

BRITISH PHILATELIC

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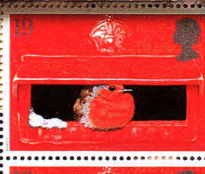
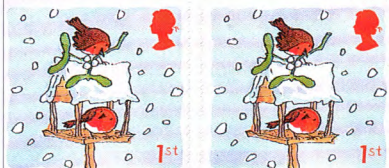
Bulletin

Queen Victoria • Letter box stamps • Machin variations



Royal Mail

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BY AIR MAIL
par avion

Royal Mail

Airletter



Royal Mail

24



Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



Cover A collection of Royal Mail's products for Christmas. Illustrations by Arthur Robins are featured on stamps and the airletter. Photograph by Geoff Dann.

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

30 October

Issue Christmas stamp cards.

6 November

Issue Christmas stamps, pack, stamp books, and airletter (English and Welsh versions), 2001 Year-book and Yearpack.

6 November

Withdrawal Millennium Spirit & Faith (Christmas) stamps, pack, stamp and stamp book, 2000 Year-book and Yearpack.

Smilers stamps from photo booths at Post Offices

Sheets of Christmas stamps with personalised images will be available from photo booths at six main post offices – details of five were given in the supplement to last month's *Bulletin*. The sixth office is Canterbury Post Office, 29 High Street, Canterbury CT1 2BA.

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Queen Victoria on stamps

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The British Philatelic Bulletin is published monthly by Royal Mail, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8HQ. • **Editor** JR Holman • **Price** 85p for single copies, from Post Office Counters philatelic outlets • **Annual subscription** £9.50 in UK and Europe; £13.50 rest of the world. Subscriptions should be sent to Royal Mail Talents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB • **Binders** to hold 24 issues, price £7, are available by post from Royal Mail (Edinburgh address above) • Royal Mail also publishes the fortnightly *British Postmark Bulletin*, which gives details of forthcoming special hand-stamps. Available on annual subscription, from Edinburgh address above: UK and Europe £10, rest of the world £21.75 • **Copyright** Design and text Consignia plc, unless attributed to a specific author. Requests to reproduce any article should be sent to the Editor, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8HQ • **Design** by Robert Maude • **Printed** in Great Britain by The White Dove Press • **ISSN** 0953 8119 • Royal Mail is a trading name of Consignia plc. Registered in England and Wales, number 4138203, registered office 148 Old Street, London EC1Y 9HQ

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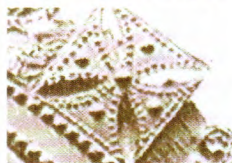


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Stamp scene Literature • Young collectors

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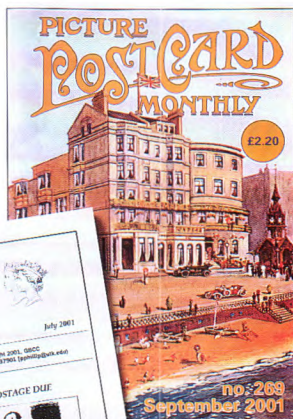


Dr P Adby 13 Winsor Road,
Rolvenden Layne, Cranbrook
TN17 4NL.

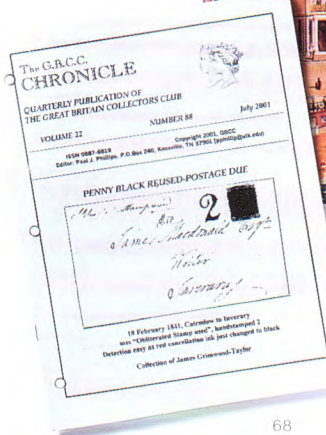
GB literature Dr Paul Adby has published *Great Britain Barcoded Stamp Booklets and Booklet Panes 1987-2000*, a useful, illustrated listing which will serve as a quick-reference guide to collectors of these many and complicated issues. He lists the window books under 15 headings, depending on book style and printer, with further sections on pictorial booklets, booklet panes divided between panes with ordinary perforations, those with elliptical perfs, and those printed by EME computer engraving. Illustrations show the numerous variations in the positions of phosphor bands – a subject of fascination to the specialist collector. The listings include variations to the basic books and panes, a reference number and a valuation code – ranging from A (5p-10p) to Q (£5000+). The 124-page work is spiral-bound with laminated covers, price £12.50 postpaid. Dr Adby has also published a catalogue of Aerogrammes, and a GB Collector's Database •

Picture Postcard Monthly is available at postcard fairs or direct from the publishers at 15 Debdale Lane, Keyworth, Nottingham NG12 5HT. Telephone 0115 937 4079.

Picture Postcard Monthly often contains articles and notes of interest to postal historians. The September issue includes a nicely illustrated article on the 1911 Coronation Aerial Post by Ray Billings. The illustrations show pilot Gustav Hemel signing for the first Aerial Post mail bag, the first return flight from Windsor on 17 September and the plaque at Shaw Farm Meadow, Windsor commemorating the flights. In 'Clubscene' we learn that the Festival of Britain Society has over 200 members and in this the Festival's 50th anniversary year, they have given talks to groups and on radio, and helped mount exhibitions and loaned material for articles and displays •



The July issue of the *Chronicle*, published by the Great Britain Collectors Club, contains Larry Rosenblum's 'Mostly Machins' in which he makes pertinent points about the number of new issues and tie-in products, Bob Ausubel's 'Channel Hopper' looking at ship definitives of the Isle of Man, Viv Sussex's 'Postal History' on Diverted Falmouth Packet Boats, and Paul Phillips's 'Dead Letters' article on the markings of the Returned Letter Office. The key feature is Paul Phillips's interview with James Grimwood-Taylor, one of the UK's leading postal historians. As well as research and writing, James is active in philatelic societies and runs Cavendish Philatelic Auctions. Mr Phillips asked him how he achieved it all, to which James replied: '24-hour-a-day hobby-work is the answer! I enjoy the hobby enough to do little else. As for productivity, that is all down to self-discipline, time-management and a very supportive wife... Yes, I guess it is all healthy synergism too.' He also made a very valid point about



the need for general as well as specialist societies, praising the National Philatelic Society as 'a very good all-rounder society'. Asked about the phenomenal success of Cavendish Auctions in recent years, James explains this is due to 'pure hard work' by his 13 full-time staff – all stamp/postal history collectors. There is a moral there for other organisations involved in philatelic trading. The interview is wide-ranging, including comments on current GB issues, and James's two well-known private collections on the Postal Reforms of 1839-40 and British islands postal history. Some key items from his collection are illustrated. An important interview about an important person in British philately. This series of interviews of key figures in British philately is developing well; the next subject, in the October issue, will be David Aggersberg, Stanley Gibbons Catalogue Editor •

The 2002 edition of Stanley Gibbons Part 1 catalogue is now available. Vol 1 lists the stamps of Great Britain and Commonwealth countries A-I, vol 2 countries J-Z. Each volume costs £39.95. The *Stamps of the World Catalogue*, now in four volumes, will be published in November. The volumes cover countries A-D, E-J, K-R and S-Z, and cost £29.95 per volume. The complete work lists over 375,000 stamps and has nearly 90,000 illustrations. The 2002 edition of *Collect British Stamps* will be published on 23 November. A new thematic catalogue – *Collect Road Transport Stamps* – is in preparation •

The September/October issue of *The GB Journal* (published by the GB Philatelic Society) contains articles and notes on the George v 1½d Cyprus green, security underprints, airmail etiquettes, 1883 9d green on cover, early use of the Penny Black Plate 1B, Victorian inland postal rates, George v controls and varieties, and a Penny Red plate 165 re-entry. It also includes reviews of the SG *GB Specialised Catalogue* vol 1, the Viewlite Portable Light Source for watermark detecting, and a listing of current Society publications. In the accompanying *Newsletter* (No 271), Society President Chris Harman points out that the meetings for 2001/2 include displays of modern material – somewhat neglected by the GBPS in recent years. He hopes that the successful provincial meeting in York in July will be followed by another in Edinburgh or Glasgow in late 2002. As well as Society news, the *Newsletter* includes useful notes on unappropriated dies, Wildings, coat-ings and gums, ½d line-engraved of 1870, and exhibiting and competing. Serious collectors of GB are bound to find something of interest in the two publications •

Thematica II This year's Thematica II exhibition will be held on Friday and Saturday, 23 and 24 November at the Carisbrooke Hall, Seymour Street, London W2 (close to Marble Arch underground station on the Central Line). Admission is free. The exhibition will be open from 10.30 to 18.30 on Friday; from 10.00 to 17.00 on Saturday. As always there will be dealers from many parts of the world, bringing with them varied stocks specially selected with the thematic collector in mind. Thematica II will also include activities specially aimed at younger visitors. With Oxford Street just around the corner, why not make Thematica II a family day out? •

GBCC For details contact the Secretary-Treasurer: Parker A Bailey, 17 Greenwood Road, Merrimack, NH 03054, USA.

Enquiries Stanley Gibbons Publications, Parkside, Ringwood BH24 3SH. Telephone +44 (0)1425 472363.

GB Philatelic Society The Society's next meeting will be at the British Philatelic Centre, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1 on 17 November. At 11.00 Oliver Ffooks shows the 1883/84 Lilac and Green Issue, followed at 14.00 by a display on the 2d Blue 1840-58 by Lady Mairi Bury.

For information about Society membership contact A Lajer, Old Post Office, Davis Way, Hurst, Reading RG10 0TR. Telephone 0118 934 4151.



Philanippon The impressive building 'Tokyo Big Sight' was the venue for the World Stamp Exhibition held 1-7 August. Access was easy via an overhead railway system, with trains at five minute intervals. The official opening ceremony was performed by Prince Takamandoo, entry was free and there were long queues every morning before opening time. The exhibitions were housed in one large L-shaped hall. Overhead banners clearly showed the classes and frame numbers. It was encouraging to see so many visitors looking at the exhibits. There was a Court of Honour including three invited entries from Britain: Jane Moubray, Patrick Pearson and Dr Alan Huggins. Children were catered for in a very busy 'Stamp Town' and there were demonstrations of printing techniques. A 'personal stamp' stand was equipped with camera equipment but was not as busy as the Japanese PO counters. An exhibition passport was on sale, resulting in crowds around the postal administration stands. Overall it was a very friendly exhibition, very efficiently organised.

Awards to British philatelists included large gold medals to Alan Huggins and Richard Stevenson for 'King Edward VII Postal Stationery' and 'Moreton Bay and Queensland 1850-79'. Gold medals were awarded to James Grimwood-Taylor, Dr Paul Hirsch, Otto Hornung, David Springbett, and Dr Arthur Woo. A further seven collectors received large vermeil and vermeil medals. There were two entries in the Open Class: 'The Early Hotels of Jaffa and Jerusalem' (Denis Vandervelde) and 'The Russo-Japanese War' (Ken Clark). In the Literature Class, Stanley Gibbons Ltd gained medals for four of its catalogues and for *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*; other medals went to *Pratique* (journal of the Disinfected Mail Study Circle), John Campbell's *The Place of Stones – Mafeking Siege Stamps and Banknotes*, Ken Clark's *Kibu Shimibun*, and *Stamp Magazine*. Report from Brian Sole, GB Commissioner •

Details of Chester 2000 can be found on website: www.chester2000stamps.co.uk

Chester 2000 This exhibition is the next Association of British Philatelic Societies national exhibition, following on from the very successful Glasgow 2000. It is being held at Chester Racecourse, 29 & 30 November 2002. Amongst the attractions will be material from the Royal Philatelic Collection never seen before in public, plus many top class competitive exhibits and dealers from all over the UK and overseas •



Young philatelists at the Royal's 2001 Youth Day.

Youth Day at Royal Following the successful introduction of a Young Collectors Day at the Royal Philatelic Society London last January, it has been decided to repeat the event on 26 January 2002, from 14.00 to 16.30. All will be welcome at this meeting with 'hands on' involvement with stamps, standing instructive and entertaining displays, and tea for all visitors. Those wishing to attend should contact John Davis of the National Youth Stamp Group (telephone 01295 255831), or the Secretary of the Royal (020 7486 1044) •

Letter Box Study Group The Group recently celebrated its 25th anniversary at Leamington Spa where it was formed back in 1976. The August Newsletter, edited and published by Arthur Hunt, includes a report on the meeting held in London in June, and of the activities of members. Arthur Reeder gave a talk about his collection of letter boxes on BBC London Live radio and featured in the 'Strange but True' column in the *News of the World*. He is also to appear in the forthcoming book *English Eccentrics*. Arthur, who writes in the Newsletter about Hong Kong Pillar Box No 368, has a collection of over 100 post boxes. Sadly the Newsletter reports damage to another Penfold box, this time in Norwich. The box is to be repaired to be placed in a museum and a replica will be put into use probably at a safer location than its predecessor. Ron Hall reports on the Photographic Archives and Andrew Young on the Group's Internet Mailing list •

Letter Box Study Group For details of membership write to Val Scott, 38 Leopold Avenue, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham B20 1ES.

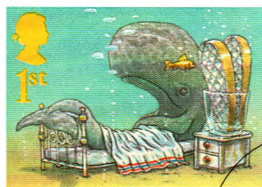
The Group publishes lists of letter boxes and an attractive series of postcards; a special card has been produced to mark their Silver Jubilee.

Philatelic Music Circle The Circle has published the 100th issue of its journal, *The Baton*. The first issue, in 1969, was produced in an edition of just two – circulated amongst the 26 members. The 100th issue includes articles on Charles V, Emperor of the Opera, Verdi Postcards, A Philatelic History of Spanish Music, a checklist of Verdi stamps, book reviews, as well as news of Circle activities •

The Baton is available at £3 (US\$5) from Neil Williams, 22 Avon, Hockley, Tamworth B77 5QA.

Royal Mail news 2002 special stamps • 2001 Yearbook and Pack • Heritage Services

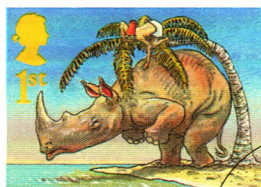
HOW THE WHALE GOT HIS THROAT



HOW THE CAMEL GOT HIS HUMP



HOW THE RHINOCEROS GOT HIS SKIN



2002 stamp programme The Kipling set, to be issued in January, will feature animals from the *Just So Stories*: How the Whale Got His Throat, How the Camel Got His Hump, How the Rhinoceros Got His Skin, How the Leopard Got His Spots, The Elephant's Child, The Sing-Song of Old Man Kangaroo, The Beginning of the Armadilloes, The Crab that Played with the Sea, The Cat that Walked by Himself, and The Butterfly that Stamped. Illustrations above are shown at proof stage. Further details next month.

Special issues for 2002 are listed right. All sets will contain five stamps unless otherwise stated •

2002 Special stamp issues PSB = Prestige Stamp Book.

15 January	Kipling (10 × 1st class self-adhesive stamps)
06 February	Queen's Golden Jubilee (stamps and PSB)
19 March	Coastlines (10 × 1st class stamps)
09 April	Circus
02 May	Aircraft
21 May	World Cup (stamp and miniature sheet)
16 July	Commonwealth Games, Manchester
10 September	London Bridges
24 September	Astronomy (miniature sheet and PSB)
08 October	Post Boxes
05 November	Christmas

Consignia Heritage Services

is located at Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL. Phoenix Place is near the Mount Pleasant Sorting Office. Nearest Underground stations are Farringdon and King's Cross St Pancras. Telephone 020 7239 2570.

Consignia Heritage Services has started a series of Customer Bulletins which will be posted on their notice board to inform users of changes and new services. A programme has started to microfilm staff pension and appointments records. These are amongst the most frequently used of all records and are beginning to show wear and tear from regular use. Microfilm copies will be easy to use and allow preservation of the original volumes for many years to come.

All POST class records held in the search room are being moved to the repository. The records held in the search room have traditionally been housed there to allow easy access for researchers but conditions are not suitable for the permanent housing of these records which are visibly deteriorating. Stable conditions are required for the preservation of the records. Access to all POST class material will still be available, either on microfilm or in the original brought from the repository to the search room. The following series of records have been moved to the repository: POST 34 Packet Service Minute Volumes, 1811-1920; POST 35 England & Wales Minute Volumes, 1794-1920; POST 36 Irish Minute Volumes, 1831-1920; POST 37 Scottish Minute Volumes, 1842-1920; POST 38 General Minute Volumes, 1921-40; POST 41 Packet Service Report Volumes, 1807-37; POST 42 Postmaster General's Report Volumes, 1790-1841; and POST 58 Staff Nomination and Appointments, 1737-1957 •

Consignia Heritage Services houses the collections of the former Post Office Archives and National Postal Museum. The stamp collections can be seen by appointment only •

Send nomination forms to

Rachel Lonsdale, Stamps & Collectibles, Royal Mail, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8HQ.

Enquiries about the Rowland Hill Awards should be sent to Rachel at the above address, or phone 020 7847 3339.

Rowland Hill Awards This month's *Bulletin* includes a form for readers to nominate the post office they consider provides the best philatelic service to its customers. From nominations a short-list will be prepared for final judging in the Post Office Excellence section of the Rowland Hill Awards. The criteria are set out on the nomination form. The Awards, sponsored by Royal Mail, the British Philatelic Trust and the Philatelic Traders' Society, were initiated in 1997 to recognise individuals and organisations who have made a major contribution to philately during the year. The awards for 2001 will be made at a ceremony in London next March.

The Post Office Excellence Award for 2000 was won by Manchester Postshop. Previous winners were: 1996 Leeds Chief PO, 1997 Truro Branch Office, 1998 Newport Sub PO, Shropshire, and 1999 Haslingden PO.

Please complete the enclosed nomination form and return it by 11 January to the address opposite. All forms will go into a draw and the winner will receive £100 worth of Royal Mail philatelic products •

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

Santa pack Illustrated at right is one of the pre-stamped envelopes from the Santa pack which was announced in last month's *Bulletin* (page 41 and Late News supplement).

The pack will be available from 6 November until 17 December from Post Office postshop outlets, 250 Early Learning Centres and Royal Mail Tallents House, price £2.50. Please note that the maximum order from Tallents House will be for 50 packs. In addition to two pre-stamped envelopes (one addressed to Santa), the pack contains writing paper, Santa stickers, puzzle cards, pencil, etc. Children can use the pre-stamped envelope to send Christmas message to Santa. Many thousands of such letters are sent each year •



One of the two pre-stamped envelopes from the Santa pack.

Celtic Cross coin cover Shown here is the latest coin cover now available from Royal Mail Tallents House, price £12.95. The cover shows some of the basalt columns of the Giant's Causeway and bears the four new Northern Ireland country stamps cancelled by a special Armagh postmark dated 2 October. The coin, designed by Norman Sillman, features an ornate Celtic-style cross which provides the background to a representation of the famous Celtic Collar found in 1896 by a ploughman at Brighter, Co Londonderry. The collar was probably an offering to a Celtic sea god. At the centre of the design lies a pimpernel, the lovely flower which flourishes around Lough Neagh, the great inland freshwater lake to which are linked five of Northern Ireland's six counties. The Patterns of Northern Ireland is the subject of the text and illustrations on the other side of the filler card •

The filler card, below, carries the new £1 coin showing a Celtic cross and details of this are printed on one side of the card.



Details of other coin covers are given on page 10 of the September Bulletin.



For an application form write to: Collectors Club, Freepost NEA1431, Sunderland SR9 9XN. Annual subscription is £15 UK, £22.50 overseas.

Royal Mail Collectors Club This is the only club aimed solely at young collectors, up to age 14, catering for their every collecting need. Members receive a fun starter pack, membership card, six sets of stamps a year, and a bi-monthly magazine, *Stamp!*, edited by Simon Eddy, providing news of the latest special stamp issue, free stamp offers, and more. The September issue gives information on the Punch & Judy stamps, provides a kit for a mini puppet show, and includes the usual jokes and cartoons, and a competition to win a Discovery postbag including the Nobel Prize stamps. A supplement to the magazine includes members' swaps and penpal requests, puzzles, and an order form for items from the Club shop ●

2001 Yearbook and Yearpack The 2001 Yearbook, on sale from 6 November, will contain information and spaces for all special issues of 2001: Millennium – The Future, Occasions, Cats & Dogs, Weather, Submarines, Buses, Fabulous Hats, Pondlife, Punch & Judy, Nobel Prizes, Flags & Ensigns (miniature sheet) and Christmas. As always the book gives interesting background stories to each issue with details of the designers. Price £27.95 standard version or £75 deluxe leather-bound edition. The latter is available only from Royal Mail Tallents House. The 2001 Yearpack containing the same stamps will also be available from 6 November, price £20.90.

The 2000 Yearbook and Yearpack will be withdrawn from sale on 6 November ●

Bulletin back issues A limited number of recent back issues are available from Royal Mail Tallents House, Edinburgh, price 85p each. For earlier issues contact Mr Maynard Davies who offers bound reprints of volumes 1 and 2, photocopies of issues from vols 3-6 and original copies of most issues from vol 7 onwards, also a limited stock of used binders. Mr Davies wishes to purchase issues from vols 3-6 but has adequate stocks of later issues. He regrets he cannot search for or provide copies of specific articles. Enquiries (with stamped addressed envelope or international reply coupon): Maynard Davies, Merrilees, New Road, Alderminster, Stratford-upon-Avon CV37 8PE.

G E Drabble has available a run of the *Bulletin* from March 1970 to January 2001 which he will be glad to pass to any subscriber who may find them of value. He would appreciate a small donation to a charity. Contact Mr Drabble at Larkspur, Cheriton Road, Winchester SO22 5AX ●

Coming off sale Only three of the 25 Millennium issues now remain on sale. These will be withdrawn on 6 November (Spirit & Faith and Christmas stamp books), 4 December (Sound & Vision), and 15 January (The Future) ●

Stampex report John Holman reviews exhibition highlights

AS ALWAYS, the exhibition contained displays of interest to collectors of GB stamps and postal history. In the 'International Exhibits' section, C Reid's 'Victorian Registered Mail' traced the development of registration, showing fees, routes, rates and PO methods of identifying registered mail in transit. A Green's 'Restoration Post Office 1660-1711' told the story of the development of the PO from 1660 until the repeal of the PO Act in 1711, and Lady Mairi Bury's 'GB 1887-1900' arranged in value order, ½d to 1s, showed hand-painted essays, die proofs, striking book pieces, imprimaturs and colour trials, together with major varieties. M Sayce's display was of the 1840-41 repairs and states of Plate v of Penny Plates of both black and red stamps. Alan Sabey's 1948 Olympic Games Issue showed the stamps, postings at the Olympic PO, overprints used in the five Gulf States, and the varieties. A Wilkie's 'Postage Due on International Mail 1914-39' examined the handling of incoming mail from abroad where postage paid was insufficient or where mail was redirected. John Bohn's 'It Began with the Mulready' tells how Rowland Hill believed pre-paid stationery would be preferred to adhesive stamps and how the Mulready was ridiculed by brilliant caricatures. Both Mr Reid and Mr Bohn displayed at last year's Autumn Stampex.

Postal History displays in the 'National Exhibits' section included studies of postal markings from Scotland (A Brown, J Colman, T Lediard), Ireland (A Lovelock, J Matthews, C Breddy) and Wales (G Prior). As last year, Dr N Clark showed 'Postal Charges During the Period 1830-40'.

The only British material in the 'Traditional' displays was R Tibbehams's detailed study of the 4d sepia Machin definitive, indicating that four different paper coatings were used.

The Thematics displays covered oil, tennis, coats of arms, water, and Sir Ernest Shackleton. The Special and Social Studies displays, on the Village Green near Royal Mail's stand, included ATM Stamp Vending, Lindbergh – the Pilot, Study of Advertisements (in GB stamp books), Social History of Cuba, correspondence of the Kippen-

davie estate in Perthshire, Congreve and other methods of two-colour printing, social and postal development of Reading, British Empire Exhibition 1924-25 and British Naval Mail 1914-18.

The Youth Competitions brought in the highest number of entries for some years; the Melville Cup, presented by the NPS for the best overall entry, went to Martin Ferguson for his 'Christmas' display. The Kidstamps Cup in the Stamp Active Competition went to Georginia Rookes for 'New Zealand Health Stamps'. The Youth exhibits covered many fascinating subjects, from birds to space, dance to inventions, films to 'connecting people'.

Upstairs in the gallery were the Astro Space Stamp Society's displays which included some interesting items such as Australian Rocket mails of the 1930s, items signed by astronauts Neil Armstrong and Alan Shepard, and covers commemorating the 40th anniversary, earlier this year, of the first manned space flight by Yuri Gagarin. Amidst the dealers' stands was a small tent structure housing the exhibit from the Royal Philatelic Collection. The centrepiece was the first day cover bearing a block of 10 Penny Blacks acquired by The Queen last year. A further 12 sheets showed Penny Black proofs and the drawing by Sir George Steuart Mackenzie which may have been the inspiration for the Penny Black (see August *Bulletin*). Although this was wonderful material, the presentation, it has to be said, was lacklustre. As 2001 marks the centenary of the death of Queen Victoria, a display on her life would have enhanced these wonderful items. The three ladies looking at the display when I went in on Thursday afternoon seemed very unimpressed and quickly left – a pity! On a more positive note, the inclusion of a postcard showing the Penny Black FDC in the exhibition catalogue was most welcome.

As usual, young visitors were entertained at Kids Corner and by Punch and Judy shows at the weekend. The newly-designed Royal Mail stand included displays of the Punch and Judy and other recent issues plus a range of the ever-growing 'Collectibles' range ●

George V Royal Cypher issues Concluding

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

9d, 10d and 1s: Eve Wreath frame with Medal Head II The development of Eve's Wreath frame has been dealt with under the 4d, 5d and 7d values. By February 1913 when these values were switched to the Pillar design, the Wreath frame had been approved. Because JACH was busy, his assistant Lewis engraved this die. He was provided with a roller impression of Medal Head II and it appears he engraved the Wreath frame for the 9d round it. The die was proofed on 2 May 1913 and an example of this is known on paper with the simple cypher watermark sideways. Further minor amendments were made; proofs are known dated the 6th and 7th, and it was finally completed on 13 May. Roller impressions were taken from this in which the value was removed, and then fresh impressions taken into which the 10d and 1s values were engraved. Examples of an uncleaned die proof of the 10d and 1s are known, and recently a 10d, in the final state on white glazed card, and a 1s, which appears to have been taken before the final amendments were made on white glazed card, came onto the market.

The Mint produced a special nickel plate of four impressions of the 9d value on 31 May 1913, which Somerset House used to print colour trials. Twenty-nine colours were printed, and six trials on tinted papers; they were mounted imperforate on card, endorsed 'Essay for colour only'. Examples of these are held in BLPC and POH. Imperforate blocks of four of the 9d, 10d and 1s in the issued colours exist, once thought to be from these trials. However, no such trials were carried out using the 10d or 1s, and it now appears that these are imprimaturs. The colours selected were first printed by Somerset House under control B.13 for the 9d, and C.13 for the 10d and 1s values, and stamps exist from these printings overprinted 'SPECIMEN' which come from the colour standards. A few examples are known of the three values overprinted 'CANCELLED' which appear to come from colour standards prepared from the first printings made by Harrisons during 1914.

The 9d was issued on 30 June and the 10d and 1s on 1 August 1913. Four shades are recorded for the 9d value, five for the 10d and ten for the 1s, of which a late printing of the latter in 'Deep bronze-brown' is the scarcest.

In 1922 it was decided to change the colour of the 9d value from 'Agate' to 'Olive green'. Colour trials in six shades of green were made at the Stamping Department using special plates of four imperforate impressions. POH has examples of these mounted on card and endorsed 'Essay for colour only'. Three of these have had a single stamp removed and it appears these were submitted to the King. Three examples of the blocks mounted on cards are known in private hands. The approved colour was registered on 11 October 1922 and BLPC has two complete sheets, printed under control T.22, overprinted 'SPECIMEN' which was the new colour standard. This value in the revised colour was issued during September 1922 and is recorded in three shades.

All current values in 1922, of the Royal Cypher issue, are known overprinted 'SPECIMEN' and sheets of these are held by BLPC. These were new colour standards printed that year; a few of these are in collectors' hands ●

Key to abbreviations

BLPC British Library Philatelic Collections

JACH J A C Harrison (stamp engraver)

PMG Postmaster General

POH Post Office Heritage, now Consignia Heritage Services

the five-part series by Alan Moorcroft FRPSL



Left: Die proof taken before final amendments.

Above: an imperforate block printed for 1922 colour trial.



Far left: imperforate block now thought to be imprimatus.

Left: Somerset House colour standard overprinted 'SPECIMEN'.

B.13

Letter boxes on stamps Glenn Morgan describes a theme

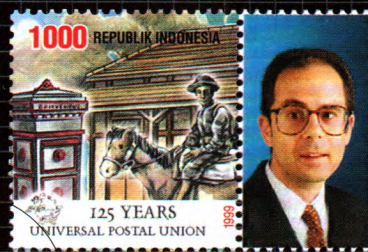


WHY DO I collect letter boxes as a theme? Well, I have always had an interest in street furniture: telephone kiosks, signage, weighing or vending machines: all have fascinated me down the years. So when I decided to start a thematic collection, letter boxes seemed a logical choice, especially in view of their postal and street connections.

I had mainly been a general collector until then, so was not too surprised at the number of appropriate items that I already possessed. Within no time, I had everything that had ever been issued world-wide on the theme – or so I naively thought! Two decades later, I am still finding ‘new’ material dating back many years. It is clear that I shall never be complete.

One evening I was, like many collectors before me, badgered into entering my local club competition night. Eight blank sheets stared up at me

An interview with Mr Morgan was published in the *Bulletin* of . For details of the Letter Box Study Group, see page 92 in this issue.



crying out 'fill me'. So I did, but with more writing-up than philatelic material! I never won the trophy, but was given much encouragement. (The judge could so easily have put me off with barbed comments – not unknown, unfortunately.)

Slowly, eight pages became nine, then 16, 32, 80 and I am now working towards 128 competitive sheets. My medal level is slowly improving as I continue to receive guidance from other exhibitors, jurors and fellow exhibitors. I am not a 'pot-hunter', per se, but I do relish the challenge that competing against others brings – not to mention the immense feeling of satisfaction knowing that you have given of your best.

Early on in my box collecting days, I was fortunate to discover the Letter Box Study Group (LBSG). Having joined, I found that others shared my passion for the letter box, in its many guises.

Some members own real boxes, or collect miniatures; others are into postcards, box spotting (like train spotting, without the anorak!) or preservation and recording. It is a multi-faceted interest.

I compiled a preliminary listing of all letter boxes known to me on stamps and have slowly expanded this to include postmarks, Cinderella material, booklets and stationery. This may still be available from literature dealer Vera Trinder Ltd, and a web edition may eventually appear.

For almost a decade, I compiled a quarterly newsletter *Philately and the Letter Box* for the LBSG until available time eluded me.

My collection has given me a great deal of pleasure, has been the excuse for world travel, and, through my authorship, has enabled me to make many philatelic friends around the globe. Life would be poorer without my letter boxes •

Text © Glenn Morgan 2001 Photograph: Hulton Getty

Queen Victoria 1819-1901 Stamp issues commemorate the

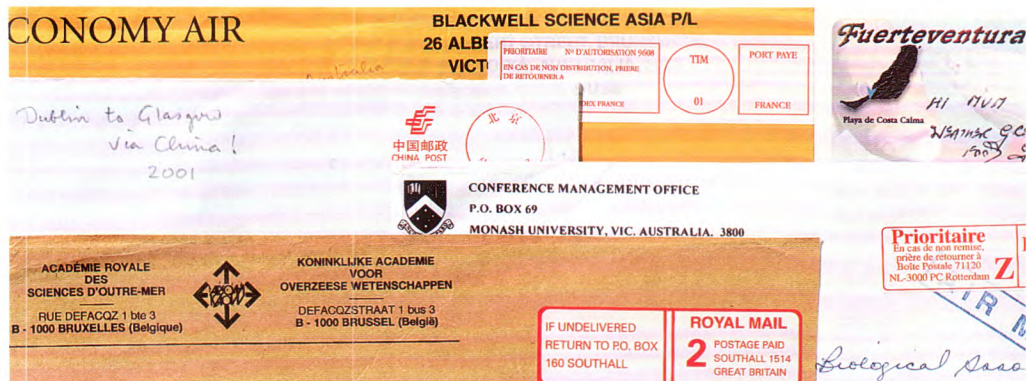
SHOWN HERE are some of the stamps issued this year to mark the centenary of the death of Britain's longest-reigning monarch. Royal Mail commemorated the anniversary with a pictorial label book in January (opposite page) •



centenary of the death of Britain's longest-reigning monarch



Contract mail James Mackay describes some of the recent



UNTIL RELATIVELY RECENTLY you could pretty well guarantee that mail posted in any country would bear the stamps or prepaid markings, such as meter franking or a postage paid impression (PPI) of that country, whether for delivery there or somewhere abroad – but not any longer. I was first aware of something unusual in the mail back in 1985 when I started getting mail from the University of South Carolina in a proper airmail envelope but bearing a Hounslow meter mark, the postage being the correct inland first-class rate.

At various times during the 20th century, mail order companies had tried to take advantage of cheaper postal rates in certain countries in order to reduce their overheads very considerably, even if it meant sending a courier to France, Germany or Holland from which circulars could be mailed back to Britain at a fraction of the cost. Of course such action was, if not an evasion of postage, certainly calculated to diminish the revenue of the postal administration responsible for ultimately delivering the mail. The practice was not only frowned upon but expressly forbidden by the Universal Postal Union. Nevertheless these regulations were openly flouted in the 1950s and 1960s when a great deal of printed matter, from publishers' leaflets to seed catalogues, was habitually posted to addresses in England from the Netherlands. Recently a considerable business in remailing and mail order fulfilment developed in the Channel Islands where postal rates were at one time much lower than those in mainland Britain.

Air-freighted in bulk The earliest examples of contract remailing were a logical extension of this, items being collected in one country, say Canada or the USA, air-freighted in bulk to London Airport, and there sorted and meter-franked before entering the domestic postal service. In the past decade, however, the system has become much more complex and sophisticated. We now have numerous cases of mail originating in country A, flown to country B for processing and delivered in country C.

While many of the international mail operators are private companies, such as TNT and DHL, others are organised as a joint venture of postal administrations. In this category comes Royal Viking Post which is jointly owned and operated by the postal administrations of Denmark and Sweden. Royal Mail now has a sizeable chunk of the international mail of the USA, while La Poste (France), Swiss Post and Deutsche Post AG (Germany) are other major players in this rapidly developing field. KPN, the Dutch Post Office, has been involved in remailing since 1958 and in 1996 merged with TNT to become TPG (initials of TNT Post Group).

Infinite combinations From the viewpoint of the collector and postal historian, the range of material is staggering and the permutations and combinations almost infinite. The commonest type of postal marking is what could broadly be classed as a PPI, but what alerts you to an example of re-

developments that can make a letter take the long way home



mailing is not only the original sender's address (usually printed in the upper left-hand corner of the envelope or wrapper) indicating a different country from the postal impression. The latter usually incorporates a return address panel. The more informative examples may include the logo of the operator, but as a rule the return address itself is the clue, for it is usually at or in the vicinity of a major international airport where the operators have their depots and sorting facilities. Another clue is the prevalence of English inscriptions in European remailing PPIs. Sometimes French is used – often mis-spelled!

In many cases the PPI takes the form of a self-adhesive label, and it is not uncommon to find such a label affixed over a printed impression, either at the point of departure in country A or applied somewhere in transit. While many of these labels are mundane in appearance others are attractively designed, notably those of Royal Viking Post, TNT Mailfast and the re-mailers in Singapore who use the national floral emblem.

Apart from printed marks or labels, there is a vast range of modified postage meters and ink-jet impressions. Like the IMP markings on British mail, the latter can be tailored to incorporate an exact time of processing, or even some kind of message.

Holiday postcards It is not just commercial mail of all kinds which utilises the re-mail system. Increasingly your holiday postcards are being

handled by private operators who have moved in on countries which, shall we say, had a rather leisurely attitude towards such mail. There is nothing more vexatious than learning that your holiday cards to the folks back home do not turn up till weeks after your return. It must be galling for the Spanish postal service, however, to learn that so much of the holiday mail from Tenerife is expedited via Gibraltar. Both TNT and IFCC (International Franking Card Company) provide an alternative (and allegedly speedier) service to Correos España, using special 'stamps' inscribed 'Pre-paid Ticket' in four different languages; although unwary tourists who pop cards franked with these labels into the postal boxes are unlikely to see them again. In recent years the tourist cards bearing these labels were taken to Rotterdam or Budapest for sorting, the labels being cancelled there with some kind of printed impression incorporating the date (often proving, unfortunately, that this method is no quicker than the traditional one for getting your holiday souvenirs back home). This was particularly true of a card sent to me from Australia which turned up five weeks after it was posted, and at least a fortnight after the sender had returned home.

Swiss Post operates a similar service in the major tourist resorts of Italy, complete with multicoloured pictorial stamps whose motifs are appropriate to each location. Cards bearing these stamps (which are sold in booklets in the hotels and souvenir shops) are collected daily and

taken to Chiasso where they are processed and enter the Swiss postal service for onward transmission by air to their destinations.

Commercial mail Holiday postcards gaily adorned with these stamps represent the high-profile end of the business, but the more prosaic commercial items are often as interesting. Among recent exotic combinations that have come my way are covers from Moscow to Ambleside, remailed in New York; Washington DC to England via Caracas, Venezuela; North Korea to Scotland via Moscow; and Denmark to Britain via the Czech

Republic. Then there are the mysterious mailshots originating in England or Ireland which are mailed back to Britain via Bratislava (Slovakia), Budapest or – most recently – Beijing. I have a charity appeal cover from Chard, Somerset to Cottesloe, Herts which has picked up the PPI of Halbart Express in Tunis. For pure cheek, adding insult to injury, it would be hard to beat the cover which went from High Wycombe to London via Frankfurt, by courtesy of DPAG (the remailing facility of Deutsche Post AG) – especially as the addressee was somebody in Royal Mail's headquarters! ●

Text © James Mackay 2001

Mounting a collection One reader's method

Shown here is a page from the collection of Mr W J Matthews of Kent. Mr Matthews, now 94, began collecting in the late 1940s. In 1991 he remounted his GB collection, restricting each set to a single page and where possible showing details of each stamp.

He writes: 'I am not interested in watermarks, errors or phosphors, but in the beauty of the stamps and being able to arrange them on the album sheet in various ways. I now consider them as my art collection and have over 5500 stamps in 15 albums – I wonder if any other collectors work in this way?'

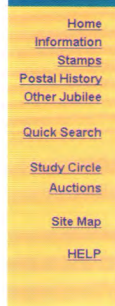


Philately on-line Ron Negus recalls an earlier Royal Jubilee

Silver Jubilee of George V

The Silver Jubilee Study Circle For further information about the Study Circle, which was formed in 1987, and for details of their magazine, write to Nicholas Levinge, 80 Towcester Road, Northampton NN4 8LQ.

Website address: www.philatel2.com/jubilee



THE CELEBRATIONS PLANNED for next year to honour the Queen's Golden Jubilee will give rise to a large number of commemoratives from all around the world. They will bring to mind the omnibus issues that marked her grandfather's Silver Jubilee in 1935. A website, hosted by a Canadian collector of these issues, can be located at www.philatel2.com/jubilee and is a good example of how the internet can be used for specialist philatelic studies. The site is being updated continuously as new information comes to light, but already contains enough detail to encourage collectors who want to study these stamps.

The site is well planned and easy to navigate with its 10 main sections listed conveniently on the opening page. One of these section headings is called Quick Search, and this part provides an alphabetical index to the site's varied contents. This is an ideal starting point for the advanced collector who already knows the type of information he is seeking. For others who have only a general interest in the topic, an Information page gives clear guidance to each main section. Also included are some background notes about both King George V and Windsor Castle, to set the scene. The details shown on the various pages have been obtained from a number of sources and most of these are listed in a bibliography.

The major part of the site contains facts about the issues made for the Jubilee and includes dates of issue, listings and scanned images of the stamps arranged by country and printer. Separate list-

ings are included about perfins, booklets and postal history. In this latter grouping a distinction is made between postal covers, commemorative covers and other related philatelic items. For the advanced collector, a classification system, devised by the site's author, is outlined which uses a seven-part code to identify the issued stamps.

This particular omnibus issue is still being studied and new varieties continue to be found. To assist collectors, the seven-part code includes a letter that indicates how frequently any particular variety occurs. This ranges from an A for those common ones which appear in standard catalogues, down to a D to signify ones that have been reported only on a single stamp. Illustrations of the varieties in colour and with enlargements also help considerably.

Links are provided from the site to dealers who have particular expertise in Silver Jubilee stamps or can supply books on the subject, to auction houses that include these items frequently in their sales, as well as to a few other general philatelic sites. There is also a password-protected section that is used by members of the Silver Jubilee Study Circle for discussions and publication of their journal, the Flagstaff.

A great deal of effort is continuing to be put into this site, and for any collector of GV issues in general, or of the Silver Jubilee stamps in particular, a visit will be very worthwhile. An e-mail address is provided to allow new information to be supplied by visitors •

Machin variations Christian Hartig looks at used definitives



Litho 1st class NVI type 1: no dots along top of Maltese Cross of diadem and light shadow under eye.



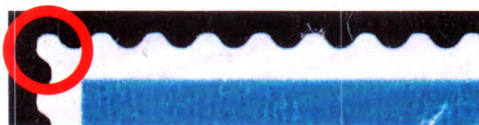
Litho 1st class NVI type 2: dots along top of cross and heavier shadow.



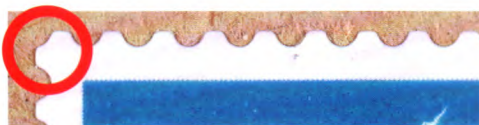
2nd class self-adhesive Enschedé: 'wave' perforations.



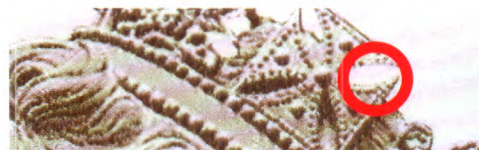
2nd class self-adhesive Questa/Walsall: 'battlements'



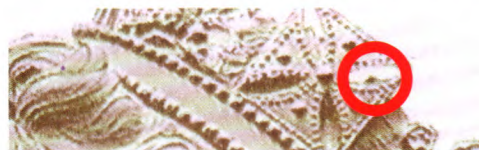
2nd class self-adhesive Walsall perf 14: dagger corners.



2nd class self-adhesive Walsall perf 15 x 14: crossed corners



Millennium 1st class Walsall: missing chunk in cross.



Other Millennium 1st class printing.



25p Harrison: complete septum.



25p Enschedé: incomplete septum.



2nd class Questa: white mark in front third jewel of diadem.

Illustrations 500% actual size

and reveals some of the differences found between printings

AS A KEEN collector of British stamps, my particular field of interest is the close study of used Machin definitives since the introduction of the elliptical perforations. It is interesting to note the significant number of great changes that have taken place in this short period, such as the end of lithographic printing, the new brilliance of photogravure, the introduction of self-adhesive stamps and a singular change of design for the new Millennium, to mention but a few. Not least aided by the timelessness of Arnold Machin's design, Royal Mail have entered definitives into a new era. Sadly not all of what we have grown accustomed to has survived: I will miss the name of Harrison & Sons.

Looking at a used stamp asks for a different approach to its secrets. In contrast to mint examples gum, phosphorescence and fluorescence are of much less (or no) informational value. The gum has been used and dampness can have changed the phosphor bands' appearance. So my magnifying glass has become my favourite aid in extracting the stamp-held information. However, a stamp is often identified by also checking its fluor with a long wave uv lamp.

Under the magnifying glass An enlargement $\times 10$ will enable you to look closely at every detail of a stamp. Although time-consuming, this is very rewarding, as you will find features significant to a print. Including the most recent stamp issues of today there are differences to be found between each printing, despite Royal Mail's efforts to the contrary.

Ironically, the newest issues, both the Millennium design and self-adhesive definitive stamps, bear the most distinct differences.

The (vertical) self-adhesives are easily allocated to their printer by their mock perforations. With Questa and Walsall stamps the 'perforations' are in the form of battlements, whereas Enschedé perfs are rounded off, making them look more like waves. Furthermore, early issues by Walsall had a perf gauge of 14 instead of 15×14 , which is best seen at the corners – a dagger corner (p

14) or crossed corners (15×14). Quite likely there will be more changes on future issues. Differences lie not in perforation alone: on the Questa printed stamps the indicators are wide and there is a strong white mark within the jewels of the diadem (about one third back from the front). Incidentally, this mark is significant to every Questa issue since reverting to photogravure in 1997.

The Millennium adaptation issues differ in phosphor, colour of fluorescence and perforation gauge, but most striking is a corner chunk within the diadem which is completely missing in the Walsall print.

Fluorescence variation There are many differences and changes visible in lw-uv light concerning strength and colour of fluorescence throughout all issues since 1997, yet there has also been a change within the ink used by Harrison/De La Rue: on newer issues the ink appears distinctively darker when viewed beneath a lw-uv lamp. Although I believe this change to have gradually been adopted to all face values by now, it is clearly perceptible only on values 1p, 4p, 5p, 10p, 20p, 30p, 31p, 37p, 43p and 50p. Of these, the 20p is especially interesting for its parallel change of phosphor from one centre band to two bands.

As for issues from 1993-97 most exciting is that Walsall prints of NV1 1st and 2nd class stamps (litho) come in two distinctive types: on the 'Maltese Cross' of the diadem there are no dots along the top in type 1, but dots are apparent on type 2. Furthermore, there is a light shadow below the Queen's eye on type 1, a much heavier shadow on type 2.

And useful for separating Harrison stamps from Enschedé (photo) is the fact that Enschedé stamps are incomplete in respect of the septum (crus mediale) of the Queen's nose.

Finally there is a clue to help discern Enschedé from DLR high value definitives (small format): the latter have short, stumpy eyelashes (shading lines on eyelid).

My findings are summarised on the following page, and illustrated opposite.

1993-97 Litho and photogravure are easily separated, as well as Questa from Walsall.

Harrison and Enschedé stamps can be identified by the base of the Queen's nose (only exception: NV1 1st flame from the miniature sheet by Enschedé from April 1997).

Walsall prints of NV1 1st and 2nd class stamps come in two distinctive types (dots on Maltese Cross, shadow below eye).

1997 new image

Questa: white mark in front third jewel of diadem; many are perf 14. NV1 from 2000: wide indicator letters. LW-UV: harsh fluor, dark ink, from 1999 fluor less harsh, pale ink.

Walsall: No significant feature, but the pale Queen's image is certainly much clearer than DLR. All stamps come from booklets and nearly all are perf 14. LW-UV: early printings very weak reaction, ink is very different from Harrison, from 1998 fluor much stronger, never as harsh as Questa.

Harrison/De La Rue: again no significant feature. LW-UV: fluor yellowish or greenish, not as bright as either Questa or Walsall, from 1999 darker ink on 1p, 4p, 5p, 10p, 20p, 30p, 31p, 37p, 43p and 50p.

2000 Millennium stamp

Walsall: missing corner chunk in Maltese Cross.

LW-UV: Questa, white fluorescence; Walsall, blue touch to it; De La Rue, yellow-green touch to fluorescence (or none, phosphorised paper).

Self-adhesives

Enschedé: mock perforation in form of waves.

Questa: mock perforation in form of battlements. White mark in front third jewel of diadem, wide indicators.

Walsall: mock perforation in form of battlements, but the first sheets were perf 14 instead of 15 × 14, seen best at the corners – dagger corner perforation or crossed corner perforation ●

Text © Christian Hartig 2001

Special draw £10 high value pack to be won

WE HAVE SIX of these packs to give away – to the senders of the six cards drawn on 30 November. Simply write your name and address on the back of a postcard and send it to: £10 Stamp Draw, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8HQ ●



Eminent early collectors William Woodham and Eric Mann, a remarkable father and son, by Ron Negus FRPSL



'IN MY OPINION, the really interesting personality of my family in the philatelic sense was my father. He, if anybody, was a stamp lover. A collector strictly speaking perhaps, rather than a philatelist.' These words were written in 1947 by Eric Mann (above, right), the then President of the Royal Philatelic Society, London. He was reminiscing on his own distinguished philatelic career, in an article published in *The London Philatelist*.

His father, William Woodham Mann (above, left), was the Chairman of a famous brewery that bore his name. He was very wealthy and spent large sums on buying stamps. At the time of his death, in 1915, he owned one of the two or three largest collections of British Colonial stamps then existing. These had grown by selective choices from a general collection, which he had begun in the 1870s, and had been supplemented by the purchase of holdings from the estates of many famous collectors on their death.

His interest in stamps had begun during his youth, however, and he was proud of the fact that his collection contained some of the earliest specimens that he had added whilst still at school. In later years, as the burden of business life took up much of his time, he acquired his material almost exclusively from one London dealer, G Hamilton-Smith & Co. When this firm amalgamated with Stanley Gibbons in 1905, these famous suppliers in the Strand fulfilled his philatelic needs. Through their involvement, he was able to buy the 67-volume European collection that had been

built up by M P Castle. He paid over £30,000 for this – a sum which would equate to very many times the amount at today's prices. William Mann sold this material again a few years later and only retained the Belgian and Sicilian sections for further study.

With the proceeds of the sale, he began to buy British Colonial material that included collections of New Zealand, and all the Australian States. In the latter group, the New South Wales was particularly notable as he purchased what at the time were the four largest collections of this State in the UK. His other major Colonial interests included the stamps of Mauritius, Turks Islands, St Vincent and Barbados.

Private collector Despite the importance of his collections, William Mann preferred to keep them to himself. He was of a retiring disposition, and did not belong to any philatelic societies nor contribute to the philatelic press. The only public sighting of any of his material came when he was persuaded to enter the 1901 International Exhibition at The Hague. Although the entry won a medal, he never exhibited again.

When he died at the age of 67 in 1915, after a long illness, it was said that his stamps had helped him maintain an interest in life, and that without them he would have died at least five years earlier. Apart from philately, William Mann found time for other pursuits, notably in horticulture. As a young man, he had been an all-round sportsman achieving honours in Rugby football, athletics, amateur boxing and skating.

Like father, like son These sporting abilities were passed on to his son, Eric William, who had been born in March 1882. Educated at Harrow, Eric represented the school at cricket and soccer, and was captain of the side for both sports from 1899 to 1901. He was Head of School in 1899, and went to Trinity College, Cambridge for his degree, which he obtained in 1905. Whilst at Cambridge,

he earned his cricket blue, and played in the University matches at Lords in 1903, 1904 and 1905.

On the philatelic front, however, Eric Mann could not escape being surrounded by his father's significant collections from an early age. It is not surprising, then, that his own interest in stamps began whilst at preparatory school in Eastbourne at the age of six. By the time he entered Harrow, he was already buying and selling stamps amongst his peers and, with an expanding allowance from his father, began to start serious collecting. During this period, he collected British South Africa, New Zealand, Orange River Colony, Niger Coast and Tonga.

When he left University and joined the family firm, Eric found himself working in the City of London. The availability of many dealers in the area meant that he often spent his lunch breaks on the 'stamp circuit'. These journeys often led to the purchase of small collections of various countries that he could use as a basis for study. In this way, he expanded his own philatelic knowledge and was sometimes able to add specimens to his father's albums as well.

At home, a family joke was that Eric always took a famous periodical, *Even's Weekly Stamp News*, to read when he had a bath. He recalls that on one occasion, whilst holidaying in Switzerland, he forgot to lock the bathroom door, and was surprised by the sudden entry of the chambermaid. His philatelic reading came in useful to hide his embarrassment! During that holiday, he was attracted by Swiss stamps and began a specialized collection of the 1882 'Standing Helvetia' type. This particular issue was not expensive, but contained numbers of retouched varieties, which Eric spent many hours sorting and classifying. Although they were so common at the time, he noted later that it was extremely rare to find copies in pairs or multiples.

After William died in 1915, Eric spent some time winding up his estate and arranging for the disposal of unwanted material from many of his father's collections. He then joined the Royal Horse Artillery, but was a soldier for only a short time. He was transferred to the Foreign Office and posted to the Legation in Copenhagen. This

assignment had philatelic repercussions, when he found that much of the official mail came via the Post Office in addition to that which arrived in the diplomatic bags. Packets coming via the ordinary mail often bore high value GB stamps, and another specialized collection was born. In this case, it was strong in the many shades found on the De La Rue wartime printings. When the war finished, Eric Mann returned to the brewery, but this had been sold to new owners during the conflict. He cut back on his business interests gradually, and finally took early retirement at the age of 53.

Philatelic philosophy His catholic tastes were evident from the countries he collected, and subsequently sold, at different times in his life. These included Canal Zone, Papua-New Guinea, Tasmania, Victoria, Mexico, Holland, Mauritius, Brunei, Bermuda, Bahamas, Rhodesia, Guatemala, St Helena, Shanghai, Zululand, Transvaal, Nicaragua, and Salvador. His approach to philately was summed up when he said 'The financial aspect should not be considered very seriously, in my opinion, when one wishes to study stamps. My great pleasure has been in the accumulation for a collection, in its study and finally in its arrangement. When this sequence is completed, then one seeks new fields of interest.'

Unlike his father, Eric Mann preferred to share his knowledge with other collectors, and he contributed articles to the stamp papers regularly. He joined the Royal Philatelic Society in 1910 but did not participate fully in its activities until 20 years later. In 1931, after an approach by some of the more prominent members, he became a regular attendee at meetings and in the following year was co-opted on to the Council. When he retired in 1935, he was invited to become a member of the Expert Committee and his knowledge of classic issues, derived from his own and his father's holdings, were of great benefit to them in their deliberations. In the same year, he became the curator of the Society's collections, a post he held until 1951. In June 1940, Eric was made a Vice-President, and in 1946 became the President of the Society. He held this position until 1949, and during his term of office, in 1947, he

was invited to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists. This was recognition of his knowledge of the stamps and postal history of Natal. The paper he wrote about this subject had earned him the Society's Tapling Medal in 1941, and the subsequent display of the material at its headquarters earned him the prestigious Tilleard medal four years later. In his will, he gifted his magnifi-

cent collection of Natal, which contained numerous unique items, to the Society.

The untimely death of Eric Mann in February 1954 at the age of 72 caused much sadness among collectors everywhere. It ended what had been almost a century of philatelic effort through the activities of a truly remarkable father and son ●

A distinguished role Richard West talks to Prof John West

WHEN MENTION IS MADE OF The Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, thoughts these days turn to Professor John West. He is Secretary to the Board of Election, Keeper of the Roll and a Trustee of the RDP Trust. It is John who presides each year over the signing ceremony, combining the need for tradition and formality with his dry sense of humour. He took on this role in 1992 following the untimely death of Leon Rapkin.

However, it was back in the early 1970s that John first came to prominence in the philatelic world. In 1965 he had been appointed to establish a department of engineering at the newly-opened University of Sussex. Soon he was to be appointed Pro Vice-Chancellor of the University, working closely with Professor Asa Briggs, at that time the Vice-Chancellor.



John and Asa left Sussex in 1979, and the Philatelic Unit lost its impetus. John was appointed Vice-Chancellor of Bradford University, where he remained until his retirement. Had both remained at Sussex there is no doubt that the Philatelic Unit would have increased in influence and importance.

Philatelic unit It was also the time that John came into contact with Reginald M Phillips. A Brighton man, his claims to fame include not only the inspiration for the establishment of the National Postal Museum, but also providing great financial assistance to the University. His determination led to the establishment of a Philatelic Unit attached to the University library. He donated a photographic copy of the collection which he gave to the nation to form the basis for the NPM.

John put the Unit firmly on the philatelic map, with a series of thought-provoking and instructive seminars which attracted not only eminent speakers but large appreciative audiences. Both

Columbus stamps Collecting has long been a relaxing pursuit for John. His love for philately of Chile came at an early age: his father smoked a brand of cigarettes that did not give cigarette cards, but stamps instead! One set which particularly appealed to John came from Chile, with its design of Columbus shown within an oval, the stamps being printed by the American Bank-note Company. John decided to discover more about Chile, and thus started a lifelong interest.

A hold had to be put on collecting for the war years – John served in the Navy – and during the early years of his marriage. Back in the academic world, he found relief from the stress of intensive research by returning to the stamp collection. While in Belfast in the late 50s and early 60s, as Dean of Engineering at Queen's University, he picked up many bargains from local stamp dealers, who would price covers based solely on the stamps attached.

Collection sold Unfortunately he was forced to sell his Chilean stamps. One of his daughters was to attend university in Germany, but at the time the government would not offer any financial

assistance to British students studying overseas. The sale of the stamps had to help pay for her education. But he kept the postal history, for which over the years John has won gold medals, and indeed was himself invited to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in 2000.

At the moment John is working on a book on the postal history of Chile, which will detail all the post offices and postmarks. But his collecting interests go further, to include Chilean air mails, British South American Airways, and the Pan-American Union.

John has visited, indeed exhibited by invitation in Chile on a number of occasions, and is a Fel-

low of Sociedad Filatelica de Chile (the Chile Philatelic Society).

It is not only in the philatelic world where John's achievements are considerable – and these include being a Trustee of the British Philatelic Trust – for his academic achievements are notorious, and his research has been influential in many areas. Much of his work has been on 'Control' not only in the engineering field, but also in medicine and economics. His research impinges on the lives of much of the world's population, for back in the 1950s, in Manchester, he was deeply involved in the development of the hard disk for computers ●

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Posting boxes 206

THIS MONTH we feature four boxes – two from the reign of Queen Victoria, and two from that of her son, Edward VII. This year marks the centenary of the death of Queen Victoria and the accession of Edward VII. The first photograph, submitted by Hamish Bruce of Cumbria, shows a VR box on Carlisle Railway Station. It is, says Mr Bruce, 'tucked away in a none-too-obvious corner close to the main entrance to the platforms.' The second, painted in bright blue, is preserved by the Harwich Society in its original position at the entrance to Harwich Town Station. The photograph was sent in by Andy Rutter, Secretary of the Society, who tells us that when the box was taken out of use, Royal Mail stipulated that the aperture should be sealed off and that it should be painted in a colour other than

red. The station was opened in 1865 and would have been one of the busiest places in the town; the posting box was no doubt heavily used.

The photograph of the first of the Edward VII boxes is from Devon Reed of Victoria, Australia, who noted the box in the wall of the churchyard at Church Stanton in Somerset. Alongside the box is a plaque noting that 'This community is recorded in the Domesday Book 1086'. The second Edward VII box was photographed by Don Staddon at Table Mountain, Cape Town, South Africa, in February 2001. The box was manufactured by Handyside of Derby and London ●

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



Competition Sponsored by Omniphil



WIN a mint PUC £1, SG Cat £750, or receive a guaranteed £60 Catalogue 1841 2d blue if you request home viewing service.

Most of us live too far away from the nearest stamp shop. Because shops have such high overheads, competition sponsors Omniphil provide a postal-only Home Viewing Service, enabling them to pass on the savings to you, with their 'every approval request is a winner' of a good quality guaranteed genuine £60 cat 1841 2d blue. This is why Omniphil can afford to reward you to view a selection with no purchase necessary and absolutely no obligation to continue. Obviously they are hoping that you will find stamps missing from your collection and become long-term clients.

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To enter the competition, answer the questions below and send, with your name and address, on a postcard or back of an envelope to: Sponsored Competition, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8HQ, to arrive by 14 December. Entries must be posted separately; multiple entries in one envelope will be disregarded.

- 1 Who is Editor of the Newsletter of the Letter Box Study Group?
- 2 Who owns Royal Viking Post?
- 3 In which year was King George v's silver jubilee?

The answers will be found in this *Bulletin*. The competition is not open to employees, families or agents of Royal Mail or Omniphil •

First prize GB KGV PUC £1, arguably the most beautiful of 20th century designs: a fresh mint light hinged example, some gum tones on reverse not affecting fabulous appearance and intensity. SG 438, Cat price £750.

Second prize GB QV 1854 6d purple embossed, superb colour, cut square three margins example lightly cancelled, most attractive. SG 60. Cat price £550.

Third prize GB QV 1854 1s green embossed square cut example with enormous margins, good colour and slightly heavy cancel. Not perfect but a good example of this scarce stamp. SG 55. Cat price £550.



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



August identify The detail is from the Punch greetings stamp. The winner was A Page of Essex.

August knowledge Answers: 1) H L Palmer; 2) 1964; 3) red or rosine. The winner was M Smith of Surrey.

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

- 1 Who designed the 2001 Christmas stamps?
- 2 How many stamps were there in Royal Mail's Millennium series?
- 3 What do the initials RDP stand for?

Send your answer (addressed to either November *Identify* competition or November *Knowledge* competition), name and address on a postcard or back of a sealed envelope to: British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8HQ. The senders of the first cards drawn in each competition on 21 December will each receive £100. Ten runner-up prizes of presentation packs or FDCs will be awarded in each competition. Competitions are not open to Royal Mail employees ●

Events

3 November Cornex 2001, Public Rooms, Liskeard.

9-11 November Stampa 2001 (Irish national exhibition) at the RDS, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4. **Enquiries** Stampa, PO Box 2723, Cardiff Lane, Dublin 2.

10 November Maidstone & Mid-Kent Stamp Fair at Grove Park Community Centre, Maidstone, 10.00-16.00. **Enquiries** B Stonestreet, 01622 675784.

10 November British Postmark Society display of Printed Postage Impressions at Victory Services Club, Seymour Street, London W2. **Enquiries** John Strachan, 01357 522430.

10 November Redditch Phil Soc 30th anniversary stamp fair at Trinity (formerly Abbey) High School, Redditch, 10.00-16.30. Admission 50p. 20 dealers, society meetings, competitions. **Enquiries** A Godfrey 01527 505307.

16-17 November Leeds Phil Soc Annual Stamp & Postal History Fair at Pudsey Civic Hall, Leeds. Open 16th 10.30-17.30; 17th 10.00-16.30. **Enquiries** R Shiers, 165 Wigton Lane, Leeds LS17 8SH.

17 November Camberley & District Stamp Club Stamp Fair & Three Counties Competition at Collingwood College, off the A30 London Road, Camberley. 35 dealers. **Enquiries** Jack Davey, 01276 28173.

23-24 November Thematica II at Carisbrooke Hall, Seymour Street, London W2. Open Fri 10.30-18.30; Sat 10.00-17.00.

24-25 November Scotex 2001 at Scottish Exhibition Centre, Clyde Way, Glasgow. 24th 11.00-18.00, 25th 11.00-16.30. **Enquiries** R McMillan, 0131 538 3683.

15 December Sidcup Phil Soc Fair at Emmanuel Hall, Hadlow Road, Sidcup ●

Late news

Auction reports The 919 lots in Spink's auction of the 'Cawardine' Collection of GB Victorian stamps and covers realised £455,842 (including premium) on 20 September. Realisations ranged from £43 to £26,450, with 10 lots each going for over £5000. The key item was a magnificent used block of ten Penny Blacks with fine light strikes of an orange-red Maltese Cross. Estimated at £15-18,000 it made £26,450. A block of six Penny Blacks on large entire addressed to Manchester went for £25,300 (est £15-20,000). The entire bears a Chester datestamp of 9 May 1840 – a spectacular combination of multiple use of the Penny Black and early May date. A fine Mulready bearing a Penny Black (plate 1a) with full sheet margin at right went for £10,925 (£4-5000). This bears two impressions of red Maltese Cross, one tying stamp to cover and backstamp dated 11 June 1840. A very clean envelope used locally in London bearing a 'Treasury Roulette' Penny Red tied by fine strike of London District '74' duplex cancel realised £7475 against an estimate of £2500-£3000. However most items went for more modest amounts, many under £200. For example an envelope bearing five singles and a pair of the 1855 Penny Red-Brown (SG 26) went for £149 (est £120-£150), and a strip of five 1864-79 1d plate 79 used on small piece with fine strikes of the black 'B01' cancel of Alexandria went for £69 (est £60-80). There were items to suit all pockets.

The previous day Spink auctioned the collection of Trinidad stamps and covers formed by the late Sir John Marriott. The H O Fraser collection of GB will be sold on 7 November and there will be a further GB sale of stamps and postal history on 5 December. Enquiries: Spink, 69 Southampton Row, London WC1B 4ET. Telephone 020 7563 4000.

The first sale of their new year took place at Cavendish's auction rooms on 7 September. A key item was a 1731 DUNS mark, the earliest rural postmark in Scotland, which made £437 against an estimate of £240. A couple of days before the sale this rare item featured in *The Scotsman* news-

paper and Ken Baker of Cavendish Auctions went on several radio programmes to talk about it. GB was prominent in the sale with the 'Opera Glasses' experimental machine cancel making £4370, and an 1884 £1 brown-lilac mint went for £8265. All of the 'Martlet' ship letters in the sale were sold; two, from Brighton and Hastings, making £1610 each. The Hugh Feldman collection of English Postal History was auctioned on 20 October (results to follow), and on 6 March Cavendish will sell another international large gold medal collection, this time 'Valuables by Post 1580-1920' formed by Vivien Sussex. Enquiries: Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, 153-157 London Road, Derby DE1 2SY. Telephone 01332 250970.

A Victorian fire certificate franked with a pair of Penny Blacks sold for £12,832 at a Sotheby's internet auction in September. The document was issued by the Protestant Dissenters and General Life and Fire Assurance Company and is dated on that all-important day – 6 May 1840. ●

Occasions stamps A new set of Occasions stamps is in preparation and expected to be issued on 5 March 2002. Details to follow.

Flags & Ensigns retail book Cylinder numbers in the book containing four 1st class definitives and two Flags stamps are: Q1 flame (orange) Q1 phosphor Q1 cyan (blue) Q1 yellow Q1 magenta Q1 black Q1 silver. The stamps in the book, issued on 22 October, are all self-adhesive. ●

Prize winners The winners of a 2000 Yearbook in our June draw were: G Franklin of Germany, E Smith of Essex, A Hoyes of Somerset, K Reader of New Zealand and E Teale of Warwickshire. The winners of our July draw for Queen Mother commemorative documents were: Mrs C Loizou, London; K North, Essex; P Bell, London; J Khoo, Singapore; and Prof L Janovsky, Czech Republic. Winners of the August draw for prestige stamp books were: P Nielsen, Spain; Mrs A Ferguson, Fife; Miss J Barrett, Essex; W Tucker, Ireland; J Drinkall, Lancashire; and K Nielsen, Denmark. ●

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