

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The ROYAL MAIL magazine *for stamp collectors*

Volume 43 Number 4

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Bulletin

Stamp poll • British Journey
• Brunel • Renaissance Art



Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



Cover A detail from Arnold Machin's unadopted design, above, for a 1968 Christmas stamp. Reproduced courtesy the British Postal Museum & Archive.

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

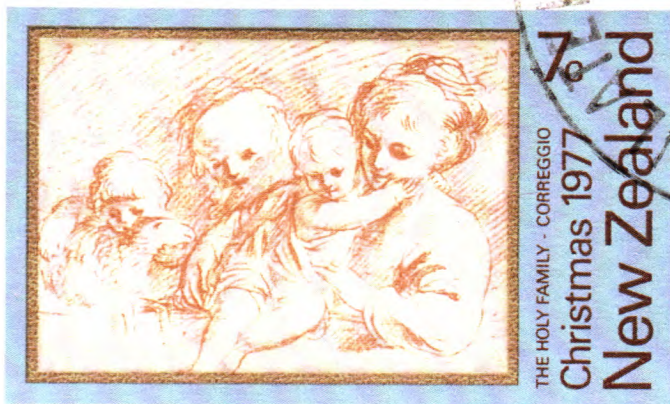
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30 November	Withdrawal 1st and 2nd class definitives from coils of 1000 (issued July 2001).
1 December	Withdrawal 2003 Yearbook (standard and leather-bound versions) and Yearpack.
3 January	Issue Animal Tales stamp cards.
10 January	Issue Animal Tales stamps, presentation pack, stamp cards, Smilers sheet and joint UK/USA FDC.
10 January	Withdrawal Farm Animals stamps, presentation pack, stamp cards, and Smilers sheet.
17 January	Issue Ingot cover – Castle High Values No 2 (Edinburgh Castle).
31 January	Withdrawal Standard air letter – Welsh version (July 2001) and in discount pack of six (October 2001).

A subscription to this magazine makes an ideal Christmas present for a philatelic friend or relation. It keeps them informed of new Royal Mail issues and events in the philatelic world and provides interesting articles by leading philatelists and postal historians. To book a subscription, send the name and address of your friend or relative to Tallents House (address at left). Annual subscription £11.75 UK and Europe, £16.75 rest of world (airmail). Binders and storage boxes are available, at £8.50 and £9.95 respectively.



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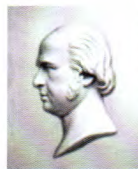


£ New Zealand 90c

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ONCE AGAIN we invite you to vote for your favourite stamps and *Bulletin* writer of the year. The special stamps issued during 2005 are shown on pages 116-17. Tell us your top three sets and favourite individual stamp on the enclosed voting form. All forms will be entered in a prize draw: the first four 'out of the hat' will each win £50. Remember to return your voting form by 13 January. The favourite set of 2004 was Woodland Animals, with the Woodland Animals Squirrel stamp the most popular individual stamp of the year. We also invite you to vote (on the same form) for your favourite *Bulletin* writer, listed here – the months their articles were published are given on the voting form. All forms go into a second draw for two more prizes of £50. The favourite author will receive £100 and the runner-up £50. Last year's winner was Douglas Myall, with Dorothy Martin second. Please note that articles by Royal Mail staff are excluded.

Details are given this month of the first two issues of special stamps in 2006. We also have our now customary article on Christmas stamps by Dorothy Martin, and Ron Negus looks at the philatelic career of the exuberant Ron Lee, one of the founders of the GB Philatelic Society 50 years ago this month. We congratulate the GBPS on its half-century and wish its members well for the future.

On behalf of Royal Mail I wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year. JOHN HOLMAN, EDITOR •

Stamp scene News and upcoming events: Glenn Morgan keeps you posted

Commonwealth & British Empire Stamps 1840-1952

448 pages, hardback. £44.95 from SG Strand shop, or from Stanley Gibbons Publications, Parkside, Ringwood BH24 3SH. Mail order Freephone 0800 611622 (Monday-Friday 08.30-17.00). UK postage £3.95.

New catalogues The 2006 edition of Stanley Gibbons' *Commonwealth & British Empire Stamps 1840-1952* was published in late September and marks the 150th anniversary of the founding of the famous firm. A brief history of Stanley Gibbons Ltd is included, dealing with the recent chequered history of the company as well as the early years. There are now over 100 SG staff, split between the shop, rare stamps department and auctions in London, and the publications, editorial and mail order business in Ringwood, Hants. Eight stamps have been added to the GB section of this edition – good constant varieties on George VI commemoratives and a bright orange shade of the 1951-52 1/2d Postage Due stamp; these were first listed in the *GB Concise* catalogue in May. Prices are generally as in the *Concise*, but the 4d Festival of Britain has nearly doubled in price used, and the Broken Wheel variety on the 1948 Channel Islands Liberation 2 1/2d is up £5 to £20. The 1924-31 Postage Dues are increased from £140 to £200 mounted mint and by £5 to £65 used; the 1936-37 Edward VIII issue is also up £5 used. There are editorial revisions in the listings for Antigua, Cayman Islands, Cyprus, Egypt, Falkland Islands, and the Editor notes changes to the prices of some Australian issues based on recent auction realisations.

The 25th edition of *Collecting British First Day Covers*, now available, lists first day covers from the Uniform Fourpenny Post (1839) to the recent Trafalgar issue. There are separate sections for the Commemorative and Definitive issues, with the latter sub-divided into stamps, retail book panes, coils, To Pay and Frama labels, commemorative labels, prestige books, stamp book panes, stamp varieties, self-adhesives, Channel Islands occupation issues, regionals, and new services. All of the numerous special handstamps used on first days of issue are illustrated (reduced size) – a useful reference for thematic as well as FDC collectors. From 1967 separate prices are given for ordinary and official covers, the latter being the cover produced by the sponsor of the relevant special handstamp. This can make an appreciable difference to the price: the 1970 Dickens set on ordinary cover with Pickwick, Corsham handstamp is £70 but £150 on official cover. Yet it appears to work both ways, as a 1969 Anniversaries set with Hoverlloyd, Pegwell Bay postmark is £25 on official cover but £400 on ordinary! Prices for some modern definitive covers are quite staggering – some booklet pane covers from the 1970s are priced over £100, and one at £450! The publisher, Adrian Bradbury, points out in his foreword that the prices quoted are ‘a price guide – not my price list’. 220 pages, card covers.



£12.50 from stamp shops, or from the publisher (add £1.95 postage): Adrian Bradbury, 3 Link Road, Leicester LE2 3RA, e-mail brad@bfdc.co.uk

If ordering from Mr Bradbury you will receive five covers of his choice free.



New Zealand stamps anniversary Thanks to *Bulletin* reader Ken Ward of Christchurch, New Zealand, we show some of the special stamps issued this year to mark the 150th anniversary of the first NZ stamps. The three sets, issued in March, April, and June, featured stamps of 1855-1905, 1905-55, and 1955-2005. The first stamp in 1855 featured the famous portrait of Queen Victoria by Alfred Edward Chalon; this portrait was used on stamps from a number of countries •

Books *The Welsh Mailcoaches*, by the late Reverend Christopher M Beaver, has recently been published by the Welsh Philatelic Society. It contains two maps showing mailcoach routes established in or before 1850 in Wales, mail-carrying passenger conveyances for the same period, together with an illustration of a Time-bill for the Holyhead to London mailcoach of 1815. However the main thrust of the publication is a listing of routes, fully indexed and with an introduction by John Calladine. Limited edition (250 copies), 24 A4 partly colour pages, £4 post-free •

The Welsh Mailcoaches
Available from: WPS, John Cowell, 52 Lon y Bryn, Menai Bridge, Anglesey LL59 5LL, Wales.

National Philatelic Society
107 Charterhouse St, London
EC1M 6PT. www.ukphilately.org.uk/nps

ABPS Mike Brindle, ABPS,
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3WX.

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Society news The National Philatelic Society's Christmas meeting will be held on Saturday 10 December (annual competitions), followed by 'Ways of Collecting' (14 January, Gavin Fryer), 'Triest/Trieste' (11 February, Brian Asquith) and 'St Lucia' (11 March, Alister Kinnon) •

The September issue of *ABPS News*, official magazine of the Association of British Philatelic Societies, provides a society and general news round-up, diary, book reviews, a profile on Susan Oliver, and reports from the various ABPS committees and member societies. There is also a pictorial overview of some of the stamps issued for the end of WWII •

The British Decimal Stamps Study Circle publications for July will be the penultimate issues, due to the forthcoming merger with the GB Decimal Stamp Books Study Circle (see below). This bumper sending includes 24 pages of the *News Letter*, eight NewsSheet pages and 12 more covering details of the AGM and proposed new society. *News Letter* Editor Trevor Jones certainly 'tells it as it is' and expresses his view on some topics where he believes Royal Mail is failing collectors. This publication has a high level of black and white illustrations in it, which is most useful; not everyone has access to local sources, and the chance of seeing items before purchase must surely assist collectors and is a highlight of this publication •

The first edition of *'The Bookmark' Catalogue of Self-adhesive Stamp Books*, compiled by Graham Eyre, will be reviewed next month. In the meantime, anyone wanting a copy of this important work should write to the Secretary of the Great Britain Stamp Book Study Circle enclosing £25, plus £5 postage (at over 500 pages, it is very heavy; overseas extra). The catalogue price includes membership for one Circle year (July-June). A press release accompanying the catalogue confirms that effective from 1 January 2006, the Great Britain Decimal Stamp Study Circle is extending its scope to include all stamps and related materials issued during The Queen's reign. The British Decimal Stamps Study Circle (BDSSC) will merge with the GBDSSC in January to form the Modern British Philatelic Circle (MBPC) •

Auctions Bonhams' next sale will be on 13 December, comprising stamps and covers of the world. Cavendish sold the Brian McCloy Seychelles and GB collections on 23 September, and the prices realised included a Mulready Design Proof at £506 and an uprated 1d Mulready letter sheet at £1035. The much viewed Prince of Wales Hospital Fund labels reached £920 with frantic bidding, and a ss *Aeon* wreck cover made £747 •

Sotheby's continue to sell the collection of Sir Gawaine Baillie. Volume IV: Great Britain Part Two came under the hammer in September, and what a sale it was! The content of the catalogue (£30 and still available) was amazing, with material right up to 2002 not, as I had assumed, all pre-Elizabethan. Total realisations of the 11500 lots came to almost £2.6m – and there are still six more sales to be held over the coming months. Readers apparently enjoy being made aware of the most expensive item in a sale, even if it is way beyond their reach, so if you had the funds you could have purchased Lot 79 and had little change from £121,000, for which you would now be the proud owner of a marginal block of four 2d Blues from

the right of the sheet with the inscription 'In Wetting the Back be careful no(t)'. It has good to large margins, exceptional colour, large part original gum and is noted as being one of the finest multiples of the 1840 two pence blue known. It had a pre-sale estimate of £60-80,000. At the other end of the price scale, it was possible to own a part of this fabulous collection for as little as £34, including buyer's premium, which would have bought you an 1887-1900 1d GOVT. PARCELS lilac overprinted SPECIMEN.

Modern items were in profusion and a couple of examples which tie-in with my recent *Bulletin* articles include the 1965 United Nations issue pair of imperforate imprimatus which realised £1265 (estimate £300-400) and the Post Office Tower 3d in a half sheet with various missing/part missing olive-green Towers which sold for £18,400 (estimate £8,000-10,000).

The Trafalgar sale from Sotheby's, mentioned earlier this year, resulted in total realisations of almost £4.7m. Lot 184 proved to have the highest price tag – a mere £400,000 was paid for a watch inscribed 'Pres. to Adml. Lord Nelson by the Officers of HMS Victory Aug 20 1805'. It is in its original leather-covered box and has hand written instructions. Known as The Victory Watch, it is a gilt metal, gold and enamel quarter striking musical chaise watch with alarm, made by James McCabe circa 1805. The estimate was £200-300,000. The least expensive item went for £320, for which the purchaser obtained a commemorative silver medal inscribed 'Napoleon's Surrender 1815' •

BPMA The British Postal Museum and Archive's exhibition 'Victorian Innovation 1837-1901' has been described as 'small, but perfectly formed', and it continues to be on display until April 2006. Within the three display cabinets are many gems including postal orders, parcel post labels, a perforating comb, proposed railway letter stamps and unadopted stamp designs. Viewing times: Monday to Friday 10.00-17.00, with an extension until 19.00 on Thursdays. The Archive is also open on certain Saturdays, from 10.00 to 17.00. The BPMA is located at Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL.

'GPO' is a new merchandise range that BPMA is selling, harking back to the day when 'the postman always knocked twice and everything was in black and white', to quote from the publicity material heralding the launch of this interesting range. The product code, description and prices are listed opposite. Discounts may apply for members of the Friends, and further details, including postal charges, are available from Tom Lewis-Reynier at BPMA – telephone 020 7239 2574 or e-mail tom.lewis-reynier@postalheritage.org.uk •

The GPO range Description, product code and price

Nightmail DVD DVD1 £17.50

Four A6 Travelling Post Office postcards PCARD1 £2.50

Four A6 TPO 1940s b/w film stills postcards PCARD2 £2.50

Nightmail T-shirts (M/L/XL sizes) NMTEEM, NMTEEL, NMTEEXL £14.50

GPO male T-shirts (M/L/XL sizes) GPOTEEM, GPOTEEL, GPOEEXL £14.50

GPO female T-shirt GPOTEEF £14.50

GPO issue notebooks (indexed, plain or ruled) NI/1, NP/1, NR/1 £8.00

Post Office vehicles artwork canvas CANVE £60.00

CD Oral History by former postal workers CDOH £12.00

Victorian Innovation cover E1 £4.95

Figurine of 1916 female postal carrier MIN1916 £10.00

Figurine of 1940 post woman MIN1940 £10.00

Model of Science and Arts pillar box MINS&A £10.00

Model of WWII double aperture pillar box MINAPP £10.00

Green Papers mixed pack of two GP £10.00

Cary's Map pack: 1790s maps (approx 40) CMP £5.00

Royal Mail news New issues and products



The Ice Age Mammals issue, shown at proof stage, at 80% actual size. From left: Sabre Tooth Cat, Giant Deer, Woolly Rhino, Woolly Mammoth and Cave Bear.

February and March stamp issues The two February sets – England, the last in the British Journey series, and Isambard Kingdom Brunel – are previewed in this *Bulletin*. A miniature sheet marking the opening of the new Welsh Assembly building is scheduled for 1 March. A set of five stamps featuring Ice Age Animals will be issued on 21 March. The set will be previewed here next month •

Animal Tales stamps The 2006 programme starts on 10 January, with eight stamps depicting 'Animal Tales'; they were previewed in last month's *Bulletin*. The 2nd class Animal Tales stamp has also been printed by plate D2 as well as D1, recorded last month.

The generic Smilers sheet for the Animal Tales issue carries 20 of the 1st class stamp showing Paddington Bear, with 10 different label designs (two of each) of illustrations by Peggy Fortnum from the book *More About Paddington* by Michael Bond. The illustrations are captioned 'Oh dear, I'm in trouble again', 'I made it all with my own paws', 'I'm a laundry bear', etc. Stamps and labels are self-adhesive, printed by Cartor. Price £6.55.

There will be a joint Royal Mail/US Postal Service first day cover. This will bear the UK Caterpillar and Maisy 68p stamps and the same designs from the USA. The British stamps will be cancelled by the Mousehole first day postmark, and the US stamps by their first day postmark. Price £4.95, available only from Tallents House. Arrangements for collectors to prepare their own joint covers will be given in the *British Postmark Bulletin* •



Stamp ingots The second of the ingot covers featuring the 1955 Castles stamps will be available from 17 January and will show the 10s Edinburgh Castle stamp. The cover bears the £1 stamp from the Castle miniature sheet cancelled by a special Edinburgh postmark, shown at right. Price £24.95 plus handling charge from Tallents House, telephone 08457 641 641. The third and fourth covers, featuring Caernarfon and Carrickfergus Castles will be available from 25 April and 25 July •

Collect British Stamps The 2006 (57th) edition of the ever-popular Stanley Gibbons *Collect British Stamps* colour checklist, to be published on 26 November, includes a two-page listing of Royal Mail/Royal Mint philatelic-numismatic and medalllic covers. Available from Royal Mail Tallents House, Stanley Gibbons, and stamp and book shops, price £9.95 •

2005 Collections The new Yearbook, now on sale, contains information and spaces for all special issues of 2005. As always, the book gives interesting background stories to each issue with details of the designers. Price £39.95 standard version or £75 de luxe leather-bound edition. The latter is available only from Royal Mail Tallents House. The 2005 Yearpack containing the same special stamps costs £34.95.

Details were given in October of new Presentation Pack and Miniature Sheet collections. These now include The Ashes miniature sheet (issued 6 October) which has necessitated a revised price. The Presentation Pack Collection now costs £47.45 and the Miniature Sheet Collection £24.50 •

Coming off sale Any remaining stocks of 2005 Christmas stamps, stamp books, presentation packs, stamp cards, and airletters will be withdrawn from sale at Post Office branches after business on 24 December. Supplies will remain available from Royal Mail Tallents House until next November. The Farm Animals stamps, pack, stamp cards, and Smilers sheet will be withdrawn at Tallents House on 10 January •

Rowland Hill Awards Last month's *Bulletin* included a form for readers to nominate a Post Office branch for the Post Office Excellence category of the Rowland Hill Awards. 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 2005 will be made at a ceremony in London next Spring. The nomination forms should be returned by 31 December to the address given on the form. All nomination forms will be entered into a draw for £100 worth of Royal Mail philatelic products •

Smilers sheets Readers are reminded that generic Christmas Smilers sheets are now on sale, containing 10 1st class and 10 2nd class Christmas robin stamps. The next Smilers sheet will be for the Animal Tales stamps on 10 January 2006.

Shown here is a corner of one of the Smilers sheets with the new small-size pictorial stamps; a customer's image is printed on the blank label to the left of the stamp. The others are: Red, white & blue with the Union Flag stamp; Sunshine... (flower); Flying High (Hello); With Love... (Love); and Ready Teddy... (Teddy Bear). The sheets are printed by Cartor in litho.

For details of how to order customised Smilers, with your own image printed on the labels, phone 0845 074 2000 (UK customers) or +44 131 316 7489 (overseas). Orders can also be placed on-line (at www.royalmail.com/Smilers) if using digital photos •

In the post...



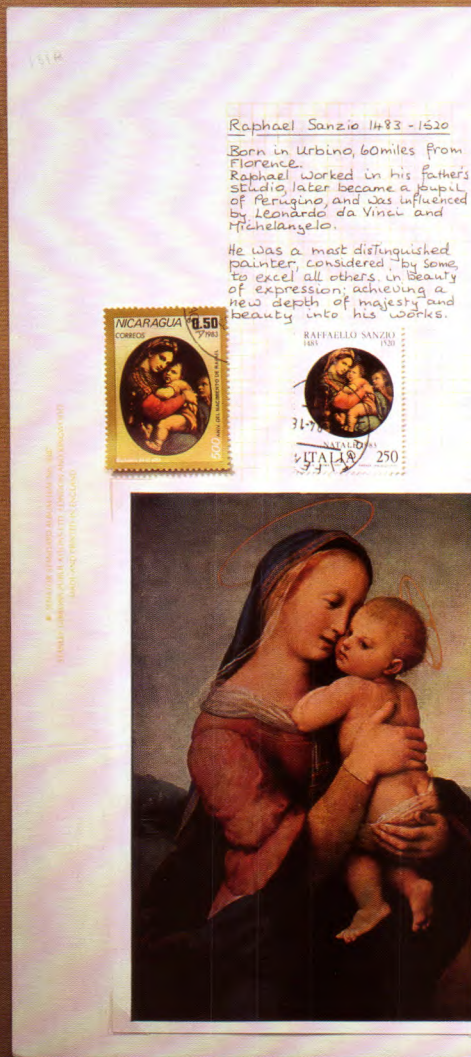
Art and Christmas stamps

by Dorothy M Martin

IN VIEW OF THE FACT that the 2005 Christmas stamps, by Irene von Treskow, are depicting various designs of the 'Madonna and Child' as seen by different cultures, I thought 'Art on Christmas stamps' would be an appropriate theme for my Christmas article this year. Because this is such a vast subject, I will only be able to write briefly on one section, and have chosen works by the most well-known Italian artists during the Renaissance period, which started in Italy in the 14th century and flourished until the mid-16th century.

Before the 14th century, painters generally had no standing and were regarded simply as craftsmen, like others with a special talent. Since their work developed from the frescoes and wall-paintings produced in churches and monasteries, the early painters often remained anonymous, as the monks had been, or sometimes as Master so-and-so, the second part of their name deriving from their town of origin or from a technique, such as Master of St Sebastian, Master of the Gold Brocade. In Italy however, they were commissioned by the laity as well as the church, and therefore respected much more and known by their names. During the 11th and 12th centuries Italian art still showed a Byzantine influence. Artists were almost incapable of representing three dimensions, and paintings were flat and without depth. Gradually this changed, making paintings more realistic.

Giotto di Bondone (c1266-1337), the Italian painter and architect, and pupil of Cimabue, laid the foundations for Renaissance painting. The *Adoration of the Magi* shows the richly decorated style of Gentile da Fabriano (c1370-1427). The Dominican monk Fra Angelico (1387-1455) was famous for his frescoes and his panels for altars in the churches and monasteries around Florence. Jesus was always distinguished in his paintings by a gold halo quartered in red. In 1446 Fra Angelico was summoned to Rome, to decorate a chapel for the Pope. He became the Prior of the Fiesole Monastery in 1450, and returned to Rome later, where he died.



Three album pages from Mrs Martin's collection, showing paintings by the Renaissance masters reproduced on stamps of the world. Above, variations on the theme of the Madonna and Child, by Raphael. Opposite, the Byzantine style and early developments, and a page on the paintings of Correggio.



In the 11th and 12th centuries Italian art still showed the influence of Byzantine art. Before the 14th century artists were flat and without depth. Generally, artists had no standing and were regarded as craftsmen and remained anonymous, or known as Master so and so. However in Italy they were more respected and known by name.

Byzantine Art

Master of the Gold Brocade

Master of St. Sebastian

Giottò di Bondone
1266 - 1337

Gentile da Fabriano
c1370 - 1427

Antonio Allegri Correggio 1494 - 1534

Painter of the Lombard School, another supreme user of light and colour. He was one of the most inventive and boldest painters of the High Renaissance. His mythological subjects were very popular. He was one of the first artists to experiment with artificial lighting.

Madonna of the Basket
National Gallery, London.

Madonna and Child
Estense Gallery,
Modena.

The Holy Family (in red chalk)
National Art Gallery, Wellington.

ITALO-BYZANTINE XVI CENTURY

24c



DOMINICA

Christmas USA 20c



Fra Filippo Lippi, National Gallery

1975 Christmas

GRENADA
GRENADINES 1/2cRAFFAELLO SANZIO
1483 1520NATAL 1983
ITALIA 250
FIRENZE PALAZZO PITTI

Fra Filippo Lippi (c1406-69) was an early Renaissance Florentine painter and a Carmelite monk. His greatest works are in the Prato Cathedral. He married a nun, and their son, Filippino Lippi, (1457-1504) became a painter who trained under Botticelli. His *Virgin and Child with St. Jerome* and *St Dominic* has appeared on many stamps of various countries, as have his other works.

Giovanni Bellini (1429-1516) was the founder of the Venetian School, and promoted the new oil technique introduced by Antonella da Messina around 1476. Towards the end of the 14th century, scenes became enriched by landscapes with plants and animals, and this played an important part in Bellini's painting. He was able to use variations of light and space in the backgrounds of his works. Bellini had the largest and most important workshop in Venice, and trained many well-known artists including Giorgione and Titian.

Florence and Venice were the main centres of artistic developments in the 15th century, where artists could study under the great masters. Work was commissioned by the nobility and the wealthy industrialists to decorate their palaces, churches and monasteries.

Bartolomeo (1432-99) and Alvise (1440-70), of the Vivarini family of painters, contributed to the development of the Venetian School to a great extent. Carlo Crevelli (1440-93) was an artist of the Venetian School who painted his subjects in an elaborate and distinctive style, with much use of gold and brocade, using the same models.

Sandro Botticelli (1444-1510), the son of a Florentine tanner, suffered from poor health and disliked scholastic studies, not attending school until

he was 13 years old. He was first apprenticed to a goldsmith and later to Fra Filippo Lippi. Botticelli was one of the greatest Renaissance painters and was frequently commissioned by the Medici family. He had become well-known by the age of 26 and in 1481 he was summoned to Rome, with other leading artists, to decorate the walls of the Sistine Chapel. He was not happy with the work, as it gave him no freedom of style. Within a year he returned to Florence, and continued working on religious and mythological subjects as before. The *Mystic Nativity* was his last work, painted in 1501, during a period of religious and civil strife in Italy. This painting may be interpreted as a plea for peace, as most of the figures apart from the Holy Family are holding an olive branch.

Pietro Perugino (c1448-1523) was a painter of the Umbrian School whose work was greatly influenced by his master, Verrochio, using the technique of oil painting. He also worked on frescoes for the Sistine Chapel. His style influenced his pupil, Raphael.

The major undertaking of Domenico Ghirlandai (1449-94), a Florentine painter, was the fresco cycle in Santa Maria Novella, Florence, which is notable for its portrayal of Florentine personalities in contemporary dress. Ghirlandai meant 'garland maker', a name which derived from his father, who was renowned for fashioning metallic garlands popular among the Florentine ladies of the time.

Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519) was the illegitimate son of a Florentine notary and was trained by Verrochio. He invented the technique of using shadow and blurred outlines which often char-



From Mrs Martin's Christmas collection, stamps featuring paintings of the Renaissance (left to right): Italo-Byzantine style, 16th century; *Madonna and Child* by Fra Filippo Lippi, *Virgin and Child* by Albrecht Durer, *Madonna of the Chair* by Raphael, and *Madonna and Child* by Titian.

acterised his works. He also had a great talent for music and natural history. He invented the first armoured fighting vehicle and projected aircraft and helicopters, and anticipated the submarine. Between 1500 and 1513 Leonardo appears to have spent most of his time in Florence or in Milan, working on hydraulics and construction of canals. In 1513 he went to work in Rome for Guilian de Medici and when his patron died he accepted an offer from Francis I of France where he spent the rest of his life. His other interests included anatomy and geology.

Giorgioni da Castelfranco (1477-1510) studied in Venice with Titian under Bellini and was regarded as one of the founders of modern painting. He was the first exponent in Venice of the small picture in oils, produced specifically for private collectors rather than for public or ecclesiastic patrons.

Titian Vecellio (1488-1576) was one of the foremost High Renaissance painters of the Venetian School, and was a great exponent of the use of lighting and colour effects. His paintings appear very human and intimate with a sense of life. He was one of the oldest painters, and died of the plague.

Raphael Sanzio (1483-1520) was an architect and a most distinguished painter who excelled in beauty of expression, achieving a new depth into his paintings. He was extremely successful in his numerous 'Madonna and Child' commissions, which were exquisitely beautiful, and which included the well-known *Sistine Madonna*. His style of painting was greatly influenced by his master, Pietro Perrugino •

Stamp cards Richard West

on the arrival of the PHQ card

IF YOU CAN'T BEAT, join them. Perhaps that was Royal Mail's attitude towards maximum cards, clearly seeing a potential market for linking post-cards with stamp designs. A 'Press and Broadcast Notice' of 10 July 1973 stated 'A picture-card with a cricketing theme designed and produced by the Post Office will go on sale in England and Wales at selected main post offices from the middle of this month (July).' The Post Office had chosen to reproduce the design of the 3p stamp, showing a sketch of W G Grace by Harry Furniss, issued on 16 May to mark the centenary of County Cricket. The age of the stamp card, or as still fondly referred to by collectors 'PHQ card', had begun.

As we saw last month, there was already an established market for cards with an appropriate stamp cancelled on the day of issue. To be a true maximum card, it should not simply reproduce the stamp design, but have a connection with it. Nevertheless over the years many collectors have affixed stamps to PHQ cards, often on the picture side, to have them cancelled on the day of issue.

With this first card, it is not possible to have the stamp cancelled on the card on 16 May, although some do exist, postmarked by favour. The Press Notice was accompanied by a sample of the card, and would have reached recipients the next day, 11 July. It was therefore possible to have such sample cards stamped and posted on that day, making 11 July probably the earliest possible date on which cards could be legitimately cancelled. The reality is that few cards were put in the post, so that any bearing the 3p Cricket stamp with a 1973 date command a premium, clearly preferably as close to 11 July as possible.

Despite collector interest, the PO seems to have viewed this card like any other picture postcard, for the press release continued: 'This new card makes its appearance in the height of the cricket season so naturally it will be on sale at main post offices near the better-known cricket grounds. It will also be on sale at main post offices at other tourist centres and at selected holiday resorts.'

A curious feature of this card was its size. As the Press Notice put it: 'Because they are slightly larger than the maximum allowed by overseas postal administrations to qualify for prepayment at post-card rate, the new cards should be stamped at the full letter rate for overseas posting.'

The cost of each card was 5p, so owners have seen a good return on their 'investment'. Despite the fact that it was planned as the first of a series, since the card is numbered on the address side as 'PHQ.1', it seems the PO treated its new venture with caution. Cards were produced for the Inigo Jones and Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference issues, but they were not announced at the same time as the stamps. Equally, as with the Cricket stamps, only one from each set was selected for 'stamp card' treatment: it was a while before there was enough confidence to release a card for all new issues, or for every stamp in a set.

Surprisingly, given the popularity of the 'commercial' cards that had reproduced the paintings shown on stamps in 1967 and 1968, the opportunity was not taken to give the Reynolds and Rae-burn issue the 'PHQ card' treatment.

The Cricket card included a description on the picture side; from the Inigo Jones card, captions were printed on the address side. Starting with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, cards were reduced to a more accepted size. The first card to capture mass attention was that reproducing the 1973 3½p Royal Wedding design, and this was the first one printed by Questa. The name 'PHQ card' causes some confusion among collectors. Long before they started printing GB stamps, The House of Questa produced the cards and first day cover envelopes. Many collectors therefore assumed that 'PHQ' stood for 'Printed at the House of Questa', whereas it was in fact an abbreviation for Postal Headquarters.

Having produced cards, the PO was obliged to cancel stamps, even if affixed to the picture side. The re-posting facility has provided the answer.

Starting in 1976, the increasingly popular cards were produced for every special stamp design. At the end of 1999 the idea was extended to include miniature sheets, with separate cards reproducing the entire sheet and its individual stamps.

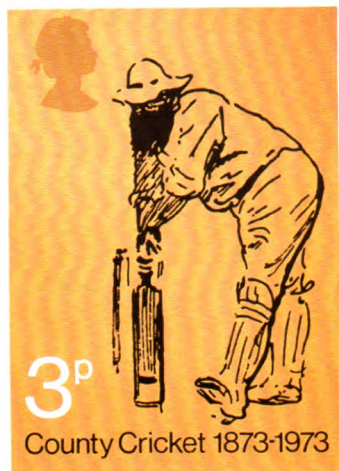
Although Greetings stamps were first issued in 1989, it was not until 1993 that they appeared on cards. Similar reluctance affected definitives for some time – the first to appear being the Castle high values (with silhouette portrait) issued on 24 March 1992, although the cards were not released until 16 February the following year, so again it is not possible to have the card cancelled on the day of issue of the stamps. A card was also issued for the £3 value released in 1995.

Cards reproducing definitives have been somewhat spasmodic, although it seems new designs are now given 'stamp card' treatment. Examples include the Country stamps of 2003 (without the white borders), those for England and Northern Ireland issued in 2001, the European Airmail rate stamp, the £1 Machin, certain re-issued Wilding designs, and the 1st class definitive in orange-red in landscape format as initially adopted for self-adhesive stamps, in gold and as issued for 2000.

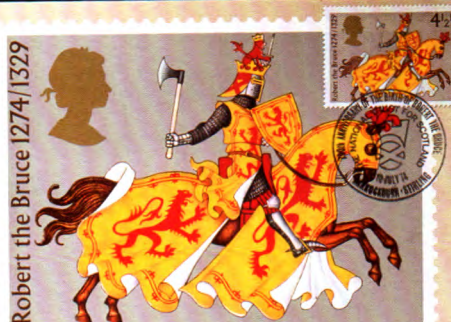
For a while stamp books were released with a commemorative label, usually attached to four 1st class stamps. Starting with the first of these booklets, issued on 27 July 1994 to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the Bank of England, and for the majority thereafter, cards reproducing the label design were produced.

From time to time, PHQ cards have been used for specific purposes. Perhaps the best known, and almost vital for any cycling thematic collection, was the 11p Cycling stamp of 1978, the reverse of the card being printed for the Cycling Proficiency Test. Other examples include the 17p British Composers stamp card of 1985, used as a reply to an invitation to a concert at the Royal Festival Hall, and the £2 Edinburgh Castle card, noting the change of address of the British Philatelic Bureau on the reverse. The Rupert Bear 'Greetings' stamp card of 1994 was used to promote the Royal Mail Collectors Club, while the 20p Christmas stamp card of 1998 promoted the Royal Mail Collectables range at an exhibition held at G-Mex in Manchester in November that year.

PHQ cards are not the end of the story regarding postcards from the Post Office, or even cards depicting stamp designs: more next time ●



Reproduced from a stamp designed by Edward Riley, issued by the Post Office in 1973 to commemorate the hundred years of County Cricket.



We are moving

After 20 years in
Brandon Street
the British Philatelic Bureau
is on the move

As from 29 August 2006 you can contact
John Wright

by mail 21 South Gyle Crescent
Edinburgh
EH12 9PB

by phone +131 316 7100

by fax +131 316 7102

by e-mail john.p.wright@royalmail.co.uk

A Royal Mail Design Card Service 24/7

High Value Definitive (Edinburgh Castle)
Reproduced from a stamp designed by Hilary The Duke of York
and issued by Royal Mail on 24 March 1992

Printed at The House of Geste, England, SE5 7TP
© Royal Mail 1992



MORE!



Clockwise from top left: the first PHQ card, 1973; Royal Wedding card of 1973; Robert the Bruce from the G Britons issue of 1974; reverse of the Edinburgh Castle card of 1992; Greetings stamp design of 1996; and card produced by Walsall Security Printers to celebrate the first definitives they had printed for Royal Mail.

Brunel Celebrating the greatest of engineers



Technical details

Printer Joh Enschedé

Process Lithography

Stamp size 60 x 21mm

Sheets 24 and 48

Miniature sheet size 190 x 67mm

Perforation 14.5

Phosphor Two bands

Gum PVA

Gutter pairs Vertical

SIX STAMPS, a miniature sheet and a prestige book go on sale at Post Office branches, Tallents House and Post Office philatelic outlets on 23 February to mark the bicentenary of the birth of the great engineer, Isambard Kingdom Brunel. The stamps feature: 1st class Royal Albert Bridge; 40p Box Tunnel; 42p Paddington Station; 47p ss *Great Eastern*; 60p design for the Clifton Suspension Bridge; and 68p Maidenhead Bridge. The stamps were designed by hat-trick design consultants of London.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets about a week before 23 February, price 25p. Orders for FDCs with the stamps/miniature sheet cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of Tallents House Edinburgh or Bristol must reach Tallents House by the date of issue. Price £3.79 UK or £3.23 overseas. Please state if stamps or miniature sheet required.

Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (Tallents House postmark), or to any of Royal Mail's Special Handstamp Centres (Bristol postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FDO605' or 'FDO606'. Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for the Bristol postmark. Details of sponsored handstamps will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House. For a sample copy write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ.

PHILATELIC PRODUCTS An illustrated pack (price £3.40) and seven stamp cards (30p each) will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets. The cards feature the six stamps and the miniature sheet.



The miniature sheet on first day cover, above, and pane four of the prestige stamp book, right.

Prestige book The first of the 2006 prestige books, entitled *Isambard Kingdom Brunel*, will be available from 23 February, price £7.40. This contains stamp panes as described opposite.

The book, written by Eugene Byrne, a writer on historical subjects and science fiction, and designed by hat-trick design, tells the story of Brunel and his great achievements. There are excellent photographs of Brunel in his trademark hat, and of his works, many of which are still in use today. The front cover features his famous Clifton Suspension Bridge across the Avon Gorge in Bristol.

The book is being printed by Enschedé; the pane of Machin stamps in gravure and the other panes in litho. A first day cover will be offered bearing the Machin stamps pane with label. This can be ordered from Tallents House, price £3.58 UK / £3.06 overseas. Please state if Tallents House or Bristol postmark required.

Coin cover A cover bearing the six Brunel stamps, cancelled by a special Paddington postmark, and with two £2 Brunel commemorative coins encapsulated, will be available from Tallents House, price £15.95. The cover shows Victorian workmen with the enormous chains used for the launch of Brunel's *Great Eastern*. The informative filler gives details of the Thames Tunnel, Clifton Bridge, War Hospital, the Great Western Railway, and others of Brunel's great works. The two Brunel coins feature Brunel in his famous top hat (design by Rod Kelly), and railway station arches representing his achievements (design by Robert Evans). Edition of 25,000 •

Prestige stamp book This contains stamp panes as follows.

Pane 1 Brunel stamps: 1st class, 42p and 68p. Thames Tunnel background design.

Pane 2 Brunel stamps: 40p, 60p and 47p. Trevi Viaduct background design.

Pane 3 Two 68p *Great Western* stamps (from 2004 Ocean Liners set) and one 47p Brunel stamp (*Great Eastern*). *Great Eastern* background design.

Pane 4 Machin definitives: top and bottom rows 1st class, 35p, 1st class; middle row two 40p stamps separated by a label showing a bust of Brunel.

A British Journey: England The final issue



Technical details

Printer De La Rue

Process Gravure

Stamp size 35mm square

Sheets 30 and 60

Perforation 15 x 14

Phosphor Two bands

Gum PVA

Gutter pairs Horizontal

THE FINAL ISSUE of stamps in the British Journey series, featuring the beautiful scenery and attractive buildings of England, go on sale at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and Royal Mail Tallents House on 7 February. The stamps were designed by Phelan Barker Design Consultants.

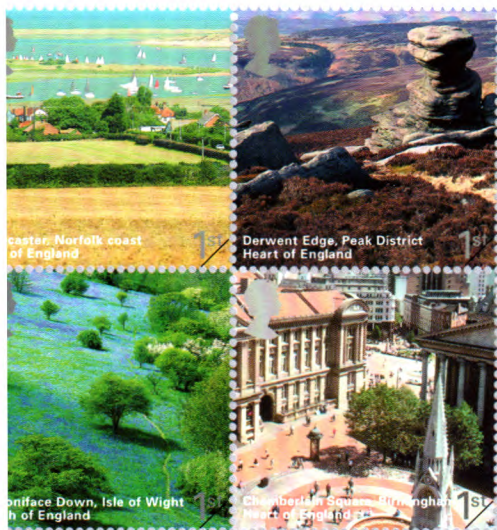
The stamps, all 1st class, will be issued to Post Office branches in sheets of 30. However, sheets of 60 with gutter margins will be available from Post Office philatelic outlets and Royal Mail Tallents House.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets about a week before 7 February, price 25p. Orders for FDCs with the stamps cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of Tallents House or Tea Green, Luton must reach Tallents House by the day of issue. Price £3.94 UK/£3.36 overseas.

Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (for Tallents House postmark), or to one of Royal Mail's Special Handstamp Centres ('Tea Green postmark) marking the outer envelope 'FDO603' (Tallents House), or 'FDO604' (Tea Green). Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for the Tea Green postmark. A non-pictorial Tea Green postmark is also available from Special Handstamp Centres; request 'FDO604 NP'.

Details of sponsored handstamps for 7 February will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House (£12.25 UK/Europe; £24.95 elsewhere). For a sample copy write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ.

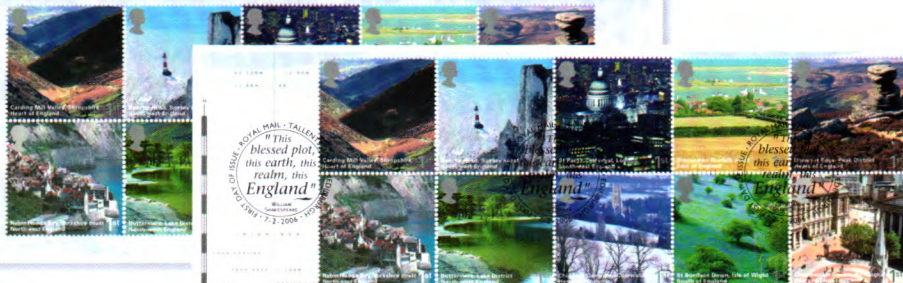
of stamps in Royal Mail's nationwide journey



Top row from left to right:
Carding Mill Valley, Shropshire;
Beachy Head, Sussex coast;
St Paul's Cathedral, London;
Brancaster, Norfolk coast;
Derwent Edge, Peak District.



Bottom row Robin Hood's Bay, Yorkshire coast; Buttermere, Lake District; Chipping Campden, Cotswolds; St Boniface Down, Isle of Wight; Chamberlain Square, Birmingham.



The pack, above, was written by Simon Calder, designed by Russell Warren-Fisher, and printed by Walsall. Right: the first day cover.

Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorier Road
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

PHILATELIC PRODUCTS A well-illustrated pack (price £3.50) and stamp cards (30p each) will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and Tallents House. It includes some superb photography of, amongst others, Blackpool's North Pier; The Cage, a former hunting lodge in Lyme Park; the Eden Valley; the Peak District National Park; Cambridge; and Anthony Gormley's *Angel of the North* •

Favourite stamps poll 2005

FOR THE 20TH YEAR running we are inviting you to vote for your favourite stamps. Shown below are the special stamps of 2005. Tell us your top three sets and favourite individual stamp (numbered 1-77) on the enclosed form. Remember to return your form by 13 January for entry in our prize draw •

Farm Animals



1



2



3



4



5



6



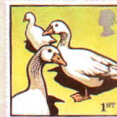
7



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16

British Journey S W England



17



18



19



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21



22

Jane Eyre



23



24



25



26



27

Magic



28



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Royal Wedding



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32



33

World Heritage Sites



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35



36



37

World Heritage Sites



38



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40



41



42



43

Trooping the Colour



44



45



46



47



48



49 Motorcycles



50



51



52



53



54



55

Changing Tastes in Britain



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59



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61 Classic ITV



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64



65

The Ashes



66



67



68

Trafalgar



69



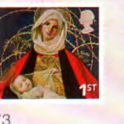
70



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76



77

Christmas

Trafalgar The fate of the main characters, by Nigel Fordham

IN THE DAYS FOLLOWING the battle many French and Spanish ships were lost in the storm, some escaped, some limped back to Cadiz and some were sunk by the Royal Navy in case they fell into enemy hands. The latter was the case regarding the magnificent 130-gun Spanish ship *Santissima Trinidad*, the largest ship at Trafalgar, which was sunk by HMS *Neptune* and HMS *Prince*. Redoubtable, Captain Lucas's ship, from whence the shot that killed Nelson had been fired, sank whilst being towed by HMS *Swiftsure*.

No British ships were lost at Trafalgar. Collingwood's ship HMS *Sovereign* (nicknamed the West Country Wagon because of her dull sailing qualities), the first ship to break the enemy line, was broken up in 1841. HMS *Temeraire*, the ship which had rescued *Victory* at Trafalgar and was the subject of a famous Turner painting, was broken up in Rotherhithe for firewood! HMS *Neptune*, which towed *Victory* in to Gibraltar after the battle, was broken up in Plymouth in 1818. HMS *Africa*, the plucky 64-gun ship that had asked the largest ship in the enemy fleet to surrender and been refused, was broken up in 1813. There is little sentimentality when it comes to the disposal of old ships, and only HMS *Victory* survives.

In terms of casualties, the Royal Navy had 449 men killed and 1241 wounded, whilst the enemy fleet lost 4408 killed and 2545 wounded.

After Nelson's death the Government awarded his brother, William £90,000 to buy an estate, and a £5000 annual pension. William, who was not a poor man, was in the church and certainly aspired to greater things through the reputation of his brother. Collingwood perhaps summed up what others thought at the time: 'I suppose all the public money will go to the Parson on New Years Day 1806. Who of all the stupid fellows you ever saw, perhaps he is the most so. Nothing in him like a gentleman. Nature never intended him for anything superior to a village curate and here has fortune in one of her frisks, raised him, without his body and mind having anything to do with it, to the highest dignity. Ten years since it did not seem to be on the cards.'

Nelson's sisters, who needed money much more, received only £15,000 each and his widow Fanny received £2000 a year pension. Despite Nelson's dying wish, Emma Hamilton received nothing.

Admiral Collingwood, who played such a key role in the battle, as Nelson's friend and second-in-command, received only £2000 a year pension and a barony. Collingwood was sent back to sea after the funeral, spending four continuous years in the Mediterranean, apart from his family, and dying in 1810 (seven months after his beloved dog Bounce, who always sailed with him) of suspected stomach cancer. Without a doubt, continuous service and lack of leave broke his health.

Admiral Villeneuve, Commander-in-Chief of the enemy fleet, was taken aboard HMS *Euryalus*, Blackwood's frigate, now carrying Collingwood's flag. He attended Nelson's funeral, and after his return to France was found dead in a hotel room in Rennes on 22 April 1806, stabbed in the chest six times. The authorities put it down to suicide! Admiral Gravina, the highly respected Spanish Commander, was injured during the battle when grape shot shattered his left arm. It should have been amputated in Cadiz but doctors dallied and gangrene set in. Gravina died on 9 March 1806.

Hardy, Nelson's Captain on the *Victory*, was created a baron in 1806 and Governor of Greenwich Hospital in 1834 until he died in 1839. He married a much younger woman late in life who outlived him by some 34 years!

Emma Hamilton's life fell apart once Nelson died. Prime Minister William Pitt, who had all but promised her a pension, died a fortnight after Nelson, and with him any chance of getting one. She fell into debt, partly because she overspent, but mainly because she was too generous. Her mother died on 14 January 1810, and her friend the Duke of Queensbury died the same year. Her debts and despair mounted, until in 1813 she was sent to a debtor's prison for 10 months, taking her daughter Horatia – all she had left to remind her of Nelson. The few Nelson possessions that she owned had either been sold by her, or had been seized with all her other possessions by creditors.

Captain Sir Thomas Masterman Hardy is best known as Nelson's flag-captain and commander of the 'Victory' at Trafalgar. Here H.M.S Victory draws attention to a signal with a gun to leeward.



She fled to Paris and settled in Calais, where she lived a miserable life until she died on 15 January 1815 with her daughter by her side.

Horatia was the daughter of Nelson and Lady Hamilton. She was only four when Nelson died, 11 when she went to prison with her mother and 13 when her mother died. She was brought back to England and was cared for by Nelson's favourite sister Mrs Matcham. She married a curate, Philip Ward, in 1822 and had nine children. Life was not easy, and shortage of money made life hard. Philip Ward died in 1859 and Horatia had to leave the vicarage. She moved with one of her sons to Pinner in Middlesex where she died on 6 March 1881 aged 80. Whilst accepting that Nelson was her father, she never accepted that Lady Hamilton was her mother.

Despite shelving his invasion plan for England, Napoleon Bonaparte still had grand designs on Europe, and it was not until 1815 at Waterloo that his plans finally came to an end. He was exiled to St Helena and died there on 5 May 1821.

Viscountess Nelson (Fanny), Nelson's wife, was paid a quarterly allowance by Nelson of £400, and received a state pension of £2000 per year. Fanny looked after Nelson's elderly father and his sister's children. She may not have had Emma's charisma, but she was kind, thoughtful and caring. She occasionally travelled overseas late in life and at one time visited Lake Geneva in Switzerland where she went boating with Lord Byron.

John Pascoe, Nelson's signals officer at Trafalgar, made the famous 'England expects' message. Badly wounded at Trafalgar, he was appointed Commander of HMS *Victory* in 1846, and died in 1853.

Josiah Nesbit, Nelson's stepson, served with him as a Midshipman on the *Agamemnon*. He left the Royal Navy and became a successful businessman. He died in France of pleurisy.

Nelson's victory at the Battle of Trafalgar gave Great Britain supremacy at sea for over 100 years and gave Lord Horatio Nelson the immortality he had always sought •

Mainly Machins Douglas Myall reports on the latest issues



Definitive pack 71 Most new stamps these days are issued in packs for collectors, formerly, and still commonly, referred to as presentation packs. Together with a first day cover, they provide collectors with a mint and a used set of each issue, and there are handsome binders available from Tallents House in which to keep them. From the same source collectors can also obtain packs containing the complete range of definitive stamps. So that one does not have to buy stamps beyond one's collecting interests, or pocket, the stamps are grouped. Thus there are separate packs for national and country stamps, and for the low and high values. Currently, a low value is one with a face value below £1.50. From time to time, Royal Mail reviews the content of these packs and updates them.

The range of definitive values on sale at any time includes not only all the current postage rates for which there is a high use, but also sufficient variety to enable any rate to be made up without having to use a large number of stamps. On 6 September, a new pack of the low value Machins was issued. It is pack number 71 and contains 19 stamps: 10 on the top row and nine on the lower row. The top row is a tight fit and all the packs I have seen have some stamps overlapping. This could lead to storage problems and I recommend that you re-arrange them so that each stamp is free from its neighbour(s). There is just enough room to do this if you are careful.

Five of the 19 stamps have no value, and indicate a service instead. These are for first and second class inland letters, worldwide airmail postcards, and the up to 40g weight step for European and worldwide letters. They are all self-adhesive. The three airmail stamps are normally sold only in books of four but have appeared in earlier packs as singles. The two 40g stamps were included in pack 60 on 27 March 2003. However, they were punched out from booklets, and still have part of the printed cover visible on the reverse. The postcard stamp was issued as one of the seven stamps in pack 67 issued on 13 April 2004. For this, special coils were printed on plain white substrate, and singles from these were inserted into the pack and sold separately from Tallents House (us002). Now, for the first time, the other four NVIs have been also printed on these special rolls with plain white backs. It is possible that the two 40g stamps will be available as singles, but pack 71 will be the only source of the two inland stamps in this form.

Trafalgar prestige book This book contains an interesting account of Trafalgar and of Nelson's life and career. It is well up to the very high standard set by previous designers and printers. I was especially intrigued by the flags on the back cover spelling out Nelson's famous signal: 'England expects that every man will do his duty'. I wonder if the ordinary seamen were able to read it even if they could not read in the ordinary way.



Definitive pack 71, the Trafalgar PSB panes, and new Smilers

The six special stamps issued to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Trafalgar are printed se-tenant on two of the four panes; three on each pane. These are beautifully printed, in the extra long shape which gives each image a panoramic look. A third pane contains three of the white ensign stamp from the Flags issue of 2001. All these specials were printed in lithography by Cartor. A fourth pane, the second in the book, contains $4 \times 1st$, $2 \times 50p$ and $2 \times 68p$ Machin definitives around a label showing a lifemask of Nelson. It was printed in gravure by Walsall. The two value stamps are new, being the first time that Walsall have printed them. As usual with prestige book panes, there are no cylinder numbers on them.

A book of Smilers Six Smilers stamps were issued in a retail book on 4 October, although some retailers had them a few days earlier. The designs have previously been issued in a larger format, as Greetings, Christmas or Occasions stamps. Royal Mail's *Preview* No 138 informs us that 'due to popular demand we're bringing the top six back in the form of a pictorial definitive'. The new stamps are the same size as ordinary definitives and the designs have been adapted to fit.

The selected designs form an eclectic lot. The Teddy bear stamp first appeared in the second Greetings book, issued on 6 February 1990. That was the book which started the whole concept of 'Smilers' and Royal Mail have now registered the

word with the Patent Office for a wide range of goods and services. Every one of the 10 stamps in the book featured a character with a smile and the front cover had a cutout in the shape of a smile. Each stamp cost 20p, the then 1st class rate. The idea proved so popular with the public that on 26 March 1991 the set was re-issued, but with 1st class NVIS instead of value stamps.

The Robin sheltering in a letterbox was first issued in the Christmas set of 30 October 1995, and re-issued in customised sheets on 20 October 2000 and then again on 9 October 2001. The theme of the ninth, and longest-running, Greetings book was flowers. This was on sale from 6 January 1997 until the late Spring of 1999. Although a blue gentian featured on the cover and in all the publicity, the flower chosen for the new book was the gazania, a truly dazzling bloom. The Union flag was issued as part of a miniature sheet on 22 October 2001. In the *Preview* leaflet announcing the new booklet, this design is called Rule Britannia for reasons which escape me. The two Occasions stamps, Love and Hello, went on sale as separate sheets on 5 March 2002, along with three other designs. Both have also appeared as generic Smilers sheets, but this is the first time they have been used for booklet stamps.

The popularity of the chosen designs may have been assessed on sales figures but it is interesting to see how they fared in the *Bulletin's* annual poll in which readers nominate their favourite stamps.

For some reason the value Teddy bear stamp was not included in the 1990 poll but the XVI version was included the following year, along with the Good Luck Greetings set and eight other special issue sets. Despite this extra competition, Teddy came fifth with a respectable 85 votes, almost half the number that the winner received. The Robin stamp topped the poll in 1995, with a massive 532 votes, making it one of the most popular stamps of all time. The 10 flowers stamps appeared in the 1997 poll. None came top, but of the 10 designs the gazania was second favourite with 25 votes; the winner was King Henry VIII, with 329 votes. The flag stamp was another winner; it topped the 2001 poll with 91 votes, one of the lowest totals for a winning design, but that year's entries had

wide appeal. The Love and Hello stamps attracted three and five votes respectively in the 2003 poll; the winner was Tower bridge which scored 273 votes.

Here's a thought: I'd like to see an annual issue of books of these new definitive-size pictorials, containing the designs which topped the poll for the previous six years, with the oldest stamp making way each year for the newcomer.

The new books and covers were printed in gravure by Walsall Security Printers. There are no cylinder numbers, although there is a column of coloured bars at the right-hand edge of the inside cover. These comprise a design purely to differentiate these Smilers books from other books of six 1st class stamps ●

Eminent collectors Ronald ('RAG') Lee, by Ron Negus

On a Saturday afternoon in December 1955, the inaugural meeting of the Great Britain Philatelic Society was held. It took place at the Royal Philatelic Society London, and was organized by Ron Lee. By the end of the afternoon, Ron ('RAG') Lee had been appointed as Secretary of the newly formed Society. He held the post until he was elected President in 1964. His service as President lasted from 1964 until 1971, but he was elected President for an unprecedented second term in 1978-80.

During the early years, he also arranged for the production of the Society's *GB Journal*, and was editor from 1956-61, and again for twelve months from 1963. The *Journal* is now acknowledged as the primary source for specialised articles and research findings on all aspects of GB philately.

Ronald Albert George Lee was born in September 1912, and had an elder cousin who was an active stamp collector. The cousin had worked in Persia and upon his return home showed the six-year-old Ron his collection and gave him a used Persian stamp. Although it had no intrinsic value, Ron was intrigued and kept that initial gift all his life. He also started to collect stamps himself.



By the time he was 16, he decided to join the Junior (now National) Philatelic Society, and his interest in the hobby increased. It was only a few months after this that he entered his first competition – showing a small display of Persian specimens – and won a prize. This was presented to him by the President of the JPS, the renowned Fred Melville. Ron could not guess he would be President of the very same Society 40 years later, as the renamed National Philatelic Society from 1969 to 1974.

Man of many talents Stamps were not his only interest. He was a member of his local swimming and rifle-shooting clubs and won trophies at both sports. In the world of ballroom dancing, he won awards at competitions throughout the UK. He was skilled with his hands, as well, and built a model yacht from scratch, as well as a whole dining room suite of table and chairs. In the garden, Ron grew prize flowers for exhibition, and often acted as judge at local horticultural shows. This breadth of activity was summed up when Ron said to an interviewer: 'I never like to ask anyone to do anything I am not prepared to do myself.'

In his working life, Ron Lee was a senior executive for a supermarket chain, retiring early in 1963 to spend more time on philatelic interests. His first wife, Margaret (Peggy), who always supported him in his varied activities, died in 1976. Her death was a severe blow, but Ron continued to work fully for all the organizations with which he was connected. Four years later, he married Alma (Grunberg), a noted philatelist in her own right. Thus, the partnership known by collectors world-wide as Ron and Alma Lee, began.

From small beginnings as a teenage collector, Ron Lee went on to build some of the finest collections ever seen at exhibitions throughout the world. Many of these earned him Gold medals. He was also frequently invited to display in the Court of Honour at International Exhibitions. Countries he specialised in at some point during his long career included Cayman Islands, Chile, Falkland Islands, Gambia, St Helena, St Lucia, and Greece. For each of these areas, he preferred to collect their classic issues.

Two collections of particular note were those of Great Britain and the Cape of Good Hope. In 1965 his display of GB earned the Grand Prix d'Honneur at the WIPA exhibition in Vienna. This was the first Grand Prix win at an overseas International by a British philatelist for more than 70 years. His Cape of Good Hope material also won the Grand Prix Prize at HAFNIA in Copenhagen in 1987. These famous collections were later sold anonymously under the name 'Maximus': the GB in 1970 by Stanley Gibbons, and the Cape in September 1989 by Sotheby's.

Strong views Ron had strong views on a subject that causes much agonizing for some collectors – how to mount mint specimens. He is reported to have said in 1987: 'For me, unmounted mint does not exist. I deplore the emphasis on it that often leads to many collections being stored away in stockbooks, so that they are not exhibited or displayed for the benefit and enjoyment of both their owners and their audiences. Too many people think about loss of value if a specimen is hinged. This is affecting the hobby, which, in my opinion, is less interesting now than thirty years ago.'

In giving advice to new exhibitors at any level, Ron always told them to 'act like a greengrocer and set up your big apples in front'. One of his contemporaries remarked that this advice did not apply to Ron Lee himself, because 'he only ever had big apples'. The exceptional quality of his material, coupled with his outstanding knowledge of classic stamps, ensured Ron Lee was invited to be a juror for many years. From 1970 to 1981, Ron was the Chairman of the Jury for both Stampex and the British Philatelic Exhibition. After 1981, he acted as a consultant to the juries at those national shows. He was also a juror at most international exhibitions during this period. In London, his association with international exhibitions began in 1960, when he was Treasurer of the event held that year at the Royal Festival Hall. Ten years later, he was Chairman for Phillympia, working with A L (Mick) Michael, who was General Manager. He later served as Treasurer and Chairman of the Finance Committee for the London 1980 exhibition at Earls Court.

Ron was a keen student, who made a special study of forgeries. He served as President of the FIP Commission for Protection against Forgeries. From 1977, until just before his death, Ron Lee was Chairman of the Expert Committee of the Royal Philatelic Society London. He was asked to join that august body in 1965, and acted as its Secretary from 1966 until 1977. When the Royal was granted charitable status in March 1983, the Expert Committee had to be set up as a separate company to organize its financial affairs and to meet the requirements of the Charities Act. The new company – RPSL Ltd – had its own board of directors and RAG Lee was its first Chairman.

Ron had joined the Royal Philatelic Society London in 1956 and soon became a regular face at meetings there. His initial display before the Society was given in September 1960, when he showed part of his GB material. He gave six other displays at the Royal in subsequent years. His organizing skill was recognised, when he joined the RPSL Council in 1967, a post he held until his death. His abilities were tested to the full in 1969 when he helped to organise the Centenary celebrations for the Royal that culminated in a visit

by The Queen to the Society's rooms in Devonshire Place. He was elected President of the Society for 1975-77. Finally, in 1989, his outstanding service to the Society was rewarded by his being made an Honorary Fellow.

In 2003, the Royal Philatelic Society London introduced a new annual award, the Lee Medal, in memory of R A G Lee and his wife Alma (who died on 2 July 2000). This new honour is a silver medal awarded for the best paper read before the Society, and supported by a display, at an ordinary meeting dealing with any aspect of philately given by one person, either Fellow or Member.

Examined 3.5 million stamps Whilst always keen to assist others to progress in their enjoyment of the hobby, Ron was not noted for major additions to literature, although he contributed occasional articles to magazines. His only book, of which volume 1 appeared in 1963, concerned plate varieties of the GB 'Penny Lilac'; a second volume of this study was published posthumously. In preparing these two volumes, it is claimed that Ron examined over 3.5 million copies of the stamp.

The achievement that gave Ron the greatest personal satisfaction was being invited to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists at the Congress held in Guernsey in 1965. This accolade is a tribute paid only to a greatly honoured few who are

at the forefront of philately in all aspects. From 1966, he also served regularly as a member of the Board of Election to the Roll. Had he survived, he would have been immensely proud that his wife Alma was also made an RDP in 1991. He was a member of the Post Office's Stamp Advisory Committee, 1968-80.

Overseas recognition of his talents was widespread. He was a Corresponding Member of both L'Académie Philatelique Belge and the Académie de Philatélie in France. Prestigious awards he received from other countries included the Lichtenstein Award (USA) in 1979 and the Lindenberg Medal (Germany) in 1983.

Ron Lee became seriously ill during 1989 and had to give up most of his philatelic commitments. He died in the Clementine Churchill Hospital on 10 March 1990, aged 77, with his family at his side. His ambition to be an Honorary Juror at the Stamp World London 90 show was sadly never achieved.

In the obituary notice for Ron Lee in the *London Philatelist*, a past President of the Royal, and close friend, A Ronald Butler, RDP, FRPSL wrote the following epitaph: 'He was argumentative, he was conciliatory, he was dictatorial, he was attentive. He was difficult but he was courteous and generous, and we loved him. Above all, he was respected and worthy of that respect.' ●

Text © Ron Neous 2005

Autumn Stampex A look at GB exhibits, by Glenn Morgan

THERE WERE SOME good competitive displays of GB stamps and postal history at Autumn Stampex (14-17 September). Some 48-64 pages are required for entries in the National section; 80-128 pages for International; 16 pages for One Frame; and up to 16 pages for Youth. There were also entries in the Literature competition.

There were fewer entries than the organisers had hoped for, and it is unclear whether this is due to the cost of entering and acquiring suitable items, or the amount of work involved. This is the only chance that British collectors get each year to compete nationally and also to prepare entries for international shows.

The only exhibit in the Great Britain Traditional National section was my own. Entitled 'Machin Dummy Booklets', this was awarded a vermeil medal and the Royal Mail trophy. In the International section, John Sussex's 'Irish Free State Overprints 1922-32' (large vermeil medal) included mint low and high values with many multiples and an emphasis on shades and items on cover.

The Postal History class had three GB entries in the International section. Firstly, Mrs Jean I Ruskin showed 'Scottish Additional Halfpenny Mail Tax' (large vermeil, Bonham's trophy and William Ferris bowl), which covered the era of the Napoleonic Wars and recorded the develop-



A view of Autumn Stampex underway at the Business Design Centre, and the Royal Mail Trophy – awarded this year, together with a vermeil medal, to Glenn Morgan for his 'Machin Dummy Booklets'

ment of the 1/2d handstamps. William Wilson's 'Isle of Man Postal History' (vermeil) included items used on the island from the introduction of the General Post in 1767, to the end of the reign of Edward VII. David Stürups' 'To Portugal from UK: Rates on Maritime Mail by British Packets 1814-59' (large vermeil and Ebby Gerish trophy), explained the complexity of the charges applied to this class of mail.

Peter Lister's Aerophilately International section exhibit 'Aspects of the First United Kingdom Aerial Post 1911' (gold, GBPS Hassan Shaida trophy & British Aerophilately Federation Research medal) included signed items, proofs, colour trials, errors and flown covers, postcards and newspapers. In the Postal Stationery class there were three GB entries. In the National section, Michael Pitt-Payne showed 'Postcards – Post Office Issues' (silver), covering all used cards from the reign of Queen Victoria, and Richard Solly's 'British Postal Orders Outside the UK' (gold and PTS trophy), outlined the history of the issue and payment of these items overseas. The International section saw the same exhibitor displaying 'Early British Postal Orders' (vermeil), which illustrated the events that led to their introduction in 1881 and went through to the first Edward VII orders.

Although not strictly GB, Peter Wood's Thematic National entry 'The Irish Empire' (vermeil & Stamp Magazine trophy) showed how the Irish people retain their identity all around the world. Jon Aitchison's Revenue National entry 'The Impressed Revenue Stamps of Guernsey' (silver) included unrecorded examples and illustrated how catalogued information is often incorrect.

The initial excitement surrounding the relatively new class of Social Philately appears to have died down, although the National Class entry 'Malt-on, a Yorkshire Market Town and its Connections with the Post' (silver) by John Sussex and, in the International section, 'British Empire Exhibition 1924-25, a Tour of the Empire at Wembley' (vermeil) by Jeffrey Watson, both proved the value of collectors being permitted to display items that would not previously have been allowed.

The One Frame class appears to be proving popular with exhibitors, where preparation of 16 pages should not be beyond the abilities of any aspiring exhibitor. John Sussex (in his third exhibit) submitted 'Halfpenny Wilding Booklet Panes' (bronze); David Milsted 'Office of Works Overprints' (gold); Professor Barrie Jay 'The Last Invasion of Britain' (gold & BPT trophy); and Keith Johnson 'English Provincial Postal History' (Lincoln) (silver).

The Youth Championships did not feature any GB entries this year, but the Literature class included 'The Post Office and the Colleges' (bronze-silver) by Vincent West, and *Bulletin* contributor Douglas Myall received a vermeil for his Deegam Machin Handbook on CD-ROM.

An enjoyable couple of hours was spent examining the exhibits, and it was encouraging to see what I perceived to be a larger than normal number of visitors doing likewise. Congratulations to all of this year's exhibitors, who took the time to prepare and share their collections, or writings, with fellow collectors.

Note that certificates, rather than medals, are awarded in One Frame and Literature classes ●

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



September identify The detail is from the 3p General Letter Office stamp of 1960. The winner was E Smith of Yorkshire.

September knowledge The answers are: 1) William Heath; 2) 1986; 3) Derby. The winner was F & L van Rijn, of Netherlands.

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

- 1 Who designed the 1996 Famous Women issue?
- 2 Which set of stamps features weightlifting, rifle-shooting and hockey?
- 3 Who is the publisher of the *Collecting British First Day Covers* catalogue?

Send your answer (addressed to either December *Identify* competition or December *Knowledge* competition), name and address on a postcard or back of a sealed envelope to: British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ. The senders of the first cards drawn in each competition on 13 January will each receive £100. Ten runner-up prizes of presentation packs or first day covers will be awarded in each competition. These competitions are not open to Royal Mail employees •

Events

25-26 November Thematica at Carisbrooke Hall, Seymour Street, London W2. Fri 10.30-18.30, Sat 10.00-17.00.

10 December Sidcup Philatelic Society Stamp Fair, Emmanuel Hall, Hadlow Road, Sidcup, 10.00-16.00.

22-26 February Spring Stampex at Business Design Centre, Upper Street, London N1. Main display by British Thematic Association. **Enquiries** Stampex 01252 628006.

23-25 February Philatex (London International Stamp & Cover Show) at Lawrence Hall, Royal Horticultural Hall, Greycoat Street, London SW1. **Enquiries** 01793 513431 or see www.stampshows.co.uk

21-22 April Scottish Philatelic Congress at Dewar's Centre, Perth •

Prize draw

THIS MONTH'S PRIZE is a 2005 Christmas stamp collection – a pack of the new stamps, the two stamp books (24 × 2nd class and 12 × 1st class), a miniature sheet, a first day cover, stamp cards, Smilers sheet and Christmas airletters (national and Welsh versions). Four runners-up will receive Christmas stamp packs. To enter send your name and address on a postcard or back of a sealed envelope to: Christmas Draw, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old street, London EC1V 9HQ to arrive by 30 December. Good luck and happy Christmas!

Prize winners The winners of the Trafalgar draw in September's *Bulletin* were: C Wolstencroft of Worcestershire (1st prize); M Phillips, Wiltshire; G Johnson, Northamptonshire; K Peader, New Zealand; J Capitaio, Belgium; and T Fletcher of Aberdeenshire •

Late news

Christmas service The recommended last day posting dates for Christmas mail are: 12 December for most international airmail, 14 December for most European airmail, 17 December UK 2nd class, 20 December UK 1st class, and 22 December UK Special Delivery. See www.royalmail.com for further details. Tallents House in Edinburgh will be closed 26-27 December and 2-3 January. The Search Room at the British Postal Museum & Archive will be closed for annual stock-taking from 12 December, re-opening on 3 January. Telephone enquiries to 020 7239 2570, or see www.postalheritage.org.uk •

Christmas stamps The following cylinder numbers are additional to those reported here in September: 1st class, 42p and 68p stamps: D1 silver D2 magenta D2 yellow D2 cyan (blue) D2 black D1 phosphor; 2nd class D1 D1 D1 D1 D1 D2 •

Stampa success Congratulations to two of our occasional contributors, Brian Warren and Margaret Morris, on their success at the recent Stampa exhibition in Dublin. Brian received a silver, EPA certificate and Irish Security Stamp Printing Ltd Trophy for his entry 'Revenue Stamping Branch – Special Issues and Commemoratives – the Photogravure Period'. Margaret (author of our booklet on thematic collecting), received a vermeil and Whyte's Trophy for 'Iceland 1930 Millenary Issue – its extraordinary story'.

Cover catalogue Tallents House is now stocking *The Booth Catalogue: Collect GB First Day Covers*. This is available for £9.80 plus handling charge: £1.30 UK, £1.55 Europe, £2.15 elsewhere •

Suggestions invited The American Topical Association is offering prizes for suggestions on how to improve services to its 3400 members. Suggestions, in the areas of savings, investments, income, membership retention, membership attraction, and other ways that might improve the organization, should be submitted on the ATA suggestion form on their website (www.american-topical-assn.org), or available from ATA, PO Box 57, Arlington, TX 76004-0057, USA. Awards will range from ATA handbooks, checklists and ATA memberships for one or two years, to a life membership or even transport to an upcoming National Topical Stamp Show. Lists of suggestions received, with awards given, will be published in the ATA's magazine *Topical Time* •

Isle of Man issues Six *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* stamps were issued on 21 October. Included are images of Harry and his friends Ron Weasley and Hermoine Granger, as well as the Triwizard Cup and the Hungarian Horntail dragon. Also issued on 21 October was a miniature sheet of £1 Isle of Man and £1 Gibraltar stamps marking the bicentenary of Trafalgar. Five Christmas stamps featuring stained glass windows went on sale on 7 November. Enquiries to: Isle of Man Philatelic Bureau, PO Box 10M, Douglas, Isle of Man IM99 1PB, or website www.iompost.com •

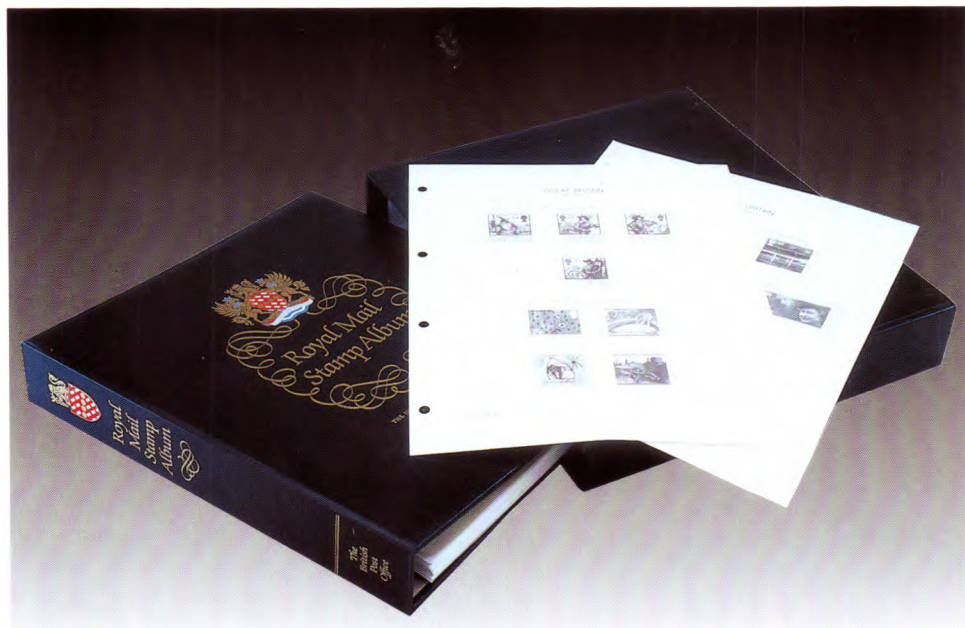
Obituary The Belgian artist Jean-Michel Folon, who designed the Europe in Space set of 1991 and three of the 1995 Peace & Freedom stamps, died in October aged 71. He also designed the 1982 Philexfrance stamps for the French Post Office, and a mural at Waterloo station •

Bulletin back issues G D Mitchell, of Maidenhead in Berkshire offers October 1965 - August 2003 in binders to anyone able to collect. Contact him at gdmitch@btinternet.com •

Change to issue date Please note that the Modern Architecture stamps will be issued on 20 June 2006, not 13 June as previously announced •

Correction The Christmas Smilers sheet of 2004 contained stamps featuring Father Christmas by Raymond Briggs, not robins as stated in last month's *Bulletin* (page 72). We regret any confusion caused and are pleased to set the record straight. This year's Christmas Smilers sheet does contain robins stamps •

Royal Mail Deluxe Stamp Album



Royal Mail's Deluxe Album is the ideal way to display your collection of Elizabeth II stamps. The album comes complete with plastic mounts to secure your stamps safely, having been specially designed to carefully preserve your collection. Spaces are provided for all definitive, country, special, and postage due stamps, also miniature sheets. The album is available in three volumes. Vol 1 covers the pre-decimal issues (1952-70), Vol 2 the decimal issues of the 1970s and 80s, and Vol 3 the issues of the 1990s.

Prices: Vol 1 £79.95 (order code PA634), Vols 2 & 3 £99.94 each (PA635 & PA636). The three volumes can be supplied together for £245 (PA685). Additional (empty) album binders and slip cases cost £39.95 (PA194).

Continuation pages (supplements) are available for each year, 2000 to 2005, price £14.95 per year.

Handling charge £1.30 UK, £1.55 Europe, £2.15 elsewhere for continuation pages; £2.95 UK, £5 Europe, £14 elsewhere for albums and binders.

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