

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The ROYAL MAIL magazine for stamp collectors

Volume 36 Number 1

SEPTEMBER 1998 • 85p

Bulletin

Speed prestige stamp book •
Overprinted British stamps



British Land Speed Records
Royal Mail Mint Stamps



Donald Campbell
at Utah 1960

Thrust breaks sound barrier – official

By DAVID WATTS

THRUST's team made no mistake last night as they made their supersonic land speed record official.

Royal Air Force pilot Green made two runs at the Black Rock Desert, Nevada that were faster than Mach 1, breaking the record set earlier this month. The record now stands at 20

Noble's jet-powered car reached 759.333mph — well above the speed of sound. According to the dash, the hour



THE BULLETIN

35TH

ANNIVERSARY

ISSUE 1963-98

Two days ago the broke the sound barrier. Their two runs took 61 minutes to complete, cheating them out of first place in history by 60 seconds. International rules state that the car must complete two runs within a minute that it can be safely

going supersonic, earning yourselves a place in record books. Breaking the sound barrier is a triumph for the Thrust team and a triumph in which the nation share and take pride in. Success is an excellent example of its best."

Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



Cover Henry Segrave in his *Golden Arrow*, top, breaking the Land Speed Record at Daytona Beach in 1929, and his 1000hp Sunbeam, with pages from *Breaking Barriers*, Royal Mail's new prestige stamp book. Photograph by Geoff Dann.

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

1 September	Issue Royal Mail International aircards (five cards)
7 September	Issue 10 x 1st NVI, 10 x 1st greetings, 4 x 30p and 4 x 37p books with 'create a card' promotion; 10 x 1st NVI book printed by Questa with cover change. <i>Note: the promotion books were issued at selected post offices in the Midlands from 3 August; they go on sale in other areas and from philatelic outlets from 7 September.</i>
8 September	Withdrawal Enid Blyton's Famous Five stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards
14 September	Withdrawal Holiday promotion stamp book, issued 15 September 1987
22 September	Issue Speed stamp cards
22 September	Withdrawal BBC prestige stamp book
29 September	Issue Speed stamps and presentation pack
6 October	Issue 1998 Christmas aerogramme and aircard
6 October	Withdrawal 1997 Christmas aerogramme
13 October	Issue 'Breaking Barriers' (speed) prestige stamp book (£6.16)
20 October	Issue Presentation packs: Low Value definitives, 1p-£1 (£5.50), Country stamps (£4.75)
21 October	Withdrawal 4 x 1st stamp book with Commonwealth Heads of government commemorative label
26 October	Withdrawal 1997 Christmas stamps, presentation pack, stamp cards, and stamp books
27 October	Issue Christmas stamp cards
2 November	Issue Christmas stamps, presentation pack, stamp books (20 x 20p, 10 x 26p), 1998 Year Pack and Year Book

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The British Philatelic Bulletin is published monthly by Royal Mail, Royal London House, 22 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1NL. • **Editor** JR Holman • **Price** 85p single copies from Collections, philatelic counters, and National Postal Museum • **Annual subscriptions** UK and Europe £9.50, rest of the world £13.50. Subscriptions should be sent to British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT • **Binders** to hold 24 issues, price £7. Available by post from British Philatelic Bureau (address above) • Royal Mail also publishes the fortnightly *British Postmark Bulletin*, giving details of forthcoming special handstamps and postmark slogans. Available on annual subscription from British Philatelic Bureau (address above) UK & Europe £10, rest of world £21.75 • **Copyright** Unless copyright attributed to specific authors, all articles and features may be reproduced without formal permission, but acknowledgement should be given to *British Philatelic Bulletin*. Requests to reproduce copyright articles should be sent to the Editor, 22 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1NL • **Design** by Robert Maude • **Printed** in Great Britain by The White Dove Press • **ISSN** 0953 8119

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This month The Editor previews this issue

THIS MONTH we preview the Speed Records prestige stamp book to be issued on 13 October. As always the book contains some interesting new stamp varieties for specialist collectors.

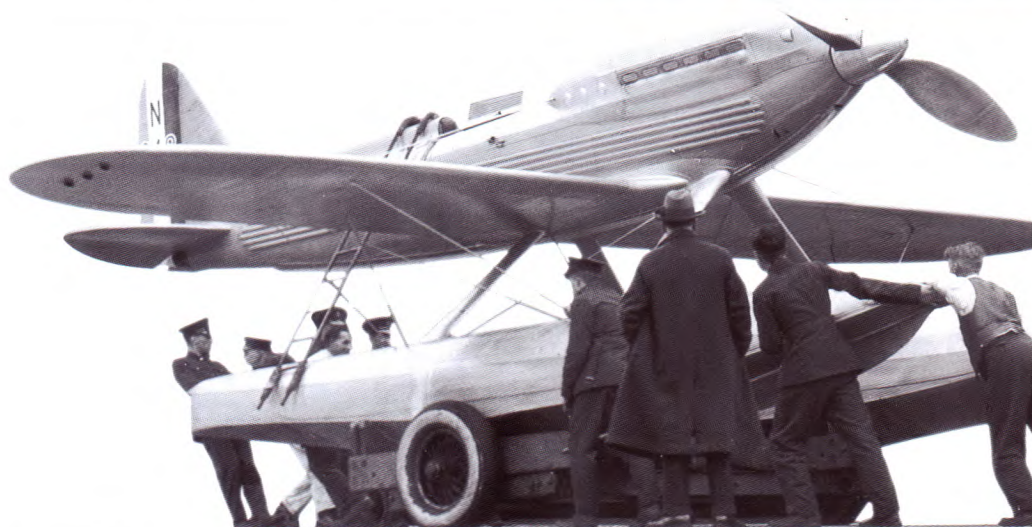
Our main feature this month comprises the third and final part of James Mackay's survey of GB stamps overprinted for use overseas. The Autumn Stampex exhibition opens at the Business Design Centre, London N1 on 30 September. Stamp exhibition souvenir sheets, covers and postmarks have a following and articles on them have appeared from time to time in the philatelic press. This month Jim Negus looks at a rather neglected subject – the labels produced for over 40 years to publicise Stampex.

Two anniversaries falls this month – it is now 30 years since the introduction of our two-tier inland postal service, and 35 years since the first issue of this *Bulletin* was published. We still have many readers from the early days. A complete run of the *Bulletin* contains much useful and enjoyable reading matter and I hope this anniversary issue is no exception.

JOHN HOLMAN •

The book yields the following stamps – some new, others exist elsewhere

Stamp	New/other source
20p Speed side band left	New
20p Speed side band right	New
10p definitive	Sheets by De La Rue
43p definitive	DLR sheets and coils
2nd NVI side band at left	New
2nd NVI side band at right	New
Country stamps 20p side band right	New
Country stamps 26p two bands	Sheets & BBC book



Royal Mail news New prestige stamp book

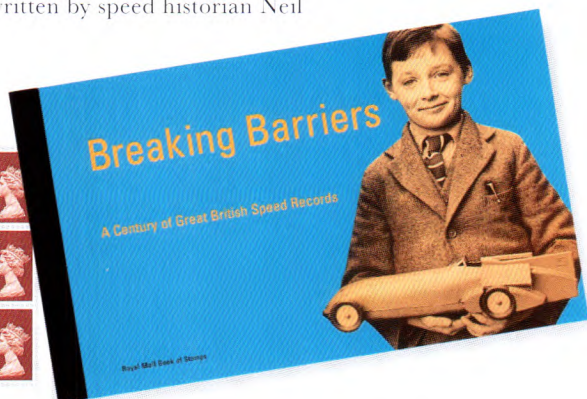
• New presentation packs and stamp books

Speed prestige stamp book The latest prestige stamp book, entitled 'Breaking Barriers: A Century of Great British Speed Records', will be issued on 13 October, price £6.16. The front cover shows Donald Campbell as a schoolboy with a model of his father's *Bluebird*, 1931. The book is of special interest to collectors in that it contains a pane of Speed stamps as well as mixed panes of definitive, NV1 and country stamps. The pages tell the story of British speed records on land, sea, and air, with some excellent illustrations of the men and their machines, including John Cobb, Henry Segrave, Donald and Malcolm Campbell, Andy Green and Richard Noble. The Air section recalls the early flights of Moore-Brabazon, Harry Hawker, the Schneider Trophy, R.J. Mitchell, and Frank Whittle's jet engine.

The book has been designed by the Roundel group and printed by Wall-sall Security Printers Ltd. The text was written by speed historian Neil Carr-Jones.



The infinity symbol is often used as speed record breaking units



Breaking Barriers
A Century of Great British Speed Records

Royal Mail First Day Cover



Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

Breaking Barriers The new prestige stamp book, above, and first day cover.

R J Mitchell, and the racers he designed for Supermarine to win the Schneider Trophy, opposite, are among the men and machines remembered in the Air section of *Breaking Barriers*. Photograph: Hulton Getty.



Pane 4 Mixed pane of definitives: top and bottom rows 43p, 10p and 2nd class NVI; middle row 43p, label (RAF roundel) and 2nd class NVI. The 10p and 43p stamps have two phosphor bands, the NVI stamps one band at left.

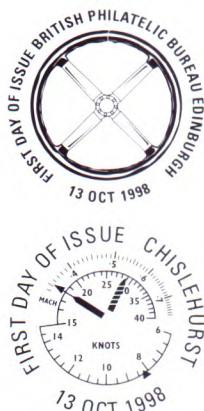
The pane margin shows RAF rudder markings that bear the national colours.



(top row 2nd NVI + 26p Scotland, middle row 2nd NVI + 26p Wales, bottom row 2nd NVI + 26p Northern Ireland. 2nd NVI stamps have phosphor band right, 26p country stamps two bands. Pane margin shows the infinity symbol often used on speed record breaking crafts • Pane 4 is shown left.

The 26p country stamps are essentially the same as the existing sheet stamps produced by Walsall although specialist collectors may detect minor differences. All stamps are printed in gravure, the definitive and country stamps are perforated with one elliptical hole on each vertical side. The 20p Speed stamp, printed by De La Rue and issued in sheets of 100 on 29 September has one centre band.

Each pane is divided into three sections by two vertical rows of rouletting, approx 12mm from the left-hand edge of the pane and 5mm from the left-hand stamps in the pane – this makes for easy separation by collectors who want to remove the stamps or the stamps plus printed matter. The panes measure 162mm across by 96mm deep.



FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail first day cover envelopes will be available from main post offices, the Bureau, and Post Office Counters philatelic outlets about a week before 13 October, price 25p. Orders for covers bearing the pictorial label pane cancelled with a pictorial 'first day of issue' postmark of the Bureau or Chislehurst (birthplace of Sir Malcolm Campbell), price £2.87 UK (inc VAT), £2.45 overseas (no VAT), must reach the Bureau by 13 October. Collectors may send their own stamped covers, on the day of issue, for these postmarks to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT, or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Mount Pleasant, London EC1A 1BB (Chislehurst postmark). Outer envelopes should be marked 'FD98 PSB03' (Bureau), or 'FD98 PSB04' (Chislehurst).

First Day boxes will be provided at main post offices for posting covers for local (mostly non-pictorial) 'first day of issue' handstamps. Sponsored special handstamps will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from the Bureau (£10 UK/Europe; £21.75 rest of world). Any of the stamps in the prestige book can be used, singly or in combination (subject to minimum 20p postage) for all first day, philatelic and sponsored handstamps in use on 13 October •

Withdrawal of BBC prestige book Any remaining stock of the 1997 BBC prestige book will be withdrawn from sale at the Bureau and Post Office Counters philatelic outlets on 22 September. The book is the only source of the 20p definitive, printed in gravure with phosphor band right and the 20p Children's tv stamp (Muffin the Mule) with perf gauge 15 × 14. The Muffin stamp from sheets (issued September 1996) has perf 14.5 × 14. Both variations are listed in Stanley Gibbons catalogues.

The book is also the last source now for the 26p and 1st class definitives in gold; sheet stamps and other books containing gold stamps have now been withdrawn. Collectors requiring any of these stamps for their collections are advised to order the BBC book without delay, price £6.15 •

Carnival stamps The cylinder numbers and colours are: 20p, 26p and 63p w1(gold) w1 (black) w1 (new blue) w1 (bright magenta) w1 (greenish yellow) 43p w1 (gold) w2 (grey-black) w1 (new blue) w1 (bright magenta) w1 (bistre-yellow). The phosphor numbers are w2 (20p), w1 (other values) •

New aircards and aerogramme Five new Royal Mail International aircards go on sale at selected post offices, the Bureau and Post Office Counters philatelic outlets on 1 September, price £1.30 each. The cards feature: 'Flowers and Herbs' by Carol Sharp; 'Train' by Andrew Davidson/The Artworks; 'The Procession' (animals) by Graham Percy/The Artworks; 'London' (pictorial map) by Rebecca Gibbon/The Ink Shed; and 'Hello' (modern art design) by Sara Fanelli. The cards are supplied individually packaged; there will be no packs of five cards this time.

The 1998 Christmas aerogramme (45p) and a Christmas aircard (£1.30) will go on sale from 6 October. Like the Christmas stamps, they feature angels and are designed by Irene von Treskow. Details of the stamps will be given next month •

National Postal Museum Currently on show at the NPM are 'It's Only a Game' (Sports), 'Victorian Posts', and 'Going Places with the British Post Office' special exhibitions as well as the permanent displays from the famous R M Phillips Collection of Victorian stamps, and 'All-World' and thematic issues. The 'Post Haste!' exhibition of postal vehicles, letter boxes and artefacts is on the ground floor. The well-stocked shop offers a wide range of books, postcards, and souvenirs; mail handed in at the shop receives a unique Maltese Cross handstamp.

The Museum in King Edward Street is likely to close to the public within the next few weeks so intending visitors are advised to phone first to check if the Museum will be open when they want to visit. Details of the new location for the NPM will be announced in due course •

Commemorative label books Royal Mail will issue books of four 1st class stamps with commemorative labels on 14 November to celebrate the 50th birthday of HRH The Prince of Wales and 12 May 1999 to mark the 50th anniversary of the Berlin Airlift •

Speed stamps The cylinders and colours are the same for each value.

1A (rosine) • 1B (greenish yellow) • 1C (magenta) • 1D (new blue) • 1E (black) • 1F (silver).

The phosphor numbers are P69 (20p) • 70P and 7Pp (30p) • 71P (43p and 63p). Note that the dot sheets of the 26p and 30p (phosphor 70P) do not show the phosphor number.

Before visiting the NPM

Check if the Museum will be open: 0171 776 3636.

The NPM, in King Edward Street, London EC1A 1LP, is open Monday to Friday 09.30-16.30. Admission is free.

The new definitive pack

contains 1p, 2p, 4p, 5p, 6p, 10p, 20p, 26p, 30p, 31p, 37p, 39p, 43p, 50p, 63p and £1 stamps printed by De La Rue and 1st and 2nd NVI stamps by Walsall.

**The new country pack**

contains 20p, 26p, 37p and 63p stamps for Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales printed by Walsall.



High Values pack Please note that the price of the High Values pack issued in August is £11.85, not £11.95 as stated here last month. We regret any confusion.

New presentation packs and stamp books New presentation packs containing the current range of low value and country stamps will be available from 20 October; price £5.50 and £4.75 respectively.

Four new promotional books go on sale at the Bureau and at Post Office Counters philatelic outlets on 7 September. The front covers of the books – 10 × 1st NVI printed by De La Rue, and 10 × 1st Flowers greetings, 4 × 30p and 4 × 37p printed by Walsall – are headed 'Make their post memorable' and show items of greetings mail on the front covers. The create a card offer comprises a pack of three postcards or Christmas cards which can be decorated with holiday snaps, drawings, pressed flowers – anything you like. Applications for Christmas cards must be received by 16 October; orders for postcards by 15 January 1999. The books went on sale at selected post offices in the Midlands on 3 August; they will be available in other areas from 7 September.

Also available from 7 September will be a 10 × 1st book with standard covers printed by Questa. The text has been updated to bring it into line with current books; Questa have not printed books of 10 × 1st class for a while. The stamps in this book are printed by offset-lithography •

Stamp scene *Cross Post* Spring issue • New RDP signatories • GB stamps at auction



To mark the 50th anniversary of Israel, the NPM displayed the 1927 Pictorial issue of Palestine at the international exhibition in Tel Aviv – see Douglas Muir's article in the *May Bulletin*. Douglas writes further on this fascinating issue in *Cross Post*.

Cross Post The Spring 1998 issue of the journal of the Association of Friends of the National Postal Museum contains articles of interest to stamp collectors and postal historians. Alan Sabey writes on the stamps and postmarks of the British Empire Exhibition at Wembley 1924-25 – based on his display to the Friends last November. His Wembley collection includes the 1½d imperf, the subject of an article in the *Bulletin*, February 1997. Giles Allen recalls the private 'War Tax' and 'Victory' overprints on George VI definitives in the 1940s; he quotes from PO Archives files and contemporary philatelic magazine reports. Despite a lot of official huffing and puffing over the matter no action was taken against the organiser of the overprints.

Michael Bament, a Friend who works on the Museum's postal history collections, records new acquisitions, including some fine Ship Letters, and an intriguing enquiry handling by the NPM for a BBC radio programme. Zara Matthews, Curatorial Assistant at the NPM, describes a postal transponder – a vital part of the Postal Quality Measurement system which records the route that items of mail take, and used to calculate Terminal Dues, that is the sharing of stamp revenue between different postal administrations. As Zara points out, this 'rather unassuming object has a fascinating story to tell.'

There is a lengthy account of the Friends' 1997 AGM; some 134 new Friends were recruited during the year – quite an achievement for a philatelic society. Patricia Wortley records the visit to the National Army Museum, and James Negus updates his record of the souvenir items produced by the Association.

The lead story is the return to the Museum of material disposed of by Raife Wellsted during his time as Curator in the early 1980s. This comprises proofs and essays from the reigns of George V and VI, plus Express covers from 1894 to 1939. Three of the items are illustrated and Douglas Muir explains the significance of the return of 'this unique and beautiful material' •

Cross Post is available to non-members, price £2. For details of the Friends of the NPM contact Ray Pottle, PO Box 40, Uckfield TN22 2SP, Telephone 01825 766546.

New RDPs Front row, left to right: Jean-Francois Brun (France), Dr Theo Dahinden (Switzerland), Francisco Lemos da Silveira (Portugal), and *Bulletin* contributor Franceska Rapkin (GB). Back row, sponsors Alberto Bolaffi, Dr Alan Huggins and Francis Kiddle.



New RDPs Shown here are the four new signatories to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, with their sponsors (back row). They signed the Roll at the Philatelic Congress held at Scarborough in June •

New in post Professor Barrie Jay, age 69, was elected President of the Royal Philatelic Society London on 25 June. Educated at Cambridge and University College Hospital, London, Jay was Consultant Surgeon at Moorfields Eye Hospital and Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology, University of London until 1992. His philatelic interests are chiefly the postal history of London and the forces. In 1995 he gave the first Stuart Rossiter Memorial Lecture on military mail, later published as *Early Forces Mail* in 1997 (see *Bulletin*, March 1998). He was editor, with the late R M Willcocks, of *The British County Catalogue of Postal History*, and himself responsible for the London section. In 1997 he exhibited at the Rare Stamps of the World exhibition in London and was awarded the Silver Mailcoach Trophy at Autumn Stampex. He served as Secretary of the Royal from 1990 until elected President. Charles Goodwyn, Secretary 1982-90, has taken on this post for a second time.

Brian Asquith, age 64, has been appointed to the British Philatelic Trust. Mr Asquith spent 36 years in banking, and since retirement 10 years ago has worked on a part-time basis for Phillips the auctioneers. He is the first Chairman of the Council of the Association of British Philatelic Societies and has held office in several societies. His main collecting interests are Chinese Air Mails, Concorde and Trieste. The other members of the Trust are: Francis Kiddle (Chairman), Dr Alan Huggins (Deputy Chairman), Miss S J Smith, Mr R M Tabor, Mr J Tew, Prof J C West, and Richard West •

For details of future auctions contact Harmers of London, 91 New Bond Street, London W1A 4EH. Telephone 0171 629 0218.

Good prices for GB stamps The Harmers of London auction on 18 June included the rare 1935 Silver Jubilee 2½d Prussian blue error of colour. This made £3500, some £1000 above the estimate. Modern varieties also sold well with a strip of three of the current £10 Britannia stamp with silver omitted bringing £2900 despite some small faults. (Realisations subject to a buyers premium plus VAT) •

Exhibition news Autumn Stampex • Italia '98 • Stanley Gibbons shows • Australia '99

Autumn Stampex This traditional exhibition will be held at the Business Design Centre, Islington, London N1, 30 September to 4 October. The entries in the National Competitions, both senior and junior, organised by the British Philatelic Trust, will be on view on the 'Village Green' and the National Youth Stamp Group will be hosting the Youth Activities Area at the rear of the hall. Seminars will be held for aspiring competitors and many societies will be holding meetings over the weekend.

Dealers will include many from overseas, including Australia, Canada, China, Denmark, France, Germany, Korea, Netherlands, Sweden, and USA. The Stampex organisers are pleased that after a long absence, Stanley Gibbons will be back at the exhibition – with a large stand in the centre of the hall. Royal Mail will have its 'supermarket' stand (as at Stamp '98 at Wembley in April), and the Guernsey, Isle of Man, and Jersey postal administrations will be present.

Admission to the exhibition will be £3 on opening day, £1 other days. Free tickets for all but the first day are available from the address opposite.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES A number of interesting and fun activities will be available for young visitors. During the morning of Saturday 3 October, children will be invited to take part in various stimulating activities, including a Treasure hunt. Those taking part will be able to accumulate points which they can 'spend' in an auction in the afternoon. Entrants in the Stamp Active and Melville competitions will receive their awards at 15.30 and can meet the judges to discuss their entries. The National Youth Stamp Group is offering a special programme for school parties on each day of the exhibition. This will involve a full activity programme, free gifts for each young collector, a tour and talk about the exhibition, displays and an auction. Places must be booked in advance – contact NYSG, 3 Longfellow Road, Banbury OX16 9LB •

Italia '98 This exhibition, the first in Milan since 1976, takes place 23 October to 1 November 1998. To be held at the Fiera di Milano (Milan Fair), it will be a specialised exhibition of aerophilately, postal history, and thematic with 65, 176 and 174 exhibits respectively. No less than 718 applications to exhibit were received from 59 national philatelic federations; 68 submitted 46 entries of which 25 were accepted. With the open class, it is anticipated the exhibition will amount to over 4000 frames in total. Italia '98 is organised by the Italian Post Office and the Italian Federation of Philatelic Societies. The Milan Fair was the location for the 1934 exhibition; stamps featuring the building are described in Bulletin 1 for the forthcoming exhibition. The Italian PO issued a pair of stamps showing Milan Cathedral and the Italia '98 exhibition logo in 1996, followed by a miniature sheet in March 1997 (SG 2354/5, MS2412) •



Save £1 Enclosed with this Bulletin is a free admission ticket to Autumn Stampex.

Free tickets for Stampex are available from: Stampex, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1M 6PT.

Free tickets are not valid on the first day.



Admission to both shows will be £3 or free with an advance ticket by phoning 0800 611 622.

Stanley Gibbons exhibitions Stanley Gibbons is staging two shows for collectors of coins, postcards, phonecards, books, autographs, models, and memorabilia as well as stamps and postal history. The first – Collect 98 – will be at Olympia, London, 23-25 October, followed by Stamp & Collectables at the G-Mex Centre, Manchester, 14-15 November •



Melbourne exhibition details can be found on its website: <http://www.Australia99.com.au>, or from: Australia 99, GPO Box 1999, Melbourne 3001, Australia

Australia '99 This international exhibition in Melbourne, 19-24 March 1999, will feature stamps from three royal collections: HM The Queen, Prince Rainier of Monaco, and Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand. The Queen's exhibit will feature a fine range of classic Australian Colonial and early Commonwealth issues. In addition there will be displays of stamps relating to Diana, Princess of Wales from her wedding in 1981 to the most recent tribute stamps. The Court of Honour will include a RMS *Titanic* exhibit, organised in co-operation with the National Postal Museum of the Smithsonian Institute. As Sydney is staging the 2000 Olympics, an Olympic stamps display from the collection of the International Olympic Committee will be shown. Other exhibits will include the Royal Philatelic Society's forgeries of the Sydney Views and Laureated issues, unique Australian George V plate proof sheets (printed both sides), and many treasures from Australia Post Archives. The National Postal Museum London will be displaying the Freddie Mercury collection which proved so popular at the Capex exhibition in Toronto in 1996 •

It's only a game A special Sports exhibition at the National Postal Museum, the last to be held at its present home

THIS special exhibition is a mix of issued stamps, unused designs and memorabilia connected with numerous sports, both professional and recreational. The Cricket section includes recent Australia and Trinidad & Tobago stamps featuring Sir Donald Bradman and Brian Lara, and artwork for the British 1973 stamps depicting W G Grace.

From the world of athletics, Marea Hartmann and Fatima Whitbread are the subjects of unused designs for the 1996 Women of Achievement set. As Fatima Whitbread is still alive she cannot be shown on a stamp, so her signature and a javelin were used instead. A design for the British 1994 Golf issue included one showing the Scottish golfer 'Old Tom' Morris (1821-1908), known as the 'Nestor of Golfe'. He won the British championship belt four times in the 1860s, and his son 'Young Tom' became champion after him. The Rugby League part of the exhibition includes

programmes, a St Helens shirt of 1982, and other memorabilia from the Museum of Rugby, as well as artwork for the British stamps of 1995.

The importance of recreational activities such as walking, rambling and cycling is now recognised; a design for a Ramblers stamp in the 1988 Sports set is shown. The Post Office has long encouraged its staff to participate in sport and PO medals and trophies are on display.

An unused design for a Boat Race stamp as part of the 1980 Sports Centenaries is a surprising reminder that this historic annual event has yet to be commemorated on a British stamp. In 1973 stamps were suggested for the 50th anniversary of Anglo-Swiss ski race in 1975. Some attractive designs were prepared but the sport was deemed of 'little public interest' and the set was abandoned. One of the designs was illustrated in the *Bulletin*, December 1988, page 99. Skiing



BRITISH CINEMA

CHARIOTS OF FIRE 1981



'It's only a game' exhibition

A most interesting design considered for the 1996 Centenary of Cinema set used film stills showing actor Ian Charleson as athlete Eric Liddell in *Chariots of Fire*.

The National Postal Museum

King Edward Street, London EC1, is a short walk from St Paul's Cathedral and underground station. Open Monday to Friday 09.30-16.30, admission free.

finally made it on a British stamp in 1988 – this and two unused designs are featured together with 15 skiing stamps from other countries. The Swedish Vasa Ski Race stamp of 1973 (SG 729) was engraved by Slania who incorporated a tiny picture of himself in the bottom corner of the stamp design.

The exhibition opened on 16 June, during the World Cup, so not surprisingly, quite a section of the exhibition is devoted to football and in particular the 1966 World Cup and 1996 European Championships staged in England. Seven unadopted designs for the 1966 World Cup issue are displayed (others were shown in the *Bulletin*, August 1966), together with a programme for the England v West Germany final and the *Daily Mirror* front page announcing the disappearance of the World Cup from display at Stampex in March 1966. Fortunately the Cup was discov-

ered, by a dog named Pickles, in time for the Championship. The 1966 team captain Bobby Moore was shown holding the Cup aloft on one of the unused designs for the 1996 Football Legends set; another design showing a Subbuteo footballer was used on the NPM's special postmark on 25 June for the official opening of the exhibition. Designs for 1996 England Winners stamps were prepared, but not required after Gareth Southgate missed a penalty! These are shown together with others for an anticipated Scotland Winners set in the 1978 World Cup.

The 'Going Places with the British Post Office' exhibition (ground floor and main gallery) includes interesting enlarged photographs of mail delivery in the UK and overseas together with stamps connected with voyages, exploration and mail carriage, for example 1969 *Mayflower*, Captain Cook and 1972-73 Explorers issues ●

Stampex publicity labels Philatelic history in a sideline, considered by James Negus

Britain's national stamp exhibition, Stampex, has been staged continuously for 45 years. In that time it has produced a great variety of souvenir material, one aspect of which is worth closer attention as it has had virtually no mention in the philatelic literature before now. Souvenirs are useful contemporary evidence to anyone researching philatelic history and this applies to labels issued as advance publicity.

STAMPEX has made use of publicity labels since it began at the Central Hall in London in January 1953. The exhibition, organised jointly by the Philatelic Traders' Society (PTS) and the Junior Philatelic Society (JPS), was an immediate success, becoming for many collectors a fixed part of their philatelic year. (The JPS continued its involvement after its renaming in 1965 as the National Philatelic Society.)

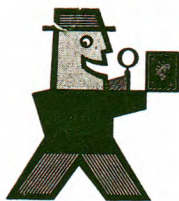
Various different designs for publicity labels have been used by Stampex and I divide them into types in chronological order. Dimensions are quoted as across × down.

Early labels For the inaugural exhibition in 1953, TYPE A was a gummed label (37 × 48mm) showing a Penny Black modified with the organisers' initials PTS-JPS above and JPS-PTS below The Queen's head. The stamp and the label edges are in black and the label has red wording on a yellow background. Though the exhibition dates are stated, no year is given: not very important at the time, but a typical small detail unhelpful to a collector decades later.

In the following year 1954 there were two sorts of souvenir postcard, doubling as fillers for covers, and the new motif on them was carried over to the publicity label TYPE B. In this design a proper Penny Black was now overlapped by a Maltese Cross cancellation shown 'cameo', that is outlined in white from a solid red rectangle. The label is larger than before (45 × 65mm), the paper is pale yellow and the wording in black includes the year. A similar label saw service the following year 1955.

In 1956 the National Stamp Exhibition adopted its present name Stampex. I have seen no publicity label for that year, but the general design of type B was carried forward for 1957, giving a Penny Black and Maltese Cross, as before, and suitably updated layout and wording. The label was produced on two different coloured papers, lemon or pink. In both cases the Maltese Cross is printed cameo in blue; the words on the label are split between black and blue.

Stan the Brief A rather odd figure had also appeared among the 1957 souvenirs. The cover and postcard featured the outline head of a man, called a 'device' in the exhibition catalogue and named as 'Stan the Stamp Collector' without further explanation. He surfaced again in 1958 on cover, postcard and postmark, but now full length (in pinstripe trousers!) holding up a stamp and magnifying glass. The re-branding extended to the label, which becomes TYPE C. Format is now horizontal (51 × 32mm) and the label was printed in sheets of 10 in both red on pink (rouletted) and green on yellow (imperf).



A SOUVENIR OF YOUR VISIT TO

STAMPEX

1958
Central Hall, Westminster
London S.W.1.

March 15-22 • 1958

This stiffener may be used as a postcard.



Mr. N.E. Willsher,
 67, Arthur Road,
 Shirley,
 SOUTHAMPTON.

Poor Stan did not last. He is still on the cover of the Stampex catalogue for 1959 and is once again featured on the souvenir cover, both red and blue versions. But I have not found any label for that year. A design detail did, however, carry the re-branded image on for years. This was making the name STAMPEX into a strip where each letter resembles a postage stamp and this legacy of the Goaman design remained in constant use.

Types A to C, as gummed labels, are listed in Glenn Morgan's priced catalogue *British Stamp Exhibitions* (1995). Subsequent issues, Types D to L described below, are not covered by Morgan, as they were all produced as self-adhesive labels peelable from a backing sheet. I quote how many labels made up a sheet where these have been seen.

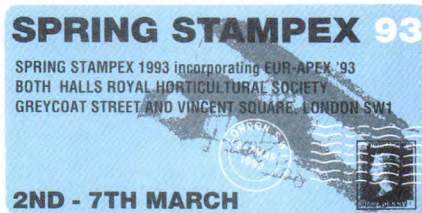
Hiatus No label was needed in 1960, because Stampex was not held that year: key workers were fully occupied preparing the big international exhibition due in July at Royal Festival Hall in London. Stampex was back again in 1961 but there is no label for that year in my collection, nor do I know of any until 11 years later in 1972. It may be that finance was better diverted into the souvenir sheets, produced to raise revenue for each exhibition since 1959.

From the top: type A, type B and the distinguished stamp designer Michael Goaman's type C.



**AUTUMN
STAMPEX
(B.P.E) 1995**

10th-15th October
BOTH HALLS, Royal Horticultural Society
Greycoat Street & Vincent Square, London, S.W.1



Left to right, top to bottom:
type D, type E, type F and
type G.

This new TYPE D label had a long run until 1986. Produced in a vertical format of about 40 × 50mm, it was purely text on a coloured paper and made to suggest a rather large postage stamp. For the record the colours are: 1972 red/yellow; 1973 brown/cream; 1974 blue/light blue; and 1975 red/yellow. From 1976 black text appears on these coloured papers: rose; 1977 yellow; 1978 green; 1979 yellow; 1980 yellow (text in red); 1981 yellow; 1982 green; 1983 red; 1984 yellow; 1985 red; and 1986 white (text in lilac). Of complete sheets seen, 1976 had 12 labels while 1979-85 had 16.

The exhibition moved from Central Hall to the Royal Horticultural Society New Hall in 1969. From 1981 both New and Old Halls of the RHS were in use and the exhibition now advertised itself as Super Stampex. Though standardised, the wording of the type D label reflects these changes over the years.

Amalgamation Stampex had always been staged early in the year, while another major event took place in London in the second half. This was the British Philatelic Exhibition (BPE), begun in 1965 at the instigation of Robson Lowe. Though collectors enjoyed having these two national exhibitions every year, practicalities of finance and unnecessary competition led now to an amalgamation after complicated negotiation. The last separate BPE was held in October 1986 and the new year saw inauguration of 'Spring Stampex' and 'Autumn Stampex (BPE)', this arrangement continuing to date.

For 1987 and 1988 a new TYPE E label was used, now a horizontal one with small Penny Black at top right. Though basic style was the same, the production details had not settled down, apart from being black printing on coloured papers. Spring 1987 (yellow paper) was 50 × 38mm in sheets of 16 labels. The other three were 62 × 33mm, now in sheets of 24 and in these colours: Autumn 1987 blue; Spring 1988 green and Autumn 1988 cream. This last dispensed with the heavy black border.



24th-28th January
Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street,
Islington, London N1



THE BRITISH NATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION



SPRING STAMPEX — AUSTRAPEX 1995
28TH FEBRUARY — 5TH MARCH

THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL HALLS, GREYCOAT STREET SW1

THE BIGGEST AND BEST SHOW HELD ANNUALLY

FOR COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS PLEASE CALL 0171-490 1005



Revived logo From Spring 1989 to Autumn 1995 (excluding three 'specials') a TYPE F was used, characterised by displaying the title STAMPEX from Goaman's graphic design of the 1950s. The label is horizontal and includes a Penny Black to the right. Type F comes in two sizes, a smaller (62 × 33mm in sheets of 24) or larger (75 × 38mm in sheets of 12). Labels are printed black on these coloured papers: (small size) Spring 1989 blue; Autumn 1989 green; Autumn 1990 cream; (larger size) Spring 1990 silver; Spring 1991 blue; Autumn 1991 cream; Spring 1992 white; Autumn 1992 cream; Autumn 1993, Spring 1994, Autumn 1994 and Autumn 1995, white. The silver label of Spring 1990 had a slightly revised layout as it incorporated a logo for the PTS Diamond Jubilee.

Three labels in the period 1989-95 are non-standard for special events. Spring Stampex 1993 included Eur-Apex 93 and TYPE G label was produced. It was horizontal in the larger size (75 × 38mm, sheets of 12) on blue paper, printed black and cameo white. The organisers (British Aerophilatelic Federation) also issued TYPE H (63 × 32mm), printed black on gold paper. Another big event, Austrapex, in celebration of Australia took place at Spring Stampex 1995. A very large horizontal label (100 × 50mm, sheets of 6) was printed red on white with small Penny Blacks, TYPE J.

New venue Coinciding with Stampex moving out to the Business Design Centre in north London a more modern logo was introduced, first seen on the publicity label TYPE K for Spring 1996. Production details continue as for type F, ie size 75 × 38mm in sheets of 12. The first label is lettered in green, that for Autumn 1996 in blue and the one for Spring 1997 (titled 'January Stampex' that year) is printed green on cream paper. No label seems to have been issued for Autumn 1997.

The current design retains the new logo but starts a new TYPE L. It is smaller at 50 × 30mm, with 20 labels to the sheet; Spring 1998 is blue on light blue and Autumn 1998 is brown on light brown •

Left to right, top to bottom: type H, type J, type K and the current design, type L. With the current design, the wheel comes full circle – no year is specified, just as with the very first type A.

Overprinted British stamps Part 3: James Mackay looks at stamps used abroad



CERTAIN SULTANATES AND SHAIKHDOMS of Arabia did not have their own postal services, but relied on facilities provided by the Indian postal administration. On 1 April 1948 responsibility for these postal services passed to the Overseas Mails Branch of the British Post Office. As Indian currency continued to be used in Muscat British stamps appropriately surcharged were introduced on that date.

Like the Levantine issues of 1885 onwards no name was overprinted, chiefly because these stamps were used not only in Muscat itself but also in Dubai. They were extended to Qatar in 1950, where an office was established at Doha in August, followed by Umm Said in February 1956. Doha and Umm Said got their own distinctive issue on 1 April 1957, stamps of Britain being surcharged in naye paise and rupees and overprinted QATAR. These overprinted and surcharged stamps were supplemented by a pictorial series portraying Shaikh Amad for internal mail only, and the stamps of the British postal administration continued in use for external mail until 23 May 1963.

Surcharged but anonymous stamps continued to be used in Muscat till 29 April 1966 when the administration was handed over to the sultanate government. Dubai ceased using them on 6 January 1961, when pictorial stamps of the Trucial States were introduced. On the other hand, the surcharged British stamps were extended to the shaiikhdom of Abu Dhabi in December 1960 when an office opened on Das Island, and to Abu Dhabi itself on 30 March 1963. Abu Dhabi adopted its own stamps on 29 March 1964, so eventually these stamps were confined to Muscat.

Two other shaiikhdoms enjoyed the use of British stamps overprinted in a distinctive manner. Bahrain, though independent politically, had had an Indian postal administration since 1884. Ordinary Indian stamps were used until 1933 when the contemporary series was overprinted BAHRAIN. As in other parts of the Persian Gulf area, control of these extra-territorial post offices passed from India to Britain, whose stamps were substituted from 1 April 1948.

A similar pattern obtained in Kuwait, which had had an Indian postal service since August 1904, albeit a rather limited one in the earlier years. Indian stamps overprinted KUWAIT were used at various times, although ordinary Iraqi, and later Pakistani, stamps were also used in other periods. From 1 April 1948, British stamps suitably overprinted and surcharged in Indian currency were used.

Both shaiikhdoms adopted Indian decimal currency in 1957. On 31 January 1959 control of the offices and postal agencies in Kuwait was transferred to the Kuwaiti government and the overprints replaced by stamps portraying Shaikh Abdullah. These had been introduced in February 1958 but had only local validity till February 1959. Bahrain also had some low-value stamps for local mail from 1953 onwards, but control of the postal administration did not pass out of British hands till 1 January 1966. From July 1960, however, the overprints were superseded by distinctive Bahraini stamps portraying Shaikh Sulman.

Opposite page Surcharges and overprints for (clockwise from top right) Qatar, Muscat, Bahrain and Kuwait



Military occupation British stamps have also been used on half a dozen occasions over the past 80 years as the result of military occupation. The first of these was unofficial and unauthorised. The Gibbons catalogue states 'These overprints were originally made for use by a civilian post office to be set up on Mt Athos, Northern Greece. When the project was abandoned they were placed on sale at the Army Field Post Office in Salonica.'

The occupation of Mount Athos was the brainchild of Lieut Commander Harry Pirie-Gordon, DSC, classical scholar, incurable romantic and philatelist. Pirie-Gordon was, in fact, responsible for perpetrating three issues of stamps – the Mount Athos stamps printed aboard the aircraft-carrier *Ark Royal* (January 1916), the typewritten stamps of Long Island in the Gulf of Smyrna (April-May 1916) and the Salonica 'Levant' stamps (February 1916).

While the occupation of Mount Athos by a Franco-British force was being considered at GHQ Salonica, Pirie-Gordon, who had assumed the role of 'Civil Administrator of the Holy Mountain' purchased a quantity of stamps from the Field Post Office and took them to the Army Printing Office where he persuaded the sergeant in charge to set up a form containing the word 'Levant'. Pirie-Gordon modelled his overprint on the pre-war pattern, except that lower case lettering was now used instead of capitals. By late February 1916 the project was abandoned and Pirie-Gordon was re-assigned to duties aboard HMS *Doris*, operating in the eastern Aegean. Before he left Salonica, he affixed a few of the 'Levant' stamps to covers and had them cancelled by his obliging accomplice at the Field PO. At no time were these stamps ever on sale at the FPO, and the first that anyone knew of this ploy was when King George V (who read of the stamps in Fred Melville's column in the *Daily Telegraph*) contacted General Sir Brian Mahon, GOC Salonica, and requested blocks of each denomination for his collection.

The Post Office subsequently issued a statement denouncing the Salonica Levants. Though quite unnecessary, these stamps were undoubtedly produced and performed some postal duty, albeit a very limited one. Age has lent them respectability and, compared with some of the 'wallpaper' that now plagues philately, one may regard them charitably as a well-intentioned if misguided ploy by a gallant officer and gentleman under the stress of war.

No such stigma attaches itself to the only other British stamps to be overprinted during the First World War. The Pacific island of Nauru, administered by Germany as part of the Marshal Islands, was occupied by Australian Imperial Forces on 8 September 1914 and until October 1916 used Australian stamps overprinted N W PACIFIC ISLANDS mainly for use in German New Guinea and the adjacent islands. The administration of Nauru was then transferred to Britain and for eight years, till the League of Nations granted a mandate to the Commonwealth of Australia in 1924, Nauru used British stamps, from ½d to 10s, overprinted NAURU without surcharge. A 2s6d Seahorse overprinted stamp was reproduced on the 25c value of the 1976 set, marking the 60th anniversary of Nauruan stamps.

Four different issues were made for use in former Italian territories under British administration, during and after the Second World War. First to appear were those overprinted MEF (Middle East Forces), which were released on 2 March 1942 in Mogadiscio, Chisimaio, Mersa, Brava and Village d'Abbruzzi in Italian Somaliland. The stamps were not surcharged in local currency, though sold in centesimi and lire. Subsequently MEF stamps were extended to Eritrea (1942), Cyrenaica and Tripolitania (1943) and in some of the Dodecanese Islands (1945). Though superseded in 1949 they remained valid for mail in and from the UK itself from 1950 onwards, though such usage was largely philatelic.

The British 1d, 2d, 3d, 5d, 6d and 1s stamps were overprinted EAF (East African Forces) for use in Solmaliland alone, on 15 January 1943. The 2s6d similarly overprinted, followed in 1946. These stamps were used in place of the MEF overprints in Somalia until June 1948 when they were superseded by British stamps overprinted BMA SOMALIA in two lines, and additionally surcharged in East African cents and shillings. Eleven denominations, from the 5c on ½d to the 5s on 5s, were released on 27 May 1948.

Military administration, which this overprint signified, gave way to civil government at the end of 1949, and in consequence the same 11 values were issued on 2 January 1950 with a similar overprint, omitting the letter M from the top line. Somalia reverted to Italian rule on 1 April the same year and the British overprints were then withdrawn.

The MEF overprints were withdrawn in 1948 when separate issues were made in the two former Italian territories still using them. In both cases British stamps and postage due labels were overprinted BMA followed by the name of the territory and an appropriate surcharge in local currency. Eritrea had stamps surcharged in East African cents and shillings, while Tripolitania had values rendered in MAL (Military Administration Lire). Both sets were replaced in February 1950 by similar sets omitting the M from the overprint to denote their reversion to civil administration. In both cases fresh overprints appeared following the colour changes in the low-value British definitives in May 1951.

Both issues were withdrawn in 1952 when Eritrea was federated with Ethiopia and Tripolitania was absorbed by the then kingdom of Libya •



Overprints and surcharges for Middle East forces, East African forces, Eritrea and Tripolitania

Chairman's comments

Adam Novak, the Director and General Manager of Royal Mail National and Chairman of the Stamp Advisory Committee, takes a closer look at the 1999 stamp programme, the first stage of a three-year celebration of the Millenium.

The 1999 stamp programme

Details are subject to change

12 January: Inventors Establishing time (Harrison's chronometer and the Meridian), reducing time (steam power), freezing time (photography), accelerating time (computers)

2 February: Travellers Exploration (Cook), mass transportation (railways and steam ships), personal transport (bicycle), global travel (jet aircraft)

2 March: Patients Preventative medicine (inoculations), patient care (Florence Nightingale), antibiotics (penicillin), high technology (in-vitro fertilisation)

6 April: Settlers UK translocation (Normans to Scotland), colonial settlers (*Mayflower*), mass emigration (Australia), mass immigration (from Asia and Caribbean)

4 May: Workers Medieval guilds (wool trade), mill towns (cotton trade), heavy industry (ship-building), service industry (financial trading)

1 June: Fans Music Hall (provisional), sport (World Cup), broadcast media (cult TV), pop culture (Live Aid)

6 July: Citizens First rights (Magna Carta), right to education (Robert Owen), right to living conditions (public utilities), equal rights (votes for women)

3 August: Scientists Age of Reason (Newton), enlightenment (Faraday), evolution (Darwin), modern science (DNA and genetics)

7 September: Farmers Medieval methods (strip farming), mechanisation (Jethro Tull), new foods (potato), new technology (satellite data)

5 October: Soldiers Medieval war (Bannockburn), pike and musket (Civil War), World Wars (war graves), changing role (peace-keeping)

2 November: Christians Medieval religious life (pilgrimage), reformation (printed bible), 18th century revival (Wesley), modern emblems

7 December: Artists World of stage (Shakespeare), world of music (Purcell and Handel), world of words (Dickens), new worlds (the human spirit)

IN MY LAST CONTRIBUTION I explained the philosophy behind the Royal Mail approach to the Millennium. This time I want to highlight aspects of this approach by taking a closer look at the 1999 stamp programme which will be the first stage of a three-year celebration covering the past, present and future of British achievement and endeavour.

The 1999 programme will consist of 12 sets of four stamps, with each set effectively forming a chapter of a book. The overall theme of the 'book' will be the story of events and achievements which have shaped the way we live and think today. Each 'chapter' will relate a major element of this story, with individual stamps highlighting specific aspects of this. In other words, each stamp is thematically linked to others in the set: each set is thematically linked to the other 11 sets.

Thematic homogeneity, however, does not mean rigid visual conformity between one set and the next, or even between individual stamps within a set. Far from it since we commissioned 48 different artists, each designing an individual stamp. As a result, the 1999 stamps offer a staggering breadth of visual treatment diversity which is unequalled in any previous Royal Mail programme. The credit list of designers literally reads like a 'Who's Who' of British art and design! And the result of their work is an original, unique and stunning portfolio of the best of Britain's creative talents which we believe will appeal well beyond the philatelic community.

Since the full programme is shown in the inset box, I will devote the rest of my contribution to highlighting some interesting aspects of the stamps being issued next year. Because of the nature and style of the programme, a tremen-

dous amount of effort has gone into making it work successfully. On the subject aspect, we have consulted with a very wide range of experts throughout the country, particularly Dr Jeremy Black, an historian at Exeter University, who has provided considerable assistance. With the help of these experts, we were able to define the landmark events which have made Britain the country it is today.

On the treatment aspect, we set ourselves the goal of finding not just artists but image makers who could encapsulate complex subjects in a highly innovative way.

The whole year's programme is marked by delightful surprises. I can honestly say that there is not a single obvious creative approach among any of the stamps. The main reason for this is that, while the subject matter reflects Britain's past, the treatment of this reflects Britain's present creative strengths. All the stamps have a depth about them which invites collectors to look closely at the detail and the treatment and even beyond these to layers of intriguing connections.

One of the stamps in the Workers' set, for example, features the medieval guilds, which marked the beginnings of organised trade and crafts in this country. Think of medieval guilds and you quickly arrive at Lavenham in Suffolk, a major centre of the wool trade and its guilds in medieval times. Think of weavers and you quickly arrive at Peter Collingwood, probably Britain's leading exponent of the craft today. Connect those two facts and the result is a very modern treatment of a medieval craft on the stamp. But there is an even closer connection – Peter lives near Lavenham!

The juxtaposition of modern treatment and historical subject is even more evident in the First Rights stamp in the Citizens' set. Here we have the Magna Carta, a document which took on a major significance in fundamental civil rights centuries later, and Alan Kitching, one of this country's leading typographers. The only unsurprising aspect of the resultant stamp is that it is refreshingly different!

Work on the first two sets should be complete by the time you read this. We are particularly

pleased that the first set will include a design by David Gentleman – Britain's most prolific stamp designer. David's first stamps were issued in November 1962 to promote National Productivity Year, and the stamp to be issued in January will be his 99th for Royal Mail. We hope it won't be too long before he notches up his century. Also in the January set is a powerful design recalling the age of the Industrial Revolution, painted by Peter Howson who was Britain's official war artist in Bosnia, and one by Sir Eduardo Paolozzi who is best known for his sculptures which are to be found all around the world. His 'Newton' bronze stands in the courtyard of the new British Library.

The second set, in February, is on the theme of travel, with bold designs showing how transport has both liberated individuals and linked nations. All the designs will have strong appeal to collectors of stamps on different transport themes.

The details given on the opposite page show that, following the January stamps, a new issue will appear on the first Tuesday of succeeding months. This includes our Christmas stamps – the Christians set – which unusually will be the second-last issue of the year. The finale will come in December with the Artists' stamps designed by four of Britain's best artists. Their contributions will provide a fitting prelude to the celebrations which await the chimes of midnight on 31 December.

Space has limited me here to just a dip into a very tempting menu. There's more, much more, to come.

I am always interested to hear from readers on any aspect of my contributions to the *Bulletin*. I promise to read all letters sent to me via the Editor, and will do my best to answer your points in future articles •

New stamps director Mr Adrian Kelly was appointed Director Consumer and Stamps in Royal Mail National from 29 July. Mr Kelly, who reports to Adam Novak, is in charge of the stamp design, production and marketing departments, headed respectively by Barry Robinson, Jon Blackwell, and Diana Kenning, as well as the sections dealing with consumer mail •

Eminent early collectors M P Castle, 'a willing and able collaborator and counsellor, always courteous, kindly and respected', by Ron Negus FRPSL



A 17-YEAR OLD English schoolboy was completing his education in Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany, in the year 1866, when that town became involved in the short-lived Austro-Prussian War. However, he was not concerned about the hostilities around him, but was very upset at having the stamp collection that he had built up at school over the previous four years stolen. That young boy was Marcellus Purnell Castle, who was destined to become a very important member of the philatelic community in England until his death 50 years later. His unusual Christian names led to him normally being referred to as M P Castle, and, certainly, on both private and business correspondence, he always signed himself in this way, or simply as 'M P C'. He returned to England in the following year and joined his father, who owned the Albion Brewery in Brighton, where the work kept him fully occupied and his collecting interest was put to one side. He did not take up the hobby again until he married in 1873, and then it was only in a limited manner. Five years later, however, his wife died suddenly and he turned to philately again as a way of filling his solitary hours. By now he was the proprietor of the family brewery and was able to afford to buy a whole-world general collection from Mr J Carrick of Liverpool, which at that time was regarded as one of the most complete to come on the market.

In the following year, 1879, Castle joined the (later, Royal) Philatelic Society, London at the time when that body only had 30 members. He rapidly became a valued member and in 1881 was elected to the Committee. Ten years later, he was made Vice-President and served in that capacity until 1913, when he succeeded the Earl of Crawford to become President: a position he still occupied when he died. In 1911, King George V had appointed him as a Member of the Royal Victorian Order in recognition of his services to

philately in general and to the Royal Philatelic Society in particular.

His service to this latter organisation was notable in two major respects. Firstly, he was a founder member of the Expert Committee, whose establishment in 1894 was prompted by a leading article that he wrote in November 1893 in the *London Philatelist* concerning the re-appearance of forged issues of the 'Sydney Views' stamps of New South Wales. He remained an active member of that Committee until his death.

L N and M Williams tell the amusing story in their book *The Postage Stamp: Its History and Recognition* of how Castle had written an earlier article, in 1891, in *Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal* about these particular stamps showing how to distinguish the forgeries from the genuine examples. These false impressions were being produced at that time by the notorious 'London Gang' of philatelic forgers, Benjamin, Sarpy and Jeffries. Shortly after the article appeared, Sarpy met a member of 'Gibbons staff' and asked for the Gang's compliments to be passed to Castle saying 'We have had the plate altered and they are all right now.'

His other notable achievement was as editor of the *London Philatelist* from its inception in 1892 until his death a quarter of a century later. In 1892 he sold his interest in the brewery business in order to concentrate solely upon his philatelic activities. He made a special arrangement with the Society whereby he undertook the entire management and financial responsibility for the journal. He wrote large parts of the content himself, but was able to obtain significant articles from other leading collectors. As editor for all but 10 issues, Castle was responsible for establishing its position as the leading British research journal respected by philatelists throughout the world.

As far as his collecting interests were concerned, Castle had catholic tastes. He developed the general collection purchased from Carrick for a further eight years until 1886, but eventually sold it at auction after extracting all the Australian material. This latter formed the basis of his new specialised collection that eventually grew in size until it occupied 22 albums. By 1894,

he had made this so complete that he had difficulty finding new material to add, so he sold it for £10,000, the largest price that had ever been paid for a single collection up to that time.

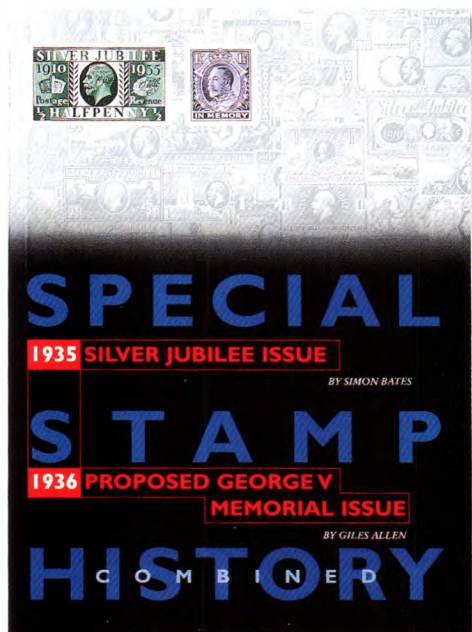
Castle then started to build a new collection of European stamps, having a preference for mint issues that could be used for plating studies. This particular collection was added to during many trips he made to the Continent, often accompanied by Charles J Phillips, the owner of Stanley Gibbons at that time. Finally, by 1900, the European collection was housed in 67 albums, and Castle disposed of it to W W Mann for the huge sum of £127,500.

With the proceeds of the sale, Castle turned again to Australia and began to build a second collection. This eventually filled 21 albums when he decided to part with it in 1905. Its scale may be judged from the fact that the New South Wales section alone contained no fewer than 366 'Sydney Views'.

From then on, Castle devoted his energies to collecting single countries, and made outstanding collections of Mauritius, Cape of Good Hope, Trinidad, British Guiana and New Zealand amongst others. His interest in all these was always as a student and he contributed important articles in the *London Philatelist* and many other journals describing the results of his researches. He remained a shrewd businessman, however, and has been quoted as saying that he 'had made as much out of postage stamps as he had out of his brewery'.

At the turn of the century, he had left Brighton and moved to Sevenoaks, Kent, and it was there that he was taken seriously ill at the end of 1916. This illness caused him to lose his voice, and eventually he had to be moved into a nursing home. After seeming to have recovered from a serious operation, he suffered a relapse and died on 21 March 1917. In an obituary in the *Journal of the Philatelic Literature Society* it was written that organised philately had lost 'a willing and able collaborator and counsellor, always courteous, kindly and respected'. Certainly the theft of his first collection in Germany so long before had not damaged his enthusiasm for the hobby ●

Books Special Stamp Histories • Scotland and Philately



Special Stamp Histories Available to callers at the NPM shop or by post from: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh, EH3 5TT. Price £7.50 each.

SPECIAL STAMP HISTORIES, published by the National Postal Museum. The histories of each special issue of stamps since the first in 1924 have been undertaken by the NPM and whilst details have been published in the annual reviews in the past it was not until last year that one of the studies was published on its own. The latest three to be published are a welcome contribution to the history of how the stamps came to be issued, or not as is the case.

These books are based upon the information held in Post Office Archives and the philatelic material held by the NPM. The researcher of any of the issues covered is thus saved the very time consuming job of examining all the relevant files in the archives but more importantly is presented with superb colour illustrations of all relevant proofs, drawings, colour trials that are held by the NPM but which it would be impossible to obtain individually without vast personal cost. Each

book gives the details of the decision making process from the time of the suggestion of an issue, the details of obtaining the designs, the production process with illustrations of the proofs and colour trials shown through to the details of the issued stamps and sales figures. A separate section, the artwork catalogue, illustrates the designs received. The artists involved are profiled and a comprehensive reference section details all relevant files and other published information that has been used. The three latest publications are described below.

1929 Postal Union Congress by Alan Griffiths. This book runs to 48 pages and in addition to the format described above gives details of the contractual terms and weekly deliveries of the sheets, booklets and rolls in concise tabulated lists, a record of the proofs and plates made and their movement and illustrations of the registration sheets. The preparations for the issue began in May 1928 and a committee was formed to invite designs from artists. Four designs were finally selected in December 1928. The book then describes the production process of the four lower stamps separately to the one pound and this makes it much easier to follow the detailed development of each with changes to design and colours through to the final stamps being issued on 10 May 1929. The colour trials of the lower values are so well illustrated with part against a quadrille background it appears you are looking at the real thing on an album page. Sixteen colour trials of the £1 are also illustrated which are a real delight to see!

1935 Silver Jubilee Issue by Simon Bates and **1936 Proposed George V Memorial Issue** by Giles Allen. The Silver Jubilee issue history was first published in the NPM *Review* of 1992. This now appears in the new book in the aforementioned format. The illustrations have been greatly expanded and now appear with the relevant text and the artwork is shown in its own section. The history of the booklets has been added. The fas-

cinating story of the 2½d Prussian Blue is fully explained and wonderfully illustrated with a block of three examples mounted on a card with contemporary notes of explanation of their existence.

The proposed George V Memorial history is fascinating being told in full detail that has had to be pieced together as the production files have not been traced. The blocks of four 1½d definitives printed in black and violet are followed by the adaptations using the Vandyk head in four colours. These were followed by further trials with both heads and with overprints. The Charity and Memorial proposals were finally rejected and the full explanation of the detail is given. The story is concluded with details of packet of 18 essays that went missing, some of which have subsequently found their way into private hands.

1936 Proposed Edward VIII Coronation Issue by Alan Griffiths. This history that is somewhat intertwined with the proposed Mourning stamp, Accession series and definitives is cleverly told and separates out the facts relating to this proposed issue. In this case Harrisons were asked to prepare essays rather than appointing a committee to consider designs from outside artists. The proposal was to issue four low value stamps and one of higher value in a different format. Harrison produced many bromides of designs and after several months of discussion it appeared the two favoured designs featured the King in the Welsh Guards uniform and the Seaforth Highlanders uniform. However these were suddenly dropped in October and essays adopting the Paget medal head were prepared. Trials of this were subsequently made in various frames and finally with a crowned effigy until the issue was abandoned following the King's abdication on 11 December. Photographs of the Royal Castles are included in the rear of the book. These were taken for the basis of a castle design for the higher value stamp and an examples of artwork and essays are shown.

These special *Stamp History* books are a must for anyone interested in these issues or in British stamps generally and cannot be recommended too highly. *AN Moorcroft* FRPSL. ●

Scotland and Philately Stanley Brown and Ken Norris continue their interesting series on Scottish postmarks and covers with books Nos 11 and 12 in their *Scotland and Philately* series respectively covering Lanarkshire and Stirling & Paisley. Several of the postmarks and covers illustrated in the Lanarkshire book relate to the explorer David Livingstone who was born at Blantyre. Special covers bearing a cachet indicating posting from his birthplace were produced in 1971 for the centenary of his meeting with Stanley and in 1973 for the centenary of his death when a special stamp was issued in an Explorers set. Commemorative labels were also produced, known on covers with the special stamp. Other covers and cancels relate to New Lanark (stamp issue in 1989), the opening of new Royal Mail offices, Sir William Wallace, football (special postmark at Mossend, birthplace of Alex James, May 1996), meetings of the Scottish Philatelic Congress, East Kilbride (Scotland's first new town), and the 1983 National Mod held at Motherwell. A number of slogan postmarks are illustrated, also some of the labels used by the Boys' Brigade and Scout groups on Christmas charity posts operated in recent years. The back cover of the book features a front page from the *British Postmark Bulletin* which has an enlarged reproduction of the New Lanark postmark of July 1989 as its background design.

The Stirling and Paisley book includes postmarks and covers commemorating Robert the Bruce, Bannockburn, Wallace, the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders, Scottish Philatelic Congress, Paisley Abbey, Paisley Rocketeers Society, Cumbernauld new town, and other local people and events. A first day postmark for the 1995 Science Fiction stamps was used at Bonnybridge as this is the town with the most UFO sightings. The front cover of the book reproduces slogans commemorating events or used for tourist publicity since 1963. Both books will interest thematic collectors as well as students of the modern postal history of the respective areas. As with the previous 10 books in this series, they are well produced and good value for money.

Price £1.50 each postpaid from S Brown, 14 Buchan Drive, Perth PH1 1NQ. ●

Competition Win an 1884 £1 brown-lilac



1st prize QV 1884 £1 brown-lilac, letters A-P, an average to good used example, good colour. SG 185, cat £1200, GB Select-Direct selling price £220. Missing from most collections.

2nd prize QV 1891 £1 green, letters M-A, a few clipped perfs otherwise sound, part three CDS postmarks, good colour. SG 212, cat £400, GB Select-Direct price £400.

3rd prize QV 1840 1d black, letters K-D, fine used, four close but clear margins, cancelled by light red-brown Maltese Cross. Fine impression. SG 2, cat £150, GB Select-Direct price £50.

The winners of the June competition were R Woodcock of Norfolk, P Hardman of Lancashire, and W Tidball of British Columbia, Canada.

The answers 1) Dunbar to Crowhill, Innerwick and Spott; 2) Peter Malone; 3) Granada, Spain; 4) Franceska Rapkin; 5) John Henniker Heaton. Our thanks to all who entered.

The winners of the Marini Albums prize draw in the June Bulletin were D McCormick of Co Antrim, E Wright of Norfolk, and J Vera-Cruz of Portugal.

The answers 1) 1913;
2) Genoa

Sponsored by Omniphil GB Home Approvals and GB Select-Direct Omniphil have recently opened a GB-only approvals department. If you collect GB there's never been a better moment to reply. Apart from receiving free spacefiller quality high cat stamp(s) catalogued at £160 – yours to keep whatever you decide – you will have the unique opportunity to be one of the very first to benefit from Omniphil's increased investment in their GB Home Approvals Dept. Due to unprecedented demand they have taken on more staff to service approval requests backed by ten of thousands of pounds worth of new GB stocks.

So if you collect GB stamps from Victoria to Elizabeth II drop them a line today stating whether you collect mint and/or used. You will automatically receive your free £160 cat stamps plus as part of their £200 Loyalty Bonus Program, spend just £12 nett and you can pick a further 33% worth of stamps. And all of this is in addition to normal discounts from SG catalogue price. So pick £16 worth – send £12, pick £20 worth send just £15, etc.

And if you continue to collect with Omniphil you'll receive a further free spacefiller stamps(s) cat value £130 with the next two sendings making a total free cat value of £420. Hurry – this offer is only for the first 100 collectors to apply!

Omniphil have over 1000 collectors participating in their approvals service. With such discounts, no wonder the service is so popular. So if you haven't tried GB Home Approvals before, write now to: **Omniphil gb Home Service, Bulletin Free High Cat 420 Offer, po Box 29, Stroud gl 6 6rw.**

For similarly well-priced examples of scarce GB high values catalogued at £50 and over write to GB Select Direct, po Box 99, Market Harborough LE16 8ZR quoting SG numbers, mint or used and condition required for no obligation quotation.

To enter the competition answer the questions below and send, with your name and address, on a postcard or back of an envelope to: September Bulletin Competition, Royal Mail, 22 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1NL to arrive by 23 October. Entries must be posted separately, multiple entries in one envelope will be disregarded.

- 1 Who is the new President of the Royal Philatelic Society London?
- 2 Which firm printed the forthcoming 'Breaking Barriers' prestige book?
- 3 Which famous firm is returning to Autumn Stampex?
- 4 Who displayed Empire Exhibition stamps to the Friends of the National Postal Museum?

Answers will be found in this *Bulletin*. The competition is not open to employees, families or agents of Royal Mail or Omniphil/GB Select-Direct ●

Postbag

Pre-payment of mail The letter from George Howell (June) is perhaps the most important letter you have published in the *Bulletin* for some time. It illustrates only too clearly what many collectors believe, that the use of stamps, in particular special stamps, is declining and this is one (of several) reasons often cited for the gradual decline of the hobby of stamp collecting. However the importance of Mr Howell's letter is not to bemoan this trend but to point out the interest gained from a study of mail rather than stamps themselves. We are fortunate in having several other forms of pre-payment in addition to stamps and these (like stamps) have been changing in recent times to take account of changing technology and developments in the world of postal and delivery services. Printed postage impressions, for example, are now inscribed 'Royal Mail' to indicate that letters and packages have been delivered by this organisation as opposed to others, some meter impressions now encompass a numerical code or bar-coding. There have been quite a few changes to the postal stationery, especially registered and special delivery covers and the introduction of many new items for overseas mail. Acquiring examples of many of the items brought about by the changes is quite a challenge and will single out the (philatelic) men from the boys. There are often displays of postal mechanisation at stamp exhibitions, and I look forward to more displays in the future showing the changes to indication of prepayment of postage in the UK over the past decade or so. Such displays might stimulate more interest in what must in the years ahead be a much more significant part of the hobby of philately. PETER J MOORE, BRADFORD ●

Wilding book Not only do I like the 'new' Wildings in the prestige book issued in March, but also the book itself. It is an attractive item, with fine colour reproductions of the full range of Wildings values and the Coronation set in 'miniature sheet' formats, as well as interesting unused designs for the Wilding definitives. It is good that

you included a photograph of the great lady herself, Dorothy Wilding, although I must admit she was not as I imagined her. Congratulations to all concerned, the next book in the series has a hard act to follow. JOYCE WELLS, SOLIHULL ●

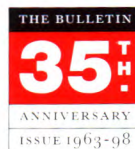
Edward VIII stamps Please settle an argument I am having with a fellow collector. He maintains that the Edward VIII stamps were withdrawn the day the king abdicated and that there were more than just four stamps issued during his short reign. I think he is wrong on both counts and that the stamps stayed in use for a long while after the abdication and could be used for postage until 1952. ANNE REYNOLDS, EXETER

The Edward VIII stamps remained on sale after the abdication and were not withdrawn until 29 July 1937. They remained valid for postage until 29 February 1972. The following day all stamps of George V, Edward VIII, George VI and £sd issues of Elizabeth II (except the £1 value) were invalidated. There were only four basic Edward VIII stamps although the three lower values exist with watermark inverted as well as upright. Numerous designs were produced for a Coronation and future definitive issues but were abandoned when the King abdicated. These designs have featured in the Bulletin at various times and are shown in a new book recently published by the National Postal Museum (see page 27). ED ●

Win £35 Bulletin prize draw

TO MARK the *Bulletin's* 35th anniversary we will send £35 to the first 10 readers whose cards are drawn out of the box on 23 October. Simply write your name and address on a postcard or back of a sealed envelope and send to: Philatelic Bulletin Draw, Royal Mail, 22 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1NL.

A further 25 runner-up prizes of Royal Mail first day covers and presentation packs will be awarded ●



Posting boxes 179

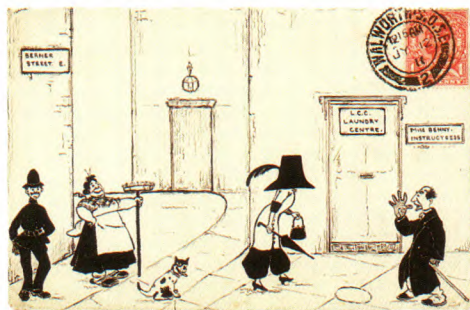
British-style boxes in Argentina This month's boxes were photographed by Keith Fender of Royal Mail in far-away Argentina. The boxes are based, as far as can be ascertained on the British 'B' type, with narrow aperture – exactly as the original ones which are still in use in the UK. All the boxes in service in Argentina were manufactured there although boxes may originally have been imported from the UK. The traditional Scott UK phone box is still used in some big cities in Argentina today. The posting boxes are now painted blue, the change from red beginning in 1994. The blue box, in Correo Argentino livery, is in Buenos Aires. The red box is preserved outside the city museum in Trelew, Patagonia. Trelew is the centre of the Welsh community in Patagonia and the museum commemorates the settlers. This box has brass cast plates giving collection times and stating that stamps should be bought from post offices.

Correo Argentino was privatised in September 1997; Royal Mail, through the British Postal Consultancy Service, is acting as advisors to the newly privatised company •



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

Cover corner



THIS MONTH we feature two hand-painted items submitted by readers long ago and recently discovered in some old *Bulletin* files. The first item (above), submitted by David Benny of Derby, dates from 1911 and bears a George V 1d stamp cancelled at Walworth, London SE. The cover, which was sent by Mr Benny's great-aunt in Berner Street, London E, shows a street scene. Mr Benny writes: 'I imagine the figure in the "lampshade" hat must have been intended for my great-aunt though I only recall her as a very old woman during and after the last war.'

The second is a hand-painted card, sent in by A F Lang of Cumbria, addressed to his late aunt in Upper Holloway, London. It was sent to her, during a period of illness, by his uncle whose initials 'D L' appear in the bottom right-hand corner. The Edward VII 1½d stamp is postmarked 8 December 1904. Mr Lang writes: 'Note the spider hanging from the postmark – a true Scottish symbol.'

We hope to include some more hand-drawn or painted covers in a future Cover Corner •



Events

Now showing 'It's Only a Game' (Sports), 'Going Places with the British Post Office', 'Post Haste!' (vehicles and artefacts), and Victorian Posts exhibitions at National Postal Museum, King Edward Street, London EC1A 1LP. Open Mon-Fri 09.30-16.30.

Enquiries 0171 776 3636

Now showing (until 1 November) Catch the Post exhibition at Hawick Museum, Wilton Park Lodge, Hawick. Local postal history, postmarks, posting boxes. Open September Mon-Fri 10.30-12.30, 13.30-17.00, Sat & Sun 14.00-17.00. For October opening times phone Richard White, 01450 373457

2-5 September Picture Postcard Show 1998 (formerly BIPEX) at New Royal Horticultural Hall, Greycoat and Elverton Streets, London SW1. Dealers, displays, etc. Organised by Postcard Traders Association. **Enquiries** Michael Day, 0151 339 5422

4-13 September Portugal 98 international exhibition commemorating the 500th anniversary of the discovery of the sea route to India by Vasco de Gama, Lisbon, Portugal. **Enquiries** J Sussex, Bridge House, Main Street, Elvington, York YO4 5AA

10-13 September Praga 1998 international exhibition at National Art Gallery and Postal Museum, Prague, Czech Republic. **Enquiries** Mrs Y Wheatley, 7 Manor Croft, Leeds LS15 9BW

12 September Preston & District Phil Soc stamp and Postcard Fair and Exhibition at Canterbury Hall, Garstang Road, Preston, 10.00-16.00. 17 dealers. **Enquiries** P Gaywood, 01772 684302

21 September to 5 October Ayrshire Phil Soc Diamond Jubilee Exhibition at Carnegie Library, Ayr. Open Day on 26 September will include demonstration of Stamp database, children's corner, commemorative postcard, refreshments. **Enquiries** B Keutzer 01292 283801

3 October South West Scotland Annual Philatelic Congress, hosted by Ayrshire Phil Soc, at Queen

Margaret Academy, Dalmellington Road, Ayr. Displays etc. **Enquiries** B Keutzer 01292 283801

26 September Malling Stamp Club Stamp Fair at East Malling Village Hall, East Malling near Maidstone, 10.00-16.00. Displays, 12 dealers, refreshments, car parking. Incorporates Kent Federation of Phil Socs Autumn Rally. Admission free. **Enquiries** M Thompson 01474 325507

26 September Portadown Stampex and Collectors Fair at Portadown Town Hall, 10.00-16.30. Displays, dealers in stamps, postal history, coins, memorabilia. Refreshments, Souvenir commemorative booklet (£1.50). Admission free. **Enquiries** J J Proctor, 01762 334964

26-27 September Exhibition Study Group annual convention at Century Tavern, Forty Avenue, Wembley Park. **Enquiries** B Tonkin, 23 Bramley Way, West Wickham BR4 9NT

26-27 September TPO 814 weekend at Didcot Railway Centre. Mail Exchange demonstration, postal vehicles, sales stands. **Enquiries** P Silver, 51 Abingdon Road, Drayton, Abingdon OX14 4HW

30 September to 4 October Autumn Stampex at Business Design Centre, London N1. **Enquiries** 0171 490 1005

3 October Philatelic Music Circle convention at British Philatelic Centre, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1M 6PT. **Enquiries** Ian Summers, 01706 826655

11 October Birmingham Stamp and Postal History Fair at National Motorcycle Museum. **Enquiries** 01279 758854

16-18 October Rail-Mail event at Great Northern Railway Hotel, Peterborough. Hosted by Nene Valley Railway. Attendance must be pre-booked. **Enquiries** B White, Nene Valley Railway 01780 782854 ●

UPDATED HIGH VALUE PRESENTATION PACK



ROYAL MAIL
HIGH VALUE
DEFINITIVE
STAMPS



A revised pack containing the current £1.50, £2, £3 and £5 Castle stamps printed by Joh Enschedé Security Printing is now available. The four Castles – Caernarfon, Edinburgh, Carrickfergus, and Windsor – were originally shown on the high value stamps of 1955. Replaced in 1969 by stamps showing the Machin head of The Queen, the popular castles returned in 1988 in new designs based on photographs by HRH The Duke

of York. The current printings by Enschedé were engraved by Inge Madlé and use silk-screen printing for The Queen's head.

The pack, designed by Sedley Place, written by Mike Barden and printed by the White Dove Press, complements these fine engraved stamps. Price £11.85. Available from British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT or Post Office Counters philatelic outlets.



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Royal Mail