

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The Royal Mail magazine for stamp collectors

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Bulletin

John Lennon on stamps •
New tariffs • E-Type sheet



PREVIEWS 2011 DEFINITIVES and MAGICAL REALMS

Issues and withdrawals



Cover Photograph © Heather Angel/Natural Visions. The red panda (*Ailurus fulgens*) is one of the ten different endangered species that feature on First Class WWF stamps released on 22 March

Royal Mail Tallents House

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8 March

Issue Self-adhesive definitives. Magical Realms: Stamps, Presentation Pack and Stamp Cards

10 March

Withdrawal Battersea Dogs and Cats Home: Stamps, Presentation Packs and Stamp Cards

17 March

Issue City of Belfast coin cover

22 March

Issue WWF: Stamps, Miniature Sheet, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards, Prestige Stamp Book and Coin Cover. Stamp Book varieties

24 March

Issue Olympic and Paralympics: Stamp and Coin Retail Packs 7 and 8; Sports Covers 7 and 8

Withdrawal Royal Society Medal Cover

29 March

Issue Tariff change 2011: Machin and country definitives, Presentation Packs

Withdrawal Tariff 2009: Machin and Country Definitives stamps Presentation Pack: Europe 40g and Worldwide 40g Stamp Books. 2009 Year of Miniature Sheets Collection and 2009 Year of Presentation Packs Collection

30 March

Issue 50th Anniversary of E-type Jaguar Smilers® Commemorative Sheet

10 April

Withdrawal Battersea Medal Cover

12 April

Issue The Royal Shakespeare Company: stamps, Miniature Sheet, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards

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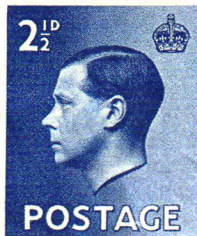
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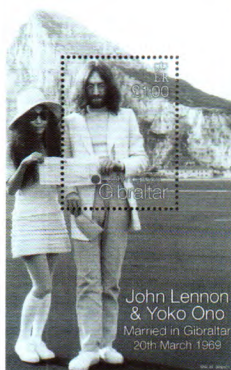
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Postbox and inbox Answers to your correspondence



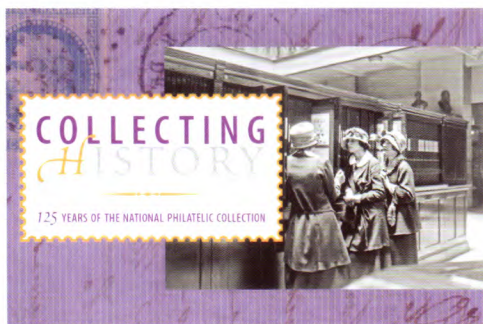
Birds on the wire

As ever, it's been a busy old month of philatelic tweets and our followers are steadily growing (join

us at twitter.com/philbulletin) and we're meeting many new and interesting friends. Subjects – and tweeters – that stood out for us in January and February, included the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust (Shakespeare B Trust) who continue their enthusiastic promotion of all things Shakey. We're sure they will enjoy the striking RSC stamps out in April. And they posed a question to us – which Shakespeare character would you like to have dinner with? Food for thought...

Various tweeters have been highlighting the growing number of arts and crafts projects inspired by stamps and postal history. A quick search on craft site www.etsy.com, and the virtual pinboard www.pinterest.com (be warned – many an hour can be lost on this website), proves the point. We're all for used stamps being 'upcycled' for decorative purposes – they are things of beauty after all – just as long as no mint stamps are harmed in the process!

The Smithsonian National Postal Museum regularly tweets 'about all things postal' and have been hugely key in helping us put together the John Lennon feature on page 217 – their website is well worth checking out. We also very much enjoyed another US-based tweeter – the Post Culture (postculture) whose evocative strapline 'lover of fine paper, good penmanship, beautiful stamp design, and the hint of perfume on an envelope from another time and place' says it all. They post some fascinating links on everything from thematics to stamps design to paper art. Diverting and inspiring.



Love that list

I feel that I am best described as an enthusiastic but amateur collector. I am therefore exceedingly grateful for all the help, tips and guidance which I find in the *Bulletin* each month. For many years, one of the highlights has been the January issue. I await this issue eagerly and look forward to the publication of the comprehensive list of stamps issued through the previous year. Which stamps am I missing? Then starts the fun of tracking down the missing ones and once they have been successfully sourced, mounting them in their rightful place in my album alongside their 'colleagues'.

January 2010 was a disappointment as for the first time in years – no list! Oh well, I thought,

it's just a one-off and the trusty list will return in 2011. But no, it's still not there. What has happened? Please, for amateur collectors like me, bring back this really useful list.
Nigel Gray, Godalming

Dear Mr Gray,
We hear you (and many other subscribers who have also missed the issue list)! Actually, we used to publish this list in September's edition – the time when the volume number changes each year, simply because *Bulletin* was first published in September 1964. Rest assured, we will definitely be including this list in September 2011's *Bulletin*. In the meantime, you can find a stocklist of all stamps at www.royalmail.com/portal/stamps/jump1.

Sticky subject

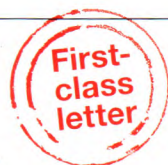
Reading January's *Bulletin* left me both disappointed – when I read that all Machin definitives will turn self-adhesive – and amazed that you find it 'hard to understand why collectors abhor self-adhesive stamps'.

Collectors abhor self-adhesive stamps because the 'support' spoils the designs that are carefully conceived for the size of the stamp and stops us from enjoying clear perforations. The black mounts traditionally used to enhance perforations are of little use for mounting self-adhesive stamps and may be damaged by their thick supports. This is true not only for mint stamps but also for used ones whose adhesive is not soakable. Have a look at an album page with self-adhesive stamps and you'll see something that looks like a miserable



scrapbook made by a child – and then surely you'll understand why we abhor them.

*Etienne Peremans,
Brussels*



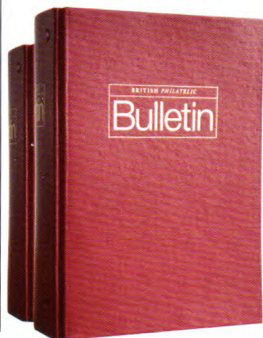
Dear Mr Peremans,
When Royal Mail first introduced self-adhesive stamps in 2001 it was in response to customer demand for a more modern and convenient stamp. Whilst the primary focus was on customers using the postal system, we were aware of collector concern. Much of this was centred on the idea that the change would downgrade stamps into 'sticky labels'. During the development of the stamps, the focus was on retaining as much of the traditional features as possible. The perforations are the same gauge and configuration, the stamp face paper is exactly the same as well as the print processes.

Our experience was that once collectors had seen the new stamps and could appreciate that the printing processes and results were exactly the same as on the traditional stamp, much of the concern disappeared. It became more of a debate about how stamps should be stored. In the main, collectors appear to have embraced self-adhesives and the recent introduction of security features has added a new wave of interest in the classic Machin design.

Keep the mail coming...

The Editor of the *Bulletin*, welcomes your letters and has a topical selection of philatelic delights to give as a thank-you to the senders of those published. The sender of the 'First

Class letter' award will receive the *Bulletin* binder shown below. Please note, however, that Royal Mail cannot reply to all letters and reserves the right to edit for length. Please include an email address if possible. Send your letters to: The Editor, *British Philatelic Bulletin*, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London WC1 1HQ.



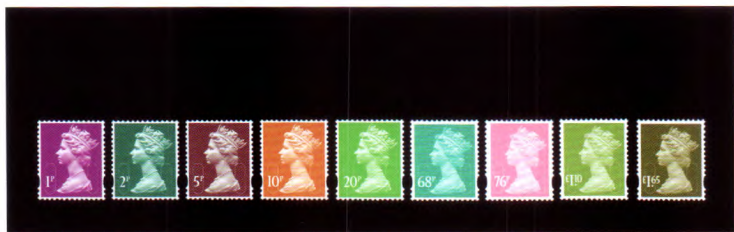
How withdrawn can you get?

In reply to your correspondent's letter of January regarding use of withdrawn issues, I thought it worth noting that stamp dealers and collectors often use old decimal issues dating back to 1973 to send material through the post. I also have a related question: would it still be 'legal tender' to use a George VI – or earlier! – stamp as postage today? And, if so, are you aware of any examples of this having been done?

T G Fairhall

Dear Mr Fairhall,
Pre-decimal currency GB stamps are not recognised as acceptable tariffs and we know of no examples of their 'successful' misuse. No doubt *Bulletin* readers will prove us wrong!

What's new? Machins go self-adhesive • New postal rates • 2012 special issues



Right: the 2011 Definitive Stamps Presentation Pack, issued on 29 March, includes the four new tariff values and the five Make-up varieties

New 2011 Machin definitives New postal rates come into effect on Monday 4 April and four new definitives, as shown above, will go on sale this month, on Tuesday 29 March: 68p Sea green, 76p Pink, £1.10 Lime Green and £1.65 Sage. The new stamps are self-adhesive, with iridescent print and will be gravure printed by De La Rue in sheets of 25.

Also issued this month, on 29 March and in sheets of 25, are new Royal Mail Country values of 68p and £1.10. They will be issued for England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales in existing designs and colours.

These stamps will remain PVA-gummed but the printer changes from De La Rue to Cartor and the print process from gravure to litho. ●

New value definitive sheets

Issue date	Stamps available 29 March New tariff applies from 4 April
Purpose	Introduction of new sheet specification for the Machin Definitive overseas rates
Values	68p, 76p, £1.10p and £1.65
Printer	De La Rue
Print process	Gravure, as before
Sheet size and detail	Self-adhesive sheets of 25 The sheets will adopt the Cylinder Position Grid System and full security features

New Country stamps

Issue date	29 March
Values	4 x 68p, 4 x £1.10
Printer	Cartor
Print process	Litho
Sheet size and detail	Sheets of 25, PVA gummed

New specifications on five make-up values In new self-adhesive sheet format of 25 and with no iridescent print are the New Make Up Value Sheets issued on Tuesday 8 March, formerly PVA-gummed and in sheets of 200. The values affected here are the 1p, 2p, 5p, 10p and 20p. Thus, the use of the Security Features introduced in 2009 is extended to include these 2011 Machin definitives.

The 8th of March is classed as a First Day of Availability for the modified definitives sheets, as they are not classified as a new issue, so there will be no First Day Cover, Envelope or Presentation Pack. Nevertheless a number of permanent philatelic postmarks are available for those who wish to mark the occasion with a cover dated on the first day of availability ● ►

Changes to Machin Definitives March 2011

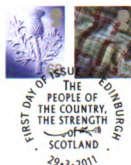
Values affected	1p, 2p, 5p, 10p, 20p
Security slits	Each stamp will contain two small oval security slits, of the type introduced as a security feature in 2009
Self-adhesive	Converted from PVA gummed
Sheet size and detail	Self-adhesive sheets of 25 will adopt the Cylinder Position Grid System with oval slits. Dot and No Dot sheets will no longer exist for these values
Cylinder positions	The 2p, 5p and 20p values will be printed from one cylinder which will limit the cylinder positions to four each. The 1p and 10p will be printed on individual cylinders so each will be available in 12 cylinder positions
Availability of previous issue	All the old-style Machin definitives will be available at Tallents House until 2012 depending on stock levels



Above: definitive postmarks of Windsor and Tallents House are available from Tallents House



SCOTLAND
ROYAL MAIL FIRST DAY COVER
DEFINITIVE STAMPS



Small text: Royal Mail 1p, 2p, 5p, 10p, 20p. © 2011 Royal Mail Ltd. All rights reserved.



NORTHERN IRELAND
ROYAL MAIL FIRST DAY COVER
DEFINITIVE STAMPS



ENGLAND
ROYAL MAIL FIRST DAY COVER
DEFINITIVE STAMPS



CYMRU/WALES
ROYAL MAIL FIRST DAY COVER
DEFINITIVE STAMPS



Royal Mail First Day Covers and First Day Envelopes are available with images of Cymru/Wales, England, Northern Ireland and Scotland

Hope and beauty 'In 2011, as we all face important environmental challenges, WWF's work is more important than ever. There is still much to be done,' says Sir David Attenborough in his introduction to the WWF Prestige Stamp Book. This PSB is released on 22 March, price £9.05, as part of the Royal Mail special issue designed to help celebrate the 50th anniversary of WWF, the world renowned conservation body formerly known as the World Wildlife Fund. It is packed with inspiring illustrations and facts that are arguably crucial to all our futures.

One of the book's stamp panes features the 'Amazon Alive' mini-sheet; another has eight Machin definitives with the WWF panda logo at their centre; and the other two panes include the ten First Class stamps, which carry full face portraits of ten animals at the heart of WWF projects – Polar Bear, African Elephant, Mountain Gorilla, Siberian Tiger, Amur Leopard, Iberian Lynx, Red Panda, Black Rhinoceros, African Wild Dog, and Golden Lion Tamarin – all with the WWF Panda logo in the bottom left hand corner. You can find more details about these animals and why they need protection, as well as the design and technical details of the WWF stamps, in the preview article on page 179 of this volume of *Bulletin*.

Each of the stamp panes includes a background image that alludes to the broader issues underlying all WWF projects, including evidence of thinning Arctic sea ice that supports emerging theories that the Arctic Ocean will soon be ice-free, as well as themes of conservation of local eco-systems to help protect endangered species. The information pages of the book outline WWF history since 1961 and current projects to safeguard the natural world in the areas of Freshwater, Forests and Tackling Climate Change •

Below: the four stamp panes contained in the WWF Prestige Stamp Book issued this month to mark the 50th anniversary of WWF



Rock on Royal Mail! It was a rocking occasion when Queen's Roger Taylor and Brian May launched the Royal Mail Musicals special issue stamps at London's Dominion Theatre. Featuring songs such as *Killer Queen* and *Radio Ga Ga*, their show *We Will Rock You* is still going strong after nine years. Strutting his stuff onstage with the legendary rockers was Marcus James, Royal Mail's Head of Design and Editorial.

'It was brilliant meeting Roger and Brian. I'm a bit of a fan so I was quite starstruck at first, but they soon made me feel relaxed in front of the cameras,' he said. ●



Last chance to say goodbye Coming off sale on March 10 are the Battersea Dogs and Cats Home stamps, Presentation Pack and Stamp Cards. Then, a month later on 10 April, is your last Chance to buy the Battersea Medal Cover.

2009 Tariff stamps are taken off sale on 29 March, including the Machin and Country Definitives stamps Presentation Pack, Europe 40g and Worldwide 40g Stamp Books, the 2009 Year of Miniature Sheets Collection and 2009 Year Presentation Packs collection. ●

Posters that speak volumes A new book entitled GPO Posters, from the award-winning Design series, is based on the GPO Poster Collection held at the BPMA. Its author Paul Rennie, Head of Context at the School of Graphic Design at Central St Martin's in London, documents the use of design in the Post Office's visual communications from the 1930s to the 70s.

Reader offer The BPMA is happy to offer free postage and packing and a special price of £10 for *Bulletin* readers (original price £12.50). To order, just send a cheque or postal order made payable to 'Postal Heritage Service Ltd', along with a note of the delivery address and your phone number, by post to: Product Sales, BPMA, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL. Or phone 020 7239 5125. ●



Stamp scene John Holman keeps you posted



HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN



Sixtieth Birthday 17p Sixtieth Birthday 17p



Above: Marcus Adams at 80, at home and drawing as usual. Top and below: his photography on Canadian and New Zealand stamps. Top right: Adams' portrait of the Queen at two years old appeared on this issue of 1986

Marcus Adams exhibition On show at The Queen's Gallery in Edinburgh is an exhibition of the work of photographer Marcus Adams (1875–1959) who took many portraits of The Queen, as Princess Elizabeth, and of the late Queen Mother and Princess Margaret. Mr Adams set up a studio in London in 1920, specialising in children's portraits. Many of his Royal studies were used as official portraits, others were kept by the Royal Family in their private albums. His portrait of Princess Elizabeth in 1928 was used on two of the Royal Mail stamps marking The Queen's 60th birthday in 1986. His 1929 portrait of the Princess was used on a stamp from Newfoundland issued in 1932 – the first stamp to portray her. An example of this stamp, affixed to a piece of paper signed 'Elizabeth' by the young princess, was shown in the October 2010 *Bulletin* (page 36).

Other images by Adams of The Queen Mother and Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret have been reproduced on stamps from Aitutaki, Ascension, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Canada and Jamaica. The portraits of Princess Elizabeth with Prince Charles, and Princess Anne, on their first birthdays, have been reproduced on New Zealand and Vanuatu stamps of 1950 and 1986 respectively. Early portraits of Princess Anne and Prince Charles featured on New Zealand Health stamps of 1952.

The exhibition at The Queen's Gallery at the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh runs until 5 June, admission £6. Phone 0131 556 5100 for tickets. A 120-page book *Marcus Adams: Royal Photographer*, containing 160 colour photographs, is available, price £9.95 •



Publications The 2011 *Picture Postcard Annual* (31st edition) is a must for all serious postcard collectors. Reference features include a postcard dealer directory, cumulative index to the companion *Picture Postcard Monthly* magazine, fair organisers and auction houses, clubs, and a list of forthcoming events. The bibliography for postcard collectors is particularly useful. There is an interesting section reviewing the current postcard scene in a number of countries, including Argentina, Australia, Denmark, Finland, France, Ireland, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Russia, South Africa, Ukraine and USA. As always there are a number of well-written and well-illustrated feature articles, this year covering the Royal Visit in the early 20th century, Famous Expresses and London Railway Stations, Collecting

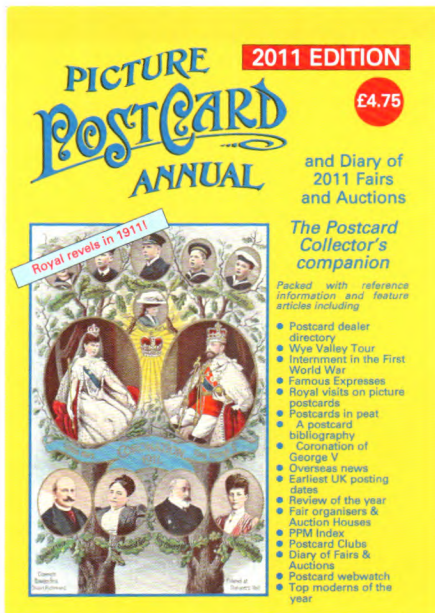
Peat Paper Postcards, Internment in the First World War, Newcastle United Football Club, Wye Valley Tour, and Coronation Day 1911. Mark Routh selects ten cards produced during the past year which particularly caught his attention; these include the Royal Mail stamp card reproducing the George V Accession miniature sheet, and the Stampex card showing an unused stamp design featuring the 1838 Travelling Post Office carriage.

A regular feature of particular interest to postal historians is the listing of 'Early Posting Dates'. This records the earliest known postmark date of picture postcards showing cities and towns after picture postcards were approved by the Post Office in 1894. Cities and towns are listed in alphabetical order; some of the earliest dates are: Barmouth (2 July 1895), Bristol (23 December 1894), Eastbourne (8 November 1894), Edinburgh (15 August 1895), Guildford (3 April 1895), Leamington (12 August 1895), Newcastle upon Tyne (24 January 1895), Sandown, Isle of Wight (5 April 1896), Swansea (29 July 1896), and Windsor (26 May 1896). Also listed are early dates for overseas countries, and postcard artists, publishers and subjects. The editor invites collectors to submit earlier dates for existing entries, or dates for places not listed.

The *Picture Postcard Annual* costs £4.75 (£5.75 including UK postage, £8.25 Europe, £10.50 rest of world) from Reflections of a Bygone Age, phone 0115 9374079 or email reflections@postcardcollecting.co.uk •

Edward VIII discovery In the January issue of *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, Hugh Jefferies, the SG Catalogue Editor, reports the finding of the Edward VIII 2½d stamp with 'GvR' Block Cypher watermark rather than the usual 'E8R' watermark. Furthermore, the George V watermark is inverted. The stamp is said to come from a block of four found in the effects of the Duchess of Windsor. The provenance of the new discovery is yet to be determined, but meanwhile Mr Jefferies suggests it is worth checking any Edward VIII 2½d stamps in your albums •

Auction news Many GB items were included in the Stanley Gibbons auction on 15 December, from the Penny Black to modern errors and varieties. A north-west corner block of four of the George V 1915 2s6d 'Seahorse' in yellow-brown (SG 406) made £1,900 (estimate £1,000–1,200). A complete sheet of 20 of the famous 1929 £1 Postal Union Congress stamp realised £12,000 (est £15,000–17,000). Among Elizabeth II material, an example of the unissued 2nd class NVI self-adhesive trial stamp of 2002 (see *Bulletin* June 2004, pp308–310) achieved £300 (£200–240), and a block of six of the 1966 4d Robert Burns with black printing doubled (only 30 copies are known) went for £480 (£360–400). A spectacular 1979 Rowland Hill ▶



Above: check the watermarks on your Edward VIII 2½d stamps – just in case!

miniature sheet with massive shift of the black printing to the right sold for £400 (£500–600). A 23 album collection of first day covers, 1935–95, made £850 (£1,000–1,200), and a run of Royal Mail Yearbooks from 1988 to 2004 achieved £260 (£160–180). For details of future auctions contact Stanley Gibbons Auctions on 020 7836 8444 or email auctions@stanleygibbons.co.uk.

This month's Cavendish auction, on 9–10 March, comprises the Dr James Kyle Collections of British Empire (New Zealand, Australia etc), John Bodman Collection of Papua (with Coco Islands), 'Bentwaters' Collection of Mulready and Penny Black covers, a specialised study of South Australian postmarks and covers, 1870s stamped covers to Thailand, plus fine Worldwide & GB Revenues. For further details contact Cavendish on 01332 250970 •



The King James Bible The theme of this year's Christmas stamps, scheduled for issue on 8 November, will be the 400th anniversary of the publication of the King James (Authorised) edition of The Bible. Events, exhibitions and lectures are being held around the UK, and in Belgium, Canada, New Zealand, and USA to mark the anniversary. Details can be found at www.kingjamesbibletrust.org, the website of the King James Bible Trust, which has The Prince of Wales as its patron. The events include exhibitions at Cambridge University Library, until 18 June; Lichfield Cathedral, 9 March–16 April, and 1–30 May; Bodleian Library, Oxford, 22 April–4 September; Winchester Cathedral, 29 April–3 October; Lancaster University, 30 April–30 June; Durham University Library, 9 May–9 July; and Guildford Museum, 6 June–17 September.

A new book, *The Book of Books: The Radical Impact of the King James Bible* by Melvyn Bragg is published next month for the anniversary year and Lord Bragg will give a lecture on the subject at Hampton Court on 11 May – see www.hrp.org.uk for details. 'There is no doubt in my mind,' says Lord Bragg, 'that the King James Bible – not Shakespeare – set this language on its path to become a universal language on a scale unprecedented before or since.'

King James I (VI of Scotland) who initiated the 1604 conference at Hampton Court, which led to the new version of The Bible, features on two of Royal Mail's recent Monarchs stamps – as King of Scots on an 81p value in the House of Stewart issue (March 2010), and as James I of Great Britain on a 1st class stamp in the House of Stuart set (June 2010) •

The British Postal Museum and Archive The BPMA walking tour 'From Pillar to Post: GPO London' starts from Farringdon Station at 11am on 20 March and 23 April. The walk will take about two hours. The price is £6 for the conducted tour and there's no need to book. On 31 March at 7pm John Tingey will give a talk about W Reginald Bray – 'The Englishman who posted himself and other curious objects'. From 6pm there will be a display of Bray's work. For more on Reginald Bray, see Michael Pitt-Payne's article 'The human letter' in *Bulletin*, November 2010.

Next month, on 21 April at 7pm, another talk – 'Your Very Loving Madeline' – will be given by Dane Garrod, on the unusual life of Madeline

Top: King James and his Bible on the 1999 millennium stamp; Melvyn Bragg publishes a new book about the Bible next month and gives a lecture at Hampton Court in May

Clifton. Widowed at 32 and left with seven children, she later met and married a man ten years her junior. The associated display of letters, diaries, photographs and cards, including the unusual philatelic item pictured right, will be on show from 6pm.

Tours of the Archives take place on 29 March (2pm), and 6 June (3pm), and tours of the BPMA store at Debden, Essex on 6 April and 4 May (6pm). An Easter Family Day will be held at the BPMA on 11 April (10am-4pm). For details of all these events see the BPMA website or phone 020 7239 2570 •



William Lea We are sad to report the death, on 30 December 2010, of William (Bill) Lea of W E Lea (Philatelists) Ltd, a company noted for dealing in rare and classic stamps, especially of British North America. He was the son of William Lea (1908-70) who founded the firm in 1959, and grandson of John Lea who began stamp dealing in Manchester in the 1890s. Mr Lea served on the organising committee for the London 1980 International Stamp Exhibition •

This month in history

John Holman recalls Britain's first miniature sheet in March 1978

The first miniature sheets were issued by Luxembourg and Belgium in the 1920s, but the first from Royal Mail didn't appear until March 1978 – a sheet bearing the four Historic Buildings stamps showing the Tower of London, Palace of Holyroodhouse (Edinburgh), Caernarvon Castle, and Hampton Court. The stamps were designed by Ronald



Maddox and the miniature sheet by Jeffery Matthews. The sheet was printed in larger sheets of nine and individual sheets can be 'plated' by examination of the curved lines at the right of the white border surrounding the stamps. The sheet was sold at 53½p which included a 10p premium towards the London 1980 International Stamp Exhibition. It proved very popular, selling out soon after issue. In fact, some 2,520,000 were sold. The sheet also exists imperforate, with missing phosphor, and with (separately) four of the nine colours omitted.

Specialist collectors will notice slight shade differences between the stamps in the miniature sheet printed on Harrison's Rembrandt press, and those from standard sheets printed on the Jumelle machine.

Society focus

Leeds Philatelic Society

Society enjoys its 121st birthday this year and is the oldest established provincial society with a continuous record of meetings.

The Society holds fortnightly meetings in the Boardroom of Leeds General Infirmary between September and May, with invited displays, competitions and members' evenings. It has one of the best philatelic libraries in the country, housed on loan with the Leeds Central Reference Library.

The Society also sponsors an annual two-day stamp fair at Pudsey. It owns a Forgeries Reference Collection and Yorkshire Postal History Collections, available for study and display.

For more information contact John A Edwards FRPSL on 01977 793566, or email jedwards48@toucansurf.com.



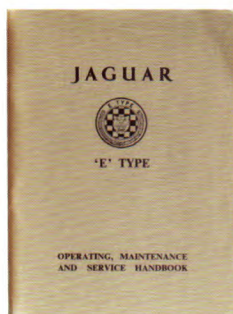
CLASSIC SPORTS CARS

ROYAL MAIL MINT STAMPS



From swallows to cats

Automobilia guru Ian Cooling tells the story behind a group of stamps with a best-of-British appeal



Above: a coveted handbook from 1961, the year the E-Type was launched.

Top: the Presentation Pack for the 1996 Classic Sports Cars set. The XK 120 is on the 43p stamp and also running along the top of pack.

BUILDING GLOBAL COMPANIES from Dad's garage is not the monopoly of the internet generation. The company that has grown into Jaguar Cars had its roots in Blackpool in 1920 when William Lyons spotted sidecars being made in the next door garage by his neighbour's son, William Walmesley. The two went into partnership and set up Swallow Sidecar Co after a slight delay while the 20-year old William Lyons' father counter-signed some papers for his under-age son.

Their reputation spread and the company also started to build Swallow bodies on a range of light car chassis. A single order from London car distributors Henly Ltd transformed the business. The order was for 500 Austin Swallows to be delivered at the rate of 20 a week. The company had already moved to larger premises in Blackpool and now it was time for another move: in 1928 the whole company relocated to Coventry, the heart of the British motor car industry, where William Lyons had found an empty World War I shell-filling factory. Three short years later saw the next major milestone, when the company launched their SSI and SSII cars at the 1931 Motor Show. These achieved William Lyons' dream of producing his own cars in his own right. The company became SS Cars to celebrate this pivotal moment.

The wartime years saw the famed fire-watching team of William Lyons, Bill Haynes, Claude Bailly and Wally Hassan sketching out the XK engine.

The company was renamed Jaguar Cars in 1945 and that engine powered their world-beating range of saloons and sports cars through the 1950s, a memorable decade for Jaguar, with no fewer than five wins at Le Mans.

The company continued to grow and the next move was to a larger site at Browns Lane on the outskirts of Coventry in 1952. Sir William Lyons was knighted for his services to the motor industry in 1956 and remained firmly in charge. However, a key deputy was engineer Bill Haynes. As well as his exceptional contribution to the world-class engineering that underpinned all Jaguar cars, Haynes kept the Jaguar candle burning during the dark days of the 1970s when the company was engulfed by British Leyland.

Few can have been more pleased or more justifiably proud than Haynes when John Egan led the company back out of British Leyland and into privatisation in 1984, excepting of course Sir William Lyons himself, who lived to see his company reborn. And there can be no doubt that the cars created on his watch were very close to that austere man's heart. This was beautifully illustrated by his gruff remark at the launch of the XJ series of Jaguar saloons in 1968. One of the journalists spotted that the word 'Jaguar' did not appear anywhere on the car and he mentioned this to Sir William. 'Not necessary,' came the succinct reply. 'It's obvious'.

Sir William would be equally proud of the company today. He did not see its absorption into Ford, but the move to the more sympathetic Tata group has been successful and one of the most widely recognised motoring brands in the world continues to make cars with their unique combination of power and style. A long journey indeed from that garage in the back streets of Blackpool nearly 100 years ago.

The E-Type Jaguar The quintessential 'classic car', the E-type's combination of timeless lines, race-bred engineering and superb drivability has arguably remained unsurpassed since the time of its launch at the 1961 Geneva Motor Show. After an epic night drive across Europe by Jaguar staffer Bob Berry, the E-type truly stopped the show at Geneva, with the crush around ► 212



Above: some famous errors occurred, including the Jaguar leaving behind the Minis on a few of the 6d stamps

Left: the first appearance of Jaguar cars on British stamps was in the British Technology issue, released on 19 September 1966. The 6d stamp features two cars that had already become icons of the Swinging Sixties – the E-Type and the Mini



The Stamp Collector's Motor Show.

This year the Post Office is coming to the Motor Show. You'll find us on Stand 133, with the National Motor Museum. Which is very appropriate.



For the British Motor Cars stamps, featuring four milestones in motoring history and their present day equivalents, will be on sale at the Show.



A stamp issue to be treasured by stamp collectors and car enthusiasts alike.

Just 90p buys the complete set of stamps. The handsome presentation pack with background detail and badge reproductions costs £1.10.

A beautiful full-colour wallchart, 23" x 33", featuring illustrations of the cars and containing a wealth of information is only £1.25.

Also available, a set of four postcards of the stamps which normally cost 50p.

4 for the price of 3!

But here's a special Motor Show offer. Bring this advertisement to our stand and all four cards are yours for the price of three (i.e. the complete set for 39p). If you can't make the Motor Show, use

the coupon to place your order direct.

P.S. With Christmas just around the corner, the British Motor Car stamps make an unusual and very welcome gift.

To order by Post

Simply complete this form and send it to your nearest Royal Mail Post Office. Your order will be sent to the Post Office.

British Motor Cars Issue

Set of 4 stamps 90p
Presentation pack £1.10
Wallchart £1.25
Set of 4 postcards 50p

Grand Total: £1.70

Postage and packing £0.20

Grand Total: £1.90

Postage and packing £0.20

Grand Total: £2.10

Postage and packing £0.20

Grand Total: £2.30

Postage and packing £0.20

Grand Total: £2.50

Postage and packing £0.20

Grand Total: £2.70

Postage and packing £0.20

Grand Total: £2.90

Postage and packing £0.20

Grand Total: £3.10

Postage and packing £0.20

Grand Total: £3.30

Postage and packing £0.20

Grand Total: £3.50

Postage and packing £0.20

Grand Total: £3.70

Postage and packing £0.20

Grand Total: £3.90

Postage and packing £0.20

Grand Total: £4.10

Postage and packing £0.20

Grand Total: £4.30

Postage and packing £0.20

Grand Total: £4.50

Postage and packing £0.20

Grand Total: £4.70

Postage and packing £0.20

Grand Total: £4.90

Postage and packing £0.20

Grand Total: £5.10

Postage and packing £0.20

Grand Total: £5.30

Postage and packing £0.20

Grand Total: £5.50

Postage and packing £0.20

Grand Total: £5.70

Postage and packing £0.20

Grand Total: £5.90

Postage and packing £0.20

Grand Total: £6.10

Postage and packing £0.20

Grand Total: £6.30



Clockwise from top left: advertisement for the Post Office stand at the 1982 Motor Show; Series 2 E-Type brochure; Royal Mail 1996 Classic Cars poster; FDC marking the 60th anniversary of Jaguar, using the 26p stamp from the 1982 British Motor Cars issue; a cover produced for the 1998 Biggin Hill International Air Fair, with a stamp from the 1996 Classic Sports Cars issue



Blackburn & Co. (Blackburn) Ltd. 175-176 High Street, Blackburn, Lancashire BB1 1JY



JAGUAR E-TYPE

50TH ANNIVERSARY



Stamp Design: © Royal Mail Group Ltd 2011



Left: this month Royal Mail issues a new Commemorative Stamp Sheet in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the launch of the Jaguar E-Type at the 1961 Geneva Moto Show. Complete with an illustrated insert card written by Nigel Thorley and designed by Turner Duckworth, the sheet complements the Design Classics stamp issue of 20

Background image: 1962 Jaguar E-Type Low Drag Lightweight GT Coupé ©Jaguar Cars.

Left column images: 1974 Jaguar E-Type Series 3 V Open Two-seater ©Jaguar Cars; headlamp of 1962 Jaguar E-Type Series 1 ©Turner Duckworth; rear view of 1962 Jaguar E-Type Low Drag Lightweight GT Coupé ©Jaguar Cars; flip-fronted bonnet of 196 Jaguar E-Type Series 1 ©Turner Duckworth; rear haunch of 1962 Jaguar E-Type Series 1 3.8L Open Two-seater ©Jaguar Cars;

Right column images: front view of Jaguar E-Type Series 1 Coupé ©Magiccarpics.com; bonnet air vents of 1961 Jaguar E-Type Coupé 3.8L Lightweight ©Jaguar Cars; dashboard and speed wheel of 1962 Jaguar E-Type Series 1 ©Turner Duckworth; rear three-quarter view of Jaguar E-Type Series 1 Coupé ©magiccarpics.com

Jaguar E-Type Commemorative Sheet, issued 30 March 2011

Number of stamps	Ten
Stamp design	CDT Design Limited
Acknowledgements	Union Flag stamp based on an original design by Dick Davis, with an illustration by Anton Morris. Car images, see above right.
Stamp format and size	Portrait, 20mm x 24mm
Print process/Printer	Lithography / Cartor Security Printing, Meaucé, France
Perforations	Die-cut simulated
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	Self-adhesive
Product code	AV013

Jaguar's stand and it still turns heads today. The glorious bodywork was honed by Malcolm Sayer, who had been recruited from Bristol Aircraft by Sir William Lyons to work on the C-Type and D-Type racers. Such a pedigree means that not only does the E-Type look good but it works well aerodynamically too. The D-Type connection is also evident under the bonnet; both cars were powered by the world-class XK engine mounted in a steel 'cage' in front of the main body shell. The package was completed by all-round independent suspension and the fine disc brakes that Jaguar had pioneered on the C-Type in the early 1950s. With those looks and the racing heritage, competitors were totally floored when the price was revealed – £1,480. To put that into perspective, in 1961 it was around half the price of an equivalent Aston Martin and a third of the price of a Ferrari.

The E-Type Series Like the XK sports car, the E-Type evolved through three models. The Series 1 was the launch car with its 3.8 litre engine and quite a crude gear box with a crash first gear. In 1964 a 4.2 litre engine was introduced. A longer 2+2 family version with a small bench seat for children arrived in 1966 to join the open two-seater and a fixed-head coupé models. An automatic gearbox was also offered for the first time with the 2+2 model.

The Series 2 followed in 1968. The principal changes were improved cooling, revised headlights and more comfortable seats. There were many minor changes – to the likes of dashboard switches, seat belts and a collapsible steering column – driven by the new US Federal regulations. This Series was powered by the 4.2 litre engine and all three body-styles were available immediately.

The final model – the Series 3 – was launched in 1971. This was a markedly different car. The main change was the replacement of the straight six XK engine by the mighty Jaguar V12. Visually, the long wheel-base 2+2 chassis was adopted for all models, the bonnet was restyled with a grille for the air intake and flares over the wheel arches that also appeared above the rear wheels. All this added weight and compared with the lithe Series 1 and Series 2, the Series 3 looked a little comfortable and middle-aged.

But these cold specification figures are never enough to define classic cars. They need to be driven. As well as being supremely good-looking, the E-type was also a surprisingly practical car. I have owned three of them, all Series 2. I did most of my own servicing and quite a few repairs. Other people have been impressed too. Schoolboys are a blasé audience for cars: 'Ferrari – yawn. Lamborghini? Seen one!' But they still stop to watch my E-type go past!

Another enduring memory is touring Europe to visit NATO units when I was in the Army. On my last visit to one of them, I couldn't resist the temptation to gun the car across the vast parade ground and screech to a stop in front of HQ in a cloud of rubber smoke. All hell broke loose. I was almost physically dragged before the Commanding Officer who launched into a long rant in a language I didn't understand, but the meaning was clear. Then, as his tirade ended, his face broke into a broad grin. He reached over his desk shook me by the hand and in impeccable English said 'Well done!' ●

Ian Cooling's website for all things Jaguar-related is www.jaguarautomobilia.com

Below: the cover of the 1961 E-type launch brochure. The illustration, by air-brush specialist John Beecham, shows the highly distinctive Moto Lita steering wheel that was fitted to all early E-Types. The original artwork for this cover is held in the Jaguar Heritage archives



The application of technology A round-up of apps for collectors and anyone who posts mail

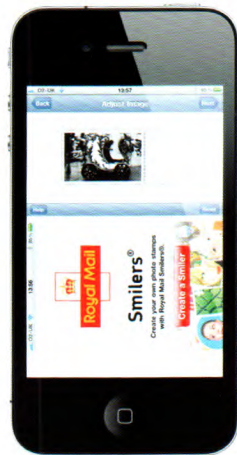
IF YOU HAVEN'T YET CAUGHT THE iPhone bug, there are a few applications (commonly known as apps) that might finally convince you to make the move. You will almost certainly be hooked, not least because you'll be able to access the mind-boggling research facilities of the internet while on the move – a boon to any philatelist.

First off is the recently launched UK Postage app by Hawk Innovations (available for 59p, from the Apple iTunes App store – as are all of these apps), which is already receiving positive reviews from users. Simply enter the weight of the item you want to post and press 'Show Me Postage', and all of the pricing options are displayed. When additional services like Signed For™ and Compensation™ are selected, you will get a price breakdown in the report view. A detailed service guide is included to help you with any queries. If you trade on eBay or often find yourself in a queue at the Post Office, this app is incredibly useful. It is, in essence, a portable UK postage calculator that supports all versions of iPhone and iPod Touch devices running iPhone OS version 2.0 or greater.

Next is the free Smilers® app. This makes the most of iPhone technology – you can quickly make a bespoke stamp using photos already stored on your phone. Once you've chosen a picture from your library, select a round or rectangular design, crop it to suit, and then choose which stamps you'd like it to sit alongside. The stamps cost £7.80 (plus p&p) for 10 first-class or £13.95 (plus p&p) for 20 and will be delivered within five days. You will need a PayPal account to buy them. It's frighteningly addictive...

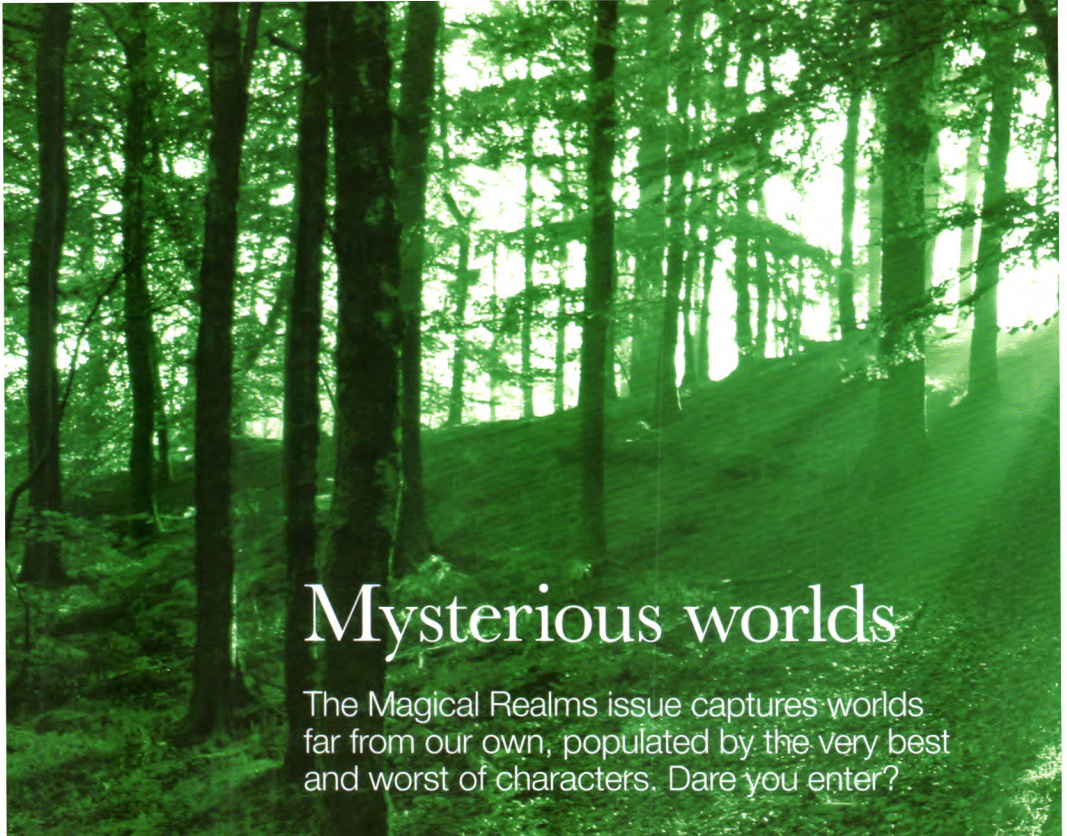
Apps designed specifically for stamp collectors include iNowCollect – GB Stamps (£7.49). This app was developed to help you manage your stamp collection on the go. It has details on over 5,700 items from 1840 onwards and promises to update you when new issues are released. You'll never buy a duplicate stamp again! UK Stamps (£6.99) is a similar app and, although it doesn't update with new issues, it does have a nifty link that can help you search for missing items online. And in the unlikely event that you've forgotten what a se-tenant is, for example, the Philatelic Terms app (£1.79) will jog your memory. Then there's the philatelically indulgent Stamps app (£1.19) which doesn't do anything very clever but allows you to luxuriate in the images of 200 of the world's most visually interesting stamps. We feel there are more than a few screensavers in this one. Included are stamps issued in countries from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe (but there are no GB stamps) and the earliest is from 1892. You can search by country or theme or just leave the slideshow rolling. Be warned though, it's absolutely huge and can take a while to download and will swallow a fair bit of your iPhone's memory.

No doubt more postal and stamp collecting apps will be developed in the future – we'll keep *Bulletin* readers posted ●



Above: the Smilers® app allows you to create personalised stamps at the touch of a button

With details of 5,700 items from 1840 onwards, you'll never buy a duplicate stamp again ●



Mysterious worlds

The Magical Realms issue captures worlds far from our own, populated by the very best and worst of characters. Dare you enter?

SINCE THE DAWN OF TIME, the natural wonders and supernatural possibilities of life have inspired mankind to imagine stories of mystery and legend. The human mind is drawn to the contemplation of a world beyond the physical, and so extraordinary tales have been created, with the power to enthral audiences over centuries as they are passed from generation to generation in many forms – from the spoken word to the podcast, from folklore to blockbuster novel, from cave paintings to cinematic CGI.

These epic grown-up versions of fairy tales provide us with escapism and allow us to imagine what life might be like with magical forces at play. In magical realms the battle of good versus evil usually takes centre stage, but that does not make all tall tales the same. Folklore consists of ancient, locally pertinent stories such as Robin Hood, Jack the Giant Killer and Tom Thumb. Myths, whose tradition goes back to the ancient Greeks, are similar to allegories and usually concern sacred narratives thought to have been devised to influence human behaviour. And legends concern important stories which are believed by the listener and reciter to have actually happened, even if this includes supernatural events such as miracles.

In tribute to such timeless feats of the imagination, a new special issue called *Magical Realms* follows narrative themes from legend through to contemporary fantasy. Today's magical realms are the domain of Pratchett





and Rowling, modern-day storytellers who have taken the principles of the old works and woven in contemporary influences, beliefs and concerns. You don't have to know your Hagrid from your Vortigern to recognise that there's something beguiling about the elaborately imagined worlds and characters represented on the stamps released on 8 March.

An embarrassment of riches Research conducted by Professor Miranda Aldhouse Green (author of *Boudicca Britannia*) into the stories and characters most loved by enthusiasts threw up a veritable galaxy of material, and this was whittled down to the four areas thought to best demonstrate the breadth and variety of the genre in our time, when there has been a resurgence in interest in the fantastical. There were hundreds of characters to consider and those finally chosen were deemed to best represent not only the individual works they sprang from but the overall theme of Magical Realms. Whether they send a shiver down your spine or raise a wry smile, these powerful images are likely to spark a response.

Direct from *Discworld* Two of the 1st Class stamps feature characters from prolific fantasy author Terry Pratchett: Rincewind was the first protagonist of *Discworld*, a wizard with no skill, no wizardly qualifications and no ►

First class characters:
above, clockwise from top left
– Rincewind and Nanny Ogg
from Terry Pratchett's
Discworld books; Dumbledore
and Lord Voldemort from JK
Rowling's *Harry Potter* series.
Far left: Merlin's Bridge
pictorial postmark. For other
postmarks and technical
details of stamps, see
February Bulletin page 167



The 60p stamps show Morgan Le Fay and Merlin from Arthurian Legend and the 97p stamps feature the White Witch and Aslan from CS Lewis's *Narnia*

interest in heroics but a very good grasp of language. He is a cowardly underdog, something of an everyman, who is thrust into danger at every turn yet manages to survive. Occasionally he even saves *Discworld* itself. Rincewind is, essentially, a very human non-human.

The aesthetically challenged Gytha Ogg, also known as Nanny, is a popular witch from the *Discworld* series. She is the head of the Lancre coven and the giver of very good advice. She is also an archetypal matriarch, having produced 15 children and hordes of grandchildren. But to add a Pratchett-esque twist to the proceedings, Nanny Ogg subverts her type by being a distinctly *kind* witch.

Hero and villain Two more 1st Class

characters come from the world-famous tales of Harry Potter. Dumbledore is headmaster of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry (played in the films by Sir Michael Gambon since Richard Harris's death in 2002). His creator describes him as 'the epitome of goodness', and thus he is forever pitched in a battle against evil. Joining him is the dark wizard, Lord Voldemort – an unrecognisably ghoulish Ralph Fiennes features on the stamp in character from the film adaptation.

Arthurian gravitas For the 60p stamps, we delve further back in time to meet Merlin, the most famous wizard of all. Our version of Merlin appeared in Geoffrey of Monmouth's *Historia Regum Britanniae*, written in the 12th century – a work of fiction which was credited as real for centuries. He was the amalgamation of many folkloric and historical characters. Also from the Arthurian legend, Morgan le Fay is a sorceress, healer, shape-shifter and witch who trained in magic under Merlin but had much less honourable intentions. The legend of Morgana is one that permeates many European cultures and she became prominent in the later cyclical prose works as an antagonist to King Arthur and Queen Guinevere.

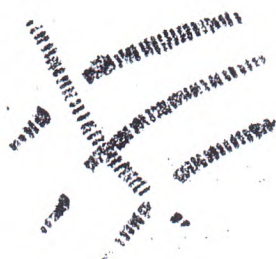
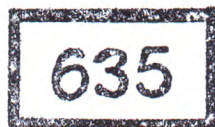
Narnia's battling legends The 97p stamps take their inspiration from *Narnia*. Aslan, the talking 'Great Lion', is the central character in CS Lewis's *The Chronicles of Narnia*, and the eponymous beast of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. He is also the only character to appear in all seven books of the series, and is wise, gentle and kind. In wicked contrast comes the White Witch Jadis, the main villain of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. Forcing Narnia into a hundred-year winter, this cruel Amazonian sorceress (pictured on the stamp sporting Aslan's mane) was played by Tilda Swinton in the film *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* •

Amusing aberrations from John Newcomb

YES, AMUSING POSTMARKS DO HAPPEN, usually as a very human response to a crisis or when an item of mail is involved in a mishap. If a stamp is missed by the postmarking process, it can be cancelled with a 'killer' – sounds grim, but far better than a ballpoint pen scribble! Here are some examples.

As shown right, the 148 (Buntingford) and 567 (Newton Abbot) are genuine survivors of the Victorian era, while 635 (Reading), 498 (Manchester), GW (Glasgow) and IS (Mount Pleasant) are modern marks. The first four numbers are a legacy of the 19th century series.

Necessity is the mother of invention The three marks below, clockwise from bottom left, were made by using the bottom of a date-stamp handle without the die; and the serrated rim of a die.



The Postmaster
is very sorry that
this packet has
been accidentally
damaged / delayed
in the post.

(Initials)

P 125H EATEN BY
SNAILS



Victim of a midnight feast? I am reliably informed that snails in the West Country have a particular liking for ending their evening meal with a large helping of envelope. Some country letter boxes become home to an escargatoire of snails, who can feast away undisturbed all through Saturday and Sunday when there are no collections. And so there are post offices that undertake the regular autumn task of repairing partly devoured letters and endorsing them 'Eaten by snails', as in the example above.

Missed the boat The monks on Caldey Island, South Wales, run their own post office and sometimes mail that didn't catch the boat is marked 'Delayed by rough seas' (see below). Mr I J Billings kindly showed us an envelope bearing this mark and on the reverse is CALDEY ISLAND TENBY/-PEMB- struck in black ink by standard double-circle handstamp. An ▶

enquiry about the line marking brought a reply from Father Bernard Tanner, the Parish Priest of Caldey Island.

DELAYED BY ROUGH SEAS,

Footnotes Among my favourite odd marks are letters that have fallen to the floor and received a grey dust print from a branded shoe: was this one an 1979 original New Balance® trainer? That one a Doc Martens®? I very much enjoyed finding a clear imprint of a tyre mark in a delicate shade of brown. My ambition for this quaint sub-section of my collection is to find an envelope that has escaped the loading process at Heathrow, blown away over the tarmac and been run over by an aircraft wheel.

Stowaways When mail is emptied from mailbags in a sorting office, the bags are turned inside out to make sure they are empty. However, there is always the exception to the rule. Mailbags are regularly sent for cleaning at a Bag Control centre, where they are turned inside out by compressed air, so that dust and anything else left in the bag is forcibly ejected. Items such as letters are caught by wire netting strategically positioned at the mouth of the bag.

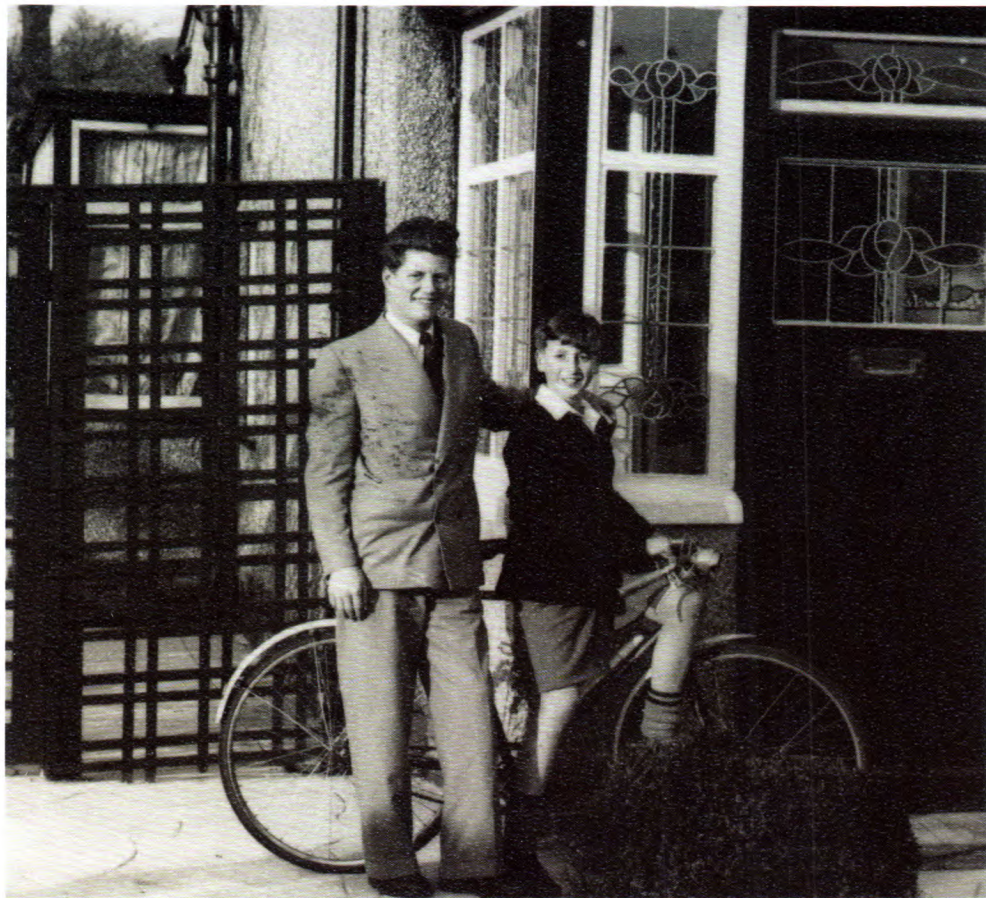
Letters found in supposedly empty bags from sorting offices are likely to have been postmarked already and a mark of the type illustrated left (applied at the Liverpool Bag Centre) is applied to the back of letters to explain any delay. In the case of an item that had been lurking in a 'collection' bag with no postmark, one assumes the mark would still be applied before it is put into the sorting office. A mark for a similar purpose was – and presumably still is – also used at London Mount Pleasant. The mark on the right (and much of the information above) was kindly shown to us by Mr J Swales.



Damage limitation Items that suffer damage in transit are repaired if they are spotted. Birmingham has a handstamp inscribed BROKEN PACKETS, while Glasgow's mark, shown right, is a more imaginative – at first I thought REWRAP was a little known part of the city, and then the penny dropped! ● *John Newcomb is a member of the British Postmark Society. For more information visit www.britishpostmarksociety.org.uk. For membership enquiries write to John Strachan, 12 Dunavon Park, Strathaven ML10 6LP or email johlen@stracml10.freemove.co.uk*

E.  R.
GENERAL POST OFFICE
Found open or damaged
(Arrive ouvert ou avarié)
officially secured
(et remis en état).
Initials.....



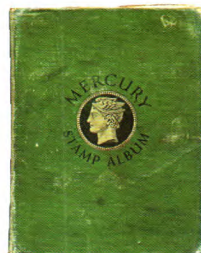


Across the universe

Kathryn Saville looks at John Lennon's schoolboy collection and shares some of her collection of worldwide stamps celebrating his life and work

WHEN A TEN-YEAR-OLD Liverpoolian boy was given a slightly battered stamp album by his cousin in 1950, he probably didn't imagine that his own face would end up gracing philatelic matter all over the world. But this was John Winston Lennon, a boy destined for an extraordinary if all-too-brief life and whose music was to touch millions of people.

We can suppose that he already possessed a vivid imagination and an exceptional drive to explore new ideas and places, and so his cousin's ►



Stanley Parkes (pictured, above, with Lennon as a child) gave this green 'Mercury' album to his cousin John



Top: Lennon's doodling of beards on a 1940 stamp.
Above: Lennon added in new countries as they were formed
Main picture: in his typical schoolboy's album, Lennon kept a quite respectable collection of world stamps



stamps undoubtedly offered the young Lennon a welcome glimpse of a world far beyond post-war Liverpool. Growing up in his aunt Mimi's house at 251 Menlove Avenue, he steamed off stamps from letters sent from New Zealand and America, and must have dreamed, as children do, of making a great escape. (The semi-detached house, at Menlove Avenue, was bought by Lennon's widow Yoko Ono in 2002 and donated to the National Trust.) Lennon experienced a distinctly suburban childhood. And what were most small boys in middle-class 1950s Britain up to if it wasn't stamp collecting, the era's equivalent of the internet for discovering the globe?

A suitable pastime

Lennon's cousin, Stanley Parkes was seven years older than John and was moving on to other interests when he handed over the used Mercury stamp album. John promptly erased his cousin's name, added his and (probably) did a little bit of scribbling. The 'embellishments' seen on the 1940 anniversary stamps (top, left) have more than a whiff of Lennon subversion about them.

Lennon built up his collection over the years by pouncing on letters from relatives abroad as they hit the doormat, and swapping stamps at school. Sadly, he wasn't in touch with his father – a merchant seaman – at that time, although he must have thought of his father's whereabouts every time he 'discovered' a new country on a stamp. By the time music, art and girls refocused Lennon's attention, he had what Richard Purkis of Stanley Gibbons has described as 'a quite impressive schoolboy collection' of 565 world stamps.

The first album

In 2005 the Green Mercury album resurfaced having been sold once before at Christie's to a private American collector who now wanted to sell. The Smithsonian National Postal Museum in Washington, DC contacted Stanley Gibbons as soon as the news hit the web. The museum's curator of philately,

Wilson Hulme, flew to London the following week and secured the album (for what was estimated to be around \$53,000). The Smithsonian team had already taken the trouble to contact Stanley Parkes to verify the album's provenance.

As a collection, Hulme admitted at the time, Lennon's cache is not especially distinguished: 'Typically, young boys aren't interested in rarity. They tend to concentrate on geography and colours. If they come back to collecting when they have more time and money, that's when collections become exceptional.'

'But these days,' he added, 'fewer young people are coming into the hobby. We're very interested in getting their attention, which is one of the reasons we were so interested in this collection.' Now the young Liverpoolian's stamp album resides at the Smithsonian – in Lennon's adopted country – and can be seen online at <http://postalmuseum.si.edu/lennon/>.

Lennon as subject

Thematic collectors in this area can go one of three ways, seeking Lennon on Beatles stamps (of which there are a good number, including 2007's album set), Lennon with Ono (a few) and Lennon on his own. The only British stamp with Lennon's post-Beatles likeness is the GB and Australia joint issue of 1988, released to celebrate the Australian bicentenary. The 34p stamp featured John Lennon alongside William Shakespeare (shown left). Germany also commemorated Lennon in 1988 with other late greats as part of their Youth Welfare charity issue.

Then, in 1995, there was something of a free-for-all. Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Ghana, Guyana, Mali, the Maldives, Nicaragua and Palau issued Lennon stamps co-ordinated by the 'Inter-Governmental Philatelic Corporation', an American company that acted as postal advisers, designers and agents for 65 countries. Palau's stamps showed Lennon in his early Beatle days, Ghana's in the year of his death, 1980, and the rest of the issues showed him at various periods in between. In 1996 Chad issued two different sheets with John Lennon and three years later, the world began to go millennium crazy. Gibraltar, where Lennon and Yoko Ono married in 1969, marked what would have been their 30th wedding anniversary with a special issue on 20 March 1999 consisting of three different stamps and a miniature sheet (shown, left).

All is not what it seems

There are, as with many thematic subjects, a fair number of 'unlisted' – stamps that were never issued for official postal use. Online, you can find Lennon stamps from Abkhazia, Tajikistan, Somalia, Turkmenistan, Tanzania, Timor, Mordovia, Nicaragua, the Congo, St Thomas and Prince Islands but it's very hard to tell whether they were ever in use and therefore legitimate. Finding used, cancelled versions would, of course, be the first port of call. ►

Below: a 1988 stamp jointly issued by Australia and the GB shows Lennon and Shakespeare
Bottom: Gibraltar commemorated John and Yoko's wedding anniversary in 1999





Clockwise from top, left: issues from Gibraltar, Germany and the UV-printed Icelandic stamp. Below: the St Vincent stamps and a sheet from Palau

One Lennon stamp that is undoubtedly genuine and highly collectible is an interesting stamp that was inspired by Lennon's work – and it requires a little more detective work. Lennon's face isn't immediately obvious on this peace-themed stamp (shown above, left) because it's printed in UV ink – the effect achieved once the light is right is that of Lennon's face glowing in the dark. The stamps, designed by Icelandic artist Örn Smári Gíslason, were printed by Enschedé Security Print in Holland in 2008.

Full circle

In 1971, the year that Lennon released the seminal track *Imagine*, he also designed a set of 'stamps' to support striking postal workers. Typically anti-establishmentarian, the stamp shows a clenched fist (a symbol also chosen for David Gentleman's social reformers series five years later). Lennon's 'strike stamps' were last seen at auction in 2003 and, estimated to reach £800, they sold for £1,260 •



The ten o'clock show Adrian Keppel reviews this fast-paced auction site

Who is the website for? The website at www.theteno'clockshow.co.uk is a vehicle for the trading activities of the Ten O'clock Show Ltd, which deals mainly in British Commonwealth material and specialises in job lots. The name comes from the fact that all of their online auctions end at 10pm GMT.

What's the site's heritage? The company is based in Market Harborough and has been dealing in British Commonwealth job lots and accumulations, and other memorabilia, on eBay since 2002.

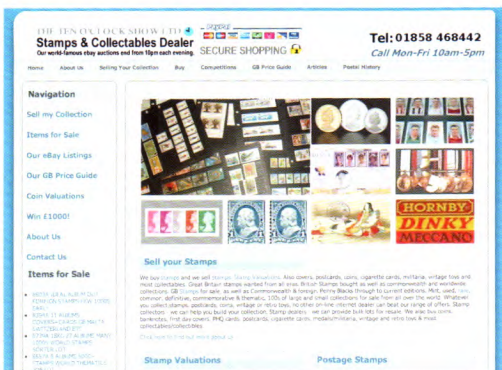
How is it organised? Navigation is simple with two panels on the home page, leading off to concise information on the subjects clicked upon, with the 'Buy' option leading you directly to the eBay website, where you'll find further options to search on themes such as 'GB' and 'military'. The home page also includes a few sale highlights and has a Yahoo panel which shows randomly chosen sites of interest to philatelists.

What are the best bits? The site aims to be more than just the lead-up to the eBay site and includes 750 articles. These vary from very short news titbits to more elaborate musings, and often have links to external sites with more information. Another handy feature is a list of market prices – as opposed to usually inflated catalogue values – for all GB stamps. These are subdivided per reign for easy navigation, with the current reign being split up into decimal and pre-decimal. Another highlight is the competition which is so fiendishly complex that it has me baffled. But then, there is a GB Seahorse up for grabs (plus £1,000 cash) so it is worth losing sleep over!

What could be improved? The articles index doesn't always work properly, making it hard to search the articles for anything specific. Also, some of the news items could do with a date, for not everyone will realise that the 'newly issued' stamps shown are actually from 2009.

In conclusion As a trading site it is very straightforward and the articles are an interesting sideline that lead you to other philatelic websites. If this bit were to be improved with a better index or search function, you could easily spend many an afternoon browsing through the variety of information on offer. And oh, there's that challenging competition... ●

Adrian Keppel is a philatelic reporter whose collecting interests include the Queen Wilhelmina era of the Netherlands and the philatelic aftermath of WWI.



Covers of the season

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Cover producers wishing to announce a recent or forthcoming cover should submit copy of up to 75 words and an image of the cover. Announcements are published on a first-come-first-served basis or around a theme, at the discretion of the editor. Please send submission for April Bulletin to the address on page 197 to arrive by 22 March 2011.



Buckingham Birds of Britain 2 Top has Post & Go stamps with same serial number. **Price:** £12.95; signed by Vicki Michelle £24.95. The second, with different numbers, is posted at Dove Green.

Price: £14.95; signed by Pauline Quirk £24.95 ●



British Wildlife Smilers® Sheet featuring ten close-ups of wonderfully varied British wildlife, against a forest glade background.

Price: £49.95 including p&p ●

Nene Valley Railway In addition to the Royal Mail stamps of the Classic Locomotives of England special issue, this Nene Valley Railway cover also carries an NVR Letter Service 25p stamp with the NVR cachet of the City of Peterborough locomotive. The three first-day-of-issue postmarks are of New Street Birmingham. **Price:** £6.20 including p&p ●



WWF 50th Anniversary Buckingham Covers have worked with the Born Free Foundation to produce the cover below. It is linked to the Zoo Check project, which takes action to stop captive animal suffering, challenge the global captive animal industry and phase-out zoos and animal circuses. **Price:** £12.95; signed by Jenny Seagroave £24.95, excluding p&p ●



Keeping it wild This Miniature Sheet cover from Buckingham features a jaguar. **Price:** £12.95 or signed by Virginia McKenna £24.95 ●



Cambridge Commemoratives Above left: Operation Sunfish and HMS Khedive, 1945, autographed by Leading Seaman Ronald Gartside. Above right: Operation Tungsten featuring HMS Furious, cover signed by Rear Admiral Ian George William Robertson. **Price:** £24.95 each, excluding p&p ●

Prize draw puzzlers Testing your mettle

Don't miss your chance to win a prize selection of Royal Mail First Day Covers in this month's two competitions:

KNOWLEDGE 2011 is the Year of the Rabbit, the fourth animal in the 12-year cycle of the Chinese zodiac, and that's a good enough reason for three questions about rabbits on stamps:

- a) Name the story in which Mrs Rabbit's walk in the rain is illustrated as in the stamp on the right.



- b) When was Beatrix Potter's *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* chosen as fitting theme to celebrate the Year of the Child?



- c) In what year did Peter Rabbit pop up on the stamp shown right?

IDENTIFY The stamp shown in the detail on the right was one of a Royal Mail Special Issue stamp set. What was the name of the set and in what year was it issued?



HOW TO ENTER

Please send your answers on separate postcards, marked *March Identify* or *March Knowledge* and with your name and contact details in capital letters to:

The British Philatelic Bulletin,
1st Floor, 35-50 Rathbone Place,
London W1T 1HQ

Closing date: 8 April 2011.

The senders of the first correct answers drawn from the postbag after the closing date will each receive a selection of the latest Royal Mail stamps and associated philatelic products. ●

January results



IDENTIFY The stamp detail was taken from the 12p stamp of the 1985 Christmas Pantomime Special Issue, shown left.

Winner David Owen of Oerlinghausen, Germany.

KNOWLEDGE

- a) The Soviet Union was the first country in the world to honour Robbie Burns with a commemorative stamp in 1956.
b) Burns first appeared on a GB stamps in 1966; special 4d and 1s 3d values carried his portrait.
c) A special issue of 1992 paid tribute to Tennyson.
Winner John Sparham of Margate.

Rules and regulations

- 1** The closing date is 8 April 2011.
- 2** Promotions are open to all readers aged 18 and over, except employees of Royal Mail Group Ltd, their business associates and immediate families.
- 3** Responsibility cannot be accepted for entries which are incomplete, damaged or not received for any reason. Proof of posting is not proof of receipt. Prizes must be accepted as offered; they are not transferable and there are no cash alternatives.
- 4** Winners are notified within 28 days of closing date.
- 5** For prize draws where readers must answer a question or solve a crossword, winners will be the senders of the first correct entries drawn at random by an independent service after the closing date.
- 6** Promoter's decision on any aspect of the promotions is final. No correspondence will be entered into.
- 7** Entry implies acceptance of these rules.
- 8** Prizes are subject to suitability and availability. The promoter reserves the right to a) substitute a prize of equal or greater value if circumstances so demand and b) to suspend or cancel or hold void any of the competitions or prize draws at any time without notice.
- 9** Winners' names are available 28 days after closing date; send an SAE to Melanie Williams, the *British Philatelic Bulletin*, Royal Mail 1st Floor, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ. The promoter is Royal Mail Group Ltd, 100 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0HQ.



A serious case of nostalgia

Railway Heritage Portfolio, part 2

Chuffed with the Classic Locomotives of England stamps? Then this collector's portfolio could be just the ticket. The sturdy presentation box contains plan illustrations of each locomotive featured on the stamps. Each print is produced to a high quality and comes with its associated stamp, affixed and cancelled.

The Portfolio also includes a complete set of stamp cards and a fold-out poster giving technical data on each train, as well as a map of its operating line. Price: £24.95.



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