

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The ROYAL MAIL magazine for stamp collectors

Volume 42 Number 1

SEPTEMBER 2004 £1.10

Bulletin

The George V gravure series
• Christmas stamps preview



Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



Cover Woodland Animals, a set of 10 se-tenant stamps, is on sale from 16 September. This issue was previewed in the July Bulletin.

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17.00 Monday-Friday): 08457
641 641; from overseas +44
131 316 7483

30 August

Withdrawal 1st class definitive in coils of 500 (issued April 1997) • 1st class definitive in sheets of 200 (November 1997) • 1st class definitive in business sheets of 100 (self-adhesive, May 2002) • presentation pack of self-adhesive stamps (March 1997) • vended books of 10 × 1st & 10 × 2nd class (January 2001) • and 6 × 1st book (self-adhesive, flame colour, printed Questa, July 2002).

9 September

Issue Woodland Animals stamp cards.

16 September

Issue Woodland Animals stamps and presentation pack • Ingot Pack 2: Edward VII £1 stamp.

17 September

Withdrawal Transports of Delight stamps, miniature sheet, presentation pack and stamp cards.

29 September

Withdrawal Smilers sheet: Robins (issued September 2003).

5 October

Issue Scottish Parliament miniature sheet • Crimean War stamp cards.

6 October

Withdrawal British Museum stamps, presentation pack, stamp cards and medal cover.

12 October

Issue Crimean War stamps and presentation pack.

13 October

Withdrawal 19p definitive (issued 20 April 1999) • Country stamps for England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales: 2nd, 1st, E (40p) & 68p stamps without white borders. Also country stamp packs Nos 53-56 & 59 (issued 2001/2) and original stamp cards (1999/2001) • roll of 500 1st class stamps (January 2003), sheet of 100 self-adhesive 2nd class (May 2002), sheet of 100 self-adhesive 1st class (July 2002), 6 × 1st book (Questa, June 2002), 6 × E, 6 × 42p, 6 × 68p & 12 × 2nd books (July 2002).

26 October

Issue 2004 Christmas stamp cards (seven cards: six stamps and miniature sheet).

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*Running proof. This would have been
appeared in spite of minor defect but
meanwhile Harrison, after running, found that
the print deteriorated.*

First photogravure issues

James Mackay continues his theme from last month, with a look at the series following the three halfpence issue of August 1934 **20**

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Stamp scene New print group • Auctions • Exhibitions • Thematica • Publications

New stamp printers group Walsall Security Printers (wsp), Cartor Security Printing, and Courvoisier have formed a new group, International Security Printers. Adrian Aspinall of wsp is Chairman of the new group. Within the group, wsp will develop and specialize in providing a service for medium and long run postal work in gravure and web litho. It has the largest specialist stamp book production capacity in Europe, and will be further extending this capacity. Cartor began printing stamps in 1974, and now supplies to about 140 postal authorities. It has developed a reputation for fine quality litho sheet stamps, including printing finely detailed 22 carat gold stamps and some unique issues such as holograms, thermography, flockage and high precision embossing. Within the new group, Cartor will continue to specialize in sheet litho gummed and self-adhesive stamps, innovative technologies for embossed stamps, and designing unique stamp printing solutions. Courvoisier has printed high quality stamps for over 80 countries, for many years being a major printer for Swiss Post. In 2001 the company joined forces with wsp, and its production resource was transferred to the UK. Now within the new group, Courvoisier will be relocated to its own factory in Europe and build on its reputation for high quality gravure printing of small to medium print runs •



A marginal block of four 1840 2d blue Plate 1, in Sotheby's sale of the Sir Gawaine Baillie collection. For details contact Sotheby's on 020 7293 6000 or see www.sotheby's.com

Auctions As reported in last month's *Late news*, Sotheby's is to auction the extensive collection of the late Sir Gawaine Baillie, Bt, perhaps the most important collection of GB and Empire to be sold for 50 years. It is estimated to fetch over £11 million. The collection will be auctioned in a series of 10 sales, starting on 29 September - 1 October with GB from 1840 to 2000. Amongst the highlights will be a marginal block of four of the 1840 2d blue Plate 1 (est £45,000-50,000), the unique pane of 20 of the 1880 2s brown (est £200,000-250,000), Edward VII 2d Tyrian Plum (£20,000-22,000) and Elizabeth II varieties. Stamps of the British West Indies will be sold next February,

including Bahamas 'Chalon Heads', rare provisional issue varieties of the Cayman Islands, and a superb study of George V & VI Key Plates. The Australian section of the collection - to be auctioned in Melbourne in June - includes good quality multiples of the 'Kangaroo' series with many rare shades and plate varieties. A second GB sale will take place in September 2005, followed by British Africa in November, New Zealand in February 2006, British North America in May (sale in New York), and Rhodesia in September. The auctions will conclude with British Empire in November and December 2006.

Sir Gawaine Baillie (1934-2003) spent his early years at Leeds Castle in Kent and on the outbreak of the Second World War, was sent to live with his American cousins, the Whitney family. Shortly after his return to England, he succeeded his father as 7th baronet, and was educated at Eton and read engineering at Cambridge. After graduation, he embarked on a successful career as an amateur motor racing driver, competing at the highest level with the likes of Stirling Moss, Mike Hawthorne, and Jackie Stewart. He set up and ran until his death a very successful engineering business, HPC Engineering plc. After retiring from motor racing, he concentrated on his business and on his stamp collection, spending four hours each morning on his stamps. Coming from a family of collectors (Leeds Castle was filled with outstanding works of art), he concentrated on acquiring rare unused stamps in perfect condition. His collection covered at least 10 areas of specialisation, and amounted to some 100,000 stamps. Although the collection ranks amongst the greatest formed in modern times, few people knew of it and it was not displayed or written about. It is to be hoped that the new owners of the splendid items will take a more public spirited approach and allow other collectors to see and enjoy these treasures •

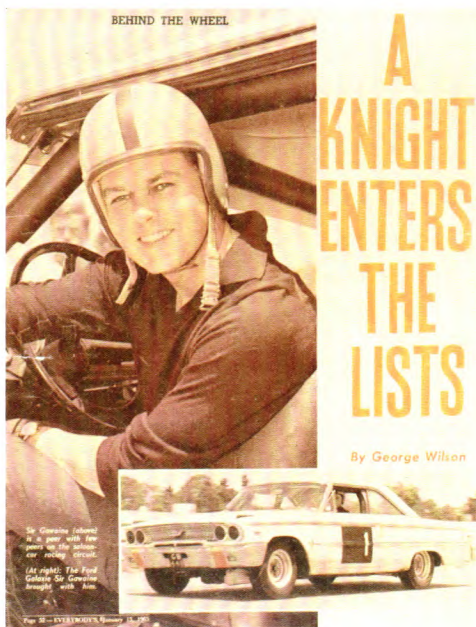
Cavendish's auctions this month are of the Scott Archer Collection of Overland Mail, 1650-1900 (22 September), Norman Bennett Collection of Hong Kong (23rd), and Worldwide & GB featuring the Victoria Collection of Essex and transatlantic mail (24th). A General auction will follow on 25-26 November •

Forthcoming Spink auctions are: Australian States (the Ronald Butler collection), Cape of Good Hope (22-23 September), GB & British Empire (20-21 October), and Stamps & Covers of the World (9 December) •

Harmers will hold an Airmails and Lots & Collections auction this month – telephone Harmers or see their website www.harmers.com •

UK exhibitions Autumn Stampex, organised by the Philatelic Traders' Society, will be held at the Business Design Centre, Upper Street, London N1, 15-19 September. It will include the annual national competitions, a display by the China Philatelic Society, and the National Youth Stamp Group activities area and Saturday auction.

Over 20 trophies and special awards will be competed for in the national competitions, with the famous Silver Mailcoach awarded for the best exhibit. About 100 dealers, including many from overseas, will meet all requirements for stamps, covers, accessories or literature. For a list of dealers see the Philatelic Traders' Society website.



Everybody's 13 January 1965

Cavendish Philatelic Auctions

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

Spink Telephone 020 7563 4000 or see www.spink.com

Harmers Telephone 020 8747 6100.

Philatelic Traders' Society

For a list of dealers attending Stampex, see www.philatelic-traders-society.co.uk

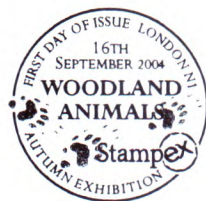


The busy Royal Mail stand at Autumn Stampex 2003.

Stampex opening hours

15 Sept	12.00-19.00
16-18 Sept	10.30-18.00
19 Sept	10.30-15.00

Enquiries Telephone 01252 628006. Entry will be free.



Basildon enquiries Telephone R How, 01702 544632 or visit www.basildon2004.org.uk

For Stamp Active Competition details and an entry form send a SAE to Jean Wood, 6 Beech Grove, Whitley Bay, NE25 3PJ. The closing date is 1 October.

For NYSC information contact Anne Dummer: telephone 01536 519959 or e-mail anne@dummyrah.freemove.co.uk

The Royal Mail stand will offer the full range of current GB stamps and collectibles. A posting box will be provided for mail to receive the Stampex special handstamp in use each day of the exhibition, and on 16 September an additional 'Stampex First Day of Issue' special handstamp will be available for the issue that day of the Woodland Animals stamps.

The Great Britain Philatelic Society, Concorde Study Circle, Ceylon Study Circle, Wreck & Crash Mail Society, Polar Postal History Society, Bird Stamp Society, the British Decimal Stamp Study

Circle, and American Airmail Society will all hold meetings at Stampex at the weekend. To mark the 70th anniversary of *Stamp Magazine* there will be a display with some of the historical issues on show.

The usual Stampex souvenir cover will be sold on the information stand, price 35p and a fourth Stampex customised sheet will be available. This will contain 10 1st class Union Flag stamps and 10 adjoining labels featuring the main cups and trophies for the winners in the National Competitions at Stampex. They show the Stampex Silver Mailcoach, Harmers Diamond Jubilee, nps, R A G Lee, pTs, Royal Mail, and Link House Thematic trophies, the Argyll Postal History Salver, and Graeme K Harrison and H L Katcher Helvetia awards. The first 7500 visitors will receive one of the stamps and labels free, and complete sheets can be purchased at £9. Also the first 7500 visitors will receive a special limited edition postcard (number 7 in a series), complementing the Royal Mail Woodland Animals stamps, featuring an unadopted design for a previous animals issue, courtesy of the Postal Heritage Trust. It is likely that many visitors will affix one of the Woodland Animals stamps and post the card to receive the Stampex postmark •

Autumn Stampex will be followed by Philatex, Royal Horticultural Halls (Lawrence Hall), Greycoat Street, London SW1 (28-30 October); and Thematica 11, Carisbrooke Hall, Seymour Street, London W2 (26-27 November). Scotex will be held at the Scottish Exhibition & Conference Centre, Glasgow, 16-17 October, and the fifth ABPS national exhibitions at the Towngate Centre, Basildon on 20-21 November. Basildon 2004, open 10.00-17.00 Saturday, 10.00-16.00 Sunday, admission free, will include acrophilatic displays, competitions, and specialist society meetings •

The National Youth Stamp Committee (NYSC) will divide this year's annual competitions into two sections. The British Youth Stamp Championships will be on display as usual at Autumn Stampex, and the Stamp Active Competition entries will be shown at Basildon 2004. The Stamp Active Competition is for youngsters developing their collections, gaining from the experience of competing. The display area has been provided by the exhibition organisers and the Competition sponsored by Cavendish Philatelic Auctions. There will be activities for young collectors at Basildon; the Competition prizes will be presented at 2.30pm on the Sunday •

Another success for Thematica Hundreds of collectors made their way to the Carisbrooke Hall, near London's Marble Arch, at the end of June for the thematic stamp exhibition, Thematica. There were as always plenty of dealers around offering a large array of stock to help satisfy the 'wants lists' of most collectors.

On display were the entries in the various competitions arranged by The Friends of Thematica. The John Fosbery Trophy is judged by visitors to Thematica, and this year their vote went to Roger Swindells, for his 'Barley to Bottle and Hops to Handpump' display. The Inter-Federation competition, for the Healey and Wise Friends of Thematica Salver, was won by Hampshire Philatelic Federation, its display 'A Whale's Tale' being presented by Lesley Marley. The BTA Cup was won by Peter Wood with 'The Irish Empire'.

This year Thematica staged a new competition for young collectors, where the emphasis was on originality, either of theme or way of presentation. The entries were divided into three age groups: up to and including 8; from 9 up to and including 12; and from 13 to 18. Fifty entries were received, with the winners being Ania Chichlowska with 'African Nature', Lucy Dale with 'When Dad Fills in the Garden Pond', and Bertie Brown for 'All the World's a Stage'. This competition is sponsored by Rushstamps (Retail) Ltd and by a generous donation following the closure of Barclays Group Philatelic Society.

The awards in all the competitions were presented by Jeffery Matthews MBE, eminent British stamp designer, Michael Berry of Healey and Wise, Eric Friedman of Rushstamps, and Brian Sole, Secretary of The Friends of Thematica.

The Friends of Thematica supports the work of the exhibition by mounting and organising the displays and competitions, and organising a youth activities area, while several thematic societies also take a space.

The next Thematica will be held at the Carisbrooke Hall, Seymour Street, London on Friday and Saturday, 26 and 27 November, at which many thematic dealers will again be present ●



Officials and trophy winners at Thematica. Back row, left to right: Jeffery Matthews, Brian Sole, Michael Berry, Stuart Henderson and Eric Friedman. Front row: Roger Swindells, Peter Wood and Harry Wright (receiving the salver on behalf of Hampshire).

For further information about Thematica contact Brian Sole, 3 Stockfield Road, Claygate, Esher KT10 0QG.

Publications Shire Publications has recently reprinted the popular *Old Letter Boxes* book written by Martin Robinson, an occasional contributor to this magazine and our companion *British Postmark Bulletin*. This book was originally published in 1987, with reprints in 1992 and 1993, a new edition in 2000, and now this reprint with updated text and improvements made to some of the illustrations. The 40-page book, with many colour illustrations is available from bookshops, priced at £4.50 ●



Old Letter Boxes In case of difficulty in obtaining a copy, contact: Shire Publications, Cromwell House, Church Street, Princes Risborough HP27 9AA. A catalogue of their many publications is available.

GBDSC For information on the Study Circle see website www.gbdsbsc.co.uk

ASSS For further details contact Brian Lockyer, 21 Exford Close, Weston-super-Mare BS23 4RE, or see website www.asss.utvinternet.com/

WPS For information contact Paul Gaywood, 2 Fairways, Fulwood, Preston PR2 8FX or see website www.wps.wales.org

GBPS For details of activities write to Debbie Harman, Greylands, Melton, Woodbridge IP12 1QE or send an e-mail to gbpsmemsec@aol.com

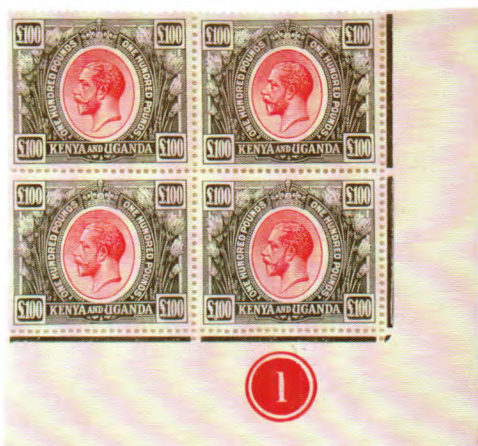
The June issue of *The Bookmark*, journal of the GB Decimal Stamp Book Study Circle, includes reports on the new worldwide postcard rate stamp and Ocean Liners stamp books, a review of early Harrison window books, reports of new discoveries submitted by members, and details of the Study Circle's auctions and activities. The Letters section is mostly taken up with responses to an earlier suggestion that *The Bookmark* no longer reports on peripheral material such as book packaging, sample books, point of sale material, etc •

The June issue of *Orbit*, journal of the Astro Space Stamp Society, includes feature articles on subjects such as Un-manned Satellites on Postage stamps, Copernicus, and Women in Space. John Berry continues with his interesting series on Astronomers Royal, this time writing about Sir Richard van der Riet Woolley who held the post 1956-71; Mr Berry includes a design for a stamp commemorating Woolley. Details are given of new airmail labels featuring British astronaut Michael Foale. For details of ASSS contact Brian Lockyer, or visit their website •

The May *Newsletter*, journal of the Welsh Philatelic Society (Cymdeithas Ffilatelig Cymru), includes a feature on slogan postmarks used at Welsh offices in the busy Christmas period, 2003; and lists recent Post Office closures and re-openings and special handstamps for Wales used July-December 2003. Cedric Prys-Roberts examines the correspondence of Morgan Felix of Tanybanadl, Ceredigion in the 1820s and an envelope returned by the 'Dead Letter Office' in 1845. There are notes about the Beaumaris and St Asaph Post Offices, extracts from 17th century papers concerning the South Wales Post Road, members' correspondence, and reports of Society meetings •

The July/August issue of *The GB Journal* includes articles and notes on College stamps, line-engraved 1d and 2d stamps, Seahorse shades, Scottish experimental stamp packs (1976), Edward VII varieties, and the Maltese Cross obliterator. Sent out with the *Journal* was the GB Philatelic Society's *Newsletter*, which includes notes on early book post, advice of receipt and to pay labels, and line-engraved colours, as well as reports of Society displays and activities and the usual exchange of views in letters. The new President, Michael Lockton, introduces himself and expresses his views on the importance of specialist collectors keeping involved with 'grassroots philately'. He writes: 'There are many specialist collectors who reject local societies as not relevant to their collecting interests. I consider this a very narrow viewpoint as one can gain knowledge be it philatelic, geographical, historical, or social, from every display and I feel it makes one a more rounded philatelist'. He praises his predecessor Phil Kenton for broadening the range of the Society's interests, and will continue 'his policy of widening the appeal of the GBPS.' Forthcoming Society meetings are: 18 September 'Pre-decimal Machins' by Tony Walker (at Stampex, 14.00), 16 October 'Extending the GB collection (to Revenues and more)' by Chris Tennant (British Philatelic Centre, 11.00); and 20 November 'German Occupation of the Channel Islands' by Alan Moorcroft (at Basildon 2004 exhibition, 14.45) •

Royal visit to Royal stamp exhibition The Duke of York visited the exhibition of The Queen's stamps at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum in Washington on 15 June. The exhibition displays a representative selection from The Queen's collection featuring the lead-up to the introduction of the Penny Black, Twopenny Blue and the Mulready in 1840. Of particular note is the 'Kirkcudbright Cover', bearing the largest multiple (10) of Penny Blacks known on first day of use, bought by The Queen in 2001. The unique block of 38 unused Twopenny Blues from Plate 1 is also being shown. In a special gallery, a number of other rarities from the Collection are on display, including the 'Post Office' Mauritius 1d and 2d, British Guiana and Bermuda items, and Cape of Good Hope 'Woodblock' errors of colour. Other 'gems' from the Collection include a plate block of the Kenya & Uganda £100 stamp, shown above (reproduced by gracious permission of HM Queen Elizabeth II to whom copyright belongs). The exhibition is on show until 11 January 2005, admission free. A new book on the Royal Collection was reviewed here last month •



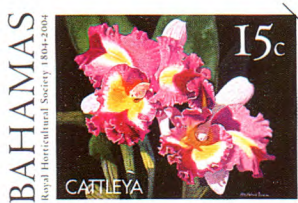
Philatelic Congress and awards The 86th Philatelic Congress of GB, in Winchester (30 September - 3 October), will include the ceremony of signing the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists and the presentation of the Congress Medal to John Hammonds. John is one of the willing horses of the philatelic world – when others stand back and do not wish to undertake onerous duties, he is always prepared to step in, for the good of the hobby. In 1994 he took on the difficult task of General Secretary of the new Association of British Philatelic Societies; his cool head, clear vision, quiet persuasion and good humour helped the fledgling organisation to gain acceptance and grow. John quietly assumed responsibility for producing the ABPS Directory (1995-2002), and in 2000 John initiated and compiled *Philatelic Lecturers & Displays*. He was also involved in the establishment of the joint UK Philately website. His main philatelic interests are in France and aerophilately, holding various offices within the France & Colonies Philatelic Society and serving the British Aerophilatelic Federation as Auction Secretary and exhibition organiser. A profile of John, by Richard West, was published in the *Bulletin* in January 2003.



John Hammonds, winner of the 2004 Congress Award.

ABPS Awards of Merit for service to organised philately go to Robin Bertram (East Midlands & East Anglian Philatelic Federation), John Field (Chichester & District Stamp Club), David Mekie (Edinburgh Philatelic Society), Colin Mount (Hampshire Philatelic Federation), and Wilfred Vevvers (Falkland Islands Philatelic Study Group) for their dedicated work for the hobby.

The 2006 Congress will be held at the Normandy Hotel, Renfrew on 6-8 July, hosted by the Caledonian Philatelic Society to mark its centenary •



Royal Horticultural Society In May Royal Mail issued a set of stamps, a miniature sheet and a prestige book to mark the Society's bicentenary. Readers may be interested to see stamps from other countries issued to mark the anniversary. Shown above are stamps from Ascension Island, Bahamas, and St Helena •

Heritage Trust To book your seat for the lectures call 020 7239 2570, or e-mail heritage@royalmail.com

Autumn lectures The Postal Heritage Trust offers a warm invitation to a series of free autumn lectures at the Phoenix Centre, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL. Each lecture is on a Tuesday evening at 7pm, and the Search Room will be open on lecture nights until 7pm, with last orders at 6.15 pm. The lectures are: 7 September, The GPO and its Films in the 1930s by Dr Ian Aiken, Senior Research Fellow at De Montfort University; 5 October, The Future of Britain's Oldest Public Service, Reflections of an Old Postmaster-General by Tony Benn, former Postmaster-General; 9 November, The Machin Design by Douglas Muir, Curator of Philately, Postal Heritage Trust; and 7 December, The A to z of Special Stamps by Barry Robinson, former Stamp Programme Director for Royal Mail •

Stuart Rossiter Trust For a free ticket for the lecture send stamped addressed envelope to: Stuart Rossiter Trust Fund c/o D F Tett, PO Box 34 Wheathampstead AL4 8JY.

Ian McQueen will give the 2004 Stuart Rossiter Trust Lecture at 5pm on 29 October at the Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1. His subject will be 'The Philatelic Writer – Some Personal Experiences and Opinions'. Ian, a retired solicitor, has written three philatelic books and hundreds of articles and reviews for commercial and society periodicals. The Trust supports research and publication relating to the history of communication through postal systems of the world •

Scholarship enquiries Julian Chapman Memorial Scholarship, Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY.

Julian Chapman Memorial Scholarship The Royal Philatelic Society London invites applications for a travelling scholarship in memory of Julian Chapman (1952-92). The £2500 scholarship is offered to a philatelist wishing to study Commonwealth stamps or postal history. Applications, by 30 September, should include an outline of the subject to be studied and how it relates to the applicant's previous research; intentions for publication and costing of the trip with places and organisations to be visited; and a short philatelic cv including publications and achievements •

Bureau stock lists Mr M Corr has a run of about 100 Bureau stock lists from January 1987 to February 2004 and would be pleased to pass these on to anyone interested for the cost of postage – £4.50. Contact Mr Corr at 10 Seymour Crescent, Hemel Hempstead HP2 5DS, or telephone 01442 242359 •

Royal Mail news Special stamps • Entente Cordiale • Scottish Parliament • Ingots

Special issues programme This month's special issue, on 16 September, features Woodland Animals – these stamps were previewed in July. Next month's issue marking the 150th anniversary of the Crimean War (12 October) was previewed last month. On 5 October there will be a miniature sheet to mark the opening of the new Scottish Parliament building at Holyrood in Edinburgh. This sheet is previewed this month (see following pages) together with the 2004 Christmas stamps, miniature sheet and airletters (2 November, page 16) which feature specially commissioned paintings of Father Christmas by childrens' book illustrator Raymond Briggs.

Further details of the 2005 special programme are now available and given opposite, but please note that these dates and the number of stamps are to be confirmed. ●

2005 stamp programme

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 11 January | Farm Animals (10 stamps + Smilers sheet) |
| 8 February | British Journey: SW England (6) |
| 24 February | Castles (miniature sheet) |
| 3 March | Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë (6 + MS + PSB) |
| 22 March | Magic Circle centenary (5 + Smilers sheet) |
| 21 April | World Heritage Sites (8) |
| 7 June | Trooping the Colour (6 + miniature sheet) |
| 5 July | 60th anniversary of the end of the War (MS) |
| 19 July | British Motorcycles (6 + miniature sheet) |
| 23 August | A Celebration of Food (6) |
| 22 Sept | 50th anniversary of ITV (6 + Smilers sheet) |
| 18 October | Battle of Trafalgar (6 + miniature sheet + PSB) |
| 1 November | Christmas (6 + MS + stamp books + Smilers) |

The British Journey: North of England set will now be issued in 2006. PSB = prestige stamp book. MS = miniature sheet.

Entente Cordiale In the April *Bulletin* we gave details of a number of joint productions, between Royal Mail and La Poste, for the Entente Cordiale issue. At the time it was not possible to show all of these, and we are pleased now to show the Philatelic Document which bears the stamps of the two countries cancelled with first day postmarks. The document is available from Tallents House, price £4.99 (order code AD006). Also still available are the Entente Cordiale joint cover (£4.99, PB380), and joint presentation pack (£4.99, PB381) •

* * * * * *Journal Historique De L'Indes, Des Indes, Des Indes*

Collection Historique du Centre-Poitou Français

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What we do need I think that this Estate will be a permanent Estate, because it is necessary for the wealth and prosperity of our two nations and for the maintenance of the peace which makes for the happiness of the whole world."

Craig Fairbank speaking at the Fagus in British Exhibition, London 1908

The term 'Entente Cordiale' rather than the English 'Friendly Understanding' was used a century ago because the language of diplomacy was still partly French. The phrase had already been used for relations between Britain and the USA, but what came to be called the Entente Cordiale with France was new and different. At first it was merely a conversation, with two secretaries signed in London on 8 April 1904, but it began the end of colonial rivalry and paved the way for an Anglo-French alliance in the World Wars and beyond.

Today, Britain and France are partners in the UN, NATO, the European Union, OECD and the Council of Europe. Their Estates has signed treaties and this year they jointly celebrate 100 years of Franco-British co-operation and friendship.

Royal Waj and La Presse celebrate the Estimote Cardbot anniversary with a joint stamp issue featuring the work of British artist Sir Terry Frost and French artist



Journal of Management Education 37(1) 39-54
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Designed by Howard Brown and printed in gravure by De La Rue, the sheet measures 123 x 70mm. Printers' sheets of 18 (3 x 6) guillotined into individual sheets.

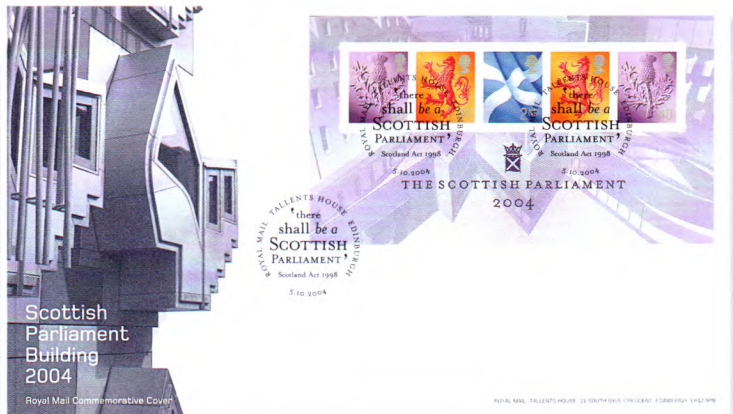
Scottish Parliament miniature sheet A Labour Party Manifesto promise for the 1997 general election was the establishment of parliaments or assemblies for Scotland and Wales. Following the election, the setting up of a new Scottish Parliament was the main priority of the new Secretary of State for Scotland, the late Donald Dewar. A referendum was held in September 1997 when the Scottish people voted in favour. The Parliament, the first in Edinburgh since 1707, was opened by HM The Queen on 1 July 1999. Until now the Parliament has met in the Church of Scotland Assembly Rooms with other offices in central Edinburgh. The Parliament has its own post office in one of these buildings (see *Bulletin* January 2000). In January 1998 an international competition was launched to find a Design Team for a new Parliament building. Some 70 expressions of interest were received, and in July the Spanish architectural practice of Enric Miralles and his wife Benedetta Tagliabue, in partnership with Edinburgh based RMJM, was chosen to design the new building soon to be opened by The Queen.

A miniature sheet containing three of the four current Scottish country stamps will be issued to mark the event. The sheet bears five stamps in a horizontal se-tenant strip: 40p (thistle), 1st (lion), 2nd (Saltire flag), 1st and 40p, with a background of the new Parliament building printed in a similar colour to the 40p stamp. The sheet bears the Scottish Parliament's Crowned Saltire badge and inscription 'THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT 2004'. There will be no presentation pack or stamp cards for this issue.



The Tallents House postmark includes the opening words of the Scotland Act of 1998.

FIRST DAY ARRANGEMENTS A commemorative cover envelope will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets, price 25p each. Serviced covers with Tallents House or Edinburgh postmark can be ordered from Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB, price £2.02 UK or £1.67 overseas. Please state which postmark is required. Collectors can send stamped covers on the day of issue



The commemorative cover for the miniature sheet features a detail of one of the Parliament building's distinctive windows.



The postmark for Edinburgh includes the Parliament EH99 postcode and a Crowned Saltire badge. This is a Crown above a Saltire, mounted on a corded banner which hangs from a pommelled pole.

for the Tallents House (FD0421) or Edinburgh (FD0422) postmarks. These should be sent respectively to Tallents House (address above) or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Duchess Place, Rutherglen, Glasgow G73 1BT. Details of other postmarks for use on 5 October will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin*, Royal Mail's fortnightly magazine for postmark collectors •

New Stamp Ingots series The second in a new series of six ingots featuring stamps of the reigns of Edward VII and George V will be available from 16 September. It features the Edward VII £1 stamp. The series continues on 30 November with George V 1d Mackennal profile definitive. Ingots for the George V 10s Seahorse high value, 1d 1924 British Empire Exhibition and 1929 £1 Postal Union Congress commemoratives will be available next year. Price £26.95 each from Tallents House. The Victorian stamp ingot series is still available, price £26.95 each – see the back cover of last September's *Bulletin* for full details •

Withdrawals Any remaining stock of the *Transports of Delight* stamps, miniature sheet, pack, self-adhesive book, and stamp cards go off sale on 17 September. Any remaining stock of the *British Museum* issue will be withdrawn on 6 October. The country stamps issued 1999–2001 without white borders around the stamps will be withdrawn from sale on 13 October, also the 19p Machin definitive •

Stamp and coin publications Tallents House stocks two useful Stanley Gibbons publications – *Collect British Stamps* and the new *Collect British Coins*. They are available at £9.95 each (order codes PB378 and PB379). The *Coins* book was reviewed here in July •

Handstamp Centres The South East Special Handstamp Centre at Slough has now closed. All postmarks formerly used at Slough are now applied at the Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Mount Pleasant, London EC1A 1BB, to where covers should be sent •

Smilers sheets Still available are the Winter Robins (30 September 2003), 1st and 2nd class Ice Sculptures (4 November 2003), Hong Kong Stamp Expo (30 January 2004), Occasions (3 February), RHS Dahlias (25 May), and Rule Britannia (27 July) stamp sheets. All are priced £6.15 each except 2nd class Ice Sculptures, which is £4.20. Also available are sheets of 20 with your personalised image printed on the labels, price £14.95 for one sheet of 20 stamps, £13.95 each for 2-4 sheets, and £11.95 each for 5-9 sheets; enquire for prices for larger quantities. To order personalised sheets see website www.royalmail.com/smilers or phone 0845 074 2000. Personalised Smilers sheets can also be produced in Snap Digital photo booths in hundreds of shops and post offices around the country. These can produce any sheets from the current Smilers range. Price £15 per sheet. An album to house Smilers sheets is now available from Tallents House, price £16.50 (order code PA665) •

Storing the Bulletin Binders and box files are available for storing this and the Postmark Bulletin. The sturdy box files, in maroon for the *Philatelic Bulletin* and green for the *Postmark Bulletin*, are available from Royal Mail Tallents House, priced £9.95 each. Order codes: PB349 (Philatelic), PB350 (Postmark). The files will store 30 copies of the Philatelic and about 50 of the Postmark Bulletins. The traditional binders for the Philatelic and Postmark Bulletins cost £8.50 (order codes BB001 and PB322 respectively) •

Le Salon du Timbres Exhibition report by Glenn H Morgan



FOR NINE DAYS in late June/early July, La Poste held a stamp exhibition at the Parc Floral on the outskirts of Paris. Like its predecessor in 1994, it was a cross between a national and international show, albeit aimed at a French audience. By the close, around 80,000 visitors out of a predicted 100,000 had attended. These days this sort of attendance is normally reserved for exhibitions held in Asia, so La Poste is to be congratulated at managing such a large turnout.

Arriving at the Parc Floral, visitors to the exhibition were greeted by a team of friendly young women wearing Salon t-shirts, who were giving away free show guides, stamp passports and a daily show report. The next feature was a spacious area staffed by the RTVF (the French stamp printing works at Perigueux). Many cylinders, tools and other paraphernalia were on display, with staff answering all manner of technical questions from modern-era French stamp specialists. Gold foil blocking was being undertaken at the show

on a special Parc Floral miniature sheet by an adapted Heidelberg press, and sales at euro 7,60 were brisk. Other ITVF items including Salon 'gravure' sheets at euro 15,00 per set of ten also sold well.

Leaving the above three halls behind us, a brief spell outside revealed plant displays, a fire engine, tractor and light aircraft, plus a large area which was reserved to display the journey of a letter. These were especially popular attractions with the many children who attended – except when it rained. Visitors then entered a hall of 22,000 square metres where there was an excellent mix of philatelic and non-philatelic attractions, ensuring that the whole family was kept amused. Five themed areas were devoted to Formula One (with Trulli's Renault), Nature (including virtual reality vision), Auto-Moto (with various motor bikes, including a Triumph Bonneville), Aviation (with a jet engine and models) and Sport. The 100 year Entente-Cordiale was severely tested in this last section, where the France-England UEFA Euro 2004 football match was being played on a giant television screen (yes, that's the one where we lost!). All these sections were accompanied by displays of stamps and covers on their respective theme, and they attracted a lot of attention – not least because a competition resulted in many stamps being actively sought in order to answer the questions.

Many collectors from across Europe took part by exhibiting in the philatelic competitions. These comprised one-frame of 16 pages each, and this approach was really interesting to me, for there are many exhibits where five or eight frames of similar stamps can become rather boring. With this concept, there is more variety of subjects covered, and I am sure that this approach has a greater interest for non-collecting visitors.

There were 100 dealers present, offering everything from the latest stamp printing error (the French Entente Cordiale stamp missing all text, making a bland, incomprehensible design even worse – and that takes some doing!), through to early items of postal history. Not surprisingly, there was a large emphasis on France and her colonies.

Postal authorities were largely represented by their agents in France, although there were several exceptions. The stand for French Polynesia would not have been the same without the presence of a genuine Polynesian young woman in traditional attire. Collectors of the modern issues benefit so much from this type of show, because stamps are generally sold at face value, and the chance of examining whole sheets is not normally possible outside of such an environment. The Crown Agents were there, as was the Royal Mail which had sent an employee from Tallents House to support their agent.

So, what else was there to retain the interest of visitors? Well, singers and sports personalities popped in for a visit; you could have your photograph printed alongside real postage stamps (the French equivalent of Smilers) and then vote for the next French definitive design from a choice of 100 hopefuls. You could sit and rest or eat, buy from a large range of non-philatelic books in the boutique or examine the latest catalogues on the ASCAT stand. The children could draw and paint stamps, test their skill on various simulators and play on games machines – they could even learn how to collect stamps!

The French Postal Museum was in attendance with their genuine mailcoach, where frequent reenactments of the coach being robbed by brigands proved to be a great attraction for young and old alike. I found myself part of one of the shows when I was spun round by the robbers and promptly shot, although clearly I lived to tell the tale. This entertaining piece of theatre was a terrific way of publicising the forthcoming display at the museum.

Le Salon du Timbre was a large, well organised and friendly show, and I think that we could learn a lot from the approach taken by the French Post Office •



Christmas Royal Mail's annual festive issue



Technical details

Printer De La Rue

Process Gravure

Stamp size 32 x 30mm

Sheets 50

Perforation 14.5 x 14 die cut

Phosphor One band 2nd, two bands others

Gum Self-adhesive, no matrix

Gutter pairs Vertical

Miniature sheet size 115 x 105mm

Miniature sheet perforation 14.5 x 14

ROYAL MAIL has issued Christmas stamps annually since 1966. This year's Christmas stamps – the 39th issue – go on sale at Post Office branches, Tallents House and Post Office philatelic outlets on 2 November. As for the past three years, they are printed on self-adhesive paper, the stamps having die-cut perforations, and can be removed from sheets by rouletting which surrounds the 'perforations'. There will also be a miniature sheet containing the same stamps but in conventional gummed format. They were designed by well-known childrens' artist Raymond Briggs. They feature Father Christmas, with reindeer, on rooftops, delivering presents: 2nd class, Father Christmas on snow-covered roof; 1st class, Father Christmas watching sunrise; 40p (European basic rate), Father Christmas in windy weather; 57p, Father Christmas, with umbrella, in the rain; 68p, Father Christmas with electric torch; and £1.12, Father Christmas sheltering from snow and ice.

Cylinders and colours

All values D1 magenta ● D1 yellow ● D1 cyan (blue) ● D1 black ● D1 phosphor

MINIATURE SHEET For the first time Christmas stamps will also be issued in a miniature sheet containing one of each stamp. Please note that the stamps are arranged in the sheet in the order of the story they depict, rather than in value order. The sheets were printed 16 (4 x 4) at a time, the printers' sheet then being guillotined into individual sheets. No cylinder numbers were shown in the margins of the printers' sheets.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets about a week before 2 November, price 25p. Orders for FDCs with the stamps or miniature sheet cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of Tallents House Edinburgh or Bethlehem must reach Tallents House by the date of issue. Price £4.25 UK or £3.62 overseas. Please state if stamps or miniature sheet required.



Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorber Road
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB



Royal Mail Tallents House 21 South Gyle Crescent Edinburgh EH12 9PB



Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB, or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Penarth Road, Cardiff CF11 8TA (Bethlehem postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FD0429' or 'FD0430'. Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for the Bethlehem postmark. Details of sponsored handstamps will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House. For a sample copy write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ.

A Christmas pack (left, price £3.80) and stamp cards (30p each) will be available at main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets. The pack was written by Nicolette Jones and designed by Typearea. There will be seven cards – one for each stamp and the miniature sheet.

The Christmas airletter: the design, by Raymond Briggs, is spread over the front, back and central portions of the airletter.



CHRISTMAS AIRLETTERS Two airletters (aerogrammes) will be available from 2 November. As in 2002 and 2003, there will be national and bilingual (Welsh/English) versions. The bilingual version will be available only from Post Office branches in Wales, Tallents House and Post Office philatelic outlets. Price 52p each. The design, spread over the front, central and back portions of the airletter, features Father Christmas trudging through the snow with a large sack of presents. The airletter, like the stamps, was designed by Raymond Briggs, and printed by Mail Solutions Limited. It bears the usual 'stamp' comprising the Machin head of The Queen and 'Great Britain Postage Paid' indicator. The airletter does not qualify for 'First Day of Issue' postmarking. Christmas airletters were first issued in 1965, one year before the first Christmas stamps appeared.

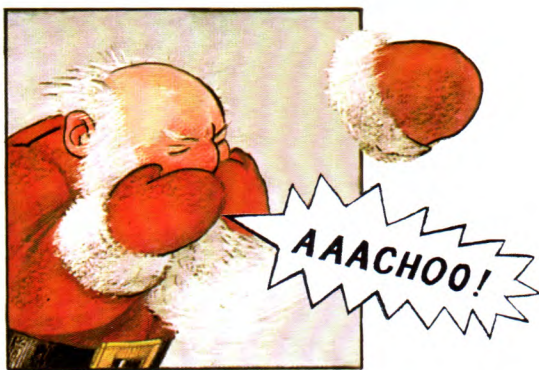
STAMP BOOKS Two Christmas self-adhesive stamp books (folded sheetlets) will be available from 2 November – 12 × 1st class stamps (£3.36) and 24 × 2nd class stamps (£5.04). The books have been printed by De La Rue.

SMILERS SHEETS FOR CHRISTMAS There will be one Smilers sheet for Christmas, containing 10 1st class and 10 2nd class Christmas stamps, price £5.40. The sheet will be printed in litho by De La Rue and have self-adhesive stamps. The stamps in sheets and books are printed in gravure. Smilers sheets are available from Royal Mail Tallents House and Post Office philatelic outlets. A Smilers sheets album is available from Tallents House, price £16.50 (order code PA665).

CHRISTMAS CARDS Packs containing 18 cards – three of each of the six Christmas stamp designs, will be available from Tallents House, price £5.95.

YEARBOOK AND YEARPACK The 2004 Yearbook and Yearpack, containing all the year's special stamps, will go on sale on 2 November when the Christmas stamps are issued. The standard version of the Yearbook costs £34.95, the de-luxe, leather-bound version £75. The Yearpack will cost £29.95 •

Raymond Briggs The designer of the Christmas stamps, now 70, is a celebrated pioneer of strip illustration in books for children and adults and a master of pathos and humour. His books include *Fungus the Bogeyman* (1977), *The Man* (1992), *The Bear* (1994), *Ug: Boy Genius of the Stone Age* (2001) and *The Puddlemans* (2004). *When the Wind Blows* (1983) was a landmark picturebook on the subject of a nuclear holocaust, and *Ethel & Ernest* (1998), his cartoon-strip biography of his parents, is used in schools to teach 20th-century history. *Father Christmas* (1973) and *The Snowman* (1978) – the basis of the animation that is now a national institution – have confirmed Raymond Briggs as the contemporary illustrator most closely associated with Christmas. His Father Christmas, who first appeared in 1973, has changed attitudes to the seasonal character. This was the first working-class Father Christmas, quite unlike the regal Santas enthroned in glittering palaces, or the factory owners with a staff of elves as often portrayed in the past. He is based on Briggs' own father, Ernest, a milkman, who like Santa had a delivery round in all weathers. Ernest makes a guest appearance in Briggs' original picturebook, with his initials and date of birth on the number plate of his milk float. Briggs' Father Christmas lives like a 1930s working man in a terraced house with an outside lavatory and hens to lay eggs for his breakfast, and grumbles using his trademark mild expletive. In Briggs' second Santa book, *Father Christmas on Holiday* (1975), he realizes his fantasy of visiting hot places. Together the books persuaded the world that Father Christmas is a humble man with a hard job to do •



The Christmas presentation pack features Raymond Briggs' Father Christmas. Two of his illustrations from the pack are shown above and on page 3.



Santa on stamps Raymond Briggs' Father Christmas was first featured, with the Snowman, on a 1993 Greetings stamp. They also appeared on last year's Isle of Man Christmas stamps. Father Christmas has been shown on British Christmas stamps in 1981, 1987 and 1997, on the cover of 1992 (2nd class) and 1997 Christmas stamp books, and on the Christmas airletters (aerogrammes) of 1968, 1977, 1987, 1992, 1993, and 1997.

Each year thousands of children write to Father Christmas, and all mail addressed to Toy Land or other fantasy places is replied to by a Royal Mail Santa service introduced in 1963 (see December 2003 *Bulletin* for details) •

Dorothy Martin wrote about Father Christmas and stamps depicting him from around the world in the December 1998 *Bulletin*.

The first photogravure issues James Mackay continues



Above: designs for proposed 7d stamp by Robert Gibbins and Graham Sutherland.

Right: a proof of the proposed 6d stamp.

For further information on the proposed 6d, 7d and 8d, see articles in the *Bulletin*, August 1975, and March and April 1979.

Proof submitted 27.2.35. on coated paper.



D.B.
28/3/35

FOLLOWING the 1½d stamp, issued on Monday 20 August 1934, the other photogravure definitives of King George V were released in stages. The Post Office Circular notified the impending issue of the 1d (for postcards) on 24 September and the ½d (for printed matter) on 19 November. In the following year came the 2d on 21 January and 2½d and 3d stamps on 18 March, while the 4d and 9d were released on 2 December 1935. The introduction of the series in this piecemeal fashion had a curious side effect. The collecting of first day covers was then still in its infancy, but now that the Post Office was announcing a date of sale ahead of the event philatelists were inadvertently encouraged to post covers to themselves as soon as each denomination was available.

Premature use The *Gibbons Specialised Catalogue* notes that, although the 2d stamps were issued on 21 January 1935, examples are known postmarked 19 January, two days prior to the official first day of issue. There were, in fact, at least two covers

bearing the 2d stamp with a premature postmark, but the catalogue omits to mention that they were also cancelled on 23 January, showing that they had been detained at the time for the purpose of an enquiry. On that occasion, they had been forwarded to the addressee, none other than F Hugh Vallancey, one of Britain's foremost philatelists of the period and renowned as an editor and philatelic publisher. This matter only came to higher attention a few months later, when Vallancey was detected as the perpetrator of registered covers bearing the Silver Jubilee stamps cancelled before the official date of issue.

Posthumous issue Three of the stamps were to be issued after the death of George V on 20 January 1936. The PO Circular of 12 February 1936 intimated the release of 5d stamps on 17 February. It was arranged for supplies to be distributed for two weeks, but thereafter the obsolescent surface-printed and the photogravure versions would be supplied on an equal basis until the former were

last month's article by describing the spread of the first series

exhausted. Stocks of surface-printed 10d and 1s stamps were expected to last three months and it was proposed to make an initial distribution of photogravure stamps on 24 February and then continue with both versions until the surface-printed stamps ran out.

Most values continued in use throughout the short reign of Edward VIII and until new George VI definitives were ready. They remained valid for postage until invalidated from 1 March 1972.

Proposed 6d Reporting these proposals on 8 February, R Fanshawe of the Postal Service Department wrote to the Controller of Stores, concluding with this intriguing sentence: 'As explained orally, the position of the 6d photogravure stamps is somewhat uncertain and it is desirable that a reference to that denomination should be deferred for, say, a week.' This was explained in a letter from A G Tydeman of the Stores Department to A R Kidner, a Principal in the Secretariat, on 6 April: 'Difficulties in production of the 6d photogravure stamps of the approved design with solid background in doubly fugitive ink have now arisen which I regret to have to admit must be accepted as insurmountable.'

A block proof was approved early in 1935 and cylinders were made shortly afterwards. It was then found that, when worked under the pressure necessary for rotary printing in the full sheet, the cells in the screening process became packed, causing a mottled appearance in the solid background. 'This difficulty, if it occurs in the other stamps of the series, is overcome by binding the ink with varnishes but this cannot be done in the case of the 6d as the varnish destroys the fugitiveness of the ink.' It will be remembered that the 6d was extensively used on contracts and other legal documents which required it to be cancelled by means of a signature in pen and ink.

After several months' experiment, Harrisons felt that they had overcome the problem to a sufficient extent to justify production, and a running proof sheet was submitted. Although not of such a high standard of the other denominations, this

was considered good enough to justify production. Harrisons accordingly continued printing and it was anticipated that supplies would be available for release in February 1936, but the troubles which were thought to have been overcome reappeared in an aggravated form as the printing proceeded.

Sheets were sent to the Stores Department for examination and it soon became evident that they were too defective to be accepted. The mottling could not be fully eliminated and bleeding ink from the dark background resulted in serious blemishes on the King's effigy. Some stamps were then printed in single-fugitive ink on coated paper to ascertain whether they were sufficiently sensitive to treatment for the removal of writing ink to meet the requirements of the Inland Revenue Department, but this was not satisfactory.

Harrison's felt that the only solution was to go back to the drawing board and work from a modified design, using a toned rather than solid background. Proofs of such a design, using double-fugitive ink, were then submitted. The objection to this, however, was that it was a departure from the rest of the series, and as it was likely that the new series portraying King George VI would use toned background, it was decided to proceed with the surface-printed version in the interim period.

On 23 April 1936 Kidner reported to Sir Donald Banks, Director-General of the Post Office, recommending that the 6d photogravure stamps be scrapped. No fewer than 21,484 sheets of 240 had been printed by that date and all of them were destroyed, apart from a handful overprinted CANCELLED retained for official purposes.

Unissued values The revision of the parcel post scale in May 1935 led to a need for 7d and 8d values. An 11d denomination was also contemplated but turned down, Stores being asked merely to increase their stock of 10d stamps. A memo of 2 May 1935 recommended adapting the surface-printed designs, as they were comparatively unimportant values. Nevertheless, the Postmaster General, Sir Kingsley Wood, wondered if it would

be possible to find fresh designs 'which would harmonise with the present series but show some improvement in dignity and general appearance'. He urged his officials to consult with Sir Stephen Tallents, recently appointed as the Post Office's first Public Relations Officer – and after whom Tallents House in Edinburgh is named.

Stamps of these denominations had appeared in the original surface-printed series of 1913 but were withdrawn in 1918 when a wartime increase in parcel rates rendered them obsolete. Tallents approached his friend Kenneth (later Lord) Clark, then Director of the National Gallery, who felt that separate designs should be used for each value and that three different artists should be commissioned for each denomination at a fee of five guineas (with a further 20 guineas for an accepted design). Clark was asked for his opinion on the existing series. He considered that the 9d was 'the most respectable and least open to criticism', whereas the threehalfpenny was 'the most amusing and the most open to criticism' and the penny 'the best balanced design of the series'.

Barnett Freedman, Eric Ravilious and Rex Whistler were asked to submit 7d designs, while Robert Gibbins, Graham Sutherland and Stephen Gooden were asked for 8d designs. Gooden refused point blank because he detested photogravure, and was replaced by Agnes Miller Parker. The artists were advised to study the Swedish definitives of 1921–28, as an excellent example of what the Post Office wanted. Although the death of George V aborted these proposed 7d and 8d stamps, it is interesting to note the striking similarity between the Swedish series of 1921 and the design eventually developed by Eric Gill for the George VI low values in 1937.

Specialist study The 1934–36 photogravure issue appears at first sight rather less complicated than the previous issue, but it is ideal for a specialist study. The four lowest values were printed in different sizes – noted but unlisted in the Gibbons *GB Concise* catalogue but fully documented in the *Specialised* catalogue (Vol 2 covering the issues of Edward VII & VIII and George V & VI). The 1d and 1½d exist in three sizes known as large, intermediate and small, and the ½d and 2d in intermediate and small. None of these are particularly scarce, but the 1½d and 2d intermediate are less common than the others. The 2½d to 1s values exist in only one size. For further information on these different sizes see the *Specialised* catalogue or Fred Gee's article published in the November 1994 *Bulletin*.

The *Specialised* also lists shades for all values from ½d to 5d, and stamps with SPECIMEN and CANCELLED overprints. If you like booklet panes, quite a collection could be formed out of those containing the ½d, 1d and 1½d values, and there are nice double impression varieties recorded for the 1d and 1s values. Finally, the control numbers can be found in different positions in sheet margins – illustrated and described in the *Specialised* catalogue.

As mentioned above, first day covers of these photogravure stamps were serviced by collectors and dealers. In the 2003 edition of the *Collect GB First Day Covers* catalogue (published by Booth), these plain covers range in price from £12.50 for the three lowest values to £900 for the 5d used on the first day. Illustrated in the catalogue is a remarkable cover bearing all 11 values cancelled on their respective dates of issue – it is priced at some £3250! ●

Control and cylinder numbers in left sheet margins of ½d, 1½d and 4d values.



Mainly Machins D G A Myall looks at recent developments

THE BULLETIN regularly carries full details of all new issues and I do not want to repeat this information in my articles, especially as our esteemed Editor gets to see them before I do. Instead, I try to concentrate on features that may not always be obvious from a collector's point of view. Here then are a few observations on the latest prestige book.

The Glory of the Garden Flowers are always a popular theme, and this is evident from the inclusion of a pane featuring the Greetings stamps which were first issued in a series of books from 1997 to 1999. The first Greetings book contained stamps intended for use on special event cards, such as birthdays and other anniversaries, Valentines Day etc. The theme of the second and fourth books was Smiles – which has since seen a major re-launch in the generic 'Smilers' sheets. The Flowers stamps were the ninth in the series, and became the longest-running special issue ever. They were printed in lithography from six colour plates by Walsall and had two phosphor bars fluorescing blue. The original phosphor reacted to short wave UV for stamp detection purposes and to a much lesser degree long wave UV. The 'Novaglo' phosphor used from June 1997, whilst still predominantly reacting to short wave UV, has a more pronounced long wave reaction. In all, there were 30 plate combinations with the first phosphor and another 42 with the second. Some were very difficult to find at the time and are even harder now.

The new *Glory of the Garden* prestige book pane was printed by Enschedé, again in lithography. The stamps are the Iris, Tulip and Gentian and have two 'Novaglo' phosphor bars. These are narrower than those on the Walsall stamps and are positioned differently, so single stamps can be distinguished easily. The Walsall bars are 9mm wide and are at the left and right edges of the stamps. The Enschedé bars are 5.5mm wide, with one at the left edge and the other in the centre. The perforation gauge (15 × 14) differs from earlier printings of these stamps and so gains them SG catalogue recognition (in the catalogue supplement in the August issue of *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*). In



Gardens PSB Definitives pane and pane of Flowers Greetings stamps with changes to perforation gauge and phosphor.

addition the elliptical hole is positioned one perforation hole higher on these new stamps. One more thought – the new pane creates se-tenant combinations which were not possible with the original ones.

The two Machin value stamps in the new book are the first of these denominations to be printed by Enschedé. They are also the only ones to have appeared in books with conventional gum. (The 42p appeared in Walsall books of six self-adhesives.) Enschedé's gold 1st NV1 was issued in rolls on 20 January 2003. (This was the philatelic release date, but some post offices had them earlier.) It also appeared in the *Microcosmos* prestige book on 25 February 2003. It can be distinguished from the new issue by the direction of printing (DOP), determined by the position of the swarf at the perforation holes viewed from the back, a method explained here in previous articles. The DOP on the earlier stamp was upright; on the new one it is inverted.

Other books All book stamps now on general sale are self-adhesives with the matrix surrounding the stamps removed before issue. Since I last wrote, there have been two new books and some earlier ones have appeared from new cylinders. Below is a checklist which includes all the cylinders known to me. The phosphor number is to the right of the oblique. All the 1st class stamps are gold. The strapline referred to is the phrase 'The Real Net-

work' which appeared under the Royal Mail cruciform logo. All the books in the list were printed by Walsall. In addition, De La Rue printed the books with four gold Machins plus two special stamps; all of these had D1 cylinders.

Known book cylinders

6 x 1st strapline: W1 / W1; W1 / W2; W2 / W2
 6 x 1st no strapline: W2 / W2; W3 / W2
 6 x 1st 'Supporting Olympic bid' cover: W3 / W2
 12 x 1st strapline: W1 / W1; W2 / W1; W2 / W2
 12 x 1st no strapline: W2 / W1
 12 x 2nd strapline: W1 / W1; W2 / W2
 12 x 2nd strapline: W2 / W1
 4 x Universal Europe 40g strapline: W1 W1 / W1; W2 W2 / W1
 4 x Universal Europe 40g no strapline: W2 W2 / W1
 4 x Universal Worldwide 40g strapline: W1 W1 / W1
 4 x Universal Worldwide 40g no strapline: W2 W2 / W1
 4 x Universal Postcard: W1 W1 W1 / W1

Business sheets of 100 stamps do not have cylinder numbers but have recently been issued without the strapline.

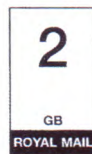
Scarce books etc I have been taken to task for suggesting in my previous article that the Submarine mixed book could be had for £6. One dealer asked me to let him have 100 of them! A realistic retail price today would be nearer £30. There have been several steep rises in the cost of quite recent issues. One is the second £1 Coronation stamp. This was in the *Perfect Coronation* prestige book; it has a 50 watermark and two phosphor bars. (There was an earlier version, on the Stamp-Show 2000 miniature sheet, which was printed on phosphor coated paper without a watermark.) Now catalogued at £50, the pane can usually be obtained for about half that.

Big rises are also occurring in some presentation packs, a form of issue which is apt to be overlooked by the general collector. Among these are the packs with the first Wilding decimal miniature sheet, and the Classic Locomotives set. There is none of the latter to be had from Tallents House whose stock is exhausted, although the stamps went on sale only six months earlier. Make sure you order the packs you want in good time or you may end up paying a lot more for them.

Do postage stamps have a future? I pose the question because of the growing use of other ways of pre-paying the cost of postage. We have had meter marks for over 80 years but we now have Horizon labels, three trial Automated Postal Service Kiosks (ASPKs), and Smartstamps. I understand that the recently-launched Smartstamp service has added well over £1 million to Royal Mail's coffers. These services are used mainly by business but even personal mail above the minimum weight limits is likely to bear a label if handed over the counter at a post office without stamps. This is now the norm following the decision to withdraw the high values from sale at post offices.

Of course, even such dull things as Horizon labels have their admirers, and there have been changes in the design (did I say design?) which have already resulted in some earlier labels being scarce. Since they are not cancelled, they cannot be collected in the usual used way. They do, however, have the first part of the local postcode printed on them. If you want unused labels you can get them from the ASPKs and then not use them. If you want your own designs, then Smartstamps are your answer. But the future of ordinary postage stamps is beginning to look decidedly dodgy. I became aware of this recently when post office staff looked blank when I asked them for stamps in place of the proffered labels and one had to ask a senior colleague if that was alright. It is becoming increasingly difficult to send mail with postage stamps to one's collector friends overseas. •

New forms of pre-paid postage: 'Horizon label' (PO branches), Automated Postal Service Kiosk label, and 'SmartStamp'.



Philately on-line Ron Negus visits a virtual display website



www.imagesoftheworld.org/stamps/collecting.htm Other parts of this site contain non-philatelic pages. This section, devoted to Victorian issues of GB, also contains a page with links to other sites for societies, dealers, auctioneers, etc likely to interest GB collectors.

ONE OF THE advantages that collectors get from belonging to a stamp club is the opportunity they have to see regular displays of other people's material. Collectors who wish to let others view their material can also use the internet, which opens up access to a much larger audience. The site noted above is a good example of using the web in this way and concentrates on GB stamps and postal history.

The owner of the site, Ross Taylor, is a process control engineer by profession, but he has been a stamp collector since he was a schoolboy some 40 years ago. Originally, he created a website to allow others to see photographs he had taken during his business travels around the world. In 1994, he decided to start collecting GB Queen Victoria stamps seriously. His plan was to buy only mint. If he could not find a suitable mint example within his budget, he tried to get a 'Specimen' overprint instead. On the site he states that he prefers these to fine used examples. He was fortunate in having the funds to allow him to buy top quality stamps, including many rare items.

Whilst this was personally satisfying, the value of the resulting collection was such that he had to keep it in a bank vault, and so was not able to share his enthusiasm with others. And so, in 2000, he decided to scan some of the stamps and make them into a separate section of his existing website. The idea of allowing others to see his material was sufficiently attractive for him to start adding notes to the scans in 2002, so that it became much closer to a conventional display.

The notes vary from simple catalogue type information about dates of issue, designers, quantities issued and so on, to more technical data. In the latter category, visitors to the site can find out about wing margins, plate layouts and control numbers, for example. Sources of the notes are given and these are cross-referenced to a bibliography of specialised works on QV stamps.

The opening page contains a useful contents list. The QV part of this is divided between Line-engraved 1840-1879 and Surface-printed 1855-1901. The last item in each of these sections is a list of stamps illustrated on the site, arranged by SG number. A few notes and illustrations are also included for some selected KEVII and KGV issues. Finally, a miscellaneous category includes some British Stamp Trivia 1837-1934 notes, a couple of stamp identification quizzes and an index to the various tabular entries within the main pages.

Having started with this concept of a 'cyber collection', Mr Taylor continued to add more scans and notes as time permitted. He went to the trouble of borrowing elusive specimens from other collectors, and sometimes from dealers, in order to illustrate the fuller story of QV stamps. His efforts were rewarded in 2003 when stamps2.com awarded the site their Gold medal.

For collectors of QV material from GB, the site offers excellent scans of the majority of the issues in colour. For other collectors, a visit to the site will demonstrate how the web can be used for display purposes, and will provide an example worth emulating for their own speciality ●

An 'old time' great At the age of 98, Geoffrey Banfield still

IT IS NOT OFTEN these days that one meets a general collector, one who can show you volumes of the Stanley Gibbons *Ideal* and *Imperial* printed albums with most of the spaces filled with the appropriate stamps. But such a collector is Geoffrey Banfield, a mere 98 years old. Geoffrey was in many respects a late starter, philatelically: it was his mother who encouraged him to begin collecting when he was 15; his grandfather had collected, and his mother also started collecting. Since that time, he has never given up collecting, although it has been somewhat refined – or so he claims.

Initially he kept his stamps loose, for it was not until he bought his first album, *The Ideal*, that items were mounted. He says that after a while it became too much to try and tackle the whole world, so he confined himself to the 'Colonials'. Nevertheless, the two volumes of the *Ideal* album are still owned, and from time to time additions are made. However, in the main the line is drawn at modern issues: with the Commonwealth, independence provides a good cutting off point. The exceptions are GB and Australia, where the collections are kept up to date: a cousin lives in Australia, and hence the affinity with these stamps.

Geoffrey still prefers traditional line engraved issues, and is not too bothered whether the items added to the collection are used or unused: if they fill a gap at the right price, that is all that matters. In the main he uses stamp hinges, although is not averse to putting a particularly good unmounted mint item in a mount.

Geoffrey was born in Dulwich, where he went to school, but has lived most of his life in Essex; in Newbury Park when first married, later Buckhurst Hill and Loughton. Geoffrey and his wife Doris, who is 97, have been married for 73 years, and so have so far received two 'telegrams' from The Queen, on their 60th and 70th wedding anniversaries. However, during the Second World War, they spent some time living with his parents near Reigate, Surrey.



After school, he was apprentice to a builder for six years, before making a career change to become an architect. This meant studying at night school for several years, in order to achieve the necessary qualifications. His father was also an architect, so he at first helped out with his father, until a chance meeting with an old friend at London Bridge Station saw him spend the war years helping the war effort at a factory in Farnby. After the war, it was back with his father, often undertaking work for Congregational churches in London that had suffered war damage. After his father died, Geoffrey carried on the business (his son, Colin, is also an architect).

Returning to Essex after the war, he and Colin joined the local Forest Philatelic Society. Here he met the late Alfred Branstons, whom he greatly admired as a collector, whose main interest was the West Indies. Over the years he has been both Chairman and President of the society, and while he would never think of exhibiting nationally, he has entered, and won, local competitions.

Not all the collection is in printed albums, there being separate written-up collections including Cochinchina and Sarawak, and even a couple of thematic displays, on the Universal Postal Union, and an Animal Alphabet. In the past, Geoffrey was able to mount and carefully hand write up his pages, but failing eyesight means that he now has to rely on Colin to mount new material.

Geoffrey has tended to favour the local society exchange packet to acquire material, but has also relied on dealers, occasional swaps, and stamps from correspondence, a particularly fruitful time being during his association with Sun Life Assurance of Canada. He is very much a 'stamp' man, although does have a small collection of covers, all of which have personal significance. He still goes through the exchange packet, quickly identifying stamps needed to fill gaps in the collection. Only once has a stamp been bought in auction: there is a decided gleam in his eye when he

thoroughly enjoys his collecting, as Richard West discovers

shows his recently acquired Great Britain 1929 Postal Union Congress £1, a well-centered unmounted mint marginal example. It is a stamp he has long wanted, but could not afford when it was issued.

While the sight might not be what it once was, Geoffrey still gets the greatest pleasure in going through and looking at his collection every day. There are some notable gaps he would like to fill, such as the Newfoundland 6c Caribou. And there has been the occasional bargain, such as buying for £1 a pane of 60 of the Malta 'One Penny' surcharge on 2½d, the pane including the 'One Pnney' error.

A true 'old time' collector, Geoffrey says he is not too bothered about the future of the hobby, taking the very philosophical view that 'I am sure others will carry on' •

GEOFFREY BANFIELD FACT FILE

Family collectors Geoffrey's son Colin is a keen collector.

Holidays Geoffrey and Doris have travelled quite extensively, including the Azores, Canada, Cyprus, France, Italy, Madeira, Malta, Morocco and the United States, but always for pleasure, never for any philatelic reason.

Vices? Geoffrey hardly ever drinks, except for a glass of sherry on Sundays, and gave up smoking when cigarettes went up to 1s 6d (7½p) for a packet of 20.

Other interests When young, Geoffrey was keen on scouting, and later thoroughly enjoyed gardening and photography, becoming quite an expert on London's Squares.

Sport He used to play football and cricket, so follows the fortunes of England, while all the family are keen supporters of Arsenal.

Most satisfying achievement Receiving the Fellowship of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA).

Unfulfilled ambition For Geoffrey and Doris to receive their telegrams from The Queen when they reach their centenaries.

Cover corner Robert Phillifent's souvenir card from the first Philatelic Congress, in 1909

THE 2004 PHILATELIC CONGRESS of GB will be held at Winchester, 30 September - 3 October. This popular annual event includes displays and talks, social events, and the prestigious ceremony of the signing of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists. Biographical sketches of this year's new RDPS were given here in June. We show here a card posted from the very first Congress, held in Manchester in February 1909. The event, at Hulme Town Hall, was held under the auspices of the Manchester Junior Philatelic Society. The card, sent to Conssett (Co Durham) bears an Edward VII ½d stamp cancelled by a POSTAGE STAMP EXHIBITION & CONGRESS handstamp. Congress handstamps, special covers and cards, and souvenir labels are popular with many collectors. Details of the handstamps can be found in *Special Event Postmarks of the United Kingdom*, published by the British Postmark Society, and the labels in *Great Britain Commemorative Labels Pre-1950*, published by the Cinderella Stamp Club in 1992 •



Readers' reports



RHS Exhibition Following my letter, kindly published in June 2003 appealing for information and material relating to the important philatelic and other events we have hosted during the past 100 years, I am pleased to say that many did respond positively. Now the exhibition is in the final stages of preparation, and I can confirm that it will contain displays relating to the 1912, 1923 and 1934 philatelic exhibitions that were staged with us. In addition, there will be a fascinating display about generic exhibition poster labels. These displays are kindly being provided by Charles Kiddle of World Poster Stamps, and by Francis Kiddle. Bill Tonkin of the Exhibition Study Group will also be providing a display of Stampex material. I will be displaying a unique collection of poster labels relating to events that have taken place in our Halls. The exhibition will also display rare and

never before publicly displayed material relating to the fascinating exhibition and event history of the Halls, from early Suffragette meetings in 1908 to Championship Kennel Club Dog Shows, Old Vic Costume Balls, Political Rallies and landmark exhibitions such as the Schoolboys and Model Engineer. The exhibition is being staged during and within the RHS Great Autumn Flower Show at the Lawrence Hall, Elverton Street, Westminster SW1, on 14-15 September. Opening times are 11am-7pm on the first day and 10am-5pm on the second day. Admission £5 on the first day and £3 on the second day for non-RHS members; free to members. This will be a unique occasion and the range of exhibits may never be seen again, so please do visit if you can. **RENÉ DEE, MANAGING DIRECTOR, THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL HALLS AND CONFERENCE CENTRE** ●

London to London flight In your auction coverage (July, page 325), you show a cover from the 'legendary London to London experimental flight'. To quote from the authoritative *The Air Mails of Canada and Newfoundland* (American Air Mail Society, 1997): 'About 90 covers were prepared and postmarked at 4am on August 29 (1927). The plane took off about 6am but ran into very bad fog at Kingston, Ontario, and was forced to return to London (Ont). It was decided to land at Harbour Grace, Newfoundland, to refuel before making the long flight to England. When the

mail for the flight was postmarked again and taken to the plane, one cover was removed. The plane took off on September 1 and got as far as Caribou, Maine, where it was forced down. On September 5 Tully and Medcalf succeeded in reaching Harbour Grace. Early on the 7th they took off for England and were never seen again.' That is to say, this cover was flown from London, Ontario to London, Ontario, and then removed from the plane. It was not carried from London, Ontario to London, England! **RICHARD BEITH, GUIDEN SUTTON, CHESTER •**

Posting boxes 222



THIS MONTH'S PHOTOGRAPH was submitted by B Hellebrekers of the Netherlands. These three postboxes (from left to right), German, British and French, can be seen in the Avenue Victor Hugo in Chateauroux, France. On both the British and French boxes, collection times are given as 17.00 daily, except on Sunday when the boxes are emp-

tied at 11.00. The boxes are respectively for posting mail to other destinations, inland, and locally within Chateauroux.

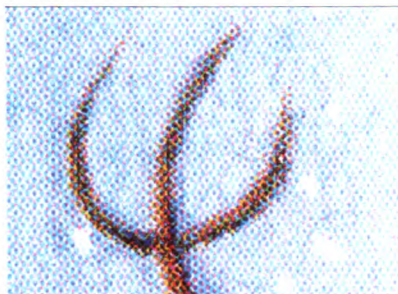
For details of the Letter Box Study Group send a SAE or IRC to the Membership Secretary: Mrs V Scott, 38 Leopold Avenue, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham B20 1ES •

Special draw Win High Value stamps presentation packs

THE WINNER OF THIS MONTH'S special draw will be sent presentation packs containing the £1.50, £2, £3, and £5 stamps printed in recess (intaglio) and gravure. Three runners-up will receive the presentation pack containing the gravure stamps.

For your chance to win, simply write your name and address on the back of a postcard and send it to Packs Draw, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ to arrive by 30 September •

Competitions Win £100 in Royal Mail stamps and products



June identify The detail was from the 1987 18p Victorian Britain stamp. The winner was M Bowmer, the Netherlands.

May knowledge Answers: 1) P Sutton; 2) 1973; 3) Winchester. The winner was R Storer of Wirral.

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 1970 Christmas stamps?
- 2 In which year did the Royal Welsh Show feature on a stamp?
- 3 Where are the World Stamp Championships being held this month?

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, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ. The senders of the first cards drawn in each competition on 15 October will each receive £100 worth of Royal Mail stamps and related products. Ten runner-up prizes of presentation packs or FDCs will be awarded in each competition. Competitions are not open to Royal Mail employees •

Events

1-4 September The Picture Postcard Show 2004 (formerly BIPEX) at the New Royal Horticultural Hall, Greycoat & Elverton Streets, London SW1. Wed 11.00-20.00; Thurs and Fri 11.00-19.30; Sat 10.00-17.00. Admission £5 first day, £3 others. **Enquiries** M Day 0151 339 5422; website www.postcard.co.uk

7 September Lecture 'The GPO and its Films in the 1930s' at Postal Heritage Trust. See p10 for details.

11 September City of Preston PS Stamp & Card Fair at Barton Village Hall, Garstang Road, 10.00-16.00. Dealers in stamps, cards, postal history. **Enquiries** P Gaywood, 2 Fairways, Fulwood, Preston PR2 8FX.

11 September Rotherham Stamp & Postcard Club Open Day at Broom Valley Club Room, Broom Valley, Rotherham, 10.00-16.00. Local stamp dealers, displays by Club members, refreshments. Admission free. **Enquiries** J N Bradley, 01709 837073.

14-15 September Royal Horticultural Halls Centenary Exhibition. See p28 for details.

15-19 September Autumn Stampex at Business Design Centre, London N1. See pages 5-6 for details.

18 September Association of GB First Day Cover Collectors informal meeting in the balcony lounge area at Autumn Stampex, 15.00. **Enquiries** R Park, 2 Chaffinch Close, Horsham RH12 5HA.

25 September Portadown & District PS Stampex & Collectors Fair at Portadown Town Hall, 10.00-16.30. Displays, dealers (stamps, postcards, coins, medals, football programmes, militaria etc), refreshments, car parking nearby. Admission free. **Enquiries** J J Proctor 028 38 334964.

30 September - 3 October Philatelic Congress of GB at Winchester •

Late news

New Post Office saving stamp A new Post Office branded £5 saving stamp went on sale at Post Office branches on 16 August. The stamp can be used to save towards the payment of bills and all Post Office products and services and, in participating branches, goods sold on the retail side. The stamps may be redeemed at all Post Office branches, with a maximum of £500 in a single transaction. Motor Vehicle and Television Licence saving stamps will remain on sale ●

Stanley Hunter died suddenly at home in Glasgow on 12 June. I had known him since we were small boys. His elder brother was my patrol leader in the First Glasgow Scouts and Stanley, a couple of years younger, would follow in his footsteps, eventually becoming Group Scoutmaster. My earliest recollections of Stan were as a very keen stamp collector who also ran an ad hoc dealership in the playground at Hillhead High School which we both attended. Indeed, when I decided at the age of 11 to specialise in German stamps, it was Stan who bought my juvenile general collection. I bumped into him at the Glasgow 2000 stamp exhibition and he told me that he still had my battered old FG album! Stan was a founder member of Alba, the group formed for the study of stamps and related material connected with Scotland. For many years from 1971 he edited *Scottish Stamp News* and compiled a catalogue of stamps with a Scottish theme. He also formed an impressive collection of Scouting on stamps, but in later years switched his interest to picture postcards, being prominent in the Strathclyde Postcard Club. He was the leading authority on the cards associated with the four great exhibitions in Glasgow. *James Mackay* ●

Bulletin back issues Mr I Stirland has a run of the *Bulletin* from 1976 to 2003 which he will donate to anyone willing to collect; contact him on 01302 850708. Any reader in the USA who would like eight *Bulletin* binders may have them for the cost of postage. E-mail Peter H Palmer: palmerisp@gte.net ●

Auctions A Victoria 1/2d vermilion 1 R Official with 'L.R.' omitted and OFFICIAL misplaced to right so that the 'L' appears on the left side of the stamp realised £747 (est £200-300) in Spink's 8 July sale. A £5 orange with CHESTER 1899 cancel made £1150 (£400-500), and unmounted mint blocks of four of the 1955-58 De La Rue Castles (2s6d-10s showing marginal guide crosses) made £862 (£750-1000). The sale of Stamps and Covers of the World totalled £416,198. For details of future auctions, phone Spink on 020 7563 4000 or see website www.spink.com ●

GB collections were much in demand at Cavendish's auction on 24 July. An 1854 1d sc perf 16 die 1 Alphabet 11 on blued paper plate 53 went from £120 to £1380 and a fine collection of 1855 Alphabet 11 1d reds reached £3450. Quality FDCs have come into their own again and a collection of 65 signed covers (Harry Secombe, Peter Scott, Stanley Matthews, etc) made £632. For details of future auctions phone 01332 250970 or see www.cavendish-auctions.com ●

In October Harmers will auction Michael and Sylvia Goaman's archive of tracings, drawings, mock ups, essays, trials, artwork, proofs and unaccepted designs for their stamp designs. Mr & Mrs Goaman are noted designers of British and Commonwealth stamps; Michael designed the 1953 Coronation 4d stamp. Enquiries: 020 8747, or website www.harmers.com ●

Michael Briggs has recently completed 40 years of service at Stanley Gibbons, making him the longest serving member of staff following the retirement of Robert Oliver last year. Michael has worked on *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* since 1969 and also undertakes valuable work on other SG publications. He designed a Stampex handstamp in the 1960s and a set of stamps for Anguilla in 1979. Michael is the author of Hamlyn's *Focus on Stamps* (reviewed in the November 1992 *Bulletin*), and wrote an article marking the 150th anniversary of the birth of (Edward) Stanley Gibbons published here in July 1990. We wish him well for the future ●

2004 Yearbook and Yearpack



How will you remember 2004? It's certainly been a year of stunning stamp themes and designs, including Classic Locomotives, Ocean Liners, The Royal Horticultural Society, as well as the forthcoming Crimean War and Christmas issues. A full set of the year's Special stamps is contained in the 2004 Yearbook together with 150 high quality photographs and illustrations, a detailed narrative about each of the issues and exclusive interviews. A perfect marker of 2004 and an ideal gift, the limited edition Yearbook has an embossed hard-back cover with a hand-finished slipcase and each is individually numbered. It is available leather-bound and can be personalised.

To pre-order your 2004 Yearbook or the 2004 Yearpack which contains all of the year's Special stamps in a specially designed folder, call 08457 641 641.

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