BRITISH PHILATELIC
Bulletin
50th Anniversary Year 2013

The Royal Mail magazine for stamp collectors

VOLUME 50 | ISSUE NUMBER 8 | £1.50

April issue: Great Britons • Preview: Football Heroes



Stamp preview: read all about the Football Heroes on special stamps released in May

WIN NEW ISSUES • JOHN HOLMAN UK STAMP SCENE • FOCUS GREAT BRITON VIVIEN LEIGH

Issues and withdrawals



Cover: Vivien Leigh as Scarlett O'Hara in *Gone With The Wind*. Leigh is one of the Great Britons celebrated in this month's special stamp issue. Stamp details were featured in the Preview on page 200 of March *Bulletin*. Read about the achievements of these Great Britons on page 242.

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10 April	**Withdrawal** UK A-Z Parts 1 and 2: Stamps, Presentation Pack, Composite Sheet, Stamp Cards.
16 April	**Issue** Great Britons: Stamps, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards.
16 April	**Issue** 60th Anniversary of Royal Yacht *Britannia:* Commemorative Sheet.
1 May	**Issue** David Livingstone, Pioneering Explorer and Medical Missionary, 1813-1873: Commemorative Sheet.
9 May	**Issue** Football Heroes: Stamps, Miniature Sheet, Prestige Stamp Book, Stamp Book (2 x 1st Class Football Heroes and 4 x 1st Class Machins), Presentation Pack including bespoke Poster, Stamp Cards.
10 May	**Issue** Australia 2013 World Stamp Exhibition: Smilers® Exhibition Sheet (20 x 1st Class). Post & Go Collectors Strip Machin in 6 rates. Post & Go Collectors Strip Union Flag in 6 rates. Both Strips with Australia 2013 World Stamp Expo overprint and print string A5GB13 (at the Exhibition A5AU13).
14 May	**Withdrawal** Great British Fashion: Stamps, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards.
27 May	**Issue** Post & Go Union Flag: re-issue for the 60th anniversary of the Coronation of HRH Elizabeth II.
30 May	**Issue** Her Majesty The Queen – Six Decades of Royal Portraits: Stamps (1st Class, 2nd Class, 77p, 87p, £1.28, £1.90), Presentation Pack, set of 6 Stamp Cards, Coin Covers, Commemorative Document.

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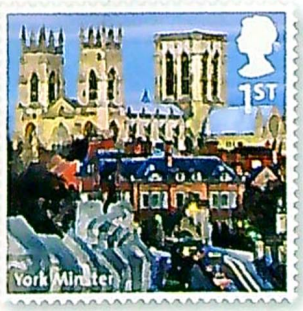
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A lady loved by stamps Discover the grit behind the greatness of Great Briton Vivien Leigh **239**



The *British Philatelic Bulletin* is published monthly by Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB ● Editor: William Doherty ● Price £1.50 from Post Office Ltd philatelic outlets (see opposite) ● **Annual subscription** £12.95 UK & Europe; £17.95 elsewhere. Send subscriptions to Royal Mail Tallents House (address opposite) ● **Binders** (to hold 24 issues) £8.50, storage boxes (about 30 copies) £9.95 available by post from Royal Mail Tallents House ● Royal Mail also publishes the fortnightly *British Postmark Bulletin*, giving details of forthcoming special handstamps – available on annual subscription from Royal Mail Tallents House. £12.25 UK and Europe; £24.95 rest of the world ● Stamp images © Royal Mail. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or parts is prohibited without prior permission of the Editor ● **Printed** in Great Britain by Zenith Print & Packaging Ltd ● **ISSN** 0953 8119 ● Royal Mail is a trading name of Royal Mail Group Ltd. Registered in England and Wales, number 4138203. Registered office: 100 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0HQ

Correspondence



Here's a letter from a loyal reader who has subscribed to the *British Philatelic Bulletin* for 50 years. We print the letter in full because we enjoyed reading it all and many of the points have a topical ring.

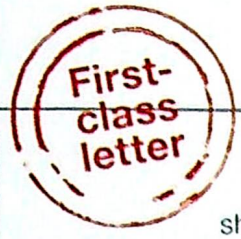
Golden letter

I thought I would put pen to paper and join the many people who are writing to you about the 50th Anniversary of the *British Philatelic Bulletin*.

I was especially interested in the letter from Larry Rosenblum in November 2012. I am a founder subscriber, right from the very beginning in May 1963. I have every single issue of the *Bulletin* and all the extra sheets that were issued to cover specialist subjects, including one about the use of phosphor which I particularly enjoyed.

I, too, have the complete specimen stamps (Volume 1, Number 3) and also a specimen copy of the airletter that formed part of the Shakespeare issue. The specimen airletter was given to subscribers as an apology for the cancellation of the March 1964 issue of *Bulletin*, because the staff involved in its production had been obliged to deal with an overwhelming demand for the Shakespeare stamps. The editorial comment noted that 20,000 letters had been received in one week!

Re-reading the first 20 issues, ie all of Volumes 1 and 2, has been fascinating. The first annual sub was five shillings and first advertised in May 1963, with the first *Bulletin* distributed in the September of that year.



Volume 2, issue 1 in September 1964 tells us that £2 or £5 should be enough to fund the new stamps and FDCs for 12 months!

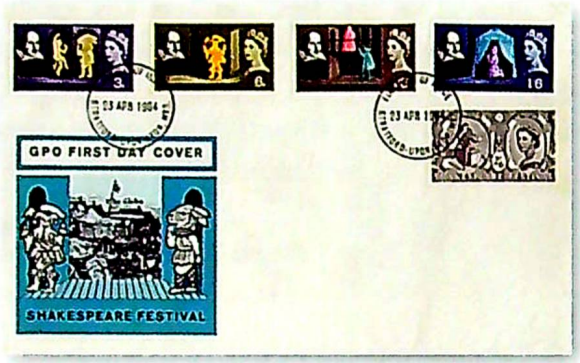
Volume 2, issue 2 says that the dating of *Bulletin* will be given up in future, because publishing dates are uncertain, but that there will be ten issues a year. The farewell issue of Volume 2 explains that the first five issues were typed and photocopied and the remaining 15 produced by offset-litho.

The success of the *Bulletin* is confirmed in issue 6 of Volume 2, which tells us that, even at this early stage, there were some 2,000 subscribers.

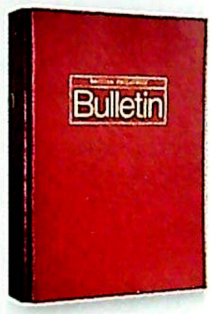
The early years of *Bulletin* were not without their problems, however. For example, issue 6 of Volume 2 explains to readers that delays to the issue were occasioned by unofficial overtime bans by staff.

How times have changed over the years – maybe there is something still to be learned from those early days. The only thing that has not changed is that I still read *Bulletin* from cover to cover!

J I M Graham, Leamington Spa



Calling Coronation collectors...



Can you remember buying a special Coronation stamp in 1953? Or the first stamp in your album marking its anniversary? The Editor welcomes your letters and e-mails on this and all other stamp-related subjects. The senders of those published will receive philatelic delights as a thank-you. Occasionally we award a *Bulletin* binder to the writer of a 'First-class letter'. Send your letters to: The Editor, *British Philatelic Bulletin*, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. Or e-mail bulletin.enquiries@royalmail.com.

April update Time for First Day Covers of new Machins, Football Heroes coming soon, plus the Livingstone Commemorative Sheet



New Definitives and Country Definitives on 25 March 2013 Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond our control, the products for this issue will now be despatched from 11 April. Royal Mail will extend hand-stamping facilities until Wednesday 24 April 2013 for customers who wish to create their own First Day Covers. Options for First Day postmarks for the new Definitives and Country Definitives are listed below.

There is no change to first or second class basic-rate stamp price; the new self-adhesive definitives are for use with the higher weight bands. For details of Country Definitives, see March *Btitish Philatelic Bulletin* page 198 • ▸



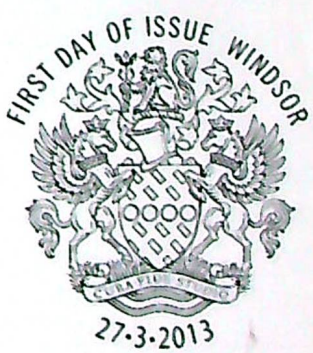
FD 1306 NP

Tariff UK Postmarks shown right		
Tallents House, Edinburgh	Pictorial	Ref No FD 1306 TH
Windsor, Berkshire	Pictorial	Ref No FD 1306 PL
Windsor, Berkshire	Non-Pictorial	Ref No FD 1306 NP

Tariff Country Definitives Postmarks		
English - London	Pictorial	Ref No FD 1307 PL
English - London	Non-Pictorial	Ref No FD 1307 NP
Scottish - Edinburgh	Pictorial	Ref No FD 1308 PL
Scottish - Edinburgh	Non-Pictorial	Ref No FD 1308 NP
Welsh - Caerdydd, Cardiff	Pictorial	Ref No FD 1309 PL
Welsh - Caerdydd, Cardiff	Non-Pictorial	Ref No FD 1309 NP
Northern Ireland - Belfast	Pictorial	Ref No FD 1310 PL
Northern Ireland - Belfast	Non-Pictorial	Ref No FD 1310 NP



FD 1306 TH



FD 1306 PL

Top: FDC with new values – 78p, 88p, £1.88, Standard Royal Mail Signed For, Large Royal Mail Signed For

Stamp images © Royal Mail Group Ltd 2013

Stamp sheet marking the bicentenary of the birth of David Livingstone The Scottish medical missionary and explorer David Livingstone (1813-1873) is considered to be one of the greatest heroes of the Victorian era. A handsome commemorative sheet issued on 1 May celebrates the bicentenary of his birth, his intrepid explorations of Africa and his extensive writings.

The A4 sheet is designed by Frontmedia Studio and lithographically printed by Cartor Security Printing, with phosphor bars and simulated die-cut perforations. It comprises ten self-adhesive first-class Saltire stamps (20mm x 24mm, with illustration by Peter Crowther) alongside labels featuring scenes depicting significant events in Livingstone's life, all with explanatory captions. The stamps are set within a 19th-century illustration of the Victoria Falls, taken from Livingstone's *Missionary Travels and Researches in South Africa, Including a Sketch of Sixteen Years' Residence in the Interior of Africa*, published in 1857.

Beneath the stamps, at the foot of the sheet, is a quotation from Livingstone: 'People talk of the sacrifice I have made in spending so much of my life in Africa... It is emphatically no sacrifice. Say rather it is a privilege' •



Right: the David Livingstone Commemorative Sheet is issued on 1 May and costs £14.95. It is presented with an illustrated information sheet



Left: the shiny happy wrapper of the Football Heroes Prestige Stamp Book and one of the panes – more details this and other PSB panes in a future Bulletin

Football Heroes Prestige Stamp Book Remember the eager anticipation when you opened those foil-wrapped football stickers of bygone days? Then you will appreciate the novel wrapper of the Prestige Stamp Book (PSB), released on 9 May as part of the Football Heroes issue. This PSB is a real beauty, packed with images and information that will delight philatelic football fans.

Also part of the Football Heroes issue is a George Best and Bobby Moore stamp book, with two portrait stamps from the new issue and four First Class Machins. Read all about the Football Heroes stamps on page 232 and watch out for some late announcements about special products, in next month's *Bulletin* •

Readers' favourites to be withdrawn *British Philatelic Bulletin* readers voted for UK A-Z Part 2 as their favourite stamp set of 2012 and UK A-Z Part 1 as their favourite set of 2011. The Stamps, Presentation Pack, Composite Sheet and Stamp Cards of both issues will be withdrawn from sale on 10 April •

The price of Bulletin has increased to £1.50. Subscription rates remain unchanged for the time being •

Please note: new Machin definitives are self-adhesive and not, as erroneously stated last month on page 197, PVA-gummed •

Below: last chance to buy UK A-Z Parts 1 and 2 is 10 April. Everyone has their favourite; the B for Bath stamp reminds *Bulletin* designer Paul Elmes of his sixth-form art lessons







Mr A Collector
200 Manorbier Road
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE1 4AZ

Royal Mail First Day Cover

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

Football Heroes Book now to witness an all-star philatelic tribute to the beautiful game, coming soon to a Post Office near you

THIS YEAR IS THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY of the founding of the Football Association (FA) and the establishment of the agreed laws of 'the beautiful game'. The Scottish Football Association has its 140th anniversary this year, too. To mark these sporting anniversaries, Royal Mail is releasing a Football Heroes special stamp issue on 9 May.

While the Football Association is today solely concerned with the governance of English football, the sport is enjoyed throughout the United Kingdom and football fans take great pride in the players of all four countries. Hence the 11 football heroes featured in this stamp issue are key great footballers from each UK country, all of whom have represented their home nation.

***Football Heroes* – Specifications**	
Date of issue	9 May
Number of stamps	Eleven, all First Class
Stamp design	True North
Original artwork	Andrew Kinsman
Stamp format	Portrait
Stamp size	30mm x 32mm
Printer	Cartor Security Printing
Print process	Lithography
Number per sheet	30/60
Perforations	14.5 x 14.5
Phosphor	All over
Gum	PVA

Thanks to the Football Association, the Irish Football Association, the Scottish Football Association and the Football Association of Wales for their co-operation and assistance.

***Football Heroes* issue – Prices**	
Presentation Pack	£7.10
Miniature Sheet	£6.60
First Day Cover Stamps/overseas	£8.40/£7
First Day Cover Miniature Sheet/overseas	£8.40/£7
First Day Cover Prestige Stamp Book/overseas	£4.82/£4.02
Prestige Stamp Book	£11.11
Retail Stamp Book	£3.60
Stamp Cards, set of 12	£5.40



Stamp by stamp The stamp designs are taken from a painting by Andrew Kinsman, from the back row, left to right:
Jimmy Greaves: played 57 times for England, scoring an incredible 44 goals.
John Charles: one of the greatest all-round players of all time and dubbed 'Il Gigante Buono' (Gentle Giant) in his successful spell with Juventus, Italy.
Gordon Banks: the finest of goalkeepers, who made possibly the greatest save of all time – from Pele during the 1970 World Cup Finals.
George Best: discovered at the age of 15 by a Manchester United Scout. Recognised as the most naturally gifted footballer Northern Ireland has ever produced.
John Barnes: scored a goal against Brazil in the Maracana Stadium, Rio de Janeiro, which is often described as the best English goal of all time.
Kevin Keegan: one of a Liverpool team that won seven major trophies including the club's first European Cup. An inspiring motivator, quick-witted and quick on the ball, he was twice named European Footballer of the Year. ▶



Above, special first day postmarks: with 'Wembley', headquarters of the Football Association (FD1313-PL) and the Tallents House, Edinburgh design (FD1313-TH)

Facing page: Royal Mail First Day Cover

Below and above left: Football Heroes Presentation Pack





Football Heroes **Miniature Sheet (shown above) – Specifications**	
Date of issue	9 May
Number of stamps	11
Size of sheet	115mm x 89mm
Design	GBH
Stamp format/size	Portrait/30mm x 32mm
Original painting	Andrew Kinsman
Stamp size	30mm x 32mm
Printer	Cartor Security Printing
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	14.5 x 14.5
Phosphor	All over
Gum	PVA

Denis Law: highly effective for his country and clubs, voted outstanding Scottish player of the previous 50 years by the Scottish Football Association in 2003.
Bobby Moore: with a legendary calm assurance, captained England to the 1966 World Cup win.
Bryan Robson: a dream midfielder, voted Manchester United's greatest ever player in a 2011 poll.
Dave Mackay: immensely strong, described by George Best as his hardest and bravest opponent.
Bobby Charlton: a survivor of the 1958 Munich disaster, he went on to lift the European Cup for Manchester United ten years later, in 1968.

Packs and postmarks The Football Heroes mint stamps are available in a Presentation Pack that includes pen portraits of each footballer, written by Richard Rae, a freelance sportswriter. On the Miniature Sheet the stamps are presented in a staggered pattern, so that the entire original artwork is used. A sneak preview of the Prestige Stamp Book is on page 231 and you will find further details of the PSB and Stamp Books in May *Bulletin*.

As an alternative to the Tallents House, Edinburgh postmark (reference number FD1313-TH), pictorial (FD1313-PL) and non-pictorial (FD1313-NP) WEMBLEY, MIDDLESEX postmarks will also be available for this issue. Wembley was chosen because this is where the national stadium and Football Association headquarters are based.

All first-day-of-issue postmarking offices will be supplied with the alternative pictorial first-day-of-issue postmark. This will mean that all first day covers posted at the Post Office® counter will be cancelled with the same pictorial postmark (FD1313-PL), regardless of where they are posted. Serviced (i.e. stamped and postmarked) Royal Mail First Day Covers with the full set of stamps are available by Mail Order from Royal Mail, Tallents House priced £8.40 UK or £7 overseas (the latter excludes VAT) •

Football image: iStockphoto. All stamp images: Royal Mail Group Ltd.

Stamp Scene John Holman reports on recent and forthcoming events



Diary dates

6 April GB Philatelic Society displays 'The Downey head, Here and There' (Michael Sefi) and 'Postal Innovation in the Reign of King George V' (Graham Mark), Grosvenor Philatelic Auctions, 399 Strand, London WC2.
12 April Strand Stamp Fair, The Galleon Suite, Royal National Hotel, Russell Square, London WC1.
13 April Manchester & District Philatelic Traders Association Stamp Fair at Sale Grammar School, Marsland Rd, Sale M33 3NH, 10am to 4pm.
16 April National Philatelic Society seminar 'How to use the internet to buy and sell stamps'. See NPS website or phone 01582 762284 for details.
19-20 April Scottish Philatelic Congress, Dewar Centre, Perth PH2 0TH.
20 April Stanley Gibbons Open Day, Parkside, Christchurch Road, Ringwood, Hants BH24 3SH, 9am to 1pm. Enquiries 01425 472363.
20 April Kettering Spring Stamp Fair, ISE Lodge Community Centre, St Vincents Ave, Kettering NN15 5DR, 10am to 4pm. For further details, phone 01536 746800.
27 April Spring StampEssex at the James Hornby School, Laindon, Essex,10am to 4pm.
10 May Strand Stamp Fair, as above.
10 to 15 May Australia 2013 International Stamp Exhibition, Melbourne, Australia. For more details visit worldstampexpo.com.au. See next month's *Bulletin* for preview of the Exhibition Stamp Sheet.
18 May GBPS displays 'The Siege of Paris and the Franco-Prussian War' (Philip Mackay) and 'The Corsini Letters' (Philip Beale, M Scott Parker, and Alan Moorcroft) at Royal Philatelic Society, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1, 11am •



Below: 'G'day from Royal Mail' Exhibition Stamp Sheet is issued on 10 May to coincide with the opening of Australia 2013. For more details see next month's *Bulletin*

British Postal Museum and Archive

The BPMA, located at Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1, near the famous Mount Pleasant sorting office, is open Monday to Friday 10am to 5pm (Thursdays until 7pm). It will also be open on Saturday 13 April and 11 May (10am to 5pm), but closed on Monday 15 April and 13 May. For full information on BPMA services, exhibitions and events phone 020 7239 2570, e-mail info@postalheritage.org.uk or visit www.postalheritage.org.uk.

In conjunction with the Churchill Museum and Cabinet War Rooms, the BMPA exhibition 'Last Post: Remembering the First World War' can be seen at the Museum of Army Flying, Middle Wallop, Stockbridge, Hants SO20 8DY until 27 September. Open daily 10am to 4.30pm. Phone 01264 784421 or visit www.armyflying.com for details and admission charges. The exhibition explores the vital role played by the Post Office during the Great War, telling the stories of postal workers at war and on the Home Front.

The Winter 2013 edition of the BPMA Newsletter (which is actually a ▸



Letter censored at sea in the First World War

24-page magazine) is still available and contains much of interest, including details of touring exhibitions, the PO Rifles, the PO Underground Railway in London, the BPMA Paintings Collection, Victorian roadside letter boxes, objects in the BPMA store, and the GPO film unit. For a copy of this well-illustrated publication contact the BPMA on the phone number above.

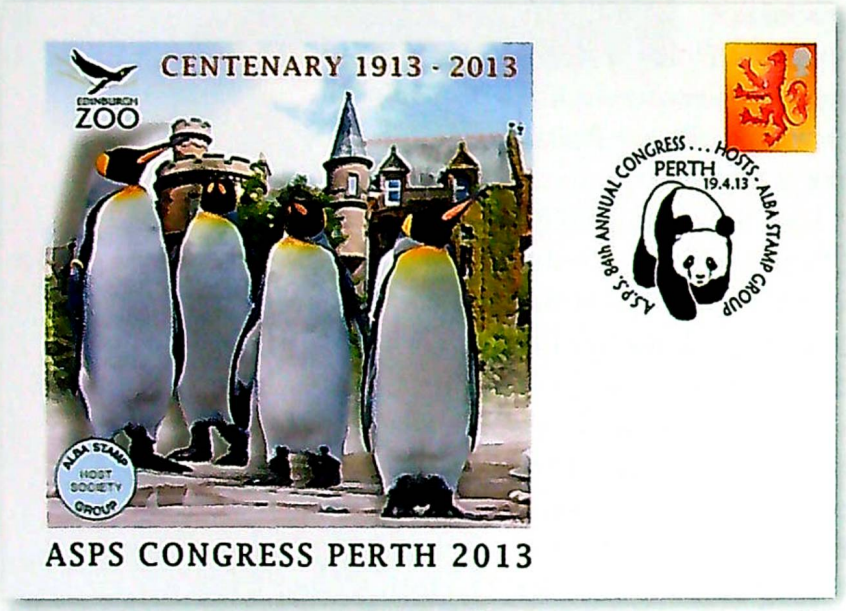
The Friends of the BPMA organises its own range of publications and activities. Events planned for 2013 can be seen on the Friends' page of the BPMA website www.postalheritage.org.uk/page/friends where a membership application form can be downloaded. Or write to: Membership Secretary, Mrs Avice Harms, 13 Amethyst Avenue, Davis Estate, Chatham ME5 9TX, e-mail friends@postalheritage.org.uk. Ordinary membership is £20 per annum •

A Scottish Congress

The popular Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies Annual Congress takes place at the Dewar Centre, Glover Street, Perth PH2 0TH this month. This follows the successful ABPS National Exhibition and Philatelic Congress of GB held in Perth last October (see report in December 2012 *Bulletin*). Parking at the Dewar Centre and entry to the Scottish Congress are free. The times are 11am to 5.30pm on Friday 19 April and 10am to 4pm on Saturday 20 April.

This year the host society is the Alba Stamp Group and the ASPS chairman, Mike Turnbull, says that they will be celebrating the centenary of Edinburgh Zoo which features on the commemorative cover (see below). Perth and Kinross Council will host a reception prior to the Annual Awards Dinner, when the guest of honour will be the President of the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland.

The Tom Rielly Display (in memory of a distinguished Scottish philatelist) will be given by Robin Sherman. More than 35 dealers will be present – some attending for the first time – offering a wide range of stamps, postal history and postcards. Displays will include the National, Open, and Junior Competitions, and ones by the host society. For details see the ASPS website: www.scottishphilately.homestead.com.



Above: the ASPS Congress cover celebrates the centenary of Edinburgh Zoo, home to the handsome penguins featured

As at Perth 2012, Royal Mail is offering Post & Go facilities, the stamps bearing a Congress inscription. It is also hoped that facilities for the production of instant Smilers® stamps will be available.

The special Congress cover features penguins at Edinburgh Zoo alongside the Congress special handstamp, which features a panda. Unserviced covers and postcards will be available at 50p each. Covers and postcards serviced with the Congress postmark are £2 each or £3.50 for one of each. Postage and packing is £1 UK or £2.50 overseas. It is hoped that signed covers will be available at £7. The likely signature is that of John Spence, President of the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland. Send cheques, payable to 'Alba Stamp Group', to: Graham Mill, 20 Prestonfield, Milngavie, Glasgow G62 7PZ •

Exhibitions relating to stamp themes

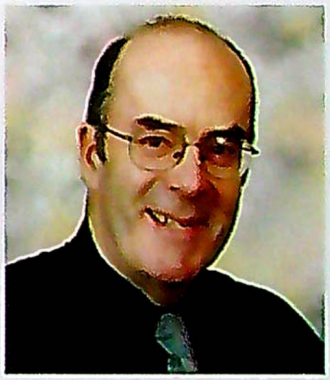
The Kings & Queens stamps issued between February 2008 and February 2012 proved popular with many collectors. Those particularly interested in the Tudor and Stuart monarchs may be interested in an exhibition 'In Fine Style: The Art of Tudor and Stuart Fashion' at The Queen's Gallery at Buckingham Palace from 10 May until 6 October. The exhibition brings together Tudor and Stuart paintings from the Royal Collection, clothes and jewellery. For bookings and information phone 020 7766 7300.

'The Queen: Portraits of a monarch exhibition' is on show at Windsor Castle until 9 June. Phone 020 7766 7304 for bookings and more information.



Astro Space Society Jubilee

The Astro Space Stamp Society recently celebrated its silver jubilee. The Society publishes a well-produced journal, *Orbit*, edited by Jeff Dugdale (pictured right), which over the years has published some 3000 articles. The January 2013 issue includes features on Royal Mail's 2012 Space Science set, Neil Armstrong (who died last August), Soyuz Flights to the International Space Station, Early Soviet Propaganda-Design satellites and much else. There is a profile of Margaret Morris, occasional *Bulletin* contributor and author of *An Introduction to Thematic Collecting* (*Bulletin* Publication No.5, 1998), who has stepped down as the Society's Chairman after 12 years. For details of the Astro Space Stamp Society contact Brian Lockyer, 21 Exford Close, Weston-super-Mare BS23 4RE, e-mail b.lockyer365@btinternet.com or visit its website: www.astrospacestampsociety.com. Annual subscription is £15 UK, junior rate (under 18) £6.50 •



StampEssex Smilers®

Spring StampEssex 2013 is hosted by the Basildon Philatelic Society (45 years old this year) and takes place on 27 April at James Hornsby School, Leinster Road, Laindon from 10am to 4pm. As well as displays, there will be dealers and refreshments. Parking is free. Smilers® TM stamps showing the event emblem, designed by the Society's Chairman Charlie Mead, will be available. Sheets of 20 stamps (£22) or specially designed presentation packs containing two stamps (£3) can be ordered by post, adding £2 postage & packing. Send cheques, payable to 'Basildon Philatelic Society', to: Basildon Philatelic Society, 25 Clay Hill Road, Basildon, Essex SS16 5DD.

The Society meets at 7.30pm on the first Monday and third Tuesday of each month at George Hurd Centre and welcomes new members •

European novelties

Two unusual stamps from overseas have caught our eye. Firstly, the set celebrating the achievement of Belgian chocolatiers – popular with chocoholics, the stamps taste and smell of chocolate!

Unrelated, except in its unusual design challenge, is the *Sede Vacante* (Empty Seat) set, issued by the Vatican's Philatelic and Numismatic Office. On the resignation of Benedict XVI, the Vatican was in the unusual position of having no pope to put on stamps, so portrayed an angel holding the accoutrements of the papal seat until Pope Francis was chosen. •





Aromatic Belgian chocolate, above, and the short-lived 'Sede Vacante' stamps, left, from the Vatican

Selfridges history



Above: Selfridges deparment store in Birmingham, from the Modern Architecture stamp series of 2006

Some readers will have enjoyed the recent ITV series *Mr Selfridge* about the founder of the famous firm. It reminded me that a post office was located in the store when it opened in March 1909. The datestamp worded 'SELFRIDGES/ OXFORD ST.W' was considered to give undue advertising to the company and questions were raised in the House of Commons. As a result the datestamp was quickly altered to read '400 OXFORD ST/W', the store's address. The post office was still open in the 1930s: I have yet to find the date it closed. Gordon Selfridge was keen to advertise his store on slogan postmarks and on the reverse of stamps – both ideas refused by the Post Office of the day. I believe the 1924 British Empire Exhibition stamps were sold at the post office there, one of very few outlets other than at the exhibition.

A 'Stamp Dept' operated at Selfridges between the First and Second World Wars and in February 1937 an airmail stamp exhibition was held there. A Selfridges Toy Fair postmark was used in 1968 in connection with the Christmas stamp issue and in 1993 a display of the Dickens's Christmas Carol stamps was mounted. Selfridges Birmingham store features on the 44p stamp in the Modern Architecture set of June 2006 •

News from the islands



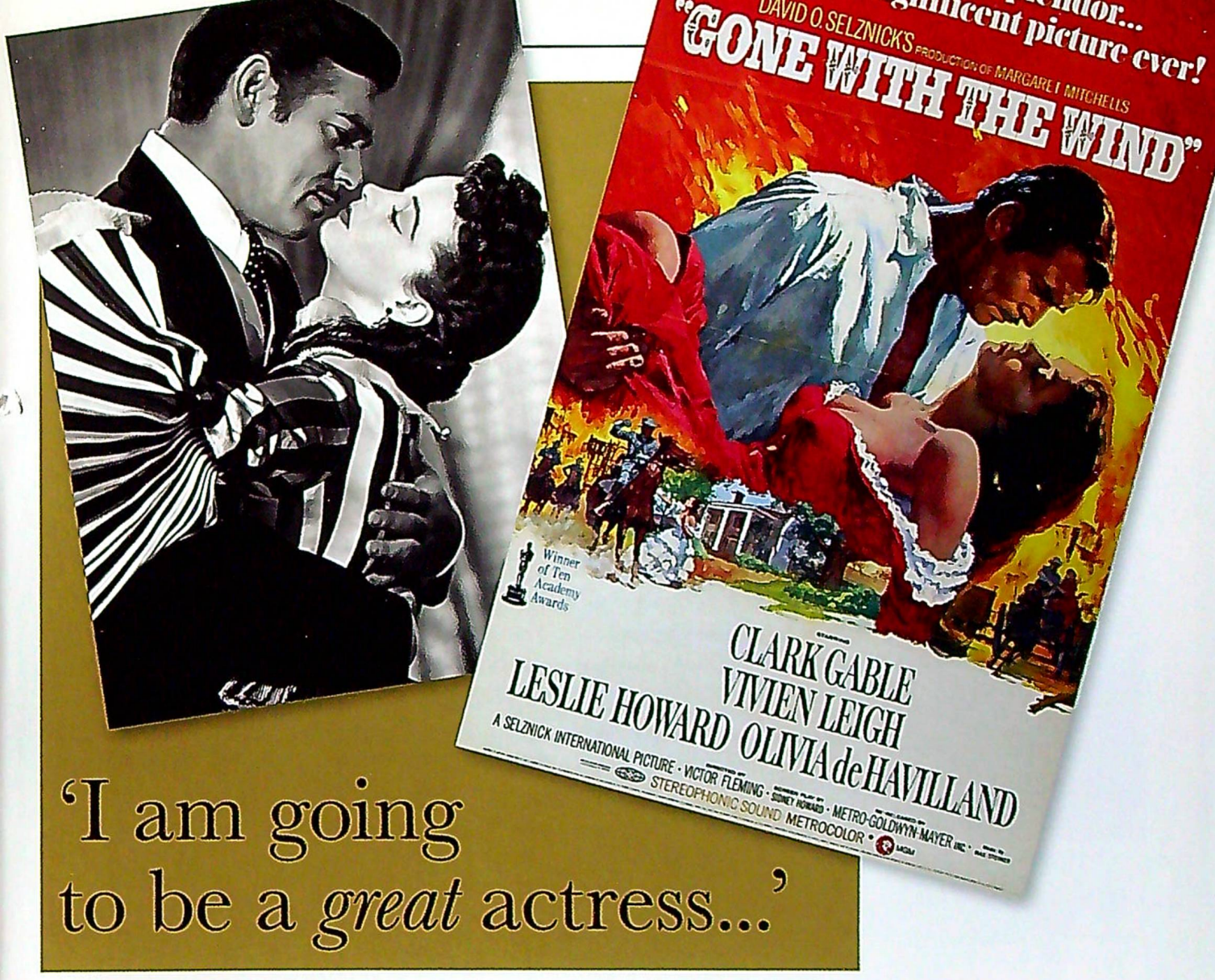
Guernsey Post will issue two sets of stamps in May. Six Postman's Van stamps released on 8 May align with this year's Europa series on postal vehicles. The stamps feature vans of Guernsey Post, Royal Mail, and the French, German, Swedish and US postal administrations. The set and souvenir sheet each cost £3.46, presentation pack £4.36 and FDC £4.66. Six stamps featuring picturesque Herm Island (which had its own local stamps between 1949 and 1969) go on sale on 29 May. They feature the Mermaid Tavern, Shell Beach, Belvoir Bay, Harbour Moorings, Fisherman's Beach, and Gift Shop. Price £3.46 set, £4.36 pack, £4.66 FDC. Both Postman's Van and Herm issues are printed in sheets of ten. All orders and enquiries should be made to: Guernsey Philatelic Bureau, Freepost GU267, Envoy House, La Vrangue, Guernsey GY1 5SS, e-mail philatelic@guernseypost.com •



Jersey's next issue comprises six stamps featuring historic buses operated by the Jersey Motor Transport company on 2 April. The stamps are of 45p, 55p, 60p, 68p, 80p, and 88p values. This is followed by four stamps and a miniature sheet honouring Corbiere, winner of the Grand National in 1983, on 11 April. On 8 May six stamps and a miniature sheet will commemorate the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. Enquiries to: Jersey Philatelic Bureau, Freepost JE793, Jersey Post, Jersey JE1 1AF, website: www.jerseystamps.com •



On 3 April the *Isle of Man* issues eight stamps, described as its 'main postal issue for the year'. Featuring the 'triskelion' three legs emblem, the stamps showcase the huge variety of applications for this ubiquitous image and reveal its ancient origins. A miniature sheet will be issued on 21 April to mark the 60th anniversary of The Queen's Coronation, followed by eight stamps honouring Bee Gees singer Robin Gibb on 23 April, and six stamps depicting Isle of Man Railways on 17 May. Orders/enquiries to Isle of Man Stamps & Coins, PO Box 10M, Douglas, Isle of Man IM99 1PB, or see www.iomstamps.com •



So said the eight-year-old schoolgirl who grew up to be Vivien Leigh, the screen goddess among the ten Great Britons in this month's special stamp issue. Simon Ball explores her life, loves and philatelic tributes

Above: the iconic movie poster and publicity shot show Vivien Leigh as Scarlett O'Hara in the film that brought her world fame – *Gone With The Wind*

SHE WAS HALF OF BRITISH THEATRE'S ROYAL COUPLE, the ambitious star of one of the highest grossing films of all time and a double Academy Award winner with a famously dramatic love life. As she is an actress of global renown, Vivien Leigh's image has appeared on stamps of many nations and in the world of UK philately she has a unique distinction: having appeared in three sets of Royal Mail Special Stamps. For a non-royal, this distinction is shared only with Charles Darwin and surpassed only by Winston Churchill.

She was born Vivian Mary Hartley on 5 November 1913, in Darjeeling, India, and moved to England when she was six years old. Her father Ernest Hartley was English and her mother of French and Irish descent. In India the British community would entertain themselves with amateur theatricals, in which Vivian's father often played the leading man. When Vivian was just three she made her first stage appearance, *Continued on page 242* ▸

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GREAT BRITONS: small snapshots of nine of the great achievers celebrated in the new special stamp issue on 16 April. The tenth is Vivien Leigh, profiled on page 239



'A photographer without a magazine behind him is like a farmer without fields.'

Norman Parkinson (1913-1990)

Early life Born Ronald William Parkinson Smith in Roehampton, the son of a barrister and a half-Italian mother. Educated at Westminster School in London from 1927 to 1931. After a Bond Street apprenticeship, Parkinson opened a studio with Norman Kibblewhite. When they split, Parkinson changed his name to that of the business – Norman Parkinson.

Greatness Revolutionised the world of British fashion photography in the 1940s by taking his models outdoors, away from a static studio setting. From 1945 to 1960 he was employed as a portrait and fashion photographer for *Vogue*, and from 1960 to 1964 as a contributing editor of *Queen* magazine. Though he began his career in the world of society portraiture, he was greatly influenced by news photography and documented what he saw on his world travels.
Later life In 1963 he moved to Tobago, frequently returning to London and working as a freelance photographer until his death in 1990.



'I dug things up. I was curious. I liked to draw what I found.'

Mary Leakey (1913-1996)

Early life Born in London. Visits to digs and cave sites in France as a child sparked Leakey's interest in archaeology. After being twice expelled from school, she began informally attending lectures in geology at University College London and in archaeology at the London Museum.
Greatness By the age of 17 she had begun drawing finds uncovered at dig sites in Devon. In 1933 she met Louis Leakey, archaeologist and naturalist, and was invited to illustrate one of his books. They married and Mary went on to establish an outstanding reputation in the study of human origins. Her discoveries include the first *Proconsul'africanus* in 1948 and in 1959 the *Zinjanthropus boisei* (now known as Australopithecus boisei).
Later life Mary died in 1996, a renowned paleoanthropologist who had not only conducted significant research of her own, but had been invaluable to the research careers of Louis Leakey, and their palaeoanthropologist son, Richard.



'Who wants to see me as Hamlet? Very few.'

Peter Cushing (1913-1994)

Early life Born Peter Wilton Cushing, in Kenley, Surrey, and brought up in Dulwich and Purley, where his father, George Cushing built an Art Deco house on St James Road, Purley in 1926. Inspired by an actor aunt, Cushing left his first job as a surveyor's assistant to take a scholarship at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in 1935.
Greatness Cushing left for Hollywood in 1939 but returned to the UK in 1942 to contribute to the war effort by joining the Entertainments National Service Association. His career in film and TV spanned more than four decades and included such memorable parts as Doctor Van Helsing and Baron Frankenstein in the 'Hammer Horror' films, Sherlock Holmes, Grand Moff Tarkin in *Star Wars* (1977), and an unforgettable Winston Smith in the BBC adaptation of Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty-Four* (1954). He was awarded an OBE in 1989.
Later life Cushing died in Whitstable, Kent, where he was a well-known resident and has a beauty spot and a pub named after him.



'There is nothing so fatal to character as half finished tasks.'

David Lloyd George (1863-1945)

Early life Born in Manchester, the son of a schoolmaster, Lloyd George was raised by his widowed mother in a Welsh village. He left school at 15 and was encouraged by his uncle to train as a solicitor. In 1890 he became MP for Caernarfon Boroughs, a seat which he held until the year of his death. He joined the Cabinet following the 1906 Liberal landslide.

Greatness Prime Minister (the only Welsh PM in history) from 1916 to 1922, Lloyd George was renowned for his eloquent oratory and negotiating skills. Before WW1 his social reforms as Chancellor of the Exchequer laid down the foundations of the British welfare state. During the war the 'Welsh Wizard' transformed the administration of the British economy and was a key figure among the Allied powers, helping to lead the nation to victory. In 2002 a UK-wide vote put him among the 100 Greatest Britons.
Later life He died at the age of 82. His chosen burial place was the bank of the River Dwyfor.

Stamp images © Royal Mail Group Ltd. Norman Parkinson portrait © Roger George Clark/National Portrait Gallery, London; in background Young Velvets, Young Prices © Norman Parkinson Ltd/courtesy Norman Parkinson Archive. Vivien Leigh portrait © Sasha/Hulton Archive/Getty Images, in background *Gone with the Wind* signage © 2002 Topham Picturepoint. Peter Cushing portrait © Photos 12/Alamy; background imagery © Matt Stuart 2012. David Lloyd George portrait © The Granger Collection/TopFoto; Westminster scene © Mary Evans Picture Library. Elizabeth David portrait © 2005 TopFoto; background imagery © Melanie Acevedo. John Archer portrait © Royal Mail 2012; Battersea Town Hall © Mary Evans Picture Library/Francis Firth. Benjamin Britten portrait © Camera Press/Yousuf Karsh; background imagery © Britten-Pears Foundation, music manuscript © 1945 Boosey & Hawkes Music Publishers Ltd and reproduced by permission of Boosey & Hawkes Music Publishers Ltd. Mary Leakey portrait © *LA Times*, courtesy The Leakey Foundation; background imagery © Robert IM Campbell/National Geographic Stock. Bill Shankly portrait © Central Press/Getty Images; Tommy Smith background image © Liverpool FC via Getty Images. Richard Dimbleby portrait and background image © TopFoto.co.uk.



'It is cruel, you know, that music should be so beautiful.'

Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

Early life Edward Benjamin Britten was born in Lowestoft in Suffolk, the youngest of four children. His father was a dental surgeon and his mother was a keen amateur singer and pianist. He was educated at Gresham's in Holt, Norfolk, and at the Royal College of Music in London.
Greatness Without doubt one of the UK's foremost classical composers. His compositions include the operas *Peter Grimes* (1945), *The Turn of the Screw* (1954) and *Death in Venice* (1973) and the *War Requiem* (1962). In 1937 Britten met the young tenor Peter Pears, who became his personal and professional partner. Together they took their music to the world and founded the Aldeburgh Festival in 1948.
Later life In his last years, Britten was the first composer to be given a life peerage (Baron Britten of Aldeburgh, having declined a knighthood). He died at his Aldeburgh house in 1976 at the age of 63. A memorial stone was unveiled in the north choir aisle of Westminster Abbey in 1978.



'We're allowed to have had a private life before politics in which we make mistakes and do things we should not.'

Richard Dimbleby (1913-1965)

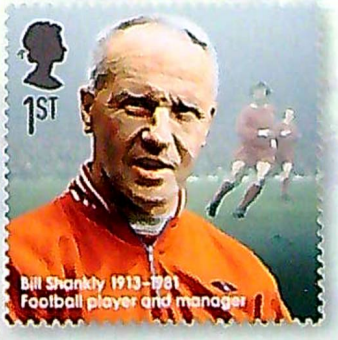
Early life Frederick Richard Dimbleby was born in Richmond, Surrey, the son of a journalist and local newspaper owner, and was educated at Mill Hill School in London. He joined the BBC after a spell in print journalism.
Greatness Richard Dimbleby is widely acknowledged as one of the greatest figures in British broadcasting history. He was the BBC's first war correspondent, flying on many bombing raids over Germany, and was appointed an OBE in 1945 and a CBE in 1959. He was the anchor of the BBC flagship *Panorama* from 1955 until 1965 and went on to become the nation's most respected commentator. His sons, David and Jonathan, followed him into broadcasting.
Later life Two weeks before his death, Dimbleby presented a documentary on the links between tobacco smoking and lung cancer. The Richard Dimbleby Cancer Fund was founded in his memory, as well as the Richard Dimbleby Lecture.



'After I am elected ... I shall state what nationality I am.'

John Archer (1863-1932)

Early life John Richard Archer was born in a poor area of Liverpool, the son of a Barbados-born ship's steward and an Irish mother. He became a medical student and attended the inaugural Pan-Africal Conference in 1900. He was also a prizewinning photographer.
Greatness Archer's first election as a councillor in 1906 began a lifelong career in local and international radical and socialist politics. In 1913 Archer was elected Mayor of Battersea, where he had settled with his African-Canadian wife. He told his fellow Battersea councillors that history had been made after they had endorsed him as the first mayor of African descent in London and the second in Britain. He became the first president of the African Progress Union and in 1921 chaired a session of the Pan-African Congress in London.
Later life Archer died a few weeks after his 69th birthday and is buried in Morden.



'At a football club, there's a holy trinity – the players, the manager and the supporters.'

William Shankly (1913-1981)

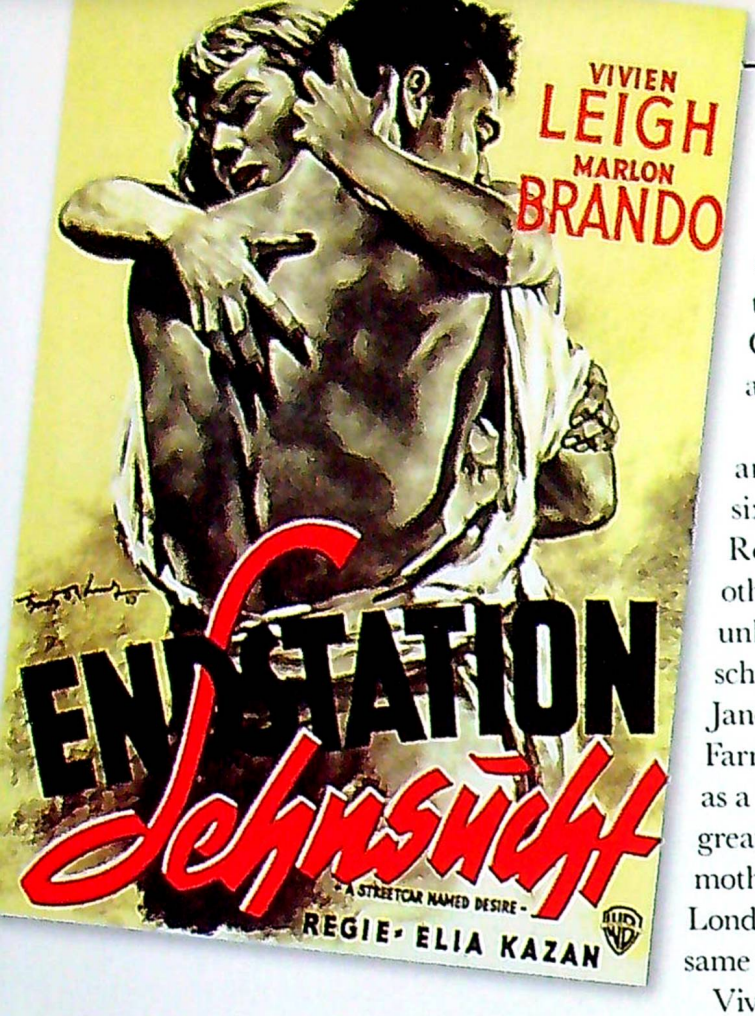
Early life Born the ninth of ten children, in Glenbuck, Ayrshire. Bill Shankly's socialist politics reflected his upbringing and practical philosophy. He believed true success involved collective effort.
Greatness As a player from 1932 to 1949, Shankly won an FA Cup medal with Preston North End in 1938 and represented Scotland 12 times. He went on to become one of football's most successful and respected managers. From 1959 to 1974 he managed Liverpool FC, leading them to triumph as First Division champions in 1964, 1966 and 1973, FA Cup winners in 1965 and 1974 and Uefa Cup winners in 1974. Before his arrival on Merseyside in 1959 he had managed Carlisle United, Grimsby Town, Workington and Huddersfield Town.
Later life Shankly was awarded the OBE in 1974, four months after he retired as Liverpool manager. In his retirement he presented his own radio chat show. He died in 1981. His ashes were scattered on the Anfield pitch at the Kop end.



'Every day holds the possibility of a miracle.'

Elizabeth David (1913-1992)

Early life Born near Polegate in Sussex, daughter of a Conservative MP and baptised Elizabeth Gwynne in the House of Commons chapel.
Greatness She revolutionised the British view of food. David's adventures during WW2 – in France, Italy, Greece and Egypt – provided experience and inspiration for her early works. In 1950 she introduced austere post-war kitchens to 'blessed lands of sun and sea and olive trees' through the publication of *A Book of Mediterranean Food*, the first volume in a series that established David as the finest English-language writer on cooking and the culture of food. Her subsequent books included *French Country Cooking*, *Italian Food*, *Summer Cooking* and *French Provincial Cooking*.
Later life In the 1960s David turned her attention to English food. In 1977 she was badly injured in a car accident and completed *English Bread and Yeast Cookery* in hospital. She died at her Chelsea home on 22 May 1992.



Above: German film poster for *A Streetcar Named Desire*. In the role of the neurotic Blanche DuBois, Vivien Leigh excelled in both stage and screen versions

Continued from page 239 reciting 'Little Bo Peep' – she decided to speak the words rather than sing them. Her mother was keen to give her daughter an appreciation of literature and introduced her to the works of Hans Christian Andersen, Lewis Carroll, Rudyard Kipling, as well as Greek myths and Indian folklore.

At the end of WW1 the family returned to England and Vivian's devout Roman Catholic mother put her six-year-old into a convent boarding school in Roehampton. She was two years younger than the other children in her class and at first it was a very unhappy experience for her. Among her close schoolfriends was Maureen O'Sullivan (destined to be Jane to Johnny Weissmuller's *Tarzan* and mother to Mia Farrow). When Maureen mused about choosing a career as a pilot, Vivian told her emphatically: 'I'm going to be a great actress'. Her determination was evident. When her mother visited from India and took Vivian to a play in London, she insisted on returning to the theatre to watch the same play again – 16 times!

Vivian's time at the convent was curtailed when her father decided to take his family off to Europe. After attending schools in France, Italy and Bavaria, Vivian returned to England in 1931. She saw one of Maureen O'Sullivan's films playing in London's West End, persuaded her parents to enrol her at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts and the rest, as they say, is history.

Fame and family It was while she was at RADA that Vivian met her first husband, Leigh Holman, a barrister 13 years her senior. Vivian thought him 'the perfect English gentleman' and in 1932, following a lightning courtship, they were married. Vivian dropped out of RADA and their daughter Suzanne was born on 12 October 1933, but she had never planned on being a stay-at-home mum. After making her screen debut with a small role in *Things are Looking Up* (1935) she engaged John Gliddon as an agent. Gliddon didn't think Vivian Holman was very exciting name for an actress, but she hated his suggestion of April Morn. She decided to simply swap Holman's surname for his forename. She made her stage debut as Vivian Leigh in *The Mask of Virtue*, and on the opening night film producer Alexander Korda was in the audience. He signed the young actress to a contract with London Films, with a stroke of his pen transforming 'Vivian' to the more exotic 'Vivien'.

Another admirer in the audience was Laurence Olivier, already a big name in the theatre. He made it his personal business to congratulate Vivien. Later cast as lovers in Korda's Elizabethan drama *Fire Over England* (1937), their onscreen romance soon bubbled over into real life, despite both being married. It was when Vivien was cast as *Ophelia* to Olivier's *Hamlet* for the Old Vic's production at Elsinore Castle near Copenhagen, that Olivier had his first experience of Vivien's violent mood swings which would later be

© Image credits to confirm

diagnosed as manic depression. During the filming of *A Yank at Oxford* (1938) with Robert Taylor, Vivien's behaviour became so unreasonable that Korda threatened to terminate her contract unless it improved.

Stage and screen Vivien's career spanned both stage and screen. Despite her legendary stature, she made fewer than 20 films. Yet she is one of a handful of actors to have received two Oscar nominations and two Oscars – for *Gone with the Wind* (1939) and *A Streetcar Named Desire* (1951). She said that her own favourite role was as Myra Lester in *Waterloo Bridge* (1940), but it is for her performance as Scarlett O'Hara in *Gone with the Wind* that Vivien will forever be remembered.

> 'I'm not a film star – I am an actress. Being a film star is such a false life...'

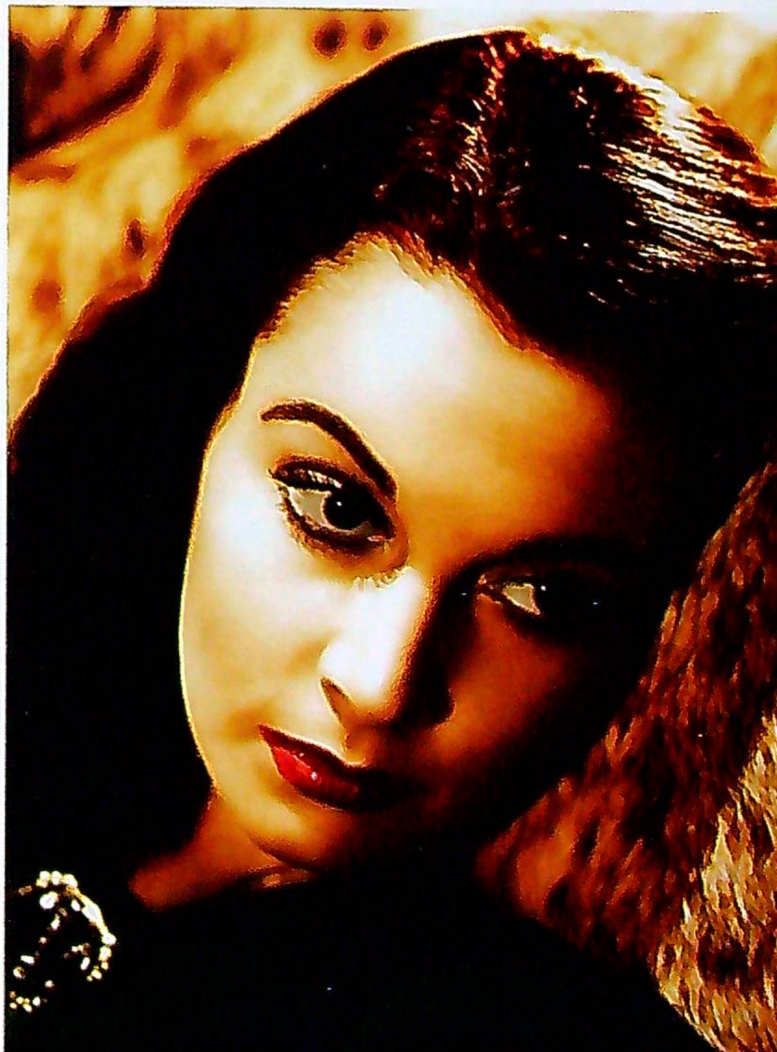
In 1936 when Margaret Mitchell's epic tale of the American Civil War was published, Vivien read the book and prophetically remarked to a journalist, 'I have cast myself as Scarlett O'Hara'. When David O Selznick started looking for an actress to play Scarlett in the film adaptation, Olivier was already in Hollywood, filming Samuel Goldwyn's *Wuthering Heights*. Vivien and Olivier's American theatrical agent just happened to be Myron Selznick, David's brother, but Myron had decided that Vivien was just 'too British' for the part. Undaunted, Olivier took Vivien along to see him and he soon changed his mind. Taking Vivien down to the movie set where the burning of the Atlanta depot was being filmed Myron told his brother 'Hey genius meet your Scarlett O'Hara'.

Vivien found the shoot gruelling. She didn't get on with director Victor Fleming, who replaced her friend and inspiration George Cukor. And, it is alleged, she found kissing Clarke Gable disgusting because his false teeth made his breath smell. Nevertheless she worked diligently in the role she had fought so hard to win; *Gone With the Wind* brought Vivien international recognition and the Academy Award for Best Actress in 1939.

Having achieved this meteoric rise in Hollywood, Vivien still wanted to be considered an actress rather than a film star. She said, 'I'm not a film star – I'm an actress. Being a film star – just a film star – is such a false life, lived for fake values and for publicity. Actresses go on for a long time and there are always marvellous parts to play.'

British theatre's royal couple In 1940 Vivien and Olivier's respective spouses agreed to divorce and the couple were married in Santa Barbara, California, with Katharine Hepburn as maid of honour. Their first project as a married couple was a Broadway production of Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. The show was panned by New York critics, most of the money that had been invested in the production was lost and questions were asked ▸

Below: an early 1940s publicity photograph. 'By Jove, she's a clinker!' said Winston Churchill, who often invited the Oliviers to dinner



© Image credits to confirm

about why these Brits were not at home helping with the war effort. Their pairing in Korda's *That Hamilton Woman* (featured in the 100 Years of the Cinema issue of 1966) went some way to redress the balance, arousing pro-British sentiment in a pre-Pearl Harbour USA. Churchill arranged a special screening for Roosevelt and the film was also a tremendous success in the Soviet Union.

The Oliviers returned to Britain and in 1943 Vivien undertook a morale-boosting tour for troops stationed in North Africa, while Olivier served as a Fleet Air Arm pilot. At this time Vivien had a persistent cough and was diagnosed with tuberculosis, which meant several weeks in hospital. Vivien's health was compromised further in 1944 when, after suffering a miscarriage during the filming of *Caesar and Cleopatra*, she was plunged into another cycle of depression.

By 1946 Vivien was well enough to go back on stage in a successful West End production of *The Skin of Our Teeth*. As a couple, the Oliviers were now theatrical royalty. At their country retreat of Notley Abbey in Buckinghamshire, they held court for the likes of Marlene Dietrich, Rex Harrison and Orson Welles. In 1947 Olivier was knighted and Vivien accompanied him to Buckingham Palace for the ceremony, but cracks in their relationship were beginning to tear them apart.

A six-month tour of Australia and New Zealand in 1948 saw the couple



a



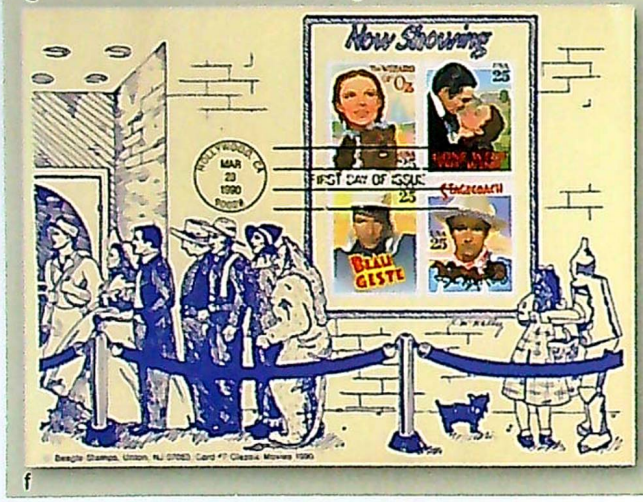
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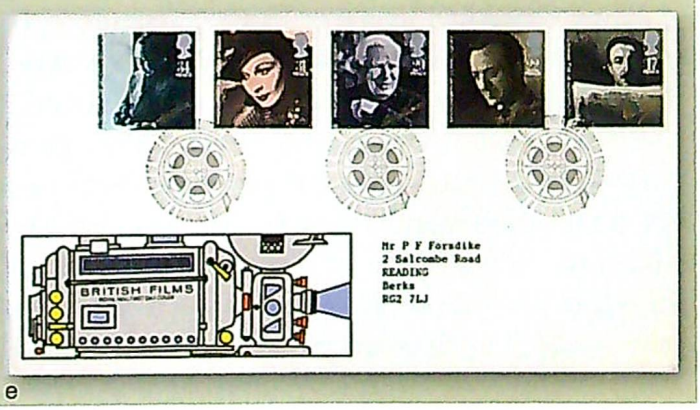
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e

Vivien Leigh on stamps • a) Issued on 16 April, the Vivien Leigh stamp in the 'Great Britons' set shows her name in cinema lights in the background. For more details of this new issue, see page 240 and page 200 of the March edition of the *British Philatelic Bulletin* • b) In a clinch with Laurence Olivier in *Lady Hamilton*, on the 1996 stamp from '100 Years of Going to the Pictures' • c) From a photo by Angus McBean in the 'British Film Year' issue of 1985 • d) Cover celebrating the centenary of Vivien Leigh's birth, from www.bfdc.co.uk • e) 1985 British Film Year, First Day Cover • f) *Gone With The Wind* features in the US 'Movies of 1939' set of 1990.

UK stamp images © Royal Mail Group Ltd.

regularly at each other's throats and a recurrence of Vivien's mental health problems. Olivier was later to remark that he 'lost Vivien' in Australia.

Professionally they went from strength to strength but both were involved in affairs. After their first West End appearance together in *Antigone*, Olivier directed Vivien as Blanche DuBois in Tennessee William's *A Streetcar Named Desire*. The West End production opened in 1949 and Vivien's performance was described by Phyllis Hartnoll in her book *The Concise Companion to the Theatre*, as 'proof of greater powers as an actress than she had hitherto shown'.

After 326 performances and some criticism of the play's salacious content, Vivien was contracted for the film version, playing opposite Marlon Brando. Pauline Kael wrote in her book *5001 Nights At The Movies* that Leigh and Brando gave 'two of the greatest performances ever put on film' and that Vivien's was 'one of those rare performances that can truly be said to evoke both fear and pity'. The film won four Oscars in 1951, including a second Best Actress award for Vivien. She also received a BAFTA and New York Critic's Circle Award. However, Vivien never seemed particularly impressed by her awards; back at Notley her Oscar statuettes were used as doorstops.



Above: Vivien Leigh photographed in 1958. Throughout her life she was lauded for her beauty but always sought recognition as a serious actress

The show must go on More success in the theatre followed as the Oliviers alternated Shakespeare's *Antony and Cleopatra* with Shaw's *Caesar and Cleopatra*, but in 1953 Vivien suffered another breakdown while making *Elephant Walk* in Sri Lanka. When filming transferred to Hollywood Vivien's behaviour became so difficult that Paramount replaced her with Elizabeth Taylor. David Niven and Stewart Granger, distraught at finding Vivien raging naked through Spencer Tracy's house, decided to phone Olivier. He flew to Hollywood, only for Vivien to confess that she had fallen in love with her *Elephant Walk* co-star Peter Finch.

The Oliviers returned to England where Vivien was hospitalised and received electro-convulsive therapy. She recovered sufficiently to resume working, but another miscarriage in 1956 tipped her back into despair. For a brief time Peter Finch came to live at Notley in a ménage à trois, but by 1958 the marriage and the Finch affair were over. Olivier was seeing Joan Plowright and Vivien had fallen for actor Jack Merivale.

After her divorce from Olivier in 1960, Vivien continued her career with notable success, appearing in the films *The Roman Spring of Mrs Stone* (1961) and *Ship of Fools* (1965) and winning a Tony Award for Best actress in the musical *Tovarich*. But in May 1967, while she was rehearsing Edward Albee's *A Delicate Balance*, the tuberculosis returned and took her life on 7 July. That evening the lights of West End theatre foyers were dimmed for an hour in honour of the great actress whom John Betjeman described as 'the essence of English girlhood' •

Image: Rolo, National Archives of Canada

One of Europe's finest D Holbrook reviews the biggest stamp event of the season and Post & Go tour dates for the rest of the year







Above from top: the Business Design Centre, Islington – home of Stampex; the Jane Austen issue on display (for details, see page 152 February *Bulletin*) and the illustrator Angela Barrett signing covers

FOR UK PHILATELISTS ALL ROADS LED TO the Business Design Centre in Islington, London, between 20 and 23 February, when Spring Stampex 2013 was held there. There were few signs of spring – except in the steps of collectors rushing along Upper Street to escape the chilly weather. A collector's postcard – an unadopted stamp series featuring John (Longitude) Harrison's Marine Chronometer – was given to the first 7,500 visitors. The Chronometer also featured on the customised Smilers® exhibition sheet, honouring five British Inventors (see page 172 of February *Bulletin*).

Following on from the success of the Autumn show, the common consensus is that the February Stampex was a big success and that the organisers, Philatelic Traders Society (PTS), are now well on the way to achieving their ambition of making Stampex the best show in Europe.

Regular visitors are growing accustomed to the new exhibition layout, begun last year. The first thing visitors see is the 'Village Green', now home to some of the 125 dealers from around the world, including Stanley Gibbons (aiming to make Stand 101 its regular spot). Postal administrations with stands included Jersey, Guernsey, The Isle of Man and Malta.

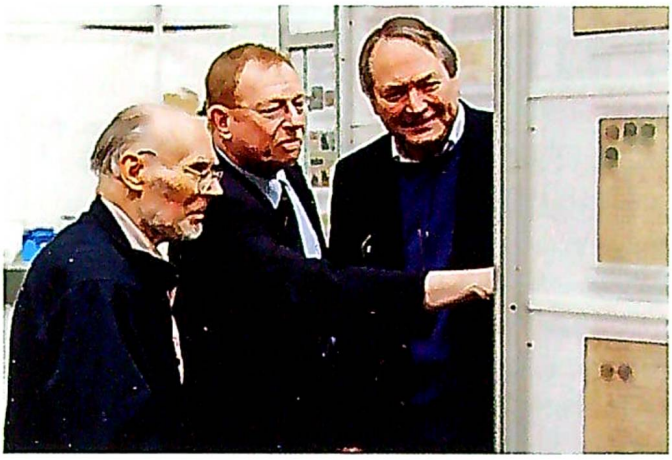
The Royal Mail stand was again situated towards the rear of the mezzanine level, still facing the national competition frames as it did in its old position on the Village Green, but with the welcome addition of an adjacent seating area – perfect for anyone wanting to rest and compare verdicts on the latest stamp issues or reflect on the interesting displays for the National Competitions. In this area an auction was held on the Friday, in aid of Prostate Cancer UK, the Royal Mail Charity of the Year.

Cinderellas have a ball Exhibitions at Spring Stampex focussed on two areas – the Cinderella and Revenue classes. One Large Gold and four Gold medals were awarded. Jon Aitchison won a Large Gold and Best in Show prize for 'The Isle of Man Before Postal Independence' and another Gold for 'Guernsey Insurance Stamps'. Gold medals were awarded to Charles Kiddle for 'Handpainted Essays and Proofs of Delandre', Christopher Cooksey for 'Mining Documentiation of the British South Africa Company', and John Leathes for 'Tyger Tyger Burning Bright'.

First-day debuts The first day of Spring Stampex saw the issue of Post & Go Second Class Machins (see page 166 January *Bulletin*), with both Second Class and Second Class Large stamps bearing 'MA12' in the security overlay. Royal Mail issued the Jane Austen stamps the following day, with their illustrator Angela Barrett attendng a cover-signing session, and the splash on Friday was Post & Go Freshwater Life Part 1: Ponds.

The next generation of stamp collectors were well catered for, with young collectors' activities, Stamp Active Competition exhibits and the popular

Photographs: Dan Froude





Saturday auction organised by Stamp Active Network. Attendance was high, as Stampex dates coincided with half-term school holidays. *Bulletin* will update young collectors on Stamp Active Network news and awards in a summer edition.

Post & Go on tour Steady queues formed at the bank of Post & Go machines situated on the 'Village Greeen', not far from the entrance to Spring Stampex and for the first time separate from the Royal Mail stand. Special exhibition Post & Go postmarks were available, including the first day of issue for the Post & Go Machin Secon Class and Second Class Large values, which were dispensed by Hytech machines.

Another sought-after first-day mark was that of the Freshwater Life series (see page 150, January *Bulletin*), Instant Smilers® were also available – with a venue-specific image, a choice of an image taken on an ipad (with a gold postbox provided as an optional background) or a choice of pre-prepared images.

Spring Stampex was the starting point of the 'Post and Go Tour 2013': machines will be set up at many more exhibitions and at some of them it will be possible to obtain an event-specific overprint. At the exhibitions listed below, at least one Post & Go machine will be in attendance, along with 'Instant Smiler®' facilities and a sheet customised according to the venue •



Above: Chris King, Chris Harman and Francis Kiddle advise exhibitors after the judging on Saturday; award-winning display from Claire Mitchell in the youth competitions.
Below: Post & Go machine

Post & Go Exhibition overprints 2013

Exhibition	Date	Print	Stamps
York	January	No overprint	Union Flag/Machin
Spring Stampex/Freshwater Life 1: Ponds	February	'The Coronation 60th Anniversary' overprint*	Machin*/2nd Class
Salisbury Stamp Show	March	No overprint	Union Flag/Machin
84th Scottish Congress Machin	April	84th Scottish overprint	Union Flag
Australia 2013 Exhibition	May	'Australia 2013 World Stamp Expo' overprint*	Union Flag/Machin
MIDPEX Warks/Freshwater Life 2: Lakes	July	No overprint	Union Flag/Machin
York/Lakes	July	No overprint	Union Flag/Machin
Autumn Stampex Freshwater Life 3: Rivers	September	'The Coronation 60th Anniversary' overprint*	Union Flag

* Overprint available pre-order/mail order. **Note:** Exhibitions may be added.



Britannia life

Now spending a splendid retirement in Leith, *HMY Britannia* is celebrated in this month's historic stamp sheet

SHE WAS A GLEAMING SYMBOL of British prestige and royal grandeur but *Her Majesty's Yacht Britannia* was also a precious sanctuary for The Queen away from the pressure of being the most famous woman on earth. No wonder she said of this hideaway from public life: 'This is where I can truly relax.'

So while Her Majesty entertained a who's who of world history on board this floating palace, including Churchill, Eisenhower, Mandela and Reagan, she also treasured it as an intimate family home. The vessel played host, for example, to four royal honeymoons.

During holiday cruises on *Britannia* in the Western Isles, The Queen, Prince Philip and the children would enjoy family picnics and beach barbecues cooked by the Duke himself. The royal youngsters loved life aboard, having water fights and treasure hunts and splashing around in a paddling pool on the deck. They even had a special cold storage room off the galleys where their jellies were kept.

And in an extraordinary blurring of protocol, the crew performed for The Queen and her family with fun, informal concert parties, when Royals would sometimes join the cast. (Not that the 240-strong crew shirked – they were a dedicated team, engaging in every sort of task, from scrubbing the teak decks every day to polishing the silverware and ensuring the royal gangway always stayed at a gentle 12-degree angle. And all done in soft-soled, noiseless plimsolls so as not to disturb Her Majesty.)

This mixed role of symbol of state and holiday

Once upon a time on board

7.30am The Queen's maid wakes her with a cup of tea – milk, no sugar. She then runs Her Majesty's bath, carefully checking the temperature with a thermometer.

8.30am Breakfast in the Sun Lounge.

9.15am The Queen spends the morning working with her Private Secretary on official documents. It is not unknown for them to be delivered by helicopter from the Royal Flight.

1pm The Queen and members of the Royal Family take a buffet lunch in the State Dining Room.

2.30pm The Queen passes the afternoon concentrating on her private correspondence.

5pm Afternoon tea in the Sun Lounge. Games and a record player are on hand for entertainment.

6pm The Queen and her Dresser discuss dress and jewellery for the evening.

7pm Her Majesty dresses for dinner, and pre-meal drinks are served in the Anteroom.

8pm Dinner is served in the State Dining Room.

9.30pm The party moves to the State Drawing Room for coffee and liqueurs and The Queen might partake in a chocolate mint or two. Cards and jigsaw puzzles might be played here (or a film watched in the State Dining Room) until The Queen retires. It is the custom that no one goes to bed until Her Majesty does so.





Left: this ten-stamp commemorative sheet is packed with facts, figures and photos relating to Her Majesty's Yacht *Britannia*. To order visit www.royalmail.com/britannia

home is what has made the life of *Britannia* such a fascinating one. It is no surprise, then, that she is now being celebrated in a Royal Mail Commemorative Stamp Sheet, issued on 16 April to mark exactly the 60th anniversary of the day of her launch.

And what a life she has known. In 44 years at sea until she was decommissioned in 1997, *Britannia* sailed over one million nautical miles on almost a thousand state visits. This 6,000-ton, 400ft-long beauty has turned heads at over 600 ▸

Britannia Commemorative Sheet Specification

Issue date and price	16 April, £14.95
Number of stamps	10 x First Class Union Flag Stamps
Pack and Sheet Design	Demographik
Sheet Format	A4
Stamp Format	Standard: portrait
Stamp Size	Standard: 20mm x 24mm
Printer/Process	Cartor Security Printing/Lithography
Perforations	Die-cut, simulated
Phosphor	Bars
Gum	Self-adhesive



Above: *HMY Britannia*'s cosy post office has seen a lot of royal mail

ports in 135 countries across the world. So come aboard now for a tour of the ship and a resumé of her illustrious career.

Your mini tour *State Drawing Room* The Royal Yacht's main reception room was a meeting place for the Royal Family to relax, play games and chat. Princess Margaret and Princess Anne loved playing the baby grand piano here – as did guest Sir Noël Coward.

State Dining Room Here Her Majesty entertained the great and the good, including Presidents Clinton, Reagan, Mandela and Yeltsin, and Prime Minister Winston Churchill. She would always sit on the port side of the dining table and ring a little bell for each course to be cleared. (Reagan said of *Britannia*: 'I know I promised Nancy everything in the world when I married her, but how can I ever top this?')

Sun Lounge The Queen's favourite room, where she and the family had breakfast and afternoon tea – usually wafer-thin cucumber or smoked salmon sandwiches with tea in finest bone china.

The Queen's Sitting Room For several hours a day, Her Majesty worked on important papers here, meeting with her Private Secretary and press aides.

The love boat The Honeymoon Suite on *Britannia* played host to four royal honeymoon couples – Princess Margaret and Antony Armstrong-Jones, Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips, Prince Andrew and Sarah Ferguson, and Prince Charles and Princess Diana. During their voyage in 1973, Anne and Mark were plagued by violent storms off Barbados and spent most of their first week seasick! Charles and Diana were luckier, enjoying intimate picnics together in the Greek islands on the 1981 trip.

Yotties remember

Former shipmates Albert 'Dixie' Deane MBE and Ellis 'Norrie' Norrell recall their service on Britannia...

DIXIE DEANE, 77

***Britannia* career**: 25 years with a few breaks from 1957 to 1986. Joined as a radio operator and became head of communications for the Royal Yacht.

A special ship: 'On *Britannia* the Royal Family could sail away from it all, the pressures and the paparazzi, and relax – as much as people with their responsibilities can do.'

Memorable voyage: 'Leaving Fiji at night and hundreds of local children lining the shore, lighting up the sky with burning torches and singing their national anthem. The hairs went up on the back of my head. The Queen loved it. I always saw a smile on her face when she watched children singing or dancing.'

The Royals and me: 'They would always stop and say good morning to you and ask how you were. The Queen was so down to earth and it was like family on that ship. We were called by our first names.'

Magic moments: 'Norrie and I would do sketches for the family – our boast is we've done more Royal Command performances than Max Bygraves!

One time we and some of the other lads did a Tiller Girls dance, wearing tights with holes in and dodgy wigs. The Queen and Prince Philip laughed their heads off.

We also did a comedy Morris dance routine for Prince Charles and Princess Diana during their honeymoon. And I remember the time Princess Anne did a hula hula dance.'



Above: *HMY Britannia* has been permanently moored in Leith, Scotland since 1998

Equipped for a queen Nothing was left to chance when it came to stocking up for the Royal Yacht. Five tonnes of luggage were the norm for state visits; the galleys had storage for two months' worth of meat and fish (cooked by Buckingham Palace chefs); fresh bread was baked on board every day. And, of course, there was plenty of Malvern water, which The Queen liked to have used in her tea.

You can take your own tour of *Britannia*, now moored as a visitors' attraction at Ocean Terminal, Leith, Edinburgh EH6 6JJ. The vessel is open form 9.30am to 4pm in April, May and June, and 9.30am to 4.30pm from July to September. For more details phone 0131 555 5566 or visit www.royalyachtbritannia.co.uk •

ELLIS 'NORRIE' NORRELL, 79

***Britannia* career**: joined as an able seaman in 1954 and was later promoted to coxswain of the Royal Yacht, serving until 1988.

A special ship: 'the Royal Yacht did a tremendous amount for Britain. Wherever she went, she was always looked upon as being magnificent – as was The Queen.'

Memorable voyage: 'I was on the maiden voyage when we took The Queen to Malta. Mountbatten brought out the entire Mediterranean Fleet to escort her in. We were surrounded by ships and there were 21-gun salutes. It was wonderful.'

The Royals and me: 'Me and a few other blokes barbered for the crew, and I also cut Prince Philip's hair once, which was a bit nerve-racking. Luckily the haircut turned out okay!

'The Queen would always make an effort to meet the crew, and have a joke and a bit of banter.'

Magic moments: 'On the Western Isles voyages I would take Charles, when he was a boy, on lobster fishing trips. So we would lay the lobster pots and, although we only caught a couple of crabs, it was fun and he was a lovely lad.'



'Norrie' and the 'Yottie' statue, a reminder of *Britannia*'s status as headquarters of The Association of Royal Yachtsmen

Richard III Dane Garrod shares his favourite stamp in the Kings and Queens series, stirred by the recent finds in a Leicester car park



The stamp set of the Houses of Lancaster and York begins with Lancastrian Henry IV in 1399 and ends with York's Richard III (above). This portrait of Richard was given to the National Portrait Gallery by James Thomson Gibson-Craig in 1862

DOES THE FACT that I am a Leicester-born lad, brought up in the local tradition and believing that King Richard III has been misrepresented and misjudged, qualify me to write about this stamp? Well, I think and hope that it does! As a historian as well as a stamp collector, I have been pleased to see that Royal Mail has honoured our centuries of reigning monarchs with the Kings and Queens stamp series. The stamps look particularly splendid in blocks and the Presentation Packs also make a handsome and informative collection.

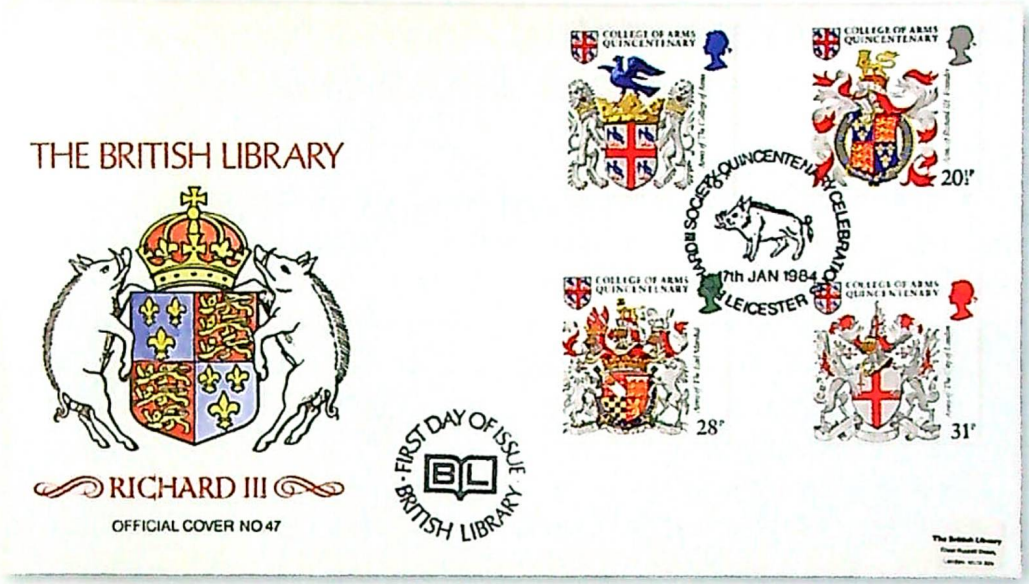
The image on the stamp showing King Richard III is taken from a portrait in the Primary Collection of the National Portrait Gallery. The portrait is by an unknown artist but believed to have been painted after Richard's death at the Battle of Bosworth Field in 1485, though exactly how long after is uncertain.

Seen through the mists of time Let me look with you at this King's brief life and career, to see some of the reality behind the fog of conjecture and rumour that has blocked our understanding for so long. Unlike Charles and William, our present heir and heir presumptive to the British throne, Richard was not born to be king. However, as a son of the Duke of York, and a younger brother to King Edward IV, he was expected to contribute to the stability of the kingdom and give unswerving loyalty to his brother. Few would deny the merit of his contribution in that respect during his brother's reign. But the unexpected and early death of Edward in 1483 brought instant instability to the monarchy: a boy king needing guidance; regents vying to influence his rule; his mother's family, the Woodvilles, looking to exert more influence and patronage; and Henry Tudor, the last credible Lancastrian claimant to the throne, threatening to invade the kingdom. The man who stood to lose most from the premature death of the King was the loyal brother, Richard of Gloucester, who realised that before the kingdom fell into disarray and yet further civil war, it needed strong leadership.

Richard, ever the most able administrator – and this even his critics acknowledge – took the young king and his brother into his control for their own safety. So when did the step from supportive uncle to usurption come, and why? I think we may have shown why, but when is hard to judge, but certainly not long into 1483. Acting in the interests of the Yorkist cause, which it is acknowledged included his own, Richard believed that one decisive battle against the invader was essential to secure the kingdom. His subsequent miscalculation at Bosworth was as courageous and personally disastrous as King Harold's at Hastings.

The king in the car park What happened next? The body of the dead king was brought into Leicester and buried in Greyfriars. King Henry VIII, the son of Richard's adversary, closed down that religious order, which is why, over the centuries the once holy ground came to be a car park in a changing city landscape. It is surely remarkable that Richard 's body, now confirmed to be his

Photograph: Claes Gellerbrink





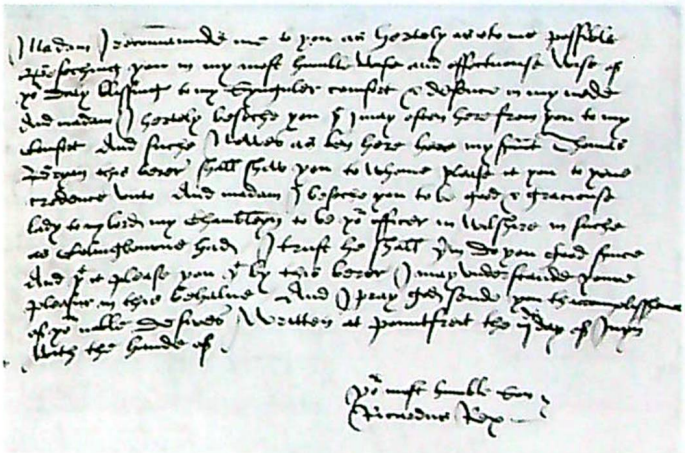
Above: the 3D face that forensic scientists reconstructed from the 500-year-old skull bears an uncanny resemblance to the portrait on the stamp

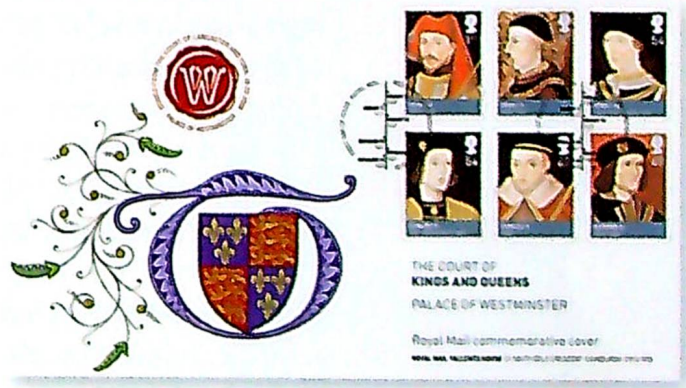
by DNA sampling with a proven descendant, was located in such a short space of time.

So where shall we place the human remains of this annointed sovereign? The view that the University of Leicester should decide appears to be based upon the 'finders keepers' principle that normally applies to unidentified human exhumations. But these are identified. If not Leicester Cathedral, then perhaps next to his wife, Queen Anne Nevill, who predeceased him in March 1485. She is laid in Westminster Abbey, where they were both crowned. Some argue for St George's Chapel, Windsor, beside the tomb of King Edward IV, the brother whom he served loyally for many years. Finally, the point has been made that Richard should be re-buried – and we note '*re*-buried', because the friars would have given him a religious ceremony of some sort in a Roman Catholic church. This seems to me a misconception, as Richard was a Roman Catholic.

The re-burial is planned for 2014, and it will surely be well observed, attended and reported, wherever it may be. In the past, deceased monarchs have had a state funeral, but one could argue that this monarch has already had one funeral – I say let the poor and perhaps misjudged man, who we are told had wit and physical courage, be buried quietly without too much undue ceremony. The recent findings in Leicester have done much to honour his memory •

Dane Garrod is a philatelist and historian, currently Specialist Societies Liaison Officer of the Association of British Philatelic Societies. His most recent presentations have been entitled 'British Royalty And Other Stories'.

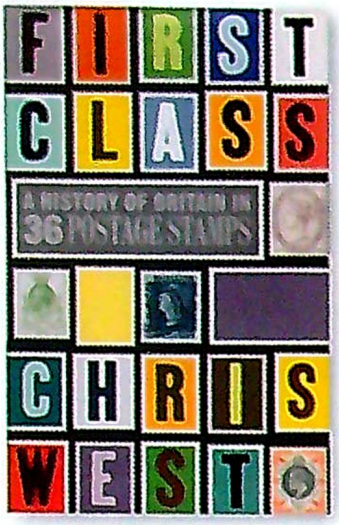




From top: 1984 First Day Cover of the Coat of Arms stamp set showing the coat of arms of Richard III and with a special Leicester handstamp; Richard's letter to his mother, Cecily Nevill; Royal Mail House of Lancaster and York, Cachet First Day Cover

The Royal Mail Kings and Queens stamp series is on sale until 30 June. For more details see www.royalmail.com/stamps

Good Spring reading – one for the generalist and one for collectors of UK/Gulf State covers



Above: don't miss your chance to win a signed copy of Chris West's book, in the quiz on the facing page

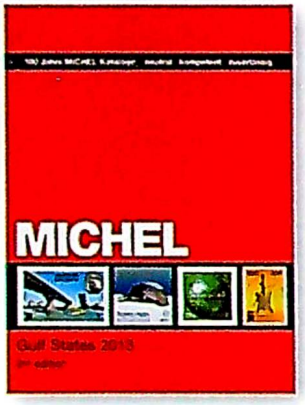
First Class - A history of Britain in 36 Postage stamps 'All thanks to my great uncle and a cup of tea one Sunday afternoon,' says Chris West. He is explaining the inspiration for his latest book, in a talk at the British Postal Museum and Archive (BPMA) on the penultimate evening of February Stampex. 'Uncle Frank gave me his dark blue Lincoln album that afternoon. And inside it I found a treasure house of stamps, featuring Edward VII and Queen Victoria – and including a Penny Black.'

Chris collected stamps for a while in his schooldays, then the album lay in the attic until he recently came across it and decided to reassemble the collection. He became intrigued with the stamps as fragments of history: 'Stamps, I realised, tell stories and speak to us across generations.' And Chris has spun some good text around the stamps that appear in his book – just one at the start of each chapter to give a visual introduction to the descriptions of different eras in our national history.

The writer's style is engaging and accessible. Though somewhat light on philatelic content, the format very successfully presents history through the lens of the exquisite visual aid of the postage stamp. The chapter entitled 'Death of a People's Princess', for example, highlights the Diana Commemorative and goes on to give us a snapshot of life as the New Labour era dawned.

Chris says in his introduction: 'Stamps speak to us across generations... Here are 36 that I have found most expressive: some beautiful, some quirky, some baffling, some stained with blood; each chosen because it inspired me in some way. My aim is that, gathered together, their stories will meld into a bigger story, that of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the early days of Queen Victoria to the present.'

This is an excellent gift book, especially for stamp collectors, and would also serve well to introduce young people to the world of philately. *A History of Britain in 36 Postage Stamps* is published by Square Peg, rrp £16.99. It is available at good bookshops, as an e-book, and from *Bulletin* www.royalmail.com/stamps. *SF* •



Above: Gulf States collectors are on the increase. They will enjoy this revised catalogue

Michel Gulf States Catalogue, 2nd edition, in English. This comprehensive new catalogue lists the issues of the Arabian peninsula, including Abu Dhabi, Aden, Ajman, Bahrain, Dubai, Fujeira, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Ras Al Khaimah, Saudi Arabia, Sharjah, Trucial States, Umm Al Qiwain, United Arab Emirates and Yemen, with additional price quotations for blocks of four, first-day covers and booklets in some areas. It contains about 68,000 updated prices and over 10,000 illustrations. Many price increases are noted since the first issue of this catalogue, especially for Kuwait and Yemeni states.

The Michel Gulf States Catalogue costs 89 euros and is available on a compact disc for 79 euros and as an e-book at 75 euros. For more details contact Schwaneberger Verlag GmbH, Ohmstrasse 1, 85716 Unterscheisheim, Germany, e-mail vertrieb@michel.de or see www.michel.de. *JH* •

Quiz: Stamps of five decades, according to Chris West



a 1960s



b 1970s



c 1980s



d 1990s



e 2000s

In his book *A History of Britain in 36 Postage Stamps* (review on facing page) Chris West included each of the stamps shown above. Answer these questions about them correctly and you could win a copy of the book as well as the complete Great Britons issue.

a) *'This pleasant, quiet-looking design is in fact the result of probably the biggest ever change in UK stamp issuing policy.'* Who designed the cameo of The Queen to avoid the Wilding portrait on pictorial stamps?

b) *'1971 saw the introduction of a new set of definitives, the Machins. The stamps are elegant, simple, solid and certain. The 1970s on the other hand....'* What caused delays in delivery of this first day cover?

c) *'This stamp, by Fritz Wegner, appeared in 1984, celebrating the second set of elections to the European Parliament.'* How many British elections have featured on stamps?

d) *'The Post Office donated all the profits – an estimated £6 million – of the Diana Commemorative issue to the Diana Princess of Wales Fund.'* What was the price of a first-class stamp in 1998?

e) *'This attractive stamp, based on an image by Belfast photographer Tony Pleavin ... shows a bridge, a symbolic dialogue between opposites, bright lights and a shining silver angel.'* The Angel of Thanksgiving was erected in what year? Clue: the same year as the stamp issue.

How to enter Send your answers to: April Decades Quiz, British Philatelic Bulletin, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB.

Closing date: May 28, 2012.

The first correct entry drawn after the closing date wins the Great Britons stamp issue and a signed copy of Chris West's book. Ten more winners drawn receive runners-up prizes •

February solutions and winners

Jane Austen Quiz: a) Austen's brother (Henry). b) Elinor and Marianne Dashwood. c) Cousins. d) Mr Woodhouse and Henry Crawford. Winner: M Stiff, Leicestershire.

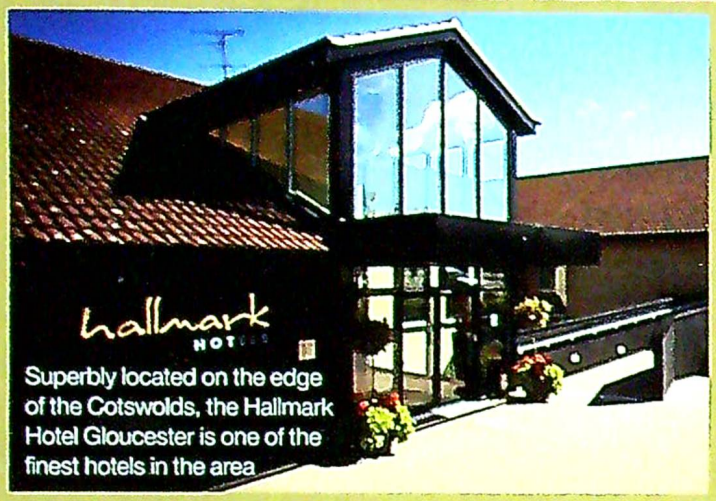
Name That Stamp: Post & Go Second Class Machin. Winner: J W Allcock, Wokingham.

Prize draw rules and regulations 1 Promotions are open to all readers aged 18 and over, except employees of Royal Mail Group Ltd, their business associates and immediate families. 2 Responsibility cannot be accepted for entries which are incomplete, damaged or not received for any reason. Proof of posting is not proof of receipt. 3 Prizes must be accepted as offered; they are not transferable and there are no cash alternatives. The cost of transport to and from a prize venue, where applicable, is not included. 4 Winners are notified within 28 days of closing date stated. 5 For prize draws where readers must answer a question, winners will be the senders of the first correct entries drawn at random by an independent person after the closing date. 6 Promoter's decision on any aspect of the promotions is final. No correspondence will be entered into. 7 Entry implies acceptance of these rules. 8 Prizes are subject to suitability and availability. The promoter reserves the right to a) substitute a prize of equal or greater value if circumstances so demand and b) to suspend or cancel or hold void any of the competitions or prize draws at any time without notice. 9 Winners' names are available 28 days after closing date; send an SAE to William Doherty, *British Philatelic Bulletin*, Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. The promoter is Royal Mail Group Ltd, 100 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0HQ. November and December puzzle solutions and prizewinners are not available at time of going to press and will be published in a future issue of *Bulletin*.

Congress time...







Superbly located on the edge of the Cotswolds, the Hallmark Hotel Gloucester is one of the finest hotels in the area











The world's greatest philatelic honour goes to five distinguished philatelists, from Germany, Greece, Portugal, Russia and the UK

27 to 30 June, 2013

Now's the time to book your place at the 95th Philatelic Congress of Great Britain, to be held at the Hallmark Hotel Goucester. The Association of British Philatelic Societies organises this event every year, maintaining a long tradition that began in Manchester in 1909, with a programme that has something to interest all kinds of stamp collectors:

• Five 96-sheet static displays • Philatelic souvenirs • Special postmarks • Five-sheets stories • Expert talks • Discussions • Kay Goodman lecture • Congress Medal presentation • Roll of Distinguished Philatelists ceremony • Guided tour of Gloucester

All in all Congress provides an ideal way of enjoying oneself in the company of fellow collectors.

To book you will need visit www.abps.org.uk/Events to complete a booking form, whether you want to stay at the hotel or attend as a day-delegate. For details, phone the numbers shown above right.

Free coffee for those presenting this *Bulletin* at the hotel reception.

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Full details of this year's GB Philatelic Congress programme are available at www.abps.org.uk. Or phone 01772 713917 or 01235 832907 and mention *Bulletin*

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