

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The ROYAL MAIL magazine *for stamp collectors*

# Bulletin

Volume 39 Number 1

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Nobel Prizes stamps • Street  
door letter plates • George v



## Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



Nobel Prize winners feature on stamps issued worldwide: the engraving of Alfred Nobel, top right, is by Czeslaw Slania on a 1997 Swiss stamp. Next month Royal Mail will issue a set of six stamps to celebrate the centenary of the awards: see page 14.

**Correction** The first question in the August Knowledge competition should have read: 'Who designed the 1940 Stamp Centenary stamps?' There was no 6d stamp in the set. Apologies for any confusion caused.

**Issues** Note some items are available only from Royal Mail Tallents House Edinburgh 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 (Eastcheap and Trafalgar Sq), Manchester Newcastle upon Tyne, Norwich Nottingham, Oxford, Plymouth Portsmouth, Southampton, Southend-on-Sea, Stevenage Stratford-on-Avon, Truro, Windsor and York

**3 September**

**Withdrawal** Millennium Mind & Matter stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards.

**4 September**

**Issue** Punch & Judy stamps, presentation pack and stamp book (two P & J stamps and four 1st definitives – all on self-adhesive paper).

**4 September**

**Withdrawal** Special stamp book containing 1st class Tree & Leaf and 1st class Stone & Soil printed se-tenant, and eight 1st definitives.

**17 September**

**Withdrawal** Treasury of Trees prestige stamp book.

**25 September**

**Issue** Nobel Prizes stamp cards.

**2 October**

**Issue** Nobel Prizes stamps, presentation pack, postbag and commemorative document.

**2 October**

**Issue** Celtic Cross coin cover; Welsh airletter in discount packs of six.

**2 October**

**Withdrawal** Millennium Body & Bone stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards; 2000 Christmas airletter.

**9 October**

**Issue** Smilers sheets containing 10 x 1st class 1997 Christmas stamp (Father Christmas) and 20 x 2nd class 1995 Christmas stamp (robin in letterbox). Printed gravure by Questa. Available with personal image on labels (from Tallents House only) or with pre-printed greetings labels.

**22 October**

**Issue** Flags & Ensigns miniature sheet, presentation pack and stamp cards (five); *Unseen & Unheard* prestige stamp book; Flags & Ensigns/definitives stamp book (self-adhesive stamps).

**30 October**

**Issue** Christmas stamp cards.

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## Stamp scene Stampex • Overseas exhibits • NE Philatelic Weekend • Societies news

### Stampex opening hours

|            |             |
|------------|-------------|
| 19 Sept    | 12.00-19.00 |
| 20-22 Sept | 10.30-18.00 |
| 23 Sept    | 10.30-16.00 |

**Enquiries** Stampex, 107  
Charterhouse Street, London  
EC1M 6PT. Telephone 020  
7490 1005.

Entry will be free.

**Autumn Stampex**, organised by the Philatelic Traders' Society, will be held at the Business Design Centre, Islington, London N1 from 19-23 September. The prestigious catalogue details all the exhibits and dealers present.

The key item on display at the exhibition will be the Kirkcudbright cover franked by a block of ten Penny Blacks and posted on the first day of validity, 6 May 1840. This item has recently been acquired for The Royal Philatelic Collection and this will be its first showing as part of the Collection at a UK exhibition. This unique item is expected to be accompanied by other Penny Black material including original sketches.

In the Gallery Bays there will be a selection of superb exhibits and competitive entries mounted by the Astro Space Stamp Club under the title 'Astro 2001'. The exhibits will be in 12 classes including Youth, Literature, Revenues and Cinderellas. Members of the Club will be on hand to assist and provide details of their club. For those who like to keep their feet on the ground, the Annual Competition entries, sponsored by the British Philatelic Trust, will be found on the Village Green. Entries in the various National Youth Competitions, sponsored by the Trust, Stanley Gibbons, and Cavendish Auctions, will be on display at the rear of the Mezzanine.

The dealers' stands, with about 20 per cent from overseas, will satisfy all requirements for stamps, covers, accessories or literature. The new Royal Mail stand will offer the full range of current GB stamps and collectibles. Covers posted at the stand will receive the exhibition handstamp; this is also available by sending covers, with 1st class postage, to: Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Mount Pleasant, London EC1A 1BB, requesting Stampex handstamp and stating date(s) required. Covers should be posted not later than the date of the handstamp required.

The Great Britain Philatelic Society, Concorde Study Circle, Ceylon Study Circle and the Wreck and Crash Mail Society will hold meetings at Stampex on the Saturday or Sunday. Members of the National Philatelic Society will man the information stand just inside the main doors. The National Youth Stamp Group will provide activities for young collectors including a free auction on the Saturday. Contact Anne Dummer on 01536 519959 for further information. On the Saturday and Sunday Royal Mail will provide a Punch & Judy show – stamps featuring Punch & Judy will be issued on 4 September •

**Northeast Philatelic Weekend** This event, one of the most enjoyable on the philatelic calendar, has been run for the past 24 years by Dorothy Martin and Desmond Graham. The 25th weekend (Swallow Hotel, Gateshead, 18-20 May) was voted one of the best; most of the 73 participants had been many times before. The weekend began with short displays by over 35 participants, introducing the delegates to their collecting interests; seven of the participants had attended 20 or more weekends. On Saturday morn-

ing after a 'Philatelic Trip to the Supermarket' presented by Jean Alexander in her own inimitable way, the audience was introduced to social philately by Pat Grimwood-Taylor. There was animated discussion on the distinction between social philately and postal history. It was interesting that social philately, unlike international philately, does not feel the need to be excessively constrained by rules.

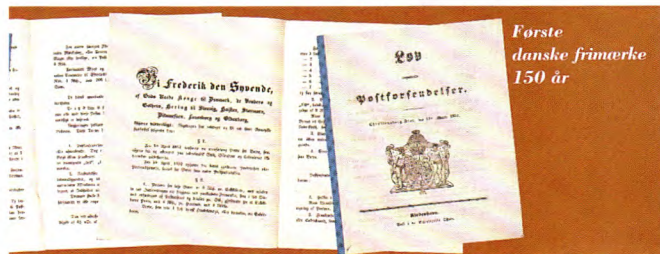
The new Tyne bridge, which appears on a Millennium stamp, was incorporated into the souvenir booklets produced for the weekend; these popular souvenirs have been produced each year since 1982 (see July *Bulletin*, p325). During the free Saturday afternoon, some attended an optional additional session on social philately; others visited a local stamp shop. After tea a fascinating display of mail from Colditz included items from Douglas Bader; Michael Booker's display was the work of a true professional. At the banquet on Saturday evening, almost everyone won at least one prize in the celebrated raffle. On Sunday Christine Earle, winner of gold medals for her Archery collection, showed us that thematic collecting is not for those of a narrow philatelic outlook; her collection contains a diversity of stamps, postal history, postal stationery, booklets and slogans.

The programme concluded with the well-known stamp designer Jeffery Matthews, who used colour slides to show just how influential he had been and still is, in the design of both special and definitive stamps. This was a rare opportunity to hear the behind-the-scenes stories that add so much to the understanding of our modern stamp designs. After lunch, many visited the stamp fair at the Swallow Hotel, finding new treasures for their collections.

Heartiest congratulations for this memorable 25th Anniversary North-east Philatelic Weekend. *Jean & Crawford Alexander* ●

**Overseas exhibitions** The next international will be Hafnia 01 in Copenhagen (16-21 October) to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the first Danish postage stamps. The competitive exhibits – in Traditional, Thematic, Open, and Literature classes – will occupy over 2000 frames. Over 150 dealers and overseas postal administrations will be represented. Four stamps reproducing the first Danish stamp of 1851 went on sale in April. Hafnia promises to be a fine exhibition; the unique Swedish Three Skilling Banco stamp of 1855 is expected to be on display ●

Since 1994 the Danish Post Office has issued a minisheet each year, part of the proceeds from the sales going to fund Hafnia 01. This year's booklet, designed by Keith Bassford, is shown below.



**GB Philatelic Society** For details of the Society contact Andrew Lajer, Old Post Office, Davis Way, Hurst, Reading RG10 0TR. Telephone 0118 934 4151.

**Welsh Philatelic Society** For details, contact Marion Turner, 2 Coed Y Glyn, Gellilydam, Blaenau Ffestiniog LL41 4EL. Telephone 01766 590203, or see the WPS website: [www.brindley.u-net.com/wps/wps.htm](http://www.brindley.u-net.com/wps/wps.htm)

#### **Exhibition Study Group**

Details of the Group are available from the Secretary: Bill Tonkin 23 Bramley Way, West Wickham BR4 9NT. Telephone 020 8777 8861.

Display co-ordinator, Stanley Hunter, can be contacted on 0141 339 2775.

**Societies news** The July/August issue of the GB Philatelic Society's *GB Journal* includes articles and notes on the Bradbury, Wilkinson 2s6d Seahorses, Army Telegraph Stamps, 1841 1d red-brown Plate 10 with inverted watermark, early use of Penny Black Plate 1B, earliest 1840 2d blue block used on cover, Edward VII 1d varieties, Plating Postage Due Controls and book reviews. The accompanying GBPS Newsletter includes a report on the 'Royal' auction at Spink on 17 May, details of the then forthcoming Society Weekend at York (27-29 July), notes on Coatings and Gums for the Modern Specialist, reports of Society Displays, and much else of interest to GB collectors of all periods •

Members of the Welsh Philatelic Society came from all over the UK for the 25th society weekend held at Plas Tan Y Bwlch in June. The Egg Cup competition attracted a large entry; the winner was Nancy Wornum for a postcard display on Christopher Robin, Owl and Pooh. Visiting speaker, Dr David Trapnell, showed East African Railways postal history, letters and early photographs; WPS Chairman Roger Broomfield his collection of Undated Circles of Wales; and Marion Turner postcards of the Vale of Ffestiniog. The next WPS meeting will be in Bangor on 5 October •

The Exhibition Study Group will be holding its Annual Convention this year in Glasgow, for the first time north of the border. Another 'first' is that the meeting will be in the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum at the west end of Sauciehall Street, by Gray Street. This building dates from the 1901 Exhibition and is not that far away from the venue of the Glasgow 2000 stamp exhibition last year. The Convention takes place on Saturday-Sunday 29-30 September, and will be open to the public after the AGM at about 10.30am on the Saturday. There will then be a number of displays on various aspects of collecting exhibition-related material, and the range usually covers postcards, stamps and printed ephemera. The displays are being co-ordinated by Stanley Hunter in Glasgow •

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**Obituaries** Sir John Marriott, former Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection, died after a lengthy illness on 3 July 2001. As a collector he was a stickler for quality, which was well displayed by his major award winning collection of Trinidad and also his 'sideline' collection of Early Covers of the World with which he frequently entertained collectors. His authorship of *The Philatelic History of Trinidad* and his wide knowledge of classic issues led to an invitation to join the Expert Committee of the Royal Philatelic Society in 1965, at that time under the Chairmanship of Sir John Wilson Bart, then Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection. When Wilson retired as Keeper in 1960 John Marriott was the obvious choice to succeed him, and he served in that role until retirement in 1995. Sir John was honoured by HM The Queen in 1978 when he was appointed a Member of the Victorian Order, becoming a Lieutenant of the Order in 1984 and being knighted on his retirement. During this period he displayed parts of the collection at numerous international exhibitions and also developed the collection in many ways, including adding modern British covers to ensure that the collection remained representative of British philately. During his

active career in philately, Sir John served as President of the Royal Philatelic Society from 1983 to 1986, was a member of many international juries starting at Philypia in 1970, and was a member of the Association des Expert Philateliques. Invited to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in 1972, he served on the Board of Election from 1977 to 1998. He was internationally recognised, being one of the very few philatelists awarded both the Lichtenstein Award and Lindenburg Medal. A member of the Royal Philatelic Society since 1951, he was made an Honorary Fellow in 1993.

Sir John gained a first class degree in mathematics from Cambridge, at the same time obtaining blues in both rugby and cricket. His mathematical skills brought him to the attention of the code breakers at Bletchley Park during the war, where he worked as a member of the Colossus code-breaking team. He then joined Charterhouse School as a mathematics master, becoming Housemaster and finally Deputy Headmaster. An enthusiastic cricketer, he was for some time in charge of the school's cricket, coaching, among others, Peter May who captained England's Ashes team between 1957 and 1961.

Sir John is survived by his wife, Lady Mary, who accompanied him on many overseas philatelic assignments where they made many friends among international collectors, and by his two sons and their families • *P C Pearson*

John Gorham, who died in June, was a rare commodity – a stamp designer whose work was highly regarded in both the design and philatelic communities. He was born in Uxbridge in 1937, and a lung condition as a young child resulted in long periods in hospital and a disrupted education. Relegated to the backward class, he played truant and his only formal training in design was a short period at Harrow School of Art. Later, however, his interest was rekindled whilst working at a printer and at the publicity department at the *Daily Mirror*. He set up on his own in 1967 and for the next 30 years produced a wide range of highly acclaimed work including posters, book covers, books, packaging, film titles, calendars, wine labels, magazine spreads, and logos. Among the best-remembered examples are his bold hand-lettered logotype for the Watney's 'Roll Out the Red Barrel' campaign, and graphics and titles for the films *Bugsy Malone*, *Chariots of Fire*, *Greystoke*, and *Local Hero*. He designed a coat of arms for David Putnam when the film producer became a peer. Another success was the book cover for the autobiography of one of his heroes, the cricket writer E W Swanton. Gorham had what has been described as 'a child-like enthusiasm for design' and built up a huge collection of printed ephemera. He worked well with the late Tony Evans, Howard Brown and Andrew Davidson on stamp designs. Despite his lack of formal education,



John Gorham, by his friend Arthur Robins, designer of this year's Christmas stamps.

Gorham taught at the Royal College of Art. In recent years, disillusioned by the dominance of technology in the design world, he did less work and spent more time on his other passion, his garden. His contribution to design earned him the Design & Art Directors' Award – the equivalent of RDP in philatelic terms – and *Bulletin* readers voted his Queen Mother and Christmas stamps as their favourite sets of 1990. The Wintertime set (designed with Keith Bowen) was the favourite set of 1992, with three of the stamps the top three individual stamps of the year. His 25p St Paul's Cathedral stamp in the Peace and Freedom set was the third favourite individual stamp for 1995, and the 1st class 1997 Christmas stamp was the second favourite that year. He also worked on the 1987 Studio Pottery and 1990 RSPCA issues. Fellow designer Mike Dempsey described him in an obituary as 'an unassuming superstar' whose work will 'quietly live on in libraries, bookshops and ephemera fairs'. We can add – and in our stamp albums ●

**Bulletin back issues** The Rev H E Lacy offers a run of the *Bulletin* from August 1968 to date – available for collection or the cost of postage plus a small donation to National Childrens Home. Contact Mr Lacy on 01604 841805. Alan Brant has a run of the *Bulletin* from January 1978 to December 2000 – offers for these should be sent to Mr Brant at 8 Roxburgh Close, Macclesfield SK10 3QE. ●

## Cover corner

THIS MONTH marks the 90th anniversary of the first UK Aerial Post, organised as part of the celebrations of George V's coronation in 1911. The service, between London (Hendon) and Windsor, commenced on 9 September and ended six days later. Special postcards at 6½d (including ½d postage) and envelopes at 1s1d (including 1d postage) were produced and sold with adhesive stamps attached. Altogether 16 flights from either Windsor or Hendon were made and some 37 mailbags containing 926 pounds of correspondence were carried. All mail received special Aerial Post cancellations, one of which is shown here. (One of the special posting boxes was shown in September 1991, page 19.)

Special events and/or postmarks were arranged in 1961, 1971, 1981 and 1986 for the 50th, 60th, 70th, and 75th anniversaries of the flights and here we show one of the special cards produced for the 50th anniversary. It reproduces the design of the 1911 card and cover, and bears BEA 11d airway letter stamp cancelled at Hendon; both it and



the postage stamps were postmarked on arrival at Windsor with a special 50th anniversary slogan postmark. The card bears an imprinted ½d stamp, to which a 2½d commemorative has been added ●

Our thanks to James Mackay for the loan of this card; an article by him on the 1911 and anniversary postmarks was published in the *British Postmark Bulletin* for 7 September.



# Royal Mail news Forthcoming stamp issues

## • Smilers • New coin cover and stamp book



**Forthcoming issues** Details of the Nobel Prize stamps (2 October) and Flags and Ensigns miniature sheet, *Unseen & Unheard* prestige book and Flags and Ensigns/definitives stamp book (22 October) are given elsewhere in this *Bulletin*.

A revised airletter inscribed in Welsh went on philatelic sale in July. From 2 October this will be available in discount packs of six, price £2.20. Single airletters cost 40p.

The final issue of the year will be the Christmas set, featuring robins, on 6 November. There will be five stamps: 2nd, 1st, E (European rate), 45p, and 65p. The 2nd and 1st class stamps will also be available in books of 24 and 12 respectively. All Christmas stamps will be in self-adhesive format. A Christmas aerogramme (English and Welsh bilingual versions) will go on sale on 6 November as will the 2001 Year Pack and Year Book.

The 2002 programme was outlined in last month's *Bulletin* (page 362). The Kipling stamps will also be issued in a retail book of 12 as well as in a sheetlet of 10 •

**Smilers for Christmas** The Smilers stamps issued last October for Christmas mailings proved popular and will be available again this year from 9 October. Again these will comprise sheets of 20 of the 1995 19p Robin in a Post Box stamp and sheets of 10 of the 1997 1st class Father Christmas stamp, either with a personal image on the labels or pre-printed Christmas greetings labels. The sheets are printed by Questa in gravure. The copyright notice at bottom right hand corner of the sheet has been amended from Post Office 2000 to Consignia 2001 (The Post Office was renamed Consignia plc from 26 March 2001.) Prices are given opposite.

Order forms for sheets with personal image are available from the address opposite. Sheets with pre-printed labels will be available from Talents House and Post Office philatelic outlets. There will be no first day facilities •



### Christmas 'Smilers' prices

|                                                   |          |
|---------------------------------------------------|----------|
| Personal image sheet of 20 x 19p stamps           | £8.75    |
| Personal image sheet of 10 x 1st class stamps     | * £12.95 |
| Pre-printed labels sheet of 20 x 19p stamps       | £3.99    |
| Pre-printed labels sheet of 10 x 1st class stamps | £2.95    |

\* Price for minimum order of two sheets (ie 20 stamps)

Order forms for sheets with personal image available from:  
Royal Mail Talents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh  
EH12 9PB, Telephone 0845 074 2000 (UK) or +44 131 316 7489 (overseas).



See the current Tallents House stock list for coin cover and PMC prices and order codes.

#### Punch & Judy book cylinders

Q1 flame (orange) ● Q1 phosphor ● Q1 new blue ● Q1 greenish yellow ● Q1 bright magenta ● Q1 black ● Q1 silver ● Q1 deep blue green.

Punch & Judy stamps self-adhesive are perf 14 × 15.5.



**Punch & Judy book** A book containing the Mr Punch and Judy stamps from the Punch & Judy set plus four 1st class definitives goes on sale on 4 September, price £1.62. All the stamps are self-adhesive ●

**Occasions stamp packs** Shown below are two of the packs, each containing blocks of 10 of the five Occasions stamps. The packs, price £2.70 each, went on sale at some 2000 post offices from early July. The stamps are from the gravure printing, issued in February ●



**Bulletin box files** As an alternative to the binders for storing this and the *Postmark Bulletin*, we now have available sturdy box files for both publications. The files, in maroon for the *Philatelic Bulletin* and green for the *Postmark Bulletin*, are available from Royal Mail Tallents House, price £8.50 each. Order codes: PB349 (Philatelic), PB350 (Postmark). The files will store 30 copies of the *Philatelic* and about 50 of the *Postmark Bulletins* •

**Going off sale** The special stamp book containing eight 1st class definitives and a pane containing a 1st Eden Project and 1st Trans Pennine Trail stamps will be withdrawn from sale on 4 September. This is the only source of this pane – No 2153a in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue. The Treasury of Trees prestige book (price £7), to be withdrawn on 17 September, contains Millennium definitives, Welsh country stamps and stamps from the Stone & Soil and Tree & Leaf sets. The book, printed by the Walsall, yields new printings of the Millennium stamps. The 65p Stone & Soil stamp in sheets was printed by Enschedé, and the 2nd, 45p and 65p Tree & Leaf stamps in sheets were by De La Rue. It is the sole source of the Welsh 2nd class stamp with phosphor band at right (No W83a in the SG catalogue).

The remaining 2000 Millennium issues will be withdrawn on: 4 September (Mind & Matter); 2 October (Body & Bone and 2000 Christmas airlifter); 6 November (Spirit & Faith and Christmas stamp books); and 4 December (Sound & Vision) •

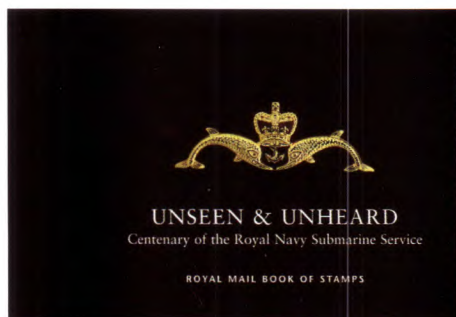
## Flags and Ensigns A miniature sheet and PSB for the Submarine Service's centenary

A miniature sheet and prestige book marking the centenary of the Submarine Service will be available from 22 October, coinciding with the bicentenary of the Battle of Trafalgar. The miniature sheet, price £1.08, contains four 1st class stamps featuring flags and ensigns: Union Flag ('Union Jack'), White Ensign, Jolly Roger, and the flag of the Chief of the Defence Staff. The sheet, designed by Dick Davis, with illustrations by Anton Morris, is printed in gravure by Questa.

The present Union Flag, popularly if erroneously called the 'Union Jack' dates from 1801 and the unification of Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales) and Ireland. It combines the English, Scottish and Irish crosses of Saints George, Andrew, and Patrick. (An earlier version, from 1606, combined just the English and Scottish flags.) According to Barraclough & Crampton (see page 13), the Union Flag is a royal flag used by the sovereign and the services and representatives of the sovereign. However there is no objection to any British subject using the flag ashore but the Merchant Shipping Act of 1894 states that the Red Ensign is the proper colour for any ship or boat owned by a British subject.



The miniature sheet measures 92 × 95mm, the stamps 41 × 26mm.



#### Postmarks for 22 October

For sponsored postmarks see our companion publication, the *British Postmark Bulletin*.

**Source** *Flags of the World*, edited by E M C Barraclough & W G Crampton (1978)

The Red, White, and Blue Ensigns of Great Britain originated in the early 17th century as tactical flags for use in the Royal Navy, which was divided into red, white and blue squadrons. After 1674 the Red Ensign was restricted to merchant ships; the others remained in Royal Navy use until 1864. Current usage is governed by Queen's Regulations and Admiralty Instructions. These include use by the Royal Yacht Squadron, on shore for decoration purposes during periods of national rejoining, and, with the Blue Ensign, on cenotaphs and other memorials to naval personnel. It is described as charged with the red cross of St George, with the Union Flag in the upper canton next to the mast.

The Jolly Roger is the flag used on submarines. When the Royal Navy Submarine Service was formed in 1901, one opponent to their introduction, Admiral Sir Arthur Wilson, said that any submariner captured should be 'hanged as a pirate'. During the First World War a young British submarine captain, after he had sunk an enemy cruiser, raised the Jolly Roger as a mark of honour. Thereafter, the flag became the emblem of British submarines returning from successful actions on patrol. Each submarine has a unique Jolly Roger; bars represent shipping sunk or disabled, crossed guns and stars are gun actions, and the dagger is for 'cloak and dagger' activities. Individual boats also devised emblems such as the crossed tin openers at the bottom of the flag of HMS *Proteus*, featured on the stamp.

The flag of the Chief of Defence Staff represents, with horizontal bands, the three services – Navy (dark blue), Army (red) and Air Force (light blue) – with the Union Flag at upper left and the 'unified device' of the services – white and blue eagle for the RAF, two red swords in saltire for the Army, and a blue foul anchor for the Navy – surrounded by the Garter and surmounted by the royal crown.

The word 'ensign' is derived from the Latin *insigne* and *signum* and was originally used to mean a sign or signal. It is probable that the Navy first used the term, for the first record of ensign, in 1574, relates to ship ensigns.

For details of flags on British stamps see James Negus's article in the *Bulletin* of February and March 1992. Subsequently flags have featured on the 1992 Europa and 1995 Shakespeare's Globe issues, and on the current 2nd class Scottish country stamp.



### Unseen & Unheard prestige stamp book

**Pane 1** Top row: 65p and 1st class Submarines stamps.  
Bottom row: 1st and 65p Submarines stamps.

**Pane 2** Top row: 45p and 2nd class Submarines stamps.  
Bottom row: 2nd and 45p Submarines stamps.

**Pane 3** Flags & Ensigns stamps (as in miniature sheet).

**Pane 4** Top and bottom rows: two Scottish 1st class stamps separated by Scottish E stamp. Middle row: two Scottish E stamps separated by pictorial label.

**Unseen & Unheard** A new prestige book containing country stamps, Flags and Ensigns, and Submarines stamps will be issued on 22 October, price £6.76. It contains four panes, as described above.

The panes are being printed in gravure by Questa – the first time they have printed the 1st and E Scottish stamps. They printed the 2nd and 65p values in The Queen Mother prestige book last August. The Scottish stamps in sheets of 200 are by Walsall.

**FIRST DAY FACILITIES** Unstamped Royal Mail first day cover envelopes will be available from main post offices about a week before 22 October, price 25p. The cover can be used for the miniature sheet or panes from the prestige book. Orders for serviced FDCs, prices opposite, must reach Tallents House by 22 October. Alternatively, collectors may send their own stamped covers, on the day of issue, for the pictorial Tallents House or Rosyth postmarks to: Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB, or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, 57 Queen Street, Glasgow G1 3AZ marking the outer envelopes 'FDO101 PSB' or 'FDO102 PSB' respectively. A non-pictorial Rosyth postmark will be available from the Special Handstamp Centre (FDO102 PSB NP). First Day Posting boxes will be provided at main post offices for collectors to post covers for the pictorial Rosyth postmark. Any stamp from the miniature sheet/prestige book can be used, singly or in combination, for all first day, philatelic and sponsored handstamps in use on 22 October.

**PRESENTATION PACK AND POSTCARDS** The miniature sheet will also be available in a presentation pack, price £1.45. Five cards will be available, price 25p, reproducing the four stamps and the miniature sheet.

**SELF-ADHESIVE STAMP BOOK** A book containing four 1st class definitives and one each of the White Ensign and Jolly Roger stamps will be available from Tallents House and philatelic outlets from 22 October, price £1.62. It will contain self-adhesive stamps, printed by Questa •

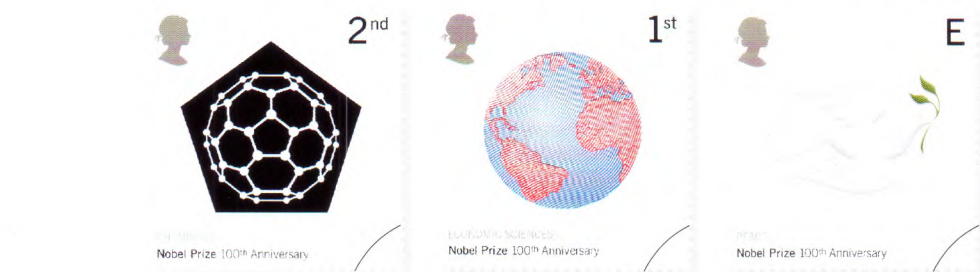
### FDC prices

**Miniature sheet** £1.69 UK;  
£1.44 overseas

**Prestige Book pane 4** £3.43  
UK; £2.92 overseas



# The Nobel Prize A display of stamp printing



**Silk-screening** Thermochromic ink was first used on a British stamp on the 1st class value in the Weather set earlier this year. The silk-screen process was used to apply the ink.

**Engraving** The recess part of the 1st class was engraved by Mrs Inge Madlé of Enschedé, who engraved the Castle High Values printed by that firm in 1997.

**Embossing** Embossing is now a rare technique on British stamps; it was last used for the large-size 1st class Machin in the 1999 'Profile on Print' prestige book.

## Technical details

**Printer** Joh Enschedé Stamps

**Processes** Lithography plus: 2nd, silk-screen process using thermochromic ink ● 1st, recess (intaglio) for the magenta printing on the globe ● E, embossed ● 40p, screen-printed 'scratch and sniff' ● 45p, microprinting in lithography ● 65p, hologram

**Sheets** 50

**Stamp size** 35 × 37mm

**Perforation** 14.5

**Phosphor** One band 2nd class, all-over others

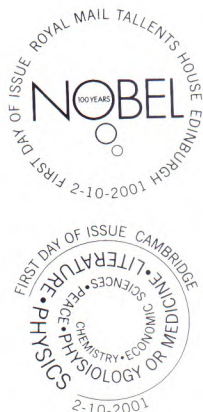
**Gum** PVA

**Gutter pairs** Horizontal

To mark the centenary of the awarding of the first Nobel Prizes, six innovative and unusual stamps go on sale at post offices, Tallents House and philatelic outlets on 2 October. The stamps, printed by a variety of processes, represent the prizes for Chemistry (2nd class), Economic Sciences (1st class), Peace (E, European rate), Physiology or Medicine (40p), Literature (45p) and Physics (65p). The 40p, 45p and 65p stamps cover basic airmail postcard and letter rates. The stamps were designed by Pierre Vermeir of HGV, a London-based design group. With J-P Tibbles, he designed the 1994 Medical Discoveries stamps. The representations on the 2nd class and 65p stamps are of a Carbon 60 and boron molecules.

**PRINTING TECHNIQUES** Standard litho printing is used for the Queen's head (in silver), value or service indicator and captions. The sheet size (50 stamps) was required to ensure better register of the printing. Embossing and hologram application offered a challenge to the printer given the distortion to the paper caused by these printing techniques. The results will be of considerable interest to collectors specialising in stamp printing.

**FIRST DAY FACILITIES** Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main post offices about a week before 2 October, price 25p. Orders for FDCs with stamps cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of Tallents House or Cambridge must reach Tallents House by 2 October. Price £3.16 UK (inc VAT) or £2.69 overseas (no VAT). Stamped covers can be sent on the day of issue to: Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB, or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Wexham Road, Slough SL1 1AA (Cambridge postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FDO119' or 'FDO120' respectively. Covers can be posted or handed in at main post offices for the Cambridge postmark. A non-pictorial Cambridge postmark is also available from the Special Handstamp Centre, request 'FDO120 NP'. For details of sponsored handstamps see the *British Postmark Bulletin*.



# techniques to celebrate 100 years of Awards



40



40p 40p  
Nobel Prize 100th Anniversary



45



45p 45p  
Nobel Prize 100th Anniversary



65



65p 65p  
Nobel Prize 100th Anniversary

**Scenting** The scented area (green cross) on the 40p emits a medicinal smell (reminiscent of eucalyptus) if scratched. Please note that such scratching will damage the printing.

**Micro printing** The microtext on the 45p stamp is litho-printed. Under magnification, the text of T S Eliot's poem *The Ad-dressing of Cats* can be discerned.

**Holography** The hologram on the 65p changes when tilted, rotating in orbits. It was produced by OVD Kinegram of Switzerland and added to the stamp by Enschedé.

**PHILATELIC PRODUCTS** A well-illustrated presentation pack (price £2.70) and stamp cards (25p each) will be available from Tallents House, philatelic outlets and main post offices. The pack includes text by six Nobel laureates: Sir Harold Kroto (Chemistry 1996), Prof James Mirrless (Economic Sciences 1996), Sir Joseph Rotblat (Peace 1995), Sir James Black (Medicine 1988), Seamus Heaney (Literature 1995), and Prof Brian Josephson (Physics 1973). A Postbag – a pack for young collectors – will be available, price £5.99.

A commemorative document, price £5.95, contains an outer cover, a card bearing the six stamps with a special Oxford postmark, and a certificate of authenticity signed by Mark Thomson, Managing Director of Royal Mail Stamps & Collectibles. The certificate bears technical information about the stamps – designer, sheet and stamp size, perforation, etc. The past century of the prizes is depicted by the use of six colour-coded timelines, one for each of the prize categories, spanning from 1901 to the present. Along each line, British winners are indicated at appropriate points. A section of Nobel's will is reproduced on one of the inner flaps and Nobel's signature is reproduced as a decorative motif on the reverse of the pack. A rich metallic gold has been used throughout which, in combination with embossing, conveys the premium nature of the product •

**ALFRED NOBEL** Alfred Bernhard Nobel (1833-96), the Swedish scientist noted for the invention of dynamite, features on Swedish stamps marking the 50th anniversary of his death in 1946 and on joint Swedish/German and Swedish/Swiss issues of 1995 and 1997. Further joint Swedish/us stamps, issued on 22 March 2001 for the centenary of the Nobel Prizes, were engraved by Czeslaw Slania. The us stamp and one of the Swedish stamps features Nobel and both sides of the Peace medal; three other Swedish stamps show the reverse of the Medicine, Chemistry, and Literature medals.

## Plate numbers and colours

**2nd** 2A black • 2B silver • 1C phosphor • 1D grey

**1st** 1A black • 1B silver • 1C dull mauve • 1D blue • 1E rosine • 1F phosphor

**E** 1A black • 1B silver • 1C bright green • 1D phosphor

**40p** 2A black • 1B silver • 1C new blue • 1D greenish yellow • 1E phosphor • 1F scent coating

**45p** 1A black • 1B silver • 1C yellow-ochre • 1D pale grey • 1E phosphor

**65p** 1A black • 1B silver • 1C phosphor

On the 2nd class, the second black colour (1D plate number) was applied in thermochromic ink by silk-screen process. A special coating (UV absorber) was applied to absorb natural ultra-violet light in sunlight and lengthen the life of the thermochromic ink. When warmed, by holding the stamp between finger and thumb, the black pentagon (except the centre) changes to a pale grey.



The postmark for the Nobel commemorative document.

Nobel left some £1.75 million for the establishment of prizes in Chemistry, Physics, Physiology or Medicine, Literature, and Peace. The first awards were made in December 1901 on the fifth anniversary of his death. The prizes for Chemistry and Physics are made by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, for Physiology/Medicine by the Royal Caroline Institute, Stockholm, and Literature by the Swedish Academy. Five persons selected by the Norwegian Parliament award the Peace Prize. The Trust is administered by the Board of Directors of the Nobel Foundation, Stockholm. The Swedish government appoints the Chairman and Deputy Chairman. A sixth award – for Economic Sciences – was added in 1969, the laureates chosen by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences •

#### British Laureates & Prize

#### Country & year issued

|                                              |                                                                         |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sir Winston Churchill</b> Literature 1953 | UK 1965 and 1974                                                        |
| <b>Dorothy Hodgkin</b> Chemistry 1964        | UK 1996                                                                 |
| <b>Rudyard Kipling</b> Literature 1907       | UK to be issued 2002                                                    |
| <b>Sir Alexander Fleming</b> Medicine 1945   | UK 1967, 1999                                                           |
| <b>Crick and Wilkins</b> Medicine 1962       | UK 1999                                                                 |
| <b>Sir Ronald Ross</b> Medicine 1902         | Sweden 1962                                                             |
| <b>Lord Rayleigh</b> Physics 1904            | Sweden 1964                                                             |
| <b>Sir William Ramsay</b> Chemistry 1904     | Grenada (Grenadines) 1995<br>Malagasy 1993                              |
| <b>Rudyard Kipling</b> Literature 1907       | Sweden 1967<br>Antigua 1995                                             |
| <b>Lord Rutherford</b> Chemistry 1908        | Sweden 1968<br>New Zealand 1971<br>Russia 1971<br>Marshall Islands 1997 |
| <b>W H &amp; W L Bragg</b> Physics 1915      | Sweden 1975                                                             |
| <b>C G Barkia</b> Physics 1917               | Sweden 1977                                                             |
| <b>Frederick Soddy</b> Chemistry 1921        | Sweden 1981                                                             |
| <b>Sir Alexander Fleming</b> Medicine 1945   | Rumania 1999                                                            |
| <b>Bertrand Russell</b> Literature 1950      | India 1972                                                              |

#### Other notable Laureates & Prize

#### Country & year issued

|                                         |                                    |
|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Marie Curie</b> Physics 1903         | Poland 1967                        |
| <b>Albert Einstein</b> Physics 1921     | Sweden 1981<br>USA 1979            |
| <b>Albert Schweitzer</b> Peace 1953     | Sweden 1991<br>Mali 1965           |
| <b>Ernest Hemingway</b> Literature 1954 | Sweden 1990<br>USA 1989            |
| <b>Martin Luther King</b> Peace 1964    | Sweden 1986<br>USA 1979            |
| <b>Wilhelm Rontgen</b> Physics 1901     | Sweden 1961<br>Czech Republic 1995 |
| <b>Fridtjof Nansen</b> Peace 1922       | Norway 1982                        |
| <b>Nelson Mandela</b> Peace 1993        | South Africa 1994                  |

**NOBEL LAUREATE STAMPS** Numerous stamps feature Nobel prize winners. Sweden has issued an annual set since 1961; these feature winners or symbols of their works. Norway has also issued stamps, and there were Nobel Prize Fund centenary sets from several countries in 1995.

British Laureates have featured on few British stamps so far. The Italian, Guglielmo Marconi (Physics 1909), featured on two of the 1995 Communications stamps (he did much of his work in Britain). British winners featured on many overseas stamps, a selection of which are noted here. There is great scope for a thematic collection •



# The George V medal head Part 3 in Alan Moorcroft's series



Bertram Mackennal's medal for the Coronation, above, is not the original for the Medal head, as the King is wearing a crown. However, a medal for the opening of South Africa's first Parliament in 1910 bore a head drawn from a sculpture by Mackennal. The same head was later used for the Naval and Military medals, left, and can be distinguished from the Coinage head.

J A C Harrison's die proof of the head with the frame for the 1d value in deep rose red.

THE EXPLANATION of how the requirement arose for an alternative to the Coinage head is given in the introduction to the 1d and 2½d values. The books all refer to the Medal head as being that used on the Coronation medal. However, if one inspects this medal, it can be seen that the King wears a Crown and this cannot be the origin of the Medal head. Personal research at the PRO has revealed that Mackennal had designed a medal to commemorate the opening of the first Parliament of the Union of South Africa in October 1910. Just 550 medals were struck and they bore a head drawn from a sculpture by Mackennal. In fact the Mint had tried to use this head for the coins, which came after October 1910, but the mould was not deep enough. Hence, Mackennal had to produce another head, the Coinage head, and that is why we have two distinct heads.

JACH did not engrave a separate Medal head as he had with the Coinage head. Here, he was presented with a composite photograph of the Laurel and Oak Leaf design with the Medal head inserted. He first made a sketch of this, from which he engraved a die of the head with the frame for the 1d value (right). The development of the die is covered in the next section.



## Key to abbreviations

BLPC British Library Philatelic Collections

JACH J A C Harrison (stamp engraver)

PMG Postmaster General

POH Post Office Heritage, now Consignia Heritage Services



Proofs of Harrison's engraving of the 1d value in the planned colours of the 1d and the 2½d.

**1d and 2½d: Mackennal laurel and oak leaf frame with Medal Head** When it was decided to adopt a Profile head in place of the Downey head, a trial was carried out, inserting the Coinage head in the Lion frame for the 1d and 2½d values. The head was considered too cramped in the frame, and Mackennal first tried to amend the frame and the head to make it fit, both without success. Mackennal was then asked to produce a new design with the Lion removed. In early February 1912, he produced a clay maquette of a 'Laurel and Oak Leaf' design. This was approved and a photograph, taken by the Mint, of this with the Coinage head was sent to the King. He thought the head was too small in the frame. At least one other copy of this photograph is known in private hands.

So it was decided to ask Mackennal to produce a new head. The King had also indicated he preferred the Medal head to the Coinage head. The background to this is given above. JACH commenced his engraving in April 1912 and at least six stages of proofs exist in collector's hands, in various colours (see left). The die was completed with the 1d values engraved on 5 June 1912.

A series of eight colour trials were carried out in September 1912 for the 1d value. Complete sheets were submitted to the King in September 1912 and 'bright scarlet' was chosen; these sheets are still in the Palace collection. POH has at least one complete sheet and several part sheets of the approved colour, which have been overprinted 'SPECIMEN'. A further sheet of each colour was broken down by a dealer and, with the exception of the bottom two rows, he handstamped the reverse of each stamp 'colour trial' and lettered them 'A' to 'H'. Stamps produced for the colour standard were overprinted 'CANCELLED', and examples are known in private hands. Personal research at the BLPC has revealed that another series of colour trials was carried out during 1913. The collection has nine imperforate part sheets printed under control C13 in different shades. The sheets are annotated with the details of the ink used. The stamps are imperforate and are overprinted 'SPECIMEN', and again examples of these are known in private hands.

During 1915 an experimental printing using surplus currency paper was made. This paper was stouter, and of better quality, than stamp paper, and had been produced especially for printing currency notes during 1914-15. A surplus of some 228 reams was offered to the Stamping Department, and experiments were carried out to see if it was suitable for printing stamps. Following the experiments, it was decided to use the paper, and the stamps printed were sold in rolls for vending machines. Apparently four complete imperforate sheets, overprinted 'CANCELLED' were discovered in 1940 and at least the bottom three rows of one of these exists intact.

Imperforate 1d stamps are known overprinted 'CANCELLED' from controls D14 and E14 and perforated stamps under control E14 and F15. No records have been found to date to explain the reason for these, although Beaumont and Stanton (*The Postage Stamps of Great Britain, Part 4*, by Beaumont & Stanton, RPSL 1957) state they arose from paper trials during the First World War.



During 1916, trials were made using British dyes when supplies from Germany ceased. Experimental printings in three colours were made of the 1d, also of the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d as previously mentioned. Harrisons reported the inks produced were not successful. Examples of these are known overprinted with a distinctive 'CANCELLED' including the notable 'paranitranline red'. During 1918, a further series of ink trials was carried out using Mander's inks. A control block of eight from these trials is shown above.

The 1d stamps were issued on 8 October 1912, and sixteen shades are catalogued of which the 'pink' and the 'deep orange-vermilion' are perhaps the scarcest. During 1913, a small printing was made upon paper with watermark 'Multiple Script Cypher'. These stamps were issued in coils. However, a few complete sheets or part sheets appear to have been issued and two control blocks are recorded. In 1921 Somerset House experimented with continuous printing of stamps for coils. These stamps are distinguishable by the very coarse impression, as the paper appears to be rougher and of a different texture; possibly it was not plate glazed. A few of these stamps are known overprinted 'SPECIMEN' which are thought to be from the colour standard.

The  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d die was produced from a roller impression of the completed 1d which then had the values removed. This was hardened and then a fresh die produced which JACH engraved with the values on 30 July 1913. A proof exists in the Adam's Collection at the Royal Philatelic Society with the values engraved but with the head removed. The origins of this are not known. Colour trials in seven shades of blue were made in October 1912 but the only official example seen is a sheet of the approved colour held at BLPC. This is endorsed in the bottom margin 'Colour Essay Stamping Department' and the stamps are overprinted 'CANCELLED'. The only item known outside the institutions which appears to come from these trials is an imperforate block of four in the selected colour. The colour standard was pro-

A control block of eight from the Mander's inks trials, overprinted 'CANCELLED' and initialed by Alexander King, Secretary to the PO.



A colour standard of the 2½d value produced by Harrisons.

duced at Somerset House under control A.12, and Harrisons produced another under control C.13; both are overprinted 'SPECIMEN'. Examples of both are known in private hands.

The 2½d stamps were issued on 17 October 1912 and nineteen shades are catalogued with the 'Pale milky blue', 'Dull Prussian blue' and 'Indigo-blue'; the scarcest and of particular rarity are the latter two shades on toned paper. Harrisons had trouble in matching the colour standard during the First World War because of the shortage

of ink supplies. A new colour standard was issued in 1917 and examples of this in the BLPC are overprinted 'SPECIMEN' under control J.17 while copies are known in private hands which do not have the overprint. Stamps are also known overprinted 'CANCELLED' which come from a 1917 experimental printing of a worn plate alongside a new plate (below).

No official explanation has been discovered concerning the so-called toned paper. Other values are known that purport to be printed upon toned paper, but these are not recognised by all specialists and have not attained catalogue status. Research at POH has revealed that the Post Office complained to Harrisons during 1919 concerning the colour of several of the stamps, particularly the 2½d value, and several tests were made upon samples of the printed stamps. It appears that the problem with the 2½d value stemmed from Harrisons inability to obtain blue ink supplies from Germany and that the ink they were using did not compare favourably with the pre-war colour, but was close to the standard produced during 1917. However, the Government chemist discovered during the analysis of the ink that it contained a small amount of arsenic. In consequence Harrisons were obliged to find a suitable blue free from arsenic. This led to several experiments with different inks and dryers, and it is speculated that the varieties known as printed on toned paper arose as a consequence. The problems with the shade were finally resolved during 1921, when a new colour standard was produced; the stamps were overprinted 'SPECIMEN' and examples of these are known in private hands •

Stamps from an experimental printing of a worn plate alongside a new plate, carried out during 1917. Known examples are imperforate.



#### To be continued next month

An earlier version of this article was published in *The London Philatelist*, September 2000. The author is Hon Treasurer of the Royal Philatelic Society London.

# Philately on-line Ron Negus inspects a major thematic site



**American Topical Association**  
**ATA**  
 P O Box 50820  
 Albuquerque, NM 87181-0820

Topical, or thematic, stamp collecting is the fastest-growing arm of the stamp-collecting hobby today

- Home
- What We Are
- What We Offer
- News
- Contact Us
- Membership
- Topical Time
- Handbook

The American Topical Association serves over 6000 members in 90 countries. It is the largest philatelic society devoted to a specific phase of stamp collecting. Organized in 1949, the ATA has over 50 years of service to its members. The ATA is the best source of information, fellowship and inspiration in the topical field.

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN!

Readers who do not have access to the internet, but would like further information about the American Topical Association can write to the ATA, PO Box 50820, Albuquerque, NM 87180-0820, USA.

FOR MORE THAN 50 years, the American Topical Association (ATA) has provided services for thematic collectors throughout the world. Its magazine, *Topical Time*, first appeared as an eight-page quarterly publication. Over the years it has grown into today's 92-page, bi-monthly magazine that contains articles on every aspect of collecting stamps arranged by the subjects they depict rather than by their country of issue.

The ATA has its own website at <http://home.prcn.org/~pauld/ata> (note this address does not start with the usual 'www' prefix). This gives a summary of all its activities, and a history of the Association's development from its inception in November 1949 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Today, membership is in excess of 6000 collectors who belong to one or more Study Units specialising in the philatelic subject matter in which they are interested. The first four of these Units, which were formed in 1949 for collectors of Railways, Biology, Americana and Medical Subjects on stamps respectively, are still active today.

Details of these four Units, plus the 50 others that now exist, are given on the website with contact addresses. Each entry shows if the Unit has a magazine for members, and indicates if it has a site of its own on the internet. Where relevant, an e-mail address is quoted. The Units are designed to bring together those collectors whose subject interests are the same. Thematic collectors having different interests but who live within the same geographical area are also catered for by the organisation of ATA Chapters. Details of these are listed and contact information is given here for the UK organisation, the British Thematic Association.

In addition to publishing *Topical Time*, the ATA has always been committed to publishing literature on thematic subjects. The result has been a series of Handbooks issued under their imprint, the first of which appeared in 1951. There are now 139 Handbooks covering a variety of topics. The most recent is entitled *The Philatelic Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*. The site contains a full list of the titles which are still in print. Prices for members and non-members are quoted in US dollars for each one and they can be paid for by credit card.

Other valuable services offered to members only include thematic checklists, a translation service covering 27 languages and access to a panel of 500 specialists who will answer questions by mail on 325 topics. Further details of these facilities, plus others that are aimed mainly at collectors in the USA, are quoted on the website.

ATA members with their own web pages are encouraged to submit the details, which are listed here under the title 'ATA Links'. This part includes addresses of members who are dealers, who can supply thematic material including stamps, postal stationery and cancellations. Another section is devoted to links that take the viewer to thematic pages produced by non-ATA members.

Any reader who has a thematic collection will find the ATA site an excellent starting point for finding out more about their particular interest. Its broad appeal is shown by the fact that it received a 3-star award in the FIP website evaluations of 2000 •

## From collection to competition From a diverse collection



International  
Women's Year

Amy Johnson



Seychelles

R 1



WE ALL KNOW THAT WONDERFUL FEELING of walking into a stamp show on the morning of the first day! The dealers, their displays tidy and organised, stand waiting, fresh and eager to sell. 'Can we help?' they ask solicitously. 'What do you collect?'

'Women', I say, 'I collect Women.'

Their reactions vary from lascivious grins and comments such as 'Don't we all, luv!' to a recoiling, nervous shake of the head, 'No, no, we don't have women. I mean...er...well, not on stamps.'

If I persist, they will suggest I look through 'Show Business' or possibly, 'Sport' – and, very occasionally, 'Famous People'. It's often forgotten that the very first stamp in the world depicted a woman – Queen Victoria on the Penny Black. In fact, women have appeared on a great number of stamps – Queen Victoria, Queen Elizabeth, and Queen Juliana alone must account for many hundreds.

But I wanted to collect more than royalty. A more diligent search revealed a surprising number of stamps depicting women, and to start with, I collected all of them – women working in the fields, gathering and spinning cotton, tapping rubber, or women dressed in a variety of national costumes. I soon amassed a huge and very boring collection of stamps, so I moved on to collecting 'real' women, that is women who had achieved fame in a variety of occupations – not only royal ladies, but also authors, artists, actresses, scientists, sportswomen and so on. They had to be put

in some sort of order, and I began to arrange a Chronology of 'Women through the Ages'. This was far more interesting.

The first section included women whose fame was derived solely from their relationship with men, either as wives, mothers and/or mistresses of famous men, or through their royal affiliations – monarchs, regents, consorts (lots and lots of consorts), and royal relatives. I also had a section for women of religion, and lastly, some heroines (Jeanne d' Arc), and a few villains – very few villains, I'm glad to say.

Even this simplistic method of display caused me some problems. Should I put Princess Grace of Monaco among the 'Film Stars', or with 'Royalty', or, when she posed with her children, among the 'Mothers'? Or in all three?

**Exhibiting** Then I decided to exhibit competitively, which was quite a different story. I looked at my collection again. First of all, like most people, I had to get rid of my old title. 'Women through the Ages' was considered too pedestrian, and 'Women Wule' too facetious. During my research, I came across a letter that had been written by Abigail Adams, the wife of the second President of the USA. She longed for equal rights, and wrote to her husband, urging him to 'remember the ladies' when he was drawing up the new laws for the USA. 'Remember the Ladies' seemed a good title. I also hoped the judges (and the dealers) might remember them as well.

# of 'Women' to 'Remember the Ladies', by Margaret Shaida

**Quest for Equality** My first and second sections remained the same – Wives, Mothers and Companions (mistresses and beauties). And, of course, Royalty. But then I developed a section called 'The Quest for Equality', where I looked at the early women who made a name for themselves centuries ago due to their outstanding courage and intellect. Cleopatra of Egypt, Jadwiga of Poland, Elizabeth I of England and Isobel I of Spain were just some of the strong queens who made a lasting mark on their countries. Other strong-minded women often chose to enter the church where they were able to pursue an academic career.

Another new section called the 'Years of Revolution' covered the revolutions of 17th and 18th century Europe, and subsequent emigration to the New World. This proved to be an interesting period, though difficult to illustrate with stamps and other philatelic material. Quite a few of the sects that sprang out of Puritanism promoted the equality of women. They encouraged them to participate fully in religious services, and even to give sermons. This early experience in public speaking proved invaluable, particularly among the Quakers, who emigrated to America. They had struggled alongside their men to build their new country, but were disappointed that its new laws were largely based on the old feudal laws of

England. The shiny new constitution accorded equality to all men, but not to women. Hence Abigail's letter – and the title of the display.

This led, inevitably, to 'The Feminist Movement' – which divided into five groups, each of whom struggled for equality: suffragettes, politicians, journalists, teachers and humanitarians.

**Art and Modern World** I did a lot more research on the world of 'Art' which covered authors and artists, actresses, opera singers, ballet dancers and so on. Formerly, women were not allowed on the stage, and in Shakespeare's time, men played the female roles. Even in opera, men took the female parts, and were castrated to ensure the correct high pitch of voice. (This latter area was probably one where the men fought equally hard for the right of women to play their full part!)

A section on the 'Modern World' showed politicians, scientists (which consisted mostly of Marie Curie), pilots and astronauts, and, of course, film stars, popular singers and beauty queens. Lastly, I had a section on sport – the Olympics and tennis players. In the second half of the last century, the world had really opened up for those women who wanted to participate in world affairs. So much so that several dealers even have sections on women now •

Text © Margaret Shaida 2001. First published in *Thematica* brochure 1998.



Harry Allen  
Rickmansworth  
Herts.  
England

## The introduction of street door letter plates Lionel Jones

'LETTER PLATES' is the proper name for Mail delivery points within street doors and known today by the common and incorrect title of letter boxes.

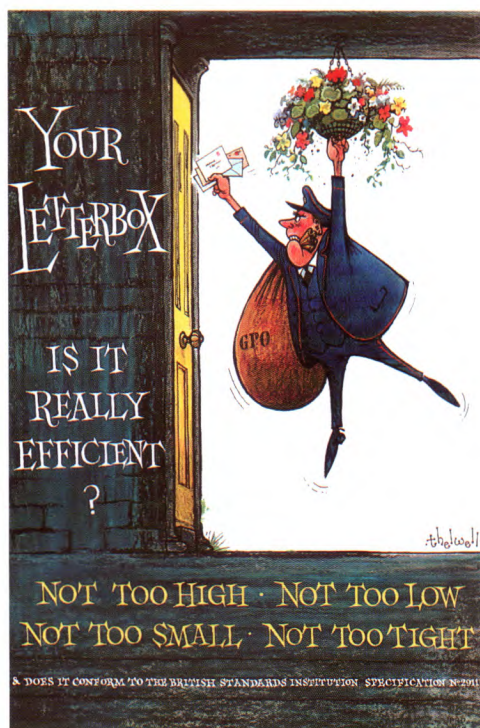
So long as a letter carrier had to knock in order to collect the pence or shillings due on an item of mail already carried between the posting and delivery points without charges having been collected, there was no real need for a delivery slit and this applied equally within the Local (penny) Post areas as well as to items put straight in to the General Post, or to items travelling through both services.

In pre-1840 times the attitude was that a recipient (of a letter) would have felt insulted had his correspondent prepaid the postage but once 1840 arrived, with postage rates being uniform, and very much cheaper, viewpoints on who should pay the transit charges changed rapidly.

Senders were however forced into reversing the monitory aspect of letter writing by legislation, which from circa 1835 allowed a surcharge to be raised at delivery on any unpaid letter. (This meant of course that the new postage labels *must now* be affixed). From 10 January 1840 until 1855 it remained optional as to the sender or recipient paying the flat rate, inland 1d. The surcharge for not prepaying was abolished very soon after introduction but resurrected in much later times.

So until 1855 there was no operational desire for a saving of time and effort by not having to knock and wait at all street doors for which items of mail were to hand.

When the idea finally took root it was quickly identified that any benefits were not for the recipient but only to the Post Office, although the PO advertised greater rapidity of delivery if the letter carrier were not kept waiting. Public resistance was instant and widespread against despoiling doors by cutting a slit into them. Indeed many homeowners approached the GPO with a request that it met the costs of the local carpenter in cutting the hole etc (usually between 2s and 2s6d). Those householders with servants were afraid that with no postal knock to be heard, servants



might intercept letters, read them or at least delay them from reaching the master or mistress of a house.

Initially there was no such item to be had from general and household ironmongers as a slit with a cover, which could be screwed to a street door, and it was very much down to the local iron-founder to cast one specially to order.

The PO in desperation at the lack of willingness on the part of householders to install delivery slits actually canvassed founders nationwide in an effort to get them to mass-produce these items and have them put before the public in their shop window etc.

The grant of the right of individual house delivery from 1840 in actual fact did not become a reality (especially in rural areas) until the year of Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, 1897. The result of this is that finding letter plates produced

chronicles the reluctant acceptance of this postal innovation



Letter plates and PO publicity from Lionel Jones' collection. This article is to be continued next month.

before the late 1880s is difficult; indeed iron ones are particularly scarce because they normally rusted away. The earliest types were designed with the following objectives in mind: to affix in order to prevent weather penetration; and to best avoid a breach of door-security. They had no spring but often a counter balance and were screwed or nailed onto the face of the outer door.

I have made some effort to locate patents but with little success to date.

There does not seem to be an early preference for either horizontal or vertical openings, and the constructional technique of early doors would hardly influence such a decision as the plates were always very small for the reason we all know from our own collections: that the average width of a 19th century letter rarely exceeded 3½ inches.

In PO Archives for August/September 1870 I came across the following:

#### Order for fixing Street Door Letter box

|             |                                                                                             |        |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| <b>No 1</b> | Japanned tin box with glass window, lock and aperture plate, complete and fixed on the door | 10s 0d |
| <b>No 2</b> | With wire net box of the same shape, without lock, complete, fixed                          | 6s 6d  |
| <b>No 3</b> | With superior oak or mahogany box, with glass door lock and aperture – complete fixed       | 15s 0d |

**Order** Please fix to my door letter box no...

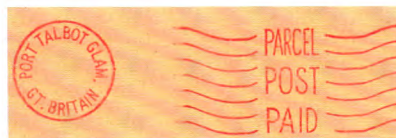
**Name** James Livesey

**Address** 2 Mills Terrace, Cliftonville, Brighton

To the Post Master, Brighton

It is not clear from this record if the Brighton PO was actually offering to organise and process orders for installation, whether J Livesey was an applicant, or the tradesman selected by the Postmaster to perform this work locally on behalf of Brighton Post Office. *To be continued* ●

## Parcel post machine marks and labels by James Mackay



AT VARIOUS TIMES IN THE PAST HALF CENTURY machines used for letter mail and prepaid bulk-posting of packets have been adapted for bulk-postings of parcels or even individual parcels prepaid in cash at the post office counter. The Totometer, a machine patented by Pitney Bowes for the automatic counting and checking of banknotes, was adapted for the bulk-postings of packets from 1957 onwards, and occasionally it was applied to gummed labels which could then be affixed to parcels. Initially this machine produced an impression with four horizontal lines containing a four-line inscription POSTAGE PAID / BPI 1958 / BRISTOL / GREAT BRITAIN in red, applied to gummed address labels of the Automobile Association for a despatch of the AA handbook to members. Subsequently Totometer marks had a distinctive elliptical shape, with the office name at the top, PAID / GREAT BRITAIN in the centre, PARCEL POST at the foot, and the date at the sides. Universal high-speed machines, normally confined to letters and postcards, were also utilised occasionally for bulk postings of parcels, the marks being applied to wrappers or labels beforehand. The normal town die with GREAT BRITAIN or an abbreviation was used along with wavy lines but the central section had PARCEL POST PAID in three lines, with or without a value. Most of these date from 1960-7 before the advent of Postage Paid Impressions (PPIs) and were mainly used on parcels from Readers Digest in Aylesbury.

Apart from these adaptations of existing equipment, the PO also experimented with a number of machines designed specifically to print out gummed labels for parcels brought individually to the post office counter. They obviated the need for adhesive stamps and incorporated metering devices which also simplified accounting.

**Field trials** In April 1947 the Post Office conducted trials at the head post offices in Cambridge and Romford using two machines supplied by Ticket Issuing Machines Limited of Cirencester. These TIM machines were very compact, resembling ticket machines carried at that time by bus conductors, but in this instance clamped to the post office counter. Any value from a penny to 19s11d in 14 stages could be printed on a gummed label, merely by dialling the amount, and the label was then affixed to the parcel. In practice the two experimental machines had values fitted from 6d to 1s5d, but only 8d, 9d, 10d and 1s have been recorded. These machines were tested until 28 September 1948 and produced an impression with PARCEL POST in a vertical panel on the left, the name, date and POSTAGE PAID horizontally in the centre, and the value on the right between a crown and the royal cypher.

**Scarce labels** The TIM experiment overlapped with a trial of a machine made by Westinghouse Garrard Ticket Machines Limited. This was tested at Cambridge from 12 December 1947 till 2 November 1948 and then briefly tested in Birmingham from 14 to 23 February 1949. Very few examples of the Cambridge trial are known and only three examples have been recorded so far from the Birmingham trial. The Westinghouse machine produced an impression on a gummed label with the name at the top and GREAT BRITAIN at the foot. The value, date and a meter registering up to four digits appeared in the centre. The set-up of the inscriptions varied slightly. That used at Cambridge had S and D without stops whereas the Birmingham version had full stops after S and D. Contemporary philatelic references to the Birmingham labels stated that they

were inscribed POSTAGE / PAID but this must have been based on a faulty reading of an illegible impression. However, taller and slightly narrower lettering was used for the Birmingham labels.

Simplex Label Issuing machines, manufactured by Universal Postal Frankers Limited, were used experimentally at the head post offices in Romford and Birmingham between 25 September 1950 and 24 October 1951. These were, in fact, a modification of the Simplex postage meters then in widespread use, and produced a distinctive impression on gummed labels with an imitation stamp on the left and date circles on the right. The original pair of Simplex machines was subsequently used at Aberdeen and Harrogate respectively, the latter being transferred to Leith, Edinburgh in January 1955.

There was also an experiment at Cambridge and Birmingham in 1951 using machines manufactured by Setright Registers Limited of London E17. They produced an impression similar to the TIM but rather smaller. These Setright impressions are rare.

**General use** As a result of these experiments the Post Office purchased 100 TIM machines of an improved type and these were subsequently allocated to many head offices in London and the provinces. The machine used at the Festival of Britain temporary branch office in 1951 had a pictorial element in the left-hand panel showing the Britannia logo, but the machines used elsewhere produced an impression with PARCEL POST / PAID in the left-hand panel. Earlier im-

pressions had a pattern of horizontal bars in the centre and the G V I R cypher at the foot of the right-hand panel, with office name alone, the county name in full or an abbreviated form. Later impressions, however, omitted the short bars and royal cypher and adopted the Imperial crown instead of the Tudor crown, but there was a much wider range of inscriptions at the top. They continued to be used sporadically throughout the 1950s and 1960s but had vanished from the scene well before the advent of decimal currency in 1971.

Plessey took over Ticket Issuing Machines but the appellation TIM continued to be applied to the small labels printed in various shades of red ink. However, the name 'Plessey' is applied for the sake of convenience to those labels of a much larger size, printed in violet ink, and closely resembling contemporary bus tickets. No labels of this type were ever used by the British PO but several machines were in use in the Irish Republic. In 1971 they were even modified to decimal currency and a decade later two of these machines were still in use at the head post office in Dublin though, oddly enough, one of these bore the inscription BRI CHULANN (Bray, Co Wicklow) where it was originally used. Plessey machines dispensing violet 'bus-ticket' labels were also used by British Railways, with the name of the station in the left-hand panel and a large numeral on the right referring to the ledger account, rather than an actual value. Examples of this usage have been recorded in the 1950s •

## Special draw Win a block of four of the Machin high values

WE HAVE BLOCKS OF FOUR of the recess-printed Machin high values (£1.50, £2, £3, and £5) for the sender of the first postcard drawn on 5 October. Three runners-up will be sent singles of the stamps.

Simply write your name and address on the back of a postcard and send it to: High Values Draw, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8HQ •



## A happy blend Richard West attends Congress in Hereford

IT WAS THE 83rd Philatelic Congress of Great Britain, yet it managed to achieve an important first. It was the first time Congress had visited the City of Hereford. It was also noteworthy in that the local (Herefordshire and North Wales) philatelic society played an active, indeed indispensable, part in the organisation. All the more remarkable given that for most of the local organisers this was the first Congress attended, and the decision to hold Congress in Hereford was taken less than 12 months ago.

Congress is a happy blend of the traditional with the informal. The formal side comes with the signing of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists and presentation of the Congress Medal, followed by a banquet. This year there were four new signatories to the Roll: Leo De Clercq of Belgium, Fritz Heimbüchler of Germany, Mrs Boonkrong Indhusophon from Thailand, and Yoshio Watanabe of Japan. The 2001 recipient of the Congress Medal was Mrs Margaret Morris.

The less formal aspects of this Congress included a visit to the Cider Museum and the Bulmer's brewery and to the Mappa Mundi and Chained Library at Hereford Cathedral. In between came a variety of philatelic attractions, including several displays by the members of the local society.

Congress was formally opened by the Mayor of Hereford, Councillor Mrs Sue Andrews, who also attended both the Roll signing ceremony and the banquet. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Congress were both local men: John Harding and Cyril Stapley.

Cyril provided a refreshingly frank yet light-hearted look at the hobby with his presentation of the Kay Goodman Memorial Lecture. On the topic of 'grass roots philately' Cyril explained how his love of the stamps had been sparked while travelling through Spain, and finding the Spanish 'Costumes' stamps appealing. He was on his way to new employment on Gibraltar with the Meteorological Office. On 'the rock' he discovered Europa Point lighthouse, and the start of a theme. The pages of lighthouses gradually developed into a collection on Christopher Columbus.

Cyril's presentation was interlaced with much off-the-cuff humour, including the revelation that, having achieved much success at local competition level, when it came to entering the national competitions at Stampex the views of the judges had put him off exhibiting. The final display was by John Harding, with his own pet love, namely the postal history and stamps of Uruguay.

Congress also heard from John Miller McGrath about one of the success stories of our hobby, the Bookham Stamp Club. By deciding to meet in the afternoons, it has attracted a membership of over 100; most attend the monthly meetings. Enthusiasm and innovation seem to be the basis for this success. Despite being only eight years old, it has more than once organised conventions on behalf of the Federation of Surrey Philatelic Societies, and each meeting sees enthusiastic trading among members. Indeed, there is always a queue waiting for the doors to open at 1pm, and some are reluctant to leave at the designated 5pm.

Two of the Distinguished Philatelists provided a few personal thoughts on the hobby. Rolf-Dieter Jaretsky wondered whether the time has come to look afresh at the 'time divides' as far as some of the competitive classes are concerned. He suggested a division into three periods: classic up to 1870; post-classic from 1870 to 1945; and modern from 1945.

Mrs Indhusophon, known to all as Ad, told how she had taken on the collecting mantle of her late husband, also a signatory to the Roll. She tried to ensure that her collections told a simple, well-balanced story, which could be understood by all. This she felt was essential to encourage interest in collecting. She also does much to encourage the young in Thailand, arranging meetings at the Bangkok National Library. Since starting her group in 1993, she has helped over 3000 youngsters.

Congress as always provided an enjoyable blend: sharing one's hobby in good company. If you feel you would like to be a part of it, why not note the dates for next year: 12 to 15 September, at Dawlish ●

## Susan Oliver A life of devotion to philately, by Richard West

A FAMILIAR FIGURE in the stamp world, Susan Oliver has spent her life devoted to the hobby, active on both the professional and collector sides of the fence. She has her mother to thank for introducing her to stamps: although neither parent collected, mother thought it would be a good idea. At the time Susan was six, and living in North Yorkshire. Her determined personality was clearly evident even at that age: despite being the only collector at her school, she persisted with her interest, collecting the whole world, much of her material stemming from approvals acquired from Stanley Gibbons.

Come the time to start working, she was faced with a simple choice: work for Yorkshire County Cricket Club (another of her passions), or head off to London to seek her fortune. She chose the latter, ending up at Harrods toy department during the Christmas period. But stamps were in her veins, so a letter to Stanley Gibbons seeking employment saw her working in the famous Strand premises from January 1962. She was largely behind the scenes, but worked in most departments. However, when Gibbons merged with its neighbour, H E Wingfield, she thought that perhaps the time had come to move.

**Interview over dinner** Robson Lowe seemed an interesting company to work for, and had been advertising for staff. Susan ignored her father's advice about being invited to dinner by strange men: her interview with Robbie was very civilised, over dinner one Sunday evening at Robbie's club. R L seemed totally unconcerned about Susan's qualifications: he preferred to recount his own experiences on his many travels. As those who knew Robbie will testify, such was typical of the man. Needless to say, the job was Susan's.

So in November 1962 she began working in the auction catalogue department, and over the years was to be the assistant of Alan Boswell. This not only involved helping at auctions, but also giving talks to stamp clubs, to become a prominent fea-



ture of Susan's philatelic career. At the time Robson Lowe was involved in liquidation of the stock of an Irish auction house, Shanahans, whose activities had been exposed by Kenneth Chapman, then Editor of the weekly magazine *Stamp Collecting*. Susan was sent to Dublin by R L to

work with the liquidators. Susan was to continue working for Robson Lowe for 25 years, but when the company was absorbed into Christie's, she felt such increased pressure that once more the opportunity should be taken to move on. An offer was made by Argyll Etkin: she has remained with the company ever since, undertaking a multitude of tasks. Indeed, if you telephone Argyll Etkin, your call is likely to be answered by Susan.

**Collecting interests** Back to her own collecting, today Susan is noted for her collection of the Faroe Islands. This saw its origins with a family holiday to Denmark, and a visit to a folk museum at which on display was a Faroe's home. This fascinated Susan, and she determined to discover more about the island; in 1964 she paid the first of many visits. For a time she also collected Greenland, and has collections of Spitsberg, and Yorkshire postal history.

Her involvement with the philatelic world is legendary, so not surprisingly she was the recipient in 1999 of the Congress Medal, for outstanding service to the hobby. She is Chairman, and has been the President, of the Society of Postal Historians, the first lady to hold the position in both cases. She has been involved, usually deeply involved, with the Scandinavia Philatelic Society, Hammersmith Philatelic Society, Yorkshire Postal History Society, York Philatelic Society, and the London and Provincial Stamp Club.

As mentioned, she is a frequent visitor to stamp clubs, giving talks and displays, as a result of which she has visited most parts of the United Kingdom. She was active with the former British Philatelic Federation, and now plays a vital role with the National Youth Stamp Group, editing its regular

newsletter. The hobby has clearly been of importance in her life: perhaps most significantly it was at Hammersmith Philatelic Society in 1964 that she met her future husband, Chris, although it was not until 12 years later that they married.

With nearly 40 years in the stamp trade, what are Susan's feelings about the hobby? Like many she regrets the demise of the stamp shop, as these provided the ideal place for discussions among collectors, in particular with potential collectors and the young. Stamp fairs do not offer the same opportunities. She feels that perhaps, there having been such a noticeable swing towards postal

history in recent years, there is now a need for a revival of traditional stamp collecting.

Finally, she feels that perhaps there should be greater appreciation of thematic collecting, being in many respects more difficult than traditional or postal history in the vast knowledge it requires, and in the fact that there is a need to assemble all the material before a start can really be made on mounting and writing up.

Seemingly always smiling, Susan has willingly shared her infectious cheerfulness and enthusiasm for the hobby for almost 40 years: she is an inspiration to us all ●

Text © Richard West 2001

## Postbag Letters to the Editor

**Smilers for You** I have compared printings of the Occasions stamps from the normal sheets (6 February) and the Smilers sheet with greetings labels (5 June). The obvious difference between the two printings is that the first was produced in gravure and the second in litho. The gravure stamps have a much sharper image, the 'hallmarks' and the '1st' indicator are much darker and the background is rather less 'pinkish' than on the litho stamps. The background at bottom left on the gravure stamps (particularly WELCOME) is quite blackish; this is much less pronounced on the litho stamps. The Queen's silhouette appears to have more of a metallic sheen on the gravure stamps; it appears a flatter grey on the litho.

Now to compare the litho-printed 1st class Smiles greetings stamps in the Smilers for You sheet (3 July) with the previous gravure printing in the Smilers sheets produced for Stamp Show 2000. The most significant difference is the change in perforation gauge from 15 × 14 to 14.5 × 14 and the re-positioning of the stamps within the picture frame lower down the A4-size sheet. The Royal Mail logo replaces the Stamp Show logo at the foot of the sheet and, of course, the Stamp Show labels are replaced by greetings labels (have fun, enjoy!, be happy, etc). The litho sheet is perforated across left and right margins below the Policeman and Dennis stamps; there are no such perforations on the gravure sheet. Comparing the

gravure and litho stamps, the latter appear to be 'sharper', particularly the Punch stamp. There are some notable shade differences, especially the red on the Punch and Dennis the Menace stamps which is much more of an orange on the litho printing, and the green background to the left of the Cheshire Cat is deeper on the litho. The picture frame appears more 'gilded' on the gravure sheet, more of a reddish-brown on the new litho sheet. I hope my comments are of interest to fellow collectors. KEN MARKS, PORTSMOUTH ●

**Perfin mystery solved?** *Back in October 1995 (page 43), we illustrated the 1957 Scout Jubilee Jamboree stamps with 'BP' perfin. There was some interest in this, but opinion was divided as to whether these perfins were contemporary or a more recent production. J Beard of Cheltenham has sent an interesting article from the June 2001 journal of the Perfin Society. It illustrates a FDC bearing the perfin stamps with a London EC4 handstamp. The cover, perforated through with the design found on the 2½d stamp, is addressed to Mr W O Hawkins in West Worthing, Sussex. Hawkins was company secretary at Slopers, the company which produced most perfin stamps. The Editor of the Perfin Society writes: 'This FDC leads me to the belief that Slopers did indeed make the dies for these "BP Designs" ... My guess is that these Scout stamps were perforated as a commemorative item ... and were intended for employees and special customers.'* ED ●

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



**June identify** The detail was from the 1986 Nature Conservation 34p stamp. The winner was N Foley-Fisher of Ireland.

**June knowledge** Answers: 1) Reynolds Stone; 2) 1989; 3) Walsall Security Printers. The winner was Mrs M J Boyer of Lincs.

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

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

- 1 Who designed the 1977 Christmas stamps?
- 2 Which set of Millennium stamps features the Pilgrim Fathers?
- 3 In which year was Henry Hudson featured on a stamp?

Send your answer (addressed to either September *Identify* competition or September *Knowledge* competition), name and address on a postcard or back of a sealed envelope to: British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8HQ. The senders of the first cards drawn in each competition on 12 October will each receive £100. Ten runner-up prizes of presentation packs or FDCs will be awarded in each competition. Competitions are not open to Royal Mail employees ●

## Events

**29 August-1 September** The Picture Postcard Show (formerly BIPEX) at Royal Horticultural Society New Hall, Greycoat Street, London SW1. **Enquiries** Postcard Traders' Association, 0151 339 5422.

**31 August-2 September** 53rd International Stamp Fair & 40th Europa International Philatelic Exhibition at Riccione, Italy. **Enquiries** +39 0541 692194. Fax +39 0541 693614.

**8 September** Preston and District Phil Soc annual Stamp & Postcard Fair at Canterbury Hall, Preston. Over 20 dealers. **Enquiries** Paul Gaywood, 01772 713917.

**13 September** Bucks, Herts & Middx Postal History Soc inaugural meeting at WRVS Hall, The Bury, Rickmansworth, 20.00. **Enquiries** C Barnes, 01895 834694.

**15 September** Poole & District Philatelic & Postcard Club Autumn Fair at Poole.

**15 September** British Postmark Society display of British Forces Postal History 1930-60 at Victory Services Club, Seymour Street, London W2, 14.00. **Enquiries** John Strachan, 01357 522430.

**19-23 September** Autumn Stampex at Business Design Centre, London N1. See page 4.

**29 September** Philatelic Music Circle convention at British Philatelic Centre, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1. **Enquiries** I Summers, 01706 826655.

**29 September** Portadown Stampex and Collectors Fair annual exhibition at Portadown Town Hall. Dealers, displays etc. 10.00-16.30. Admission free. **Enquiries** J Proctor, 028 38 334964 ●

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