'

The design seems to be based on, or from the same source as, the cover of a song sheet. *The Postman's Knock*, originally sung at the Theatre Royal Haymarket by William Farren, was dedicated to 'Sir Rowland Hill, late of the General Post Office'. He left in 1864 so the piece can be dated to some time not long after that. The cover design is similar to that on the *Postman's Polka* of 1853, but the uniform now consists of a blue coat with red trim, introduced in 1861. The music, for piano and voice, was composed by W T Wrighton, with lyrics by L M Thornton. It was published by Robert Cocks & Co of London, 'music publishers to Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria and and his Imperial Majesty the Emperor Napoleon III' •

Philately online Ron Negus revisits a site for GB collectors

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GBPS The Great Britain Philatelic Society

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devoted to the philately and postal history of Great Britain

NEW! GBPS DISCUSSION GROUP
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-- ASK A QUESTION
-- OR GIVE AN ANSWER

[DOWNLOAD](#) THE CUMULATIVE INDEX TO
THE GB JOURNAL VOLUMES 21-44
(220Kb PDF)

It is six years since I reviewed the website of the Great Britain Philatelic Society. As this group is rightly regarded as the major specialist society for collectors of GB material worldwide, it seems appropriate to revisit the site (address above) and describe its current content.

From its formation in 1955 until today, the Society has retained a primary aim to promote, encourage and contribute to the advancement of the philately of Great Britain. This aim includes all aspects of GB philately, and members' interests cover stamps, postal history, postal stationery, booklets, college stamps, revenues, telegraphs and philatelic conservation.

With such a wide coverage of subject matter, members discover many new facts when they research their own collections. The Society encourages the publication of these findings, either as books or as articles in their magazine, the *GB Journal*.

Their website contains a library list, showing books that may be borrowed, plus a detailed catalogue of Society publications. The latter quotes the discounted prices available to members. The cumulative index to articles that have appeared in the *GB Journal* is also a prominent feature on the website. This now includes all the issues from volume 21 to volume 44, which are for the years from 1983 to 2006 inclusive. The complete listing is provided in Acrobat format so it can be printed out easily.

As well as the *Journal*, Society members also receive copies of the *Newsletter*. This publication is designed to keep the membership informed of

www.gbgs.org.uk Non-members of the GB Philatelic Society are welcome to attend a meeting to see if they would be interested in joining. An application form is provided on the site, or collectors of any aspect of GB philately may write to the Membership Secretary, Peter Tanner, Highstandings, 13 St Hubert's Close, Gerrards Cross, Bucks SL9 7EN for further details.

the latest news and views, and includes full information about forthcoming meetings. An example copy of the *Newsletter* is available on the website. This is intended to give potential members some idea of the content if they are deciding whether or not to join the Society.

Details of the season's current programme of meetings are provided on the site. These include times and venues for the eight meetings a year, including five all-day sessions, often held in London, with dealers present. There are occasional provincial meetings as well, and postal auctions also take place from time to time. Other activities mentioned include an Exchange Packet, Society competitions, and the availability of GBPS consultants who can be contacted for advice.

A new addition to the website, which was not present when I reviewed it originally, is the GBPS Discussion Board. This is in the standard newsgroup format, with enquiries made by e-mail and displayed on the board. Members offer answers to the enquiries, if possible, and the ensuing correspondence is displayed. Each separate subject, giving a list of questions along with their replies, is known as a 'thread'. The threads are collected together into broad subject headings, called categories, so that information about any particular subject is easy to locate. Some examples of categories are 'Queen Victoria Line Engraved', KGV 1912-24 Royal Cypher Issues' and 'Queen Elizabeth II Issues'.

The Society maintains a glossary of philatelic terms, and members are asked to help to maintain this by adding any new definitions they encounter. Finally, the site gives links to others that will interest keen collectors. These include general philatelic sites as well as those aimed specifically at the GB collector. In the latter group there is a listing of websites of stamp dealers who are also members of the GBPS •

1908 Olympic centenary Bob Wilcock on



1224



ROYAL MAIL will be issuing a new commemorative sheet and a coin cover on 24 July, to mark the centenary of the 1908 Olympic Games at the White City in London. Other countries are also marking this centenary. The marathon is the most famous event of those Games: the Italian Dorando Pietri was the first runner to cross the finishing line, after having collapsed dramatically on the track. He was helped back to his feet, but was later disqualified for having received assistance, and the American Johnny Hayes was awarded the Gold Medal. Italy issued a stamp on 23 February to commemorate the man who became a national hero.

The stamp was issued at a special exhibition which included displays by members of the Society of Olympic Collectors, who also issued and mailed special SmartStamp covers. The soc also participated in the special exhibition organised by Flora London Marathon, marking the centenary of the 1908 Olympic marathon and the now-standard distance of 26 miles 385 yards, and issued a SmartStamp with the exhibition logo (more details can be obtained from marathon@societyofolympiccollectors.org).

Palau has also issued a miniature sheet, and more stamps are sure to follow. The stamps depict the two most controversial events of the Games,

new issues recalling the first London Games



the marathon and the 400 metres. There are also two interesting errors: Dorando's shorts were red not black, and an illustration described as 'poster 1908' is in fact a programme cover. The true poster design has been lost for 100 years, but it is about to be revealed to the public again. The Society of Olympic Collectors has published a book which has the poster on the cover and includes a fully illustrated listing of all of the 50 or so stamps relating to the 1908 London Olympics issued up to the end of 2007; this will be reviewed in a later issue of the *Bulletin* •

Posting boxes

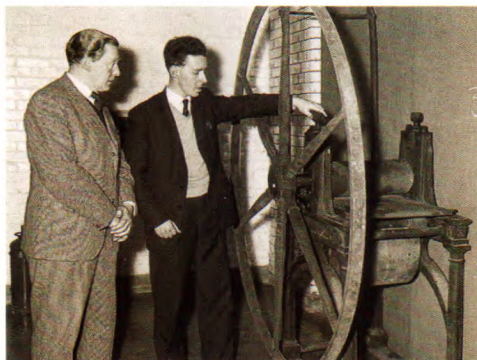
WE ARE OBLIGED THIS MONTH to Dr John Wall for photographs of a rather unusual box in North Yorkshire. Dr Wall tells us that the Pyramid Gate marks the entrance to Castle Howard in North Yorkshire, the stately home that was featured in the TV series of Evelyn Waugh's novel *Brideshead Revisited* in the 1980s. Immediately above the arch is an inscription in Latin, which reads: 'Charles Howard, Earl of Carlisle, established this place AD 1719'. The wings, which were added in 1756, were converted by the radical and reforming 9th Countess into a Temperance Inn 'For such people as are tired, weak, or worn out through illness, poverty, hard work or anxiety of mind'. It is probable that it was for the convenience of these residents that a letter box was installed within the arch, on the west wall. The present letter box is inscribed VR for (Queen) Victoria Regina. It carries a notice which reads: 'For Health and Safety Purposes this box is now out of service'. This is understandable, since this is now a busy highway, and anyone attempting to post a letter would do so at risk of life and limb •



The postbox set into a wall of the Pyramid Gate (right), which marks the entrance to Castle Howard. As the road through the arch is now a busy highway, the box is no longer in use.

Pictures from the past Printers of the world's first stamps

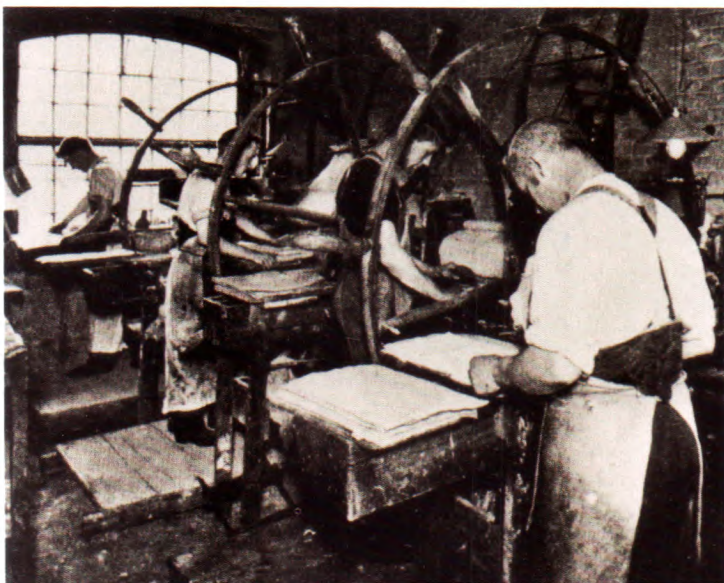
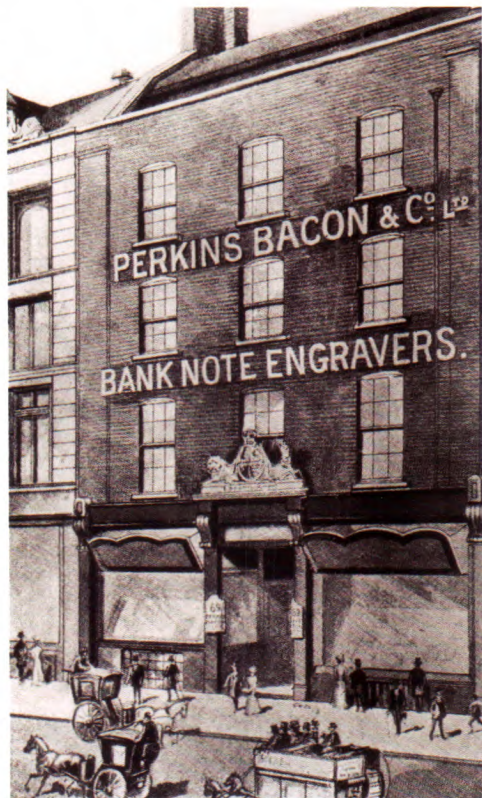
DURING A RECENT tidy-up at the *Bulletin* office, we found a number of photographs relating to stamp printing and the postal service of yesterday. Here we feature the Fleet Street premises of Perkins Bacon & Co Ltd, printers of the Penny Black, Twopence Blue and other recess-printed Victorian stamps. Also shown are printers using the type of presses used to print the early stamps. We hope these are of interest to readers who collect Victorian issues. One of these early printing presses is preserved at the British Library, rescued from scrap by the late James Mackay. It was used to demonstrate printing of replica Penny Blacks at the Stamp Show 2000 exhibition – see *Bulletin* July 2000, pages 344-46 •



Above: James Mackay (right) and Arthur Blair (then editor of *Stamp Magazine*), with the Victorian press used to print the replica Penny Blacks.

Above right: the Fleet Street premises of Perkins Bacon & Co, stamp printers.

Right: printers working the type of presses used for early stamp production.



Eminent collectors Ron Negus on the de Worms brothers

OF THE TWO de Worms brothers, Percy is probably the more famous because of the effort he put into organising the Perkins, Bacon records, and preparing a book on the subject for the Royal Philatelic Society. His elder brother Anthony was also very well known, mainly due to the detailed research he carried out on the stamps of Ceylon.

The brothers were both entitled to use the title of Baron de Worms, an Austrian hereditary title to which their paternal grandfather, Solomon de Worms, had been entitled in his home country.

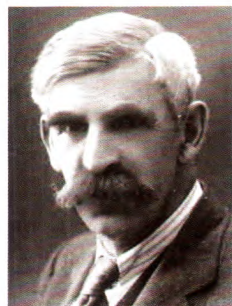
When Solomon emigrated in 1815, with his two brothers, to establish a banking business, the title was not accepted in England. However, the three brothers were also instrumental in introducing coffee growing to Ceylon. In 1874, Queen Victoria recognised their work for the economy of that Colony, and gave special permission for Solomon, and his descendants, to use the title again.

Solomon de Worms' eldest son, George, married in 1860, and his wife gave birth to two sons and a daughter. The first son, born on 4 January 1869, was christened Anthony Denis Maurice George. Five years later, his brother, Percy George de Worms was born. Their younger sister, Henrietta, never became a stamp collector.

Anthony was introduced to philately at the early age of six, when he was given a well-stocked album that his father had used some years before but had then put aside and forgotten. This contained many unused European stamps that his father had bought as new issues during his many business trips to the continent. Unfortunately, many of the specimens were in very poor condition, because they had been trimmed to fit the spaces in the old pre-printed album. His father subsequently found a hoard of duplicates and stamps from other countries, however, and these were also donated to Anthony. As the later additions had not been cut around to fit the album, they actually proved to be a more valuable collection. Amongst them were quantities of the first issue of Ceylon, imperforate, in unused blocks.

To obtain a better understanding of his stamps, Anthony de Worms joined the (later Royal) Philatelic Society, London in 1887. With advice from some of the senior members of that Society, Anthony sold off most of his duplicates and used the proceeds to build up a significant all-world collection. He exhibited parts of this collection at most of the major shows of the 1890s and soon became well known amongst members of the stamp collecting fraternity.

By the end of Queen Victoria's reign, he had realised that completion in a general whole world collection was becoming almost impossible. He took the decision to specialise in one country, and selected Ceylon. His uncle's knowledge of that area, where he owned extensive tea and coffee plantations, helped Anthony make his selection. ►



The noted philatelists Percy de Worms, left, and his elder brother Anthony.

Although he was of a retiring disposition, Anthony served on the Council of the Royal Philatelic Society from 1916 until his death. In 1921, he was invited to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists at the inaugural Harrogate Congress. In 1932, he was awarded the Royal Philatelic Society's Til-leard Medal for a display of the Pence issues of Ceylon.

It was a shock to collectors everywhere when Anthony died on 11 January 1938, one week after his 69th birthday. In June of that year, his magnificent collection came under the hammer at Harmers. The sale, described as 'one of the most classic of one country collections', lasted for four days. On the first day, there was a 20-minute broadcast of the bidding on BBC radio – the first from a philatelic auction. The total realisation from the sale was £12,750, the equivalent of just over half a million pounds today.

Anthony's younger brother, Baron Percy de Worms, had arranged some of the stamps sold at that auction. Percy was born in 1874, and had often helped Anthony to mount his stamps even though he was not a collector himself as a schoolboy. However, this assistance led to Percy gaining knowledge of stamps that led him to want to collect himself. By the time he was 18, Percy had also joined the Philatelic Society of London and, like his brother, began to specialise in the stamps of Ceylon.

Percy undertook various roles in the administration of the Royal Philatelic Society, London. Elected to the Council in 1913, he served on it for the next 28 years. From October 1917 until the outbreak of the Second World War he was Hon Assistant Secretary. He became joint Honorary Librarian from 1928 to 1931 and again from 1935 to 1941. During these terms of office he established close links with the Collectors' Club in America, and helped to complete runs of journals by exchanging duplicates with them.

In 1919, he took over the curatorship of the Society's forgery collection and spent many months re-arranging, mounting and writing up the material. This work helped the Expert Committee greatly. He was a member of that Committee from 1917 until 1926, but had to give up because of failing eyesight. He rejoined them in 1937, however, and remained a member until his death. His knowledge of the early Ceylon issues, particularly the provisionals of 1885 often proved invaluable in expertising. The paper he wrote in 1927 on the latter issues for the *London Philatelist* earned him the Tapling Medal for that year.

Percy de Worms will always be remembered for two other significant editorial tasks for the Society. The first of these was in 1919, when he compiled a history of its first 50 years, entitled *The Royal Philatelic Society, London: 1869-1919*. A copy of this book was presented to each member of the Society to mark the Jubilee.

The second task he undertook was the preparation of the Society's book about the Perkins Bacon Records. These valuable records had come into the possession of the Royal Philatelic Society when that famous security and stamp printers went into liquidation in 1936. The task of sorting this mass of paper, including account books, copy correspondence, ledgers and printing records dating back to the 1840s was undertaken with enthusiasm by Percy de Worms. The plan was that the book should be published to

coincide with the anniversary of the Penny Black in 1940, but this did not happen. The outbreak of the Second World War led to the cancellation of the proposed International exhibition scheduled to take place in London to mark the anniversary, and work on the book was suspended. Also, in 1939, Percy was taken seriously ill and was unable to devote much time to preparing the Perkins Bacon manuscript. His illness became worse during the early war years, and he died on 2 April 1941, in his 67th year.

For various reasons, it took a further 12 years for the book to be published. The efforts of John Easton, Arnold Strange and the Publications Committee of the Royal brought the two-volume work to fruition in 1953. Because Percy de Worms had done so much of the preliminary drafting, and extracted large parts of the original records, it has always been regarded as having been written by him, and his name appears on the cover.

As well as giving so much time to Society affairs, Percy de Worms took a close interest in organised philately generally. In 1924 he was appointed as a member of the sub-committee set up by the Philatelic Congress of GB to update an index of magazine articles prepared 20 years earlier by William A R Jex Long. The de Worms version was published in 1925. His work with Congress, on the Index and in other ways, was recognised when he signed the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in 1928, and thus joined his brother in earning this accolade. Together they formed a notable philatelic team whose activities will long be remembered amongst collectors everywhere •

Prize draw 2007 pack collections to be won



FOR THIS MONTH'S draw we offer the collection of 2007 presentation packs. This will be sent to the sender of the first card drawn on 30 June. Five runners-up will be sent the Carry On and Hammer Films presentation pack. To enter the draw, simply write your name and address on the back of a postcard and send it to: Presentation Pack Draw, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ •

Competitions Enter for a chance to win the 2007 Yearbook



March identify The detail was from the 1965 United Nations 3d stamp. The winner was C van Gennep, the Netherlands

March knowledge Answers: 1) bistre-brown, or brown; 2) Jeffery Matthews; 3) Kate Stephens. The winner was K Bowler, of Canada.

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

- 1 In which year did John Harrison's Marine Timekeeper No 4 feature on stamps?
- 2 Who designed the 1993 Swans stamps?
- 3 Where is the Efron World Stamp Exhibition being held this month?

Send your answer (addressed to either the June *Identify* competition or the June *Knowledge* competition), name and address on a postcard or back of a sealed envelope to: British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ. The senders of the first cards drawn in each competition on 18 July will receive a Yearbook. Runners-up in each competition will receive presentation packs, FDCs or stamp cards. Royal Mail employees are not eligible for the competitions.

Events

Until 30 May 60th anniversary of Glasgow Thematic Society thematic exhibition, at Winter Gardens, the People's Palace, Glasgow. Also at Mitchell Library, Glasgow from 6 to 31 May.

Until 24 December 'Timeless & Classic: Elizabeth II, Queen & Icon', BPMA exhibition; Wedgwood Visitor Centre, Barlaston, Stoke-on-Trent. Weekdays 09.00-17.00, weekends 10.00-17.00. **Enquiries** 01782 282 986 (Wedgwood), 020 7239 2570 (BPMA)

Until April 2009 'Lions, Leopards, Unicorns & Dragons' exhibition commemorating 50 years of regional stamps at BPMA, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1. **Enquiries** 020 7239 2570.

14 June Yorkshire Phil Assn 61st Annual Convention at Pudsey Civic Hall, 09.30-16.30. Hall at junction of Ring Rd (A6120) and Leeds & Bradford Rd (A647).

30 dealers, exhibition, admission and parking free. Refreshments. **Enquiries** A Peel, 01924 505724.

14 June SWINPEX 2008, Swindon PS annual stamp, postcard and postal history fair at St Joseph's Catholic College, Ocotal Way, Swindon, 10.00-16.30. 46 dealers, 20 specialist societies meetings and displays. Admission 50p. Free parking, refreshments.

20-28 June Efron 2008 exhibition. See page 294.

28-29 June Thematica at Carisbrooke Hall, Seymour St, London W2. Sat 10.30-17.30, Sun 10.30-17.00. **Enquiries** Thematic Exhibitions, PO Box 8843, London N3 1HL, 020 8343 2434.

29 June British Thematic Association AGM at Thematica (see above). Display 'Parachutes' by Barry Stagg follows. See www.brit-thematic-assoc.com

Late news



Scottish Congress The 79th Annual Congress of the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies, was held in Perth on 18-19 April. More than 500 collectors visited almost 50 dealers, and viewed displays of national, open and junior competitions, all of a high standard. Junior entries were up from last year to 37. The Tom Rielly Display was given by Richard Beith on the subject 'South Atlantic Airmails'. Richard, an occasional contributor to this *Bulletin*, signed the Book of Scottish Philatelists (above) in recognition of his work for aerophilately and national organisations.

Guest of honour was Dougal McIntyre, whose father was the first to fly over Mt Everest and was responsible for developing Prestwick Aerodrome and Flying School in 1938. Dougal's speech was supported by archive film of the Everest flight in 1933 and the work of the Flying School.

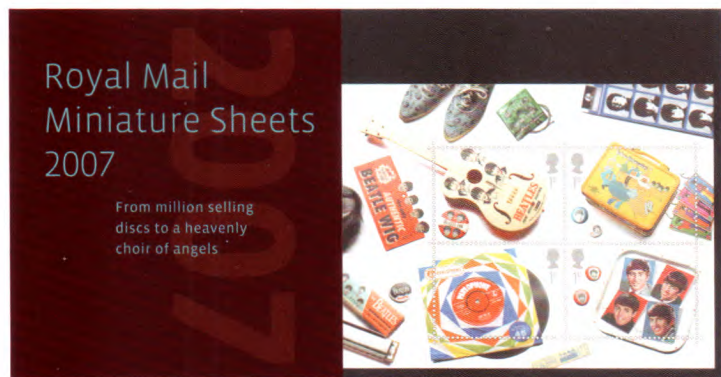
The awards in the National Exhibition were: William Ferris Memorial Trophy – Norman Fairbairn, 1s and 5s postage stamps of Fiji 1881-1902; Bruce Auckland Centennial Quaich and Cowell Salver for Best First Time Entrant – Ian Baker, Scotland's Wheel Tax in England; Aerophilatelic Shield – Bill Robertson, Turkish Airmail ww2; Robson Lowe Award for Philatelic Literature – Alba Stamp Group, Scots and Philately; Iain T Boyle Vase & Dr Hirst Bowl for Best Overall Presentation – Eric Kenwright, The Golden Jubilee of Uniform Penny Post 1890; Open Competition Winner and a Junior Competition (Small Silver Gilt) – Chris Catto, Penguins.

In the Junior Competition, the awards were: 16-17 years – Large Silver Gilt, Patrick Adamson, A History of the Wilding Stamps; 9-12 years – Small Silver Gilt & Alba Salver for best entry, Brogan Clark, My Visit to Egypt; under 9 years – Small Silver Gilt, Niamh O'Flaherty, News from Scotland; and One Page Competition – Claire Mitchell, Why the Long Face? •

Obituaries Gwyneth Dunwoody, Labour MP for Crewe and Nantwich, died in April, aged 77. A member of Royal Mail's Stamp Advisory Committee, 1993-97, she served as a junior minister in the first Wilson government, was shadow transport secretary, and in 1983 she stood for election as Deputy Leader of the Labour Party. She will probably be best remembered as the formidable chair of the Transport Select Committee, and as the longest-serving female MP. The Prime Minister paid tribute to Mrs Dunwoody, saying 'she was fiercely independent... a great parliamentarian'. Former PMG Tony Benn said she would be greatly missed as 'an independent-minded woman who always spoke her mind.' In her own words 'Awkward old bats have their purpose.' •

Trevor Davis, who died in April, began collecting at the age of nine, with the purchase of a box of GB 1d red plate numbers. After three unsatisfying years as a medical student he joined a firm of stamp dealers, and then started his own business in 1973. Apart from dealing in Postal History, he ran the monthly Strand Stamp Fairs in London and, in partnership, promoted Philatex and the York Stamp & Coin Fair, indispensable events in the collecting calendar. He first exhibited nationally at the BPE in 1971 where, to his great surprise, he received a gold medal and the Postal History Society medal. He served as President of the Postal History Society of GB 1987-88, and of the prestigious Society of Postal Historians in 1995. He became an honorary member of the Royal Philatelic Society in 1996 and was later elected to the council. Also interested in antiques and watching sport, philately remained his favourite, having 'enriched my life' •

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