

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The ROYAL MAIL magazine *for stamp collectors*

Bulletin

Volume 43 Number 1

SEPTEMBER 2005 £1.10

Stamped to order stationery •
Christmas issue • Classic ITV



Classic ITV: this month Royal Mail celebrates ITV's 50th anniversary, in a new issue featuring landmark programmes both old and new.

itv 50

Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



Cover Royal Mail celebrates the 50th anniversary of ITV in six stamps issued this month. The programmes featured on the stamps are reviewed on page 14. The ITV50 logo and background image will appear on broadcasts this month to mark the occasion (images reproduced courtesy of ITV).

Issues Some items available only from Royal Mail Talents 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.

Royal Mail Talents House 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB, UK. Telephone order line (08.30-17.00 Monday to Friday): 08457 641 641; from overseas +44 131 316 7483. Minimum handling charge UK £1.30, Europe £1.55, rest of world (airmail) £2.15. Some products can be ordered on Royal Mail's website: www.royalmail.com/stamps

6 September	Issue Definitive Collectors Pack; Definitive Collection (definitive and country stamps).
6 September	Withdrawal Definitive stamp packs 57 (low values) & 58 (low values, July 2002).
8 September	Issue Classic ITV stamp cards.
15 September	Issue Classic ITV stamps, pack and Smilers sheet.
15 September	Withdrawal Woodland Animals stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards.
23 September	Issue Castles Ingot Series No 1 (Windsor Castle stamp).
4 October	Issue Smilers stamps (definitive stamp size) in book of six different designs (self-adhesive).
4 October	Withdrawal Scottish Parliament miniature sheet.
11 October	Issue Trafalgar stamp cards (7: 6 stamps & miniature sheet).
11 October	Withdrawal Crimean War stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards.
18 October	Issue Trafalgar stamps, miniature sheet, pack, prestige book, coin cover, ingot cover and cachet cover.
25 October	Issue Christmas stamp cards.
26 October	Withdrawal E (European rate) Machin definitive stamp from sheets (issued 5 Oct 1999).

Contents



Stamped to order The Post Office service introduced in 1855 produced a rich legacy of postal history. In the first of two articles, Colin Baker describes some of the items of interest to collectors **22**

The British Philatelic Bulletin is published monthly by Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ • **Editor** J R Holman • **Price** £1.10 single copies from Post Office Ltd philatelic outlets • **Annual subscription** £11.75 UK & Europe; £16.75 elsewhere. Send subscriptions to Royal Mail Talents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB • **Binders** (to hold 24 issues) £8.50, storage boxes (about 30 copies) £9.95 available by post from Royal Mail (Edinburgh address, above) • Royal Mail also publishes the fortnightly *British Postmark Bulletin*, giving details of forthcoming special handstamps. Available on annual subscription from Edinburgh address above; £12.25 UK and Europe, £24.95 rest of the world • **Copyright** Design & text Royal Mail Group plc, unless attributed to a specified author. All requests to reproduce any article should be addressed to the Editor, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ • **Design** Robert Maude • **Printed** in Great Britain by Beacon Press • **ISSN** 0953 8119 • Royal Mail is a trading name of Royal Mail Group plc. Registered in England and Wales no 4138203 registered office 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ

Issues and withdrawals September-October 2

Editor's view The next London International, by John Holman 4

Stamp scene News of exhibitions; Societies; Auctions; Book review; Dealer price lists 4

Royal Mail news Ingots; News of future Special issues; Smaller Smilers; Definitives Collectors' packs; *Bulletin* receives silver award 8

Special draw A chance to win Trafalgar stamp sheets, miniature sheet and prestige book 9



Treasures of the BPMA Martin Robinson looks at Victorian innovation 10

Trafalgar The events of September 1805 – one month before battle, by Nigel Fordham 12

Classic ITV A review of the six landmark series featured on the stamps issued this month 14

Christmas A preview of Royal Mail's traditional Christmas issue 16



Riders and receivers A look back at the earliest days of postal services, by Rosemary Bennett 18



Chris Harman Richard West interviews the new President of the 'Royal' as he prepares for his term of office 26

Philately on-line The Philatelic Computing Study Group's website, by Ron Negus 29

Competitions £200 to be won in two easy-to-enter competitions 30

Events for September and October 30

Late news 31

Editor's view The next London international



John Holman, Editor

AS MOST of you will know, an international stamp exhibition has been held in London every 10 years since 1950, and there are still fond memories of the Stamp Show 2000 at Earl's Court. A committee has been set up to look at an exhibition in 2010 and we await an announcement about its proposals. Royal Mail spent some £9 million on Stamp Show 2000 which attracted about 55,000 visitors – an awful lot of money per visitor! I am left wondering if such large sums of money are now involved whether it would be better spent on permanent facilities for collectors rather than a short-lived exhibition? Money might go on the new Postal Museum, on a better British Philatelic Centre in London (and perhaps smaller centres in other cities), or on a travelling exhibition that would tour the UK to promote the hobby – rather like the Stampway to the World exhibition of the late 1980s.

If there is to be an exhibition in 2010, it must surely be a scaled down event and I agree with comments by Mr A L Garfield in the trade journal *Philatelic Exporter* (July), who suggests it is an enhanced Stampex held at the Design Centre. Given the changing nature of the hobby and the poor attendance at some recent internationals, he suggests the number of visitors would be less than in 2000. Such an exhibition would obviously include dealers and postal administrations plus some attractions as at Earl's Court (Royal Collection, Postal Museum, and British Library), and perhaps some special invited displays by leading collectors and societies. What I suggest it does not include are vast numbers of competitive displays which very few collectors look at. At Stamp Show 2000 I tried to look at all the exhibits (I nearly succeeded), but along vast swathes of display frames I came across not a single soul looking at them. This is a pity as many of the exhibits are well worth seeing but if collectors are not interested, what's the point? The money saved on this part of the exhibition could surely be spent in a more worthwhile way. I look forward to seeing what the committee proposes and what fellow collectors think. JOHN HOLMAN, EDITOR •

Stamp scene Glenn Morgan keeps you posted on exhibitions, societies and events

UK exhibitions WOPEX 2005 will be held on 3 September from 10am to 5pm at the Trinity Methodist Church, Brewery Road, Woking. Meetings of the Royal Philatelic Society, Great Britain Philatelic Society and Great Britain Overprints Society, 20 dealers and the Surrey Federation Mason Cup Competition promise that a good day out will be had by visitors •

Autumn Stampex will be held at the Business Design Centre, Islington, 14-18 September. Note the experimental opening 30 minutes earlier at the weekend. The Classic RTV stamps will be released at the show on Thursday and all items will be available from the Royal Mail stand, including blank FDCs and a postbox for those visitors who wish to prepare their own

Stampex enquiries Mike Czuczman: telephone 01252 628006 or e-mail him at info@philatelic-traders-society.co.uk

covers. The annual national competitions will be held, where collectors will compete for the many awards on offer, and a Sunday morning judging critique will be followed by an awards ceremony sponsored by the PTS and Royal Mail. Dealers (including new faces) will offer their wares and a number of societies will hold meetings including the Great Britain PS and British Decimal Stamps Study Circle. The National Youth Stamp Group caters for younger visitors by providing a host of activities, including the ever-popular Saturday afternoon auction. Souvenirs available to all visitors include a Stampex cover at 35p and a Business Customised Stamp sheet of 1st class White Ensign stamps celebrating Lord Nelson at £10 per sheet or £1 per single stamp with attached label. A free gift for the first 7500 visitors comprises the latest limited edition postcard featuring an unadopted essay of Lord Nelson produced for a 1953 National Heroes set that never materialised, reproduced from the original artwork held within the BPMA collections •

HAMPEX 2005, The Hampshire Philatelic Federation Convention and Stamp Fair, will be held on 22 October at Wickham Community Centre, Mill Lane, Wickham, near Fareham. At Wickham there is a large amount of free parking and easy access from the A32 and A334. There will be cafeteria facilities provided and the show will be host to nearly 30 dealers in stamps and postal history, all located in one large space. Specialist stamp society meetings, as well as a junior workshop and the largest competitive exhibition in the South, which will be judged to national standards, are all excellent reasons for visiting this ever-popular show •

Society publication The Great Britain Philatelic Society has submitted details of *Discovering Seahorses*, a new book on the King George V high values, by Bryan Kearsley. It contains many important discoveries resulting in major new plate varieties for the catalogue. With nearly 300 pages, and over 380 illustrations (some in colour), this new book will be essential reading for collectors of these stamps. The book retails at £60 (£54 for GBPS members), plus postage of £5 UK, £8 Europe, £12 Rest of World by air-mail, or £8 by surface mail. Payment may be made by MasterCard, Visa or sterling cheque payable to Great Britain Philatelic Society •

Society meetings The Cinderella Stamp Club will next meet on 8 October when they will conduct a live/postal auction, with viewing from 10am and the auction at 1pm. A dealer bourse will run concurrently from 10am. The venue is the International Students House, Great Portland Street, London W1. The nearest Underground station is Great Portland Street •

The National Philatelic Society holds regular monthly meetings on the second Saturday of every month with displays, an auction and access to the excellent library. Unfortunately, the experimental monthly Thursday evening meetings have been discontinued due to a lack of attendance •



Stampex opening hours

14 Sept	12.00-19.00
15-16 Sept	10.30-18.00
17 Sept	10.00-18.00
18 Sept	10.00-15.30

HAMPEX enquiries hotline

For dealers: 01329 845492.

For visitors: 01794 514902.

Discovering Seahorses Payment should be sent to: Ian Harvey, GBPS Hon Treasurer, 27 Landford Road, Putney, London SW15 1AQ.

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

Coros enquiries Mrs Verna Shackleton, 425 N Linwood Avenue #110, Appleton, WI 54914-3476 USA, or email corosec@sbcglobal.net

The Concorde Study Group
Brian L Asquith, 'Alandale',
Radclyffe Gardens, Carshalton
Beeches, SM5 4PQ, or email
brian@asquithbl.freemove.co.uk

GBPS Debbie Harman, Grey-lands, Melton, Woodbridge
IP12 1QE, or see www.gbps.org.uk

ATA enquiries PO Box 57,
Arlington, TX 76004-0057
USA.

Enquiries J J Proctor, 15
Dorchester Park, Portadown,
Co Armagh BT62 3EA. Tele-
phone 028 38 334964.

Harmers Telephone 0208 747
6100. www.harmers.com

Cavendish Telephone 01332
250970, or see website www.cavendish-auctions.com

Society Journals *The Coros Chronicle*, which is published by the Collectors of Religion on Stamps, produced a special May issue in memory of Pope John Paul II and engraver Czeslaw Slania – both came together in a stamp from the Vatican in 2000 commemorating the former's 80th birthday and engraved by the latter. There are also features on the Books of the Bible, the Virgin Mary, new issue listings, the Singing Linden Tree and immigrant pastor Msgr Lucjan Bojnowski, among others •

The Concorde Study Group's A5 publication *CSC Newsletter* continues to flourish, despite the sad demise of the most majestic aircraft of all time. Within 36 partly-colour pages of the June issue is a wealth of new information about Concorde stamps, postcards, postmarks, the aircraft and memorabilia. It includes photographs of stripped down Concorde G-BOAA passing Big Ben and the London Eye, and being escorted across farmland to her new role as a tourist attraction at the National Museum of Flight in Scotland •

The *GB Journal* and *GBPS Newsletter* for July/August both have the usual range of articles which are of such interest to collectors of all periods of British philately. Contents include an extensive article on the 1s green and carmine of 1900 with inverted GOVT. PARCELS overprint, part one of a new series about returned letter wrappers, an investigative feature on the so-called Rainbow Trials, and many other fascinating shorter pieces •

The American Topical Association has published the July-August issue of its journal *Topical Time*. Within its 92 pages are articles on olive oil (the foodstuff, not Popeye's girlfriend), wine, chemistry, tigers, aviation, and us postal vehicles along with the regular bi-monthly features and reports of society business •

Society event Portadown and District PS is holding its annual Stampex and Collector's Fair on 24 September in Portadown Town Hall, as part of its 40th anniversary celebrations. On display will be members' individual exhibits, competition entries for the Cansdale and Gardiner cups and dealers' stands covering several other collectibles aside from stamps •

Auctions Harmers held an all-world stamps and postal history sale on 14 June. The GB section included the 'Eastbourne' find of Board of Education Official issues, and prices realised included the Victorian 1s (sg o82), unmounted mint horizontal pair of this rare multiple, catalogued at £6000, which had an estimate of £3250 and sold for a healthy £7646. The 1986 *The Story of British Rail* £5 stamp book with 'The last mail pouch exchange near Penrith, Cumberland, 1971' pane variety of phosphor omitted, catalogued at £1250+, realised £765 (estimate £400) •

Cavendish had a two-day sale on 16-17 June that included a useful British section where the Consignia imprint pair of Smilers Christmas Robin and Crackers sheets went for £550 against an estimate of £500. A very rare 'STAMP USED BEFORE' cover charged at 2d postage due at Cheltenham 25-26 July 1840 on an entire letter to solicitors in Tewkesbury lightly franked by a fine four-margin plate 1B Penny Black realised £4600 (£1500) •

Corbitts all-world auction in Gateshead on 2 June featured over 1900 lots including GB of all periods. A severely mis-perfed 43p Royal Society of Arts stamp made £62 (est £50), a 1924 Empire Exhibition FDC £230 (£120) and a FDC of the 1974 privately produced self-adhesive stamps £110 (£80) •

Stanley Gibbons 16 June auction was a 1080 lot all-world public sale where an 1899 hand-illustrated cover depicting a graphic decapitation scene from Shakespeare's *Othello* (which may not appeal to everyone, of course), sold for £300 (est £350-400). The 1991 Ordnance Survey unissued change of denomination (26p instead of 28p) was expected to realise £2500-£3000, apparently being one of only 25 copies thought to be in private hands, but was knocked-down for only £1850 •

Corbitts Telephone 0191 232 7268. Website www.corbitts.com

Stanley Gibbons Telephone 020 7836 8444. Website www.stanleygibbons.com

Book review *The Millennium Stamps of Great Britain: 1999-2000* by Dr Barry Floyd, a geographer with a long history of philatelic writing, has recently been published. Readers will recall that Royal Mail's 25 sets of special stamps marking the new Millennium proved to be controversial.

Within its 64 under-sized A5 colour pages are largely personal views on each stamp. Curiously though, despite the title indicating that it covers 1999-2000, only the issues of 1999 are discussed. There is a two-line mention of the 2000 issues on page 59, and the final four stamps that appeared in 2001, namely the set about the future, go unmentioned. The overall series comprised 100 stamps but, according to this publication, only 48 appeared, and it seems that Dr Floyd probably only intended covering the 12 'Tales'.

The flyer states that the book exists to feature insights into the craftsmen (and women) who were responsible for the designs of the stamps, and to offer a robust critique of the results of their labours. To this end, the book meets its intended purpose, although as graphic design is so subjective, there will be many readers who will potentially disagree with some comments made by octogenarian Dr Floyd.

This reviewer has his favourite stamp, which is the George Hardie design on Air Travel issued in February 1999. This is one of many that receives a favourable response from the author, who states that 'the design serves its purpose, is easy to contemplate and may be judged a credit to its creator'.

There is a foreword by Brian Sole, concluding that he hopes the huge efforts by Royal Mail and the Stamp Advisory Committee will be understood more after reading this book. Certainly, the series was an ambitious project that deserved to succeed and, as time passes, is probably set to have a greater appeal. Your reviewer enjoyed this publication, and was pleasantly surprised that Dr Floyd was, generally speaking, a big fan of the 1999 issues, having expected it to contain nothing but a tirade of abuse, along the lines of the late Ken Lake's views on modern design •



Orders The book is available from Traveller's Tree Thematic Services, 12 Burystead Rise, Raunds NN9 6RZ. Price including postage & packing: £5.50 UK or £6.50 overseas. Sterling cheques or international money orders payable to J P Floyd.

Dealer price lists Andrew Lajer and Andrew Claridge have published their *Offers from Stock - Summer 2005* colour 16-page listings of British stamps up to King George VI. Among the 214 items on offer is a block of four 1840 SG2 Penny Blacks at £4950 on piece (cat £9000) and stamps at the other end of the price scale offered at £30, so something for most pockets •

Enquiries Andrew G Lajer, Old Post Office, Davis Way, Hurst RG10 0TR. Telephone 01189 344151. email andrew.lajer@btinternet.com

Royal Mail news New issues and products

Shown here is the miniature sheet issued on 5 August to mark London's successful bid to host a major sporting event in 2012. Details were given in a supplement issued with the August *Bulletin*. Shown 83% actual size.



Special issues The special stamps programme continues this month with the ITV stamps, on sale from 15 September; they were previewed here in July. This month we preview the Christmas set to be issued on 1 November; this year's designs are on a religious theme. They were designed by the Rev Dr Irene von Treskow, who designed the 1998 Christmas stamps (angels) and 1992 Tennyson issue. The 24p Tennyson stamp won the Most Beautiful Stamp in the World Award in 1994 (see *Bulletin* August 1994) ●



The postmark for the Windsor Castle ingot cover

Stamp ingots A new series of ingot covers featuring the 1955 Castle high value stamps will start on 23 September with the Windsor Castle stamp. This will be followed by the Edinburgh Castle stamp on 17 January, and the Caernarfon and Carrickfergus Castle stamps later in 2006. Each will be produced in a limited edition of 3000. The Windsor Castle ingot cover will cost £24.95 plus the handling charge (order code AH001). Orders to Tallents House, telephone 08457 641 641.

The series of six ingots featuring stamps of the reigns of Edward VII and George V has now been completed. They feature: Edward VII 1d and £1 stamps, George V 1d Mackenna head, 10s 'Seahorses', 1924 British Empire Exhibition 1d stamp (the first British commemorative), and 1929 £1 Postal Union Congress stamp. The six ingots cost £26.95 each, or £161.70 for the full set including a free Collection storage box. The storage box is available separately, price £15.95 (order code AG008) ●

Coming off sale Any remaining stock of the popular Woodland Animals stamps, pack, and stamp cards will be withdrawn on 15 September. These stamps were voted the most popular set of 2004 by *Bulletin* readers, and the Red Squirrel stamp the favourite individual stamp of the year. The British Journey issues for Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland remain on philatelic sale until further notice, although the books containing the self-adhesive 1st class stamps are now sold out •



Definitive and country stamps A new Collectors Pack containing the full range of low value definitives will be available from 6 September, price £7.80. The pack will contain: 1p, 2p, 5p, 9p, 10p, 20p, 35p (lime green), 40p, 42p, 46p, 47p, 50p, 68p and £1 values; also self-adhesive 1st class, 2nd class, Europe (to 40g), Postcard (Worldwide), and Worldwide (to 40g) NVIS. Also available from 6 September will be a new Definitive Collection folder including the low value pack, high value pack (2003), four country stamp packs (2003), plus a set of four of this year's 42p country stamps. The new collection costs £28.95 (not £28 as stated in August) •

Smaller Smilers Smilers stamps are being given a new look. The stamps are in future to be definitive stamp size with a larger label, in response to customers' suggestions. At first the smaller-size stamp sheet will run in parallel with larger-size stamp sheets, but eventually all will be in the smaller (definitive) size. Stamps in the definitive size will be based on the designs of the 1990 Teddy Bear, 1996 Christmas 19p, 1997 Flowers (*Guzmania splendens*), 2001 'Union Jack', 2002 LOVE, and 2002 Hello stamps. The sheets will each contain 20 1st class stamps with customised image on the adjoining labels. The sheets will be printed in litho by Cartor. Details of how to order customised Smilers sheets with the new definitive-size stamps will be available on the Royal Mail website and in leaflets/order forms in Post Office branches from late September.

A book containing the six definitive-size stamps detailed above will be issued on 4 October. All will be 1st class self-adhesives, printed in litho by Walsall. Details of first day arrangements were published last month •

Bulletin success We are pleased to report that the *Bulletin* received a silver award in the 9th National Philatelic Literature Exhibition in June. *Bulletin* contributor Richard Beith also received a silver award for his book *British South American Airways 1946-1949* (reviewed here in December 2004) •

Prize draw Win a Trafalgar stamp collection

THIS MONTH'S WINNER will be sent sheets of 24 of the Trafalgar stamps, the miniature sheet and prestige book. Five runners-up will receive Trafalgar packs. For a chance to win, simply write your name and address on the back of a postcard and send to Trafalgar Draw, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ to arrive by 7 October •



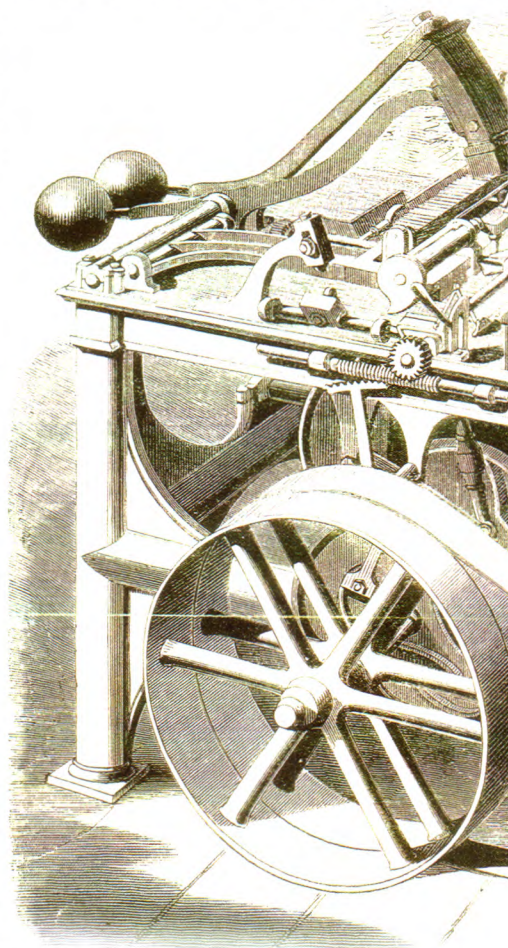
Treasures of the BPMA Martin Robinson on the Victorians

FROM 5 SEPTEMBER the exhibition at the British Postal Museum & Archive is 'Victorian Innovation'. The short description in the BPMA events guide says that Britain pioneered many developments in postal communication in the 19th century, from the invention of the postage stamp to new kinds of postal service. This exhibition looks at some original ideas which contributed to the modern world. Call 020 7239 2570 or email info@postalheritage.org.uk for further information.

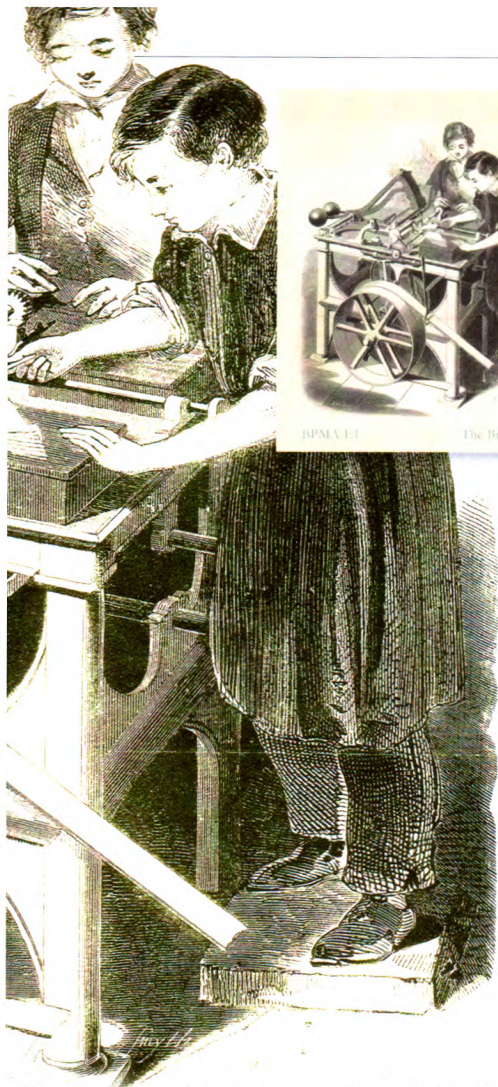
One of these innovations is the machine-made envelope. As every schoolboy (and postal historian) knows, before the introduction of penny postage, letters were charged by the number of sheets of paper used, as well as by the distance travelled, so a sheet of paper used to enclose a letter would attract an extra charge. Most of the pre-adhesive letters that one sees are 'entires', consisting of a sheet of writing paper folded and sealed with wax or a wafer, with the letter on one side and the address on the other. Envelopes only became popular when the postal charge was made on the basis of an item's weight, so that the extra security of an envelope didn't increase the cost.

Two of the items held in the BPMA's collection of postal history are examples of machine-made envelopes produced at the Great Exhibition of 1851. Should you wish to see them, the references are P.H.(L)1/14 and 15. The first is a 12cm x 7cm envelope produced by Thomas De La Rue, which is accompanied by an engraving of the machine itself (shown here), said to be capable of folding and gumming 60 envelopes per minute or 3,600 per hour, and 'made and exhibited by Thomas De La Rue & Company, Show Rooms, Bunhill Row, Finsbury'. On the envelope flap is printed in pale blue: MACHINE-FOLDED AND GUMMED BY THOMAS DE LA RUE & CO / AT THE GREAT EXHIBITION, 1851.

The second item is a similar pair consisting of an envelope and related engraving. The envelope is 13cm x 8cm and in colourless embossing on the flap is the information that it was manufactured by Waterlow & Sons of London at the Great Exhibition. This time the engraving's accompan-



ing caption explains the workings of the machine, which is said to be capable of making 30 to 35 envelopes per minute – up to 2,100 in an hour. The text begins: 'This machine, exhibited by Messrs Waterlow & Sons, of London Wall, London, introduces an ingenious application of atmospheric pressure, which is employed for the purposes of transporting the piece of paper to form the envelope, from the table on which it is placed to the top of the folding apparatus, and giving the necessary inclination to the flaps of the partially-formed envelope previous to its being completed by the action of the creaser.'



BPMA 1-1

The British Postal Museum & Archive, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL

THE BRITISH
POSTAL
MUSEUM
& ARCHIVE

The limited-edition BPMA cover, featuring an engraving of De La Rue's envelope-making machine at the Great Exhibition.

British Postal Museum & Archive cover Featuring rare imagery from the BPMA's collection, a limited edition cover (above) will be available from 5 September to celebrate the opening of the new exhibition 'Victorian Innovation'. The Victorians brought many advancements to postal technology. The volume of mail sent per annum in Britain went from millions to billions between 1837 and 1901. The cover is illustrated with two major improvements – the Penny Black and the Thomas De La Rue envelope-folding machine. The machine is shown being demonstrated at the Great Exhibition, and the original engraving will be on display in the exhibition. The cover will be serviced with a special one-day handstamp featuring the image of Britannia, derived from the Mulready envelope. The Victorian Innovation exhibition is on display until April 2006.

The covers are £4.95 each including postage; they can be bought in person, or by mail order from the British Postal Museum & Archive, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL. Cheques should be made payable to Postal Heritage Services Ltd. For further details see www.postalheritage.org.uk/shop ●

It goes on to explain the vacuum feed which picks a single sheet from a pile and places it on a folding box; a plunger then presses the sheet into the box, bending the flaps to a right-angle. Jets of air through slits in the sides of the box force the flaps inwards and the plunger descends again to fold them flat. Gumming and embossing are part of the same process. An attendant, resembling one of the *tricoteuses* at the foot of the guillotine, just collects and stacks the finished envelopes as they come down a chute. This machine seems to have been more sophisticated than De La Rue's, which apparently needed two operators.

The British Postal Museum & Archive Open Monday to Friday and selected Saturdays 10.00–17.00, Thursdays until 19.00. Call 020 7239 2570 or see www.postalheritage.org.uk for more details. To make an appointment to view philatelic material call the Curator of Philately, Douglas Muir, on 020 7239 2565.

Friends of Postal Heritage For details write to Mrs Avis Harms, 13 Amethyst Avenue, Davis Estate, Chatham ME5 9TX.

Trafalgar Nigel Fordham on the events of September, 1805

AT 5AM ON 2 SEPTEMBER 1805, Captain Blackwood, one of Nelson's close friends, arrived at Nelson's home in Merton from his Frigate *HMS Euryalus*. Nelson was already dressed. Blackwood had raced from Cape St Vincent to England in 10 days with news that the French and Spanish fleet was in Cadiz. The next day he was on his way to the Admiralty with the news.

Nelson followed the same day, and received his orders to prepare for battle. Lord Barham, the First Lord of the Admiralty, offered Nelson the chance to choose his Captains and in typical style Nelson said 'Choose yourself my Lord, the same spirit actuates the whole profession. You cannot choose wrong.' What faith in his brother officers!

HMS Victory, which had been assigned to Cornwallis's squadron, was hastily recalled to become Nelson's flagship. Over the next few days Nelson wrote many letters sorting out his personal affairs: to his agent Davison, sorting out his money, to the Admiralty arguing over prize money, letters to and about his family, and also supporting a Captain who had been down listed for promotion.

He was to be in correspondence over the protection of Malta and the restitution of two Neapolitan ships, and he wrote to Gibraltar to ensure that the local newspaper did not announce his impending arrival in the area.

In London, Captain Durham of *HMS Defiance* met Nelson and begged to be part of his fleet. Nelson replied that he thought the *Defiance* was undergoing major repairs, but Durham said that if the Admiralty were to grant permission 'I will soon be ready.' And soon he was picking up Nelson's orders at an inn in Portsmouth and fighting with great distinction at Trafalgar.

Nelson wrote to his old friend Collingwood on 7 September, saying that he would soon be with him at Cadiz, asking if he would be his second-in-command, and recommending that he change ships, from *HMS Dreadnought* (which was in need of repairs) to the *Royal Sovereign* which had recently been re-coppered and repaired.

At 10.30 pm on Friday (the thirteenth!), Nelson left Merton and arrived at the George Inn, Ports-

mouth at 6am the next morning. Soldiers had to be drafted in to control the crowds, which had gathered. Despite Nelson using the Beach Huts area of Portsmouth as a quiet location to leave from, word soon got round, even in those early hours. Nelson, enjoying the moment, turned to Hardy and said 'I had their Huzzas before, I have their hearts now.' He embarked at 2pm for *HMS Victory* to the sound of cheering crowds, waving his hat at them as he was rowed to the *Victory*. He was, as he put it 'only 25 days from dinner to dinner away from the *Victory*.'

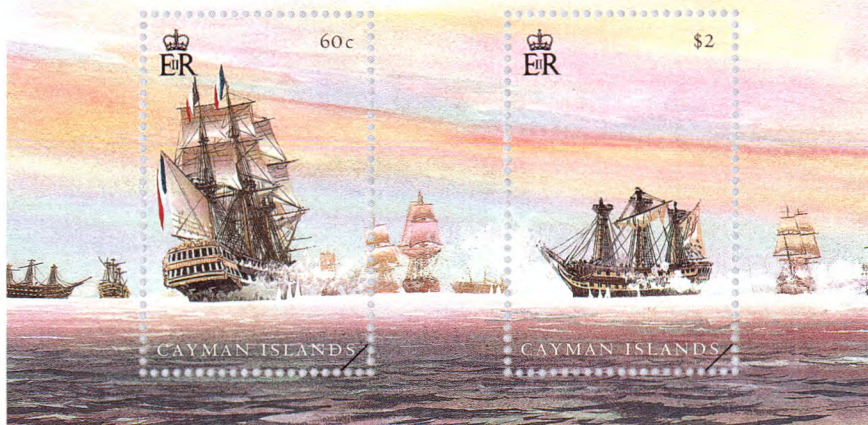
Finally, on the 15th, Nelson sailed from Portsmouth along with Henry Blackwood in *Euryalus*. By the time he reached the Lizard on the 18th, *HMS Ajax* and *HMS Thunderer* had completed their repairs, and joined him in sailing for Cadiz.

Nelson wrote to Collingwood asking that no flags be raised and no cannon salutes be made on his arrival, so that his presence remained a secret from the enemy. Nelson joined the British fleet on 28 September, the day before his 47th birthday. A buzz of joy and expectancy went round the fleet when he arrived, from all ranks and decks. Collingwood was an excellent Admiral but he did not have the charisma or the 'touch' of Nelson. We shall hear of the Nelson touch next month.

Many describe this as his ability to delegate, others his ability to explain his plans in detail to subordinates, very rare in those days, but I disagree. It was all these things but much, much more. He was special in that he genuinely loved people and they in turn loved him. He was in all ways a humanist, not always perfect but always there for his shipmates. This was demonstrated by his actions over Sir Robert Calder, who had been recalled to London to face a court martial over his failure to bring the combined enemy fleet to battle earlier that year. Calder was not popular for his actions or lack of them. Although Nelson was desperate for ships he realised that if he took the *Prince of Wales*, a first-rate ship from him, Calder would lose face with the fleet. Nelson also realised that he would probably be censured by the Admiralty for his actions.



During the late afternoon of the battle, the dismasted H.M.S. Tonnant was still fighting, despite heavy casualties. She had seen continuous action throughout the battle and is shown here in action against the French 74 gun ship Pluton.



'I may be thought wrong as an officer', Nelson wrote on 30 September to the Admiralty, 'to disobey the orders of the Admiralty, by not insisting on Sir Robert Calder's quitting the *Prince of Wales* for the *Dreadnought* and for parting with a 90-gun ship before the force arrives which their Lordships have judged necessary; but I trust that I shall be considered to have done right as a man and to a brother officer in affliction – my heart could not stand it, and so the thing must rest.'

That's what made Nelson special, unique even, and it would be a brave person to do something similar in his or her own job to this very day! ●

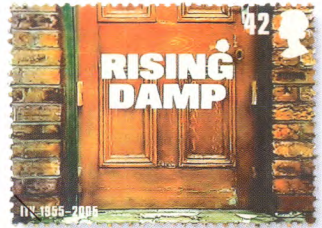
'Nothing can be finer than the fleet under my command.'

Nelson to his agent Alexander Davison, 30 September 1805

Sea Britain 2005 events in September For further information visit the Sea Britain 2005 website: www.seabritain.com

16.09	Thames Flotilla, River Thames, London
17.09	Seafarers UK Pickle Challenge, Falmouth
24-25.09	Rothsay-Tarbert Race, Clyde Cruising Club

Classic ITV As Royal Mail marks 50 years of broadcasting,



ON 15 September, Royal Mail issues six stamps celebrating the 50th anniversary of the first ITV broadcast on 22 September 1955. The stamps, designed by Kate Stephens, showcase landmark ITV programmes from a cross section of genres.

The set opens with *Inspector Morse* in the drama category (2nd class). Played by John Thaw, Morse had little in common with his earlier police character, the tough DI Jack Regan from *The Sweeney*. Whereas *The Sweeney* offered an hour of car chases, punch-ups and shoot-outs, the more cerebral Morse would, over the course of two hours, unravel a series of clues to discover a culprit's identity. Since *The Dead of Jericho* was shown in 1987, over one billion viewers worldwide have tuned in to watch Morse investigate 81 suspicious deaths over 33 episodes. When Colin Dexter decided the time had come to kill Morse off, over 13 million UK viewers witnessed his fatal heart attack, in *The Remorseful Day*, on 13 November 2000.

Dexter created Morse after reading detective stories and deciding that he could do it better and like Hitchcock, Dexter has a walk-on part in each Morse drama. Barrington Pheloung, composer of the distinctive theme tune with the Morse Code signature, can also be seen conducting the choir in *The Remorseful Day*. In the original novels, the inspector drives a red Lancia. This became the familiar burgundy Jaguar, when the novels were reprinted, because the TV production company could not find a Lancia for the screen adaptations. The Jaguar was sold at auction for £53,000 when the series ended.

Inspector Morse broke the mould for TV dramas. Because it ran for two hours, there was time for the most complex story to reach its conclusion. The format paved the way for further detective

dramas including *A Touch of Frost*, *Prime Suspect* and *The Midsomer Murders*, and was also applied to historical dramas like *Sharpe* and *Hornblower*.

Emmerdale (1st class) was selected by viewers of *This Morning* to represent the category of serial drama or 'soap', narrowly beating ITV's longest-running show, *Coronation Street*, and police drama *The Bill*. Starting life as *Emmerdale Farm* in 1972, the show was originally the twice-weekly saga of the Sugden family and their farm. Shown in the early afternoon, *Emmerdale Farm* was soon immersed in such familiar soap opera territory as extra-marital sex and divorces, and by 1973 had notched up its first rape and murder.

As more characters and racier storylines were introduced, the show moved to a twice-weekly early evening slot in 1988, and in 1989 'Farm' was dropped from the title to reflect the move towards plots centred on the village. It regularly attracted 11 million viewers, but by the early 90s ratings started to flag. Phil Redmond, creator of *Brookside* and *Grange Hill*, was brought in to develop new storylines; he arranged a plane crash killing several regulars, and a post office hostage drama. Although the ratings improved, complaints were received about the violent content, so in 1994 Mervyn Watson was drafted in. Watson decided that the show needed more young people and humour, so the Dingle clan were written in. Since then the show has gone from strength to strength and is now shown five or even six times a week.

Keen soap watchers will know that before joining *Eastenders*, both Ross Kemp (Grant Mitchell) and Pam St Clement (Pat Butcher) served in the cast of *Emmerdale Farm*.

Comedy is represented by *Rising Damp* (42p), about a student boarding house and its seedy

Dave Warriner reviews the six series featured on the stamps



landlord, Rigsby, played by Leonard Rossiter. Writer Eric Chappell based the series upon his play *The Banana Boat* where Rooksby, the landlord, was originally played by *Steptoe* star Wilfred Bramble. When the play transferred to London's west end, Rossiter took on the role and the comic potential for a TV series emerged. The cast included naïve student Alan (Richard Beckinsale) and Philip (Don Warrington), reputedly the son of a Nigerian chief, who were the objects of Rigsby's prejudices, while Miss Jones (Frances de la Tour) was the object of his lust. Through strong ensemble performances and hilariously inventive writing, which saw verbal dexterity and pathos combine with slapstick, Chappell explored many social issues of the day, as did Johnny Speight in his scripts for *Till Death Us Do Part* on BBC.

There were 28 *Rising Damp* episodes between 1974 and 1978 and thanks to Chappell's intelligent scriptwriting it remains one of the very few 1970s ITV sitcoms to have stood the test of time. Like *Inspector Morse*, the show is still enjoying regular rotation on the digital channel ITV3.

Patrick Macnee, who played debonair secret agent John Steed, described cult programme *The Avengers* (47p) as 'a show about a man in a bowler hat and a woman who throws men over her shoulders.' The show's roots were in *Police Surgeon*, a half-hour forensics drama starring Ian Hendry. The immaculately dressed Steed was introduced for its second season, when it was renamed *The Avengers*. Sadly, very few of the Hendry episodes survive, and in the next season he was replaced by the motorbike riding anthropologist Cathy Gale (Honor Blackman). With her suede catsuit and judo skills Gale was a far cry from the usual female sidekick in a 1960s action show.

Later Gale was replaced by high kicking Emma Peel (Diana Rigg), and as the series moved on to its colour fifth season, the story lines, like those of the Bond movies and *Dr Who*, became ever more fanciful, with crazed scientists, robots and madmen intent on world domination. In its final run Peel was replaced by Tara King (Linda Thorson), but the pairing lacked the sexual chemistry enjoyed by Steed's previous female partners and with US ratings falling, the show was cancelled in 1969 after 161 episodes. In 1975 it was revived for two seasons of *The New Avengers*, pairing Steed with action man Gambit (Gareth Hunt) and martial arts expert Purdy (Joanna Lumley).

The South Bank Show (60p) is the UK's longest-running arts programme, premiering in 1978 with Paul McCartney, Germaine Greer and cartoonist Gerald Scarfe. Melvyn Bragg, its most regular host, is the longest-serving presenter of any TV show in the UK. Since it first aired, the show has tackled subjects as diverse as George Formby and Francis Bacon, and has not been afraid of courting controversy with editions featuring the work of the performance artist Javier de Frutos, Gilbert and George and dance company DV8.

Who Wants to be a Millionaire (68p) is the most successful TV quiz show ever. Since 1998 more than £41,000,000 has been given away, and four millionaires have been created. The format has been exported to 107 countries all around the world, with some interesting national variations; in Russia for example, the audience will deliberately try to mislead contestants when they ask for advice! The show has also been spun off as top selling board and computer games and made the phrase 'Is that your final answer?' part of everyday conversation ●

Christmas Royal Mail's annual festive issue



Technical details

Printer De La Rue

Process Gravure

Stamp size 32 × 30mm

Sheets 50

Perforation 14.5 × 14 die cut

Phosphor One band 2nd, two bands others. The date 2005 appears 'reversed out' of the phosphor at the bottom left of each stamp.

Gum Self-adhesive, no matrix

Gutter pairs Vertical

Miniature sheet size 115 × 105mm

Miniature sheet perforation 14.5 × 14

Cylinders and colours

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

ROYAL MAIL has issued Christmas stamps annually since 1966. This year's Christmas stamps – the 40th issue – go on sale at Post Office branches, Tallents House and Post Office philatelic outlets on 1 November. As for the past four years, they are printed on self-adhesive paper, the stamps having die-cut perforations, and can be removed from sheets by rouletting which surrounds the 'perforations'. There will also be a miniature sheet containing the same stamps but in conventional gummed format. They were designed by Irene von Treskow and feature the Madonna and Child as seen through the eyes of different cultures, including those of Haiti (2nd class) India (68p), North American Indian (60p) and Australian Aborigine (£1.12) as well as the more familiar European interpretations (1st and 42p).

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets about a week before 1 November, price 25p. Orders for FDCs with the stamps or miniature sheet cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of Tallents House Edinburgh or Bethlehem must reach Tallents House by the date of issue. Price £4.33 UK or £3.69 overseas. Please state if stamps or miniature sheet are required.

Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB, or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Penarth Road, Cardiff CF11 8TA (Bethlehem postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FD0525' or 'FD0526'. Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for the Bethlehem postmark. Details of sponsored handstamps will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House. For a sample copy write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ.



STAMP BOOKS Two Christmas self-adhesive stamp books (folded sheetlets) will be available from 1 November: 12 × 1st class stamps (£3.60) and 24 × 2nd class stamps (£5.04). The books have been printed by De La Rue.

CHRISTMAS SMILERS There will be one Christmas Smilers sheet, with 10 1st class and 10 2nd class Winter Robins Christmas stamps, price £5.60. It will be printed in litho by Cartor, with self-adhesive stamps. The stamps in sheets and books are printed in gravure. Smilers are available from Royal Mail Talents House and Post Office philatelic outlets. A Smilers sheets album is available from Talents House, price £16.50 (order code PA665).

CHRISTMAS AIRLETTERS There will be no new airletters (aerogrammes) this year; those issued in 2004 will be reissued at Post Office branches on 1 November. The bilingual version will be available only from Post Office branches in Wales, Talents House and Post Office philatelic outlets. Price 52p each. The design features Father Christmas trudging through the snow with a sack of presents. The airletter was designed by Raymond Briggs and printed by Mail Solutions Limited. It bears the usual 'stamp' comprising the Machin head of The Queen and 'Great Britain Postage Paid' indicator. The airletter does not qualify for 'First Day of Issue' postmarking •

Yearbook and Yearpack The 2005 Yearbook and Yearpack, containing all the year's special stamps, will go on sale on 1 November when the Christmas stamps are issued. Both will remain on sale until the end of 2007 •

A well-illustrated presentation pack (above, price £3.85) and stamp cards (not shown, 30p each) will be available from main Post Offices and philatelic outlets. There will be seven stamp cards: one for each of the stamps, and one for the miniature sheet.

The miniature sheet (top, on cover) contains one of each stamp. These stamps are conventionally gummed, not self-adhesive.

Prices Yearbook: £39.95 standard; £75 deluxe leather-bound. Yearpack: £34.95.

Riding men and receivers A history of the



This postcard, published by the National Postal Museum in 1990, features the portrait of Sir Brian Tuke, first Master of Posts, painted by Hans Holbein the Younger.

CONSIDERING their efficiency in other things, it is hardly surprising that the Romans established a type of postal system in England during the first century AD. Letters were written on bark, or on wooden tablets coated with wax, and the message inscribed with a metal stylus. They were carried by messengers from one postal station to another, where they could stay the night, stable their horse or exchange it for another and, if they were using a cart, have it repaired or even exchanged.

After the Romans left, a certain amount of correspondence continued, mainly between kings and senior clergy. Even prior to the Norman conquest, a tenant might be legally obligated to carry letters for the Lord of the Manor. After the Conquest, there are references in the Domesday Book to some of those holding land as 'riding men', which are believed to imply such an obligation.

With their centralised way of running things, the Normans needed an efficient postal system, and by the end of the 12th century, a system of royal messengers had been set up. Nobles and senior clergy also developed their own services. Gradually, it became possible for ordinary members

of the public to send a letter to another part of the country. These were conveyed by the carriers who travelled between fairs and markets, and payment was made not only by the sender, but also by the recipient, the latter practice helping to ensure that the letter reached its destination.

The mail carried by royal messengers was taken directly to the county sheriffs, who had their own messengers to deliver the king's documents, writs, letters, etc. Also, less important mail was taken to town mayors, who were obliged to deliver it without charge. The royal messengers themselves, however, were not only paid, but could claim expenses; they also received money for delivery. The messengers who carried correspondence to kings and princes were known as heralds, and trainee heralds who carried mail between somewhat less important persons were called pursuivants.

Master of Posts This system was extended by Sir Brian Tuke, appointed the first Master of Posts by Henry VIII. He arranged for official letters to be carried between important towns at no cost to the government. Such letters had to be signed by the postmaster in each town before being sent on. For really important correspondence, however, heralds were still used.

During the first quarter of the 17th century, there was a demand for letters from the public to be incorporated with the royal postal service. As people would naturally pay for the privilege, it was thought that this might

early days of the post, by Rosemary Bennett

make the system self-financing. A trial carried out between London and Plymouth by Samuel Jude showed that it could work.

In 1635 things progressed when the Royal Mail was established. A proclamation was issued by Charles I in which payments for letters were fixed according to the distance they were carried and the number of letters in a packet. Before this date, correspondence could take a very long time. For example, sending a letter from London to Edinburgh and receiving a reply could take up to two months. After 1635 this was reduced to one or two weeks by the use of relay horses.

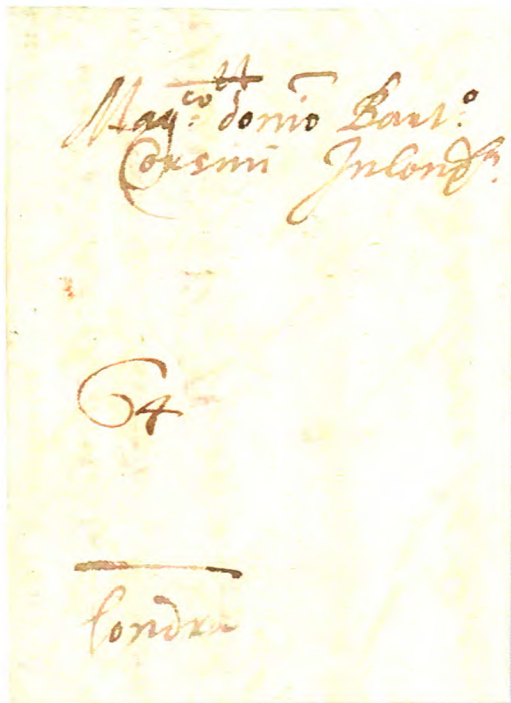
Along the roads from London to the provinces inns were probably used for receiving houses. In London, official receiving houses seem to have developed from the Post Master's houses at the start of each main Post Road out of London. The first mention of these refers to the year 1561.

Merchant Post During the 16th century a service was started by and for foreign merchants living in this country which carried mail within Europe and as far as the Middle East. Known as the Merchant Strangers Post, it was started by Italian merchants. British merchants followed suit by setting up their own service, which became known as the Merchant Adventurers Post. However, the public was not included in these arrangements, and it was not until 1619 that the first official Public Post for correspondence across the Channel was endorsed.

From 1642 the Civil War caused considerable disruption to the postal system. In 1653 a service known as the 'Old Commonwealth Post' was re-established. However, from about the same time there was also a rival 'New Commonwealth Post' in operation. Broadsheets were issued showing the receivers and receiving houses for each of these. Many receiving houses were inns, and some were stationers, booksellers and other types of shop.

The Restoration of the Monarchy brought change once again. Possibly because those running the existing system were seen as servants of the Commonwealth, the established structure was largely abandoned. Colonel Henry Bishop was appointed the first Postmaster General in 1660, and it was he who introduced the first British datestamp in an effort to reassure the public who had been complaining that mail was being delayed at posts.

However, the re-established Post was not as strong as that of the previous decade. The broadsheet *Mercurius Publicus* carried advertisements for General Post Letter Receivers within London, but the number of such receivers was greatly reduced from earlier times.



This letter was carried by the Merchant Strangers' Post in 1582. It is addressed to Bartolomeo Corsini in London, and shows a delivery charge of 'd4'.

Within London, merchants could have letters delivered to their houses for the payment of a halfpenny per letter.

Dockwra private post Although, following the establishment of the Royal Mail in 1635, the system for sending mail from London to other parts of the country had been greatly improved, there was still no service for the exchange of mail within London. The capital had to wait until 1680, when a private service, which was known as the Penny Post, was established by William Dockwra and Robert Murray. For 10 years William Dockwra had been a Customs Undersearcher at the port of London, followed by a career as a merchant. Robert Murray had been an upholsterer and milliner. They were encouraged to set up their postal service by Lord Shaftesbury, Leader of the Whigs, for political reasons; he believed it would be useful for distributing Whig literature in the capital. Within a few months the service was employing 400 to 500 receivers, and covered an area from Limehouse in the east to Tothill Street in the west, and from Southwark to Shoreditch.

However, they were breaking the Royal Mail's monopoly, and Dockwra found himself in court, Murray having already left the enterprise. Fortunately for him he was acquitted. However, in November 1682, action was again taken against him, and even his employees were threatened with heavy fines. He closed the Penny Post for two days so that they could all attend court, but this time he lost, and his service was never reopened. It must have been a worrying time for his employees, but within the month the Government had replaced the service with the Government Penny Post, which was virtually the same, and even took on the same employees.

At any one time between 1680 and 1801 there were 400 to 500 receiving houses in operation. The receivers themselves had all kinds of other occupations, and included several ladies. Besides occupations such as innkeeper and coffee house proprietor, trades mentioned in the records include printer, grocer, button seller, seamstress, haberdasher, fringe-maker, milliner, toy seller, chandler and cheese-monger.

Salaries for London receivers varied, probably based on the volume of business conducted. In 1682 it ranged from £6 to £27. Some were paid extra for taking their bags of mail to the Chief Office in Lombard Street. This also varied according to the distance carried. During the deflationary period of the Napoleonic Wars most of the salaries decreased.

Things continued much as before until 1792, when, after carrying out a survey, Edward Johnson recommended that the service needed complete restructuring. This was carried out in May 1794. In 1801 the postage was changed from a penny to twopence, and the service became known as the Twopenny Post. In 1844, however, it was again changed, and cash book headings now bore the name 'District Post'. One more important change took place in 1857 when London was divided into the postal districts with which we are familiar today.

The history of the postal service in this country is colourful and fascinating. Things have changed a lot since Roman messengers travelled the new roads to deliver important mail from one military post to another, and from the days of the riding man with his obligations to the Lord of the Manor. However, the pleasure of receiving a letter or parcel from friends and family still means a lot to most people. Long may it continue ●

Another article on the early days of the postal service, by Mrs Bennett, was published here in March 2005.

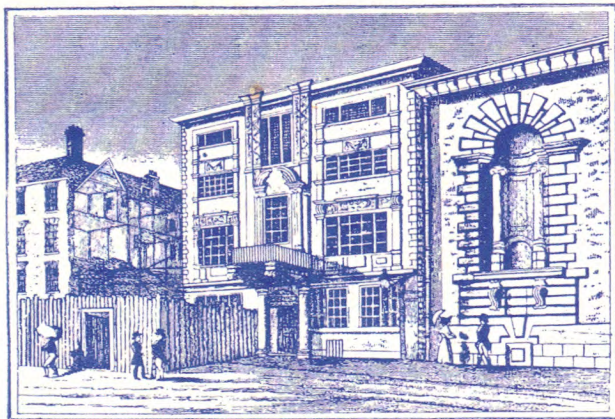
3
 To the lady
 Gifford at Mr
 wings house over a
 garden new street end
 in St Martins Lane
 London



This letter was written by the Countess of Chesterfield in 1664, 'For the lady Gifford at Mr Wings house over against new Street and in St Martins Lane, London.' The letter was written in Bredby, near Derby, and received in London two days after despatch as shown by the Bishop mark 'IV/6' (June 6th). A manuscript '3'(d) charge has been added.

Except for two months following the Great Fire of London in 1666, which destroyed Post Office premises, these Bishop Mark datestamps were in use for 126 years.

Below: the tercentenary of the establishment of the 'General Letter Office' was marked by this stamp, and an insert card for first day covers.



THE OLD GENERAL POST OFFICE • LOMBARD STREET

An old print (circa 1793). The Post Office building has long since been demolished, but that at the right, the Church of St. Mary Woolnoth, still stands, and is the famous "Church over the Bank tube station."

Stamped to order In the first of two articles,



Opposite page From top: a QEII OHMS envelope; a QV agricultural return; advertising on Edward VII 1/2d Cresswell and QV John Oakey & Sons envelopes; a QEII 3p + 2 1/2p *Stamford Mercury* wrapper; and a QV 1/2d pink postcard with arms. Above is an actual-size detail of the embossing on the Cresswell envelope.

THIS YEAR MARKS the 150th anniversary of the stamped to order (STO) scheme, a service that allowed private firms and individuals to have paper impressed with a variety of postage stamps to meet their individual needs. The Post Office announced that it was going to end this facility in October 1973, but it has remained an option to private companies and Government Departments to this day, albeit to a lesser extent than previously.

When adhesive stamps and prepaid postal stationery were introduced in 1840 it had been intended that the public should be allowed to have their own paper stamped at Somerset House to any desired value, thus allowing heavyweight and overseas mail to be sent under their preferred method – postal stationery. However, the Treasury feared fraud and loss of revenue, and blocked the scheme for a number of years.

By 1855 it was obvious that nobody had been able to successfully copy embossed stationery stamps, and that the loss of revenue which the Treasury feared was much more likely to occur from the re-use of adhesive stamps rather than forging postal stationery. The Treasury relented and agreed that paper submitted to the Stamping Office at Somerset House could be impressed with a stationery stamp(s) to any required value, which could then be made into lettersheets or envelopes. The Treasury stipulated that only white paper was to be accepted, but soon buff and coloured papers were being processed.

Important rules were applied to the stamp to order process. Paper had to be submitted in a flat, unfolded state to avoid secondary, albino impressions being embossed elsewhere on an envelope, and the layout of the envelopes had to be marked on the paper so that the stamps would be struck in their correct positions. This was usually achieved by printing cutting lines that were later removed at the guillotining stage prior to the envelopes being gummed and folded. To avoid the nuisance of having to deal with small orders, a fee of one shilling was charged where the value of the order was less than £10 for each size of paper to be stamped.

Envelopes and lettersheets At the start of the stamped to order scheme in 1855 only 1d envelopes were available from the PO, although the 2d die had been in use during the first years of the Penny Post era. It was recognised that these two values would be insufficient, and more dies would be needed if a full service was to be offered to the public. The PO wanted to avoid the possibility of envelopes becoming festooned with stamps. Thus in October 1855 three new stationery stamps were issued in the values 4d, 6d and 1/-, with 3d being added from May 1859. This allowed envelopes to be stamped to any reasonable value with just one or two stamps. In 1871 the introduction of the 1 1/2d rate for letters weighing up to 2 ounces meant a further value was required. Very soon envelopes might need up to three stamps to make up a desired rate; for example from 1875, 7 1/2d was the cost of sending a letter weighing 1 1/2 ounces to anywhere within the UPU, which could not be printed with any less than three different impressions.

Articles by Colin Baker about illustrated postal stationery were published in the *Bulletin* in October and November 2004 and January 2005.

Colin Baker describes the scheme introduced 150 years ago

On Her Majestys Service



Census 1991

It counts because
you count

AR

CONFIDENTIAL.

RETURN FOR THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

To be filled up on the 4th June, and then sent to the address opposite.

Mr P. W. Thorniley Esq
 8 Shooters Hill
 Worn

Or Present Occupier.

INTERNATIONAL SPONGE IMPORTERS LIMITED
RESSWELL BROTHERS & SCHMITZ
 SPONGE IMPORTERS, EXPORTERS AND MERCHANTS
 Red Lion Square London, W.C. 2
 In case of non-delivery please return to above.

Messrs P. W. Thorniley Esq
 14



Mrs John Sellers Esq
 100 Roundel St
 Sheffield

FIRST CLASS

Adam A. Hunter Esq.,
 14 Tyrone Road,
 SOUTHEAST ON SEA.
 Essex
 SS1 3HP



POST CARD

THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE

Miss Eva Mary Blagg
 South Colingham
 W. Newark

Over the following years, different values were added to the selection of stamps available. Unlike their adhesive equivalents, stationery stamps were produced in a variety of shapes, as well as different colours, to aid their identification in dimly lit sorting offices.

The STO service quickly became very popular, much more so with commercial organisations than with the public. This did not mean that the public only used PO envelopes, as there are many examples of STO envelopes having been sent by private individuals; these would normally have been purchased from a stationer, either singly or in small packets. Large firms took advantage of the STO scheme to have logos and advertising printed on their envelopes – a cheap way of promoting their goods and services.

STO envelopes had another advantage to commercial organisations, as they were a deterrent against the theft or misuse of stamps and stationery – an employee caught using a firm's envelope for private use could hardly say he had bought it from the local post office. Some firms who frequently corresponded with other offices even had pre-printed addresses on their envelopes, a time saving device which again helped to prevent stamped stationery being misused. Other firms had their own address printed on envelopes that were sent to clients to prepay return postage on orders.

Official envelopes and lettersheets Older collectors will have been used to the Crown Circle Paid mark introduced in 1904. Prior to this, Government departments had to have stamps impressed on envelopes and lettersheets where return postage was to be paid by them. The inclusion of impressed stamps was carried out under the STO facility at Somerset House. Such material is scarce since all stationery returned to Government departments was kept in storage until destroyed under strict controls. The few items existing today have survived by chance. They may represent only a part of the range of Government prepaid stationery produced in Victorian times.

The introduction of the Crown Circle did not signal a complete end to the Government's use of the STO scheme, which continued into George v's reign, with some items even appearing in the last few years.

In the Victorian era some Government departments amassed a huge amount of information on an annual basis, particularly that relating to agriculture. This gave the authorities an overview of land use and allowed the Government to shift the emphasis from one type of farming to another by means of taxation and allowances. To ensure questionnaires were returned by farmers and landowners, they were doubly stamped to pay for both the outward and return postage.

Postcards In the early years of the STO scheme, only envelopes and some lettersheets were normally created by private firms and individuals. In 1872 STO postcards were also allowed. The new ½d postal rate was a boon to industry and was used for acknowledgements and small messages, many of which were partially pre-printed on the reverse of the cards. But the ½d rate needed a new stamp for STO work, the lowest value of stamp available up to that time being 1d. The PO had already been criticised for the



lack of space on the address side of its own cards, and as STO postcards had to be a similar size (75 × 122mm or 3 × 5in) a smaller stamp was required to that used for all other STO work. This new stamp was about half the size of the other STO stamps and fitted well on Victorian STO postcards.

The strict regulations regarding postcards were often flouted by private companies. In the end the PO got fed up with all the colourful, fancy printing and the improper use of the Royal Coat of Arms. From 1884 the whole of the fronts of STO cards were printed at Somerset House, but without the Coat of Arms. This time the existing 1/2d stamp used for PO postcards was incorporated into STO work allowing them to be printed by the letterpress process, much faster and cheaper. Five years on and the PO reversed its decision about the use of the Coat of Arms, so that from 1889 STO cards were almost exactly the same as their PO equivalents, although there is one subtle difference between the two. A section of chain was removed from the neck of the Unicorn on STO cards, making it very easy for collectors to identify the two types.

Newspaper wrappers Another popular area for STO stationery was the production of newspaper wrappers. In 1870 PO wrappers were printed on thin white paper and were liable to split open in the post. Firms wanted to avoid complaints from customers about lost contents, and had their own wrappers made, sometimes to a larger size, using stronger paper than the PO equivalent. At the same time some newsagents and newspaper publishers took the opportunity of printing advertising on their wrappers. Yet another 1/2d stamp had to be prepared for use on PO and STO wrappers. It was much taller than it was wide, so that when it was wrapped around a rolled newspaper it presented a much better 'target' for the cancellation.

Fears that newspaper stamps might miss being cancelled were unfounded and in the reigns of Edward VII and George V the newspaper stamp reverted to standard proportions. Although wrappers continued to be popular with commercial organisations, their use by the general public grew less so that by 1936 only STO wrappers were being produced. After the Second World War the public's use of prepaid newspaper wrappers continued to decline but they remained popular with firms such as WH Smith who had a large number of different values prepared for despatching printed matter all over the world.

Above: a QV 1/2d brown postcard without arms, and a QV 1d pink newspaper wrapper.



Detail of embossing on the newspaper wrapper shown on p25 (actual size).

Postal Stationery Society

Enquiries to: Colin Baker, 4 Greenhill Gardens, Sutton Veney, Warminster BA12 7AY or see www.postalstationery.org.uk (This site was reviewed in Philately On-line, February 2004.)

Pre-cancelling newspaper wrapper stamps started in Victoria's reign in an effort to speed up the despatch of the mails. Once again it also prevented the wrappers from being misused by staff. In the present reign the publishers of the *Stamford Mercury* used pre-cancelled wrappers almost exclusively and many of these have found their way onto market. Normally the PO liked to have the date included in any cancellation, so that delays in the post could be monitored, but with newspaper wrappers the date of posting was also normally the newspaper publication date, and so this requirement could be relaxed.

Between 1857 and 1888 the PO allowed rings to be added around the outside of stationery stamps which could carry a firm's address, and sometimes other details. Although these were mainly used on newspaper wrappers, some envelopes were also prepared. Two methods of applying the rings were used. One was to have Somerset House prepare new dies with the ring incorporated around the stamp so that it was printed in one operation and in a uniform colour. The second, and probably cheaper method, was to have the ring added later by a local printer, which always resulted in two shades of printing, or sometimes two distinct colours. The expense of preparing and printing these rings meant few companies indulged in them, and thus they are difficult to find today ● *To be continued.*

Text © Colin Baker 2005

Chris Harman Richard West re-visits the Royal's President

NINE years ago, your Editor interviewed Chris Harman (*Bulletin* May 1996), and was impressed by his enthusiasm, adding 'his approach to the hobby shows that serious philately need not be stuffy and boring'. Chris is about to begin his term as President of The Royal Philatelic Society London. Has his enthusiasm mellowed over the years, or have his views in any way changed?

As John reported, Chris's original collections were virtually destroyed in a fire, making him reassess his interests: he started to explore more unusual bye-ways, looking at Revenues and the classic local issues. Working as part of the Expert Committee of the 'Royal', he discovered a fascination for forgeries, of which he has built a large collection, finding these help him to understand better the genuine stamps. Noting where gaps existed in the resources available to the Expert Committee, Chris decided to build a reference collection of Central and South America.

His collection of the Chalon Heads of Queen Victoria, particularly of Queensland and Grenada, encouraged him to look further into the work

of Perkins, Bacon. He recalls how they came from Boston in the USA to England in 1819, in the hope of winning the contract to print banknotes for the Bank of England. They did not succeed in that aim, but did start successfully to print banknotes for other clients. Chris notes that at the time there was a duty paid on banknotes, providing a good link with Revenue stamps. As is well known, Perkins, Bacon became renowned for their stamp printing, being responsible for the first stamps of over 20 countries. Chris's collection of their work embraces not only the British Empire, including Mauritius and the British West Indies, southern Africa and the Australian States, but also extending to such places as Chile and Peru.

GB interests Chris does not forget Great Britain, with particular emphasis on postal history from Edward VIII to date. It is quite an eye-opener to see his display of Machin definitives paying the rate for which they were intended. He comments on how examples of correct usage can be rare, citing in particular the 75p black. This was issued



Chris Harman and a cover in his collection, 1938 Express London to Holland.

in January 1980 to pay registration, the registered fee being 65p and the postage 10p. However, the rate was only in use for a further five days after the stamp was issued, before being increased to 75p registration and 12p postage. So there were just five days when the 75p could pay the rate for which it was intended: only one cover is known – not owned by Chris. Proving equally challenging is trying to acquire the ‘Millennium’ issues of 1999 and 2000, again with correct usage. Some are easy to find; others are distinctly elusive.

Entertain and interest With such diverse interests – Chris has never sold one of his collections – he is a popular guest at society meetings. He says: ‘displays best enjoyed by audiences have variety and anecdotal matter, rather than serious study. The job is to entertain and secondly to interest, not to drone on.’ He finds he is fortunate in collecting things that others find interesting, particularly forgeries, Revenues and locals, including the College stamps of Oxford and Cambridge; many are amazed at how many of the stamps printed by Perkins, Bacon are still inexpensive.

Having such diverse interests, Chris has never developed a ‘Large Gold medal’ exhibit, but he has shown competitively and judged. ‘I’m too much of a butterfly. I like to be broader, a generalist with specialist knowledge. I feel it is best to learn the detail, and to apply it widely.’

Chris feels it is important that stamps are seen within their social and historical perspective, and that does not relate simply to their design and printing. On the subject of Revenues, he recalls how often taxes have been raised at times of war.

In 1996, Chris stated that he felt the time had probably come for a change to the Machin definitive design. Does he still hold that view? ‘I like their simplicity, and prefer receiving letters with them rather than special issues. How could you improve on their design? However, I still prefer the Wilding designs, especially the engraved Castles. I am also fond of the Dulac head of George VI and the engraved high values of all reigns.’

With the prospect of increasing competition for Royal Mail, and the likelihood that most, if not all, of the private operators will issue their own labels or ‘stamps’, will Chris be collecting these? He feels not, finding it a struggle to keep up with what Royal Mail issues, although he admits that some could prove to be scarce in years to come. He pays tribute to the work of John Holman, who has written extensively on the private post issues produced in the UK.

On a wider issue, Chris wonders if Royal Mail will be able to survive, facing competition but still required to provide a universal service. He is not convinced that such competition is the right way forward, citing it is all too easy to destroy a good business if your motives are primarily political.

Just as nine years ago, Chris regards the Robson Lowe *Encyclopaedias*, coupled with the Gibbons catalogues, as the best tools collectors can have – along with the catalogues by Barefoot and Booth on Revenues. He still researches in the British Library Philatelic Collections, praising the way in which part of these can be easily enjoyed by visitors to the Library. He looks forward to a time when the British Postal Museum and Archive will have a new home; although he would prefer this to be in central London, he also appreciates that cost has to be the major consideration.

Presidential term So what plans does Chris have for his term as President of the 'Royal'? He feels the best approach is evolution, rather than revolution. He notes that, as a registered charity, the 'Royal' has obligations beyond the requirements of its membership. It is a historical society, with such invaluable resources as its library, museum and archives, the most important of which are the records of Perkins, Bacon. Over the past few years plans have been considered for improving the facilities at 41 Devonshire Place, the home of the 'Royal', while not destroying but enhancing its heritage. Over the coming months it is hoped that these plans will be brought to fruition.

Regarding the future of the hobby, he feels very positive, although he fears that promoting the investment potential may artificially inflate prices, and so deter collectors. Investment can cause an artificial situation, where prices are not underpinned by what collectors are prepared to pay. He believes that collecting is genetic, even among the young, who may drop their interest for a few years before returning to it later. However, he is worried that stamp collecting is not seen as so socially acceptable in the UK as it is in other parts of Europe, or in the USA and Far East.

He finds it difficult to understand Royal Mail's attitude to the hobby. Royal Mail has reduced its support to the British Philatelic Trust, and closed the Collectors Club, the Stamp Bug Club's successor (*There is now a young collectors' website*. ED). A more positive approach might pay dividends, both in terms of creating more excitement in the hobby and in the financial returns to Royal Mail.

However, he admits it is difficult to prove the educational benefits of the hobby, even though most collectors will testify as to how much it has taught them. Instead he believes it is important to stress the cultural significance of stamps, not only from the aspects of art and design, but also in terms of social history and in their reflection of technological and engineering developments. Stamp collecting has to be viewed in the broader context: most collectors do not confine their interests, and many hobbies are inter-related. We should build on that strength ●

MORE QUESTIONS WE PUT TO CHRIS HARMAN

You say that many hobbies are inter-related. Will you exploit that as President of the 'Royal'? I plan to include two unusual displays during the coming year: one on banknotes, and the other on postcards, focusing on the picture side.

During the time you have been involved with the 'Royal', what has given you most satisfaction? I have found working as part of the Expert Committee very challenging. As might be expected, before items are submitted for an opinion, they have already been thoroughly researched by their owners, often consulting with other specialists. It is the 'Royal' that is expected to provide the answer.

Do your wife and family collect? Debbie, my wife, is very tolerant of my collecting, and in fact has her own collection of Valentine cards. Our youngest son has also proved to be an avid collector, of anything associated with James Bond.

What has been your career? I wanted to go into the antiques trade, and was offered a job in the furniture department of the Victoria and Albert Museum. However, my aim was to join a major auctioneer, such as Christie's or Sotheby's. While waiting for a suitable opportunity, I took a temporary job as an insurance broker, and there I have remained.

Do you have other interests? Many and varied. I like furniture, rugs and carpets, paintings, silverware and glassware. I enjoy fishing, and used to play hockey. I admire plants and gardens, and studying wildlife such as birds and insects. I also enjoy opera and classical music.

Do you have any comments about displaying and exhibiting stamps? I feel it is important to make your stamps look nice, and that creating the layout on a computer can achieve this. It is a real pleasure to show your material to full advantage, and to make ordinary material look attractive and get it all to tell a story. It is amazing what you can do with just a bit of imagination. I worry about exhibitors who regard themselves superior to other collectors, and who really are nothing more than pot hunters. Too many own no more than the pages needed for their competitive exhibit. However, I do enjoy judging. The aim has to be to give a fair assessment of the material, to be consistent, and to be able to justify to the exhibitor the decisions reached. It is always good to be able to talk to exhibitors, and perhaps show them the best way forward.

Philately on-line Ron Negus revisits Philatelic Computing

Main Menu

- PCSG Information
- About PCSG
- PCSG Events
- 2005 Year Page
- Links & Mailings
- Information for...
- Philatelic Material
- The Philatelist
- Philatelic Forum
- Philatelic Articles
- Philatelic News
- Site Resources
- Discussion Board
- Event Calendar
- FAQ
- Search
- Submissions/Uploads
- Submit News
- Submit Article
- Submit
- Register
- Help & FAQ

Phil: What would you like most for PCSG to offer?

More stamp website reviews.

Discussions with authors.

PCSG Brochure
The PCSG Brochure
A PDF version is also available [here](#)



The Philatelic Computing Study Group
Helping you put STAMPS into your computer

The Philatelic Computing Study Group began in 1986 as the APS Computer as Philately Committee. It was introduced to collectors at AMERPEX, and now manages computer use in 1991 the PCSG name grew to a separate philatelic organization.

There are over 300 PCSG members in the USA and 19 other countries around the world. They include Australia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mauritania, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom.

technology, to people who want to learn more about the best ways to make their computers more than philatelic tools. To the members who want to make a summary of their collections or to improve their online or website pages.

The PCSG, through its quarterly newsletter, *The Philatelist*, makes it possible for members to make websites specifically for stamp collectors. It also provides computer software for general-purpose desktop, word processing, spreadsheet and graphics programs can be used to design for and handle your most particular requirements.

www.pcsg.org This website contains an application form for membership, or enquiries can be sent by post or e-mail to the Group Secretary, William F Sharpe, PO Box 3312, Santa Monica, CA 90408-3312, USA.

to the novices who want to make an inventory of their collection or to improve their album or exhibit pages.' There are over 300 members of the Group, located in the USA and in 18 other countries around the world.

Perhaps the most visible sign of the Group so far is its quarterly journal *The Philatelist*, which appeared from 1992. Prior to this date, 10 issues had appeared, but on an irregular publication schedule. In 1992, however, the editor's chair was taken over by a very energetic collector, and FIP computer judge, Bob de Violini, who was also the webmaster for the earlier PCSG site that I mentioned above. Bob edited the magazine successfully for the next 12 years, but very sadly died of an aneurism in January 2004, shortly after handing over the reins to another member.

With this new site, the Group has introduced an additional class of membership. Instead of receiving the magazine by post, members in the new category can opt to have a PDF version of *The Philatelist* made available to them every quarter and download it themselves. Since this will save the Group postage costs, the new membership facility has a lower annual subscription rate. Another new feature is the ability to pay dues via the PayPal system, which is easier for overseas subscribers. Previously, dollar cheques were the only method of payment accepted.

The new webmaster, Rene Kienzle, based in Brisbane, Australia, has approached the site's redesign from first principles. Very often, updated sites only delete obsolete wording, events, etc and the overall impression for visitors is that little has changed. By removing previous site items which are no longer relevant because of changes in the technology, the Group has taken the opportunity 'to implement improvements in our website to encourage and assist non-members to join.' It will be worth visiting regularly to keep abreast of these new developments •

In 1986, five years after the first IBM Personal Computer was marketed, the American Philatelic Society expanded its two-year-old 'Computers in Philately Committee' by introducing a separate software section. The new section's remit was to advise on the use of this new technology within the hobby. By 1991, the speed with which both hardware and software had developed forced the Committee to be reconstituted as a separate organisation; the Philatelic Computing Study Group was born. It is worth noting that 1991 was also the year in which initial steps were being taken to make the World Wide Web generally available – a fact of life we now take for granted!

I reviewed the website of the Philatelic Computing Study Group in February 2001. Since then certain changes have occurred within the Group. Its website (address above) has undergone a redesign and, whilst parts are still under construction, the changes make it appropriate to review it afresh. At its present state of development, the site contains up-to-date information about using computers in philately; links to stamp and software resources; and a new forum for related discussions, and for getting help with philatelic software and computer problems.

The site's introduction explains that '...members' expertise extends from the professionals who make a living in computer technology, to people who want to learn more about the best ways to make their computer serve their philatelic needs,

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



June identify The detail was from the 1992 Queen's 40th Anniversary stamp showing Her at the Trooping the Colour ceremony. The winner was Mrs A M Newmann, Italy.

June knowledge Answers: 1) 1994; 2) Earl's Court, London; 3) B Driscoll. The winner was K Beaney, Essex.

Ten runner-up prizes were also sent for each competition. Our thanks to all who entered.

FIRSTLY, identify the stamp from the detail above. Send your answer to September *Identify* Competition. Secondly, test your philatelic knowledge by answering the questions below. Send your answer to September *Knowledge* Competition.

- 1 Whose painting is shown on the forthcoming Trafalgar stamps?
- 2 In which year was Lord Portal featured on a stamp?
- 3 Where was the Philatelic Congress of GB held this year?

Send your answer (addressed to either September *Identify* competition or September *Knowledge* competition), name and address on a postcard or back of a sealed envelope to: British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ. The senders of the first cards drawn in each competition on 14 October will each receive £100. Ten runner-up prizes of presentation packs or first day covers will be awarded in each competition. The competitions are not open to Royal Mail employees •

Events

3 September City of Preston PS Annual Stamp Fair at Barton Village Hall, north of Preston on A6. Federation competitions, 20 stamp, postal history & postcard dealers. **Enquiries** P Gaywood, 01772 713917.

14-18 September Autumn Stampex. See page 4.

24 September Portadown Stampex & Collectors Fair at Portadown Town Hall. See page 6.

24 September British Thematic Association meeting at Dartmoor Lodge, Ashburton, Devon, 10.30-16.00. Guest speaker. **Enquiries** J Hayward, 01276 29246.

24-25 September Exhibition Study Group Annual Convention at Ramada Jarvis Hotel (formerly The Comet), Hatfield (off A1M near Galleria). **Enquiries** B Tonkin 020 8777 8861 or www.studygroup.org.uk

27 September Lecture on Early History of Royal Mail (by Philip Beale) at British Postal Museum & Archive, London WC1, 17.00. For tickets, phone 020 7239 2570.

1 October Kent Federation of Phil Socs Autumn Rally & Stamp Fair at East Malling Village Hall, East Malling, 10.00-16.00. Dealers, refreshments. **Enquiries** M Thompson, 01474 325507.

1 October Welsh Philatelic Society meeting at Oswalds, Bangor. **Enquiries** Marion Turner, 2 Coed Y Glyn, Gellilydan, Blaenau Ffestiniog LL41 4EL.

14-16 October Stampa (Irish national stamp exhibition) at RDS, Ballsbridge, Dublin. **Enquiries** Stampa, PO Box 2723, Cardiff Lane, Dublin 2, Fax +353-1-4546675 •

Late news



Trafalgar Cachet Covers bear this cachet. The original HMS *Pickle* carried news of victory to Falmouth. A replica *Pickle* will arrive in Portsmouth on 21 October, Trafalgar Day.

Special Cachet Cover The Royal Mail Trafalgar Cachet Cover (an impressive 15.5in wide and 5in high) bears all six Trafalgar stamps affixed side-by-side, to show the full panoramic glory of the artwork. The covers will be conveyed on the replica of *The Pickle* that is taking part in the Trafalgar anniversary celebrations. It was the original HMS *Pickle* (shown on one of the 42p stamps) that carried the news of victory and Nelson's death to Falmouth, from where the report was sent to the Admiralty. As part of the 2005 celebrations, *The Pickle* will sail from Falmouth to arrive in Portsmouth on Trafalgar Day, 21 October. The stamps on the cover are cancelled with the Portsmouth First Day of Issue postmark, and the cover bears a 'Carried on The Pickle' cachet. Each cover contains a certificate of authenticity detailing the historic voyage, and is individually numbered in an edition of 20,000. Price £8.95. Orders to Tallents House •

Trafalgar colours and plate numbers All values C1 gold C1 bottle green C1 yellow C1 magenta C1 cyan (blue) C1 black C1 phosphor •

Washington 2006 exhibition The Honorary President of the jury is FIP President Koh Seow Chuan from Singapore. The jury consists of a total of 40 judges from Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Great Britain, Israel, Korea, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Romania, Russia, Singapore, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand and the USA. Roughly the FIP requires one juror per 100 competitive frames. Washington 2006 will have 3820 frames. British jurors will be: Christopher Harman, Dr Alan Huggins and Francis Kiddle. For details of the Washington exhibition see www.washington-2006.org •

Prize winners Winners of the *Artwork* draw (June *Bulletin*) were: M Packman of Surrey (1st prize), J & S Sams, Lincolnshire; S Kelly, Canada; R Hanson, Spain; C Collins, Worcestershire; and J Ryan, Essex •

Auctions Spink's Stamps & Covers of the World Auction (6-7 July) included much fine GB material – stamps, postal history, and many delightful stamp boxes and related items. Total realisations were £772,923. A 1d letter sheet, A234, addressed to Charles Goodwyn, Crown Office, London, cancelled with a superb strike of the distinctive Wotton-under-Edge Maltese Cross in black went for £14,000 (estimate £10,000-12,000), and a fine unused Plate IV Penny Black with part original gum and small to large margins realised £2900 (£2000-2500). An exquisite 1891 London triple compartment stamp box with hinged lid, finely enamelled with Victoria ½d, 1d and 2½d stamps went for £15,000 (£5000-6000). The second day of the sale went ahead despite the bomb attacks in London earlier in the day. For details of future auctions phone Spink on 020 7563 4000 or see website www.spink.com •

Obituaries Gerald Davis, who died in June at the age of 89, was best known as a collector of Burma stamps and wrote extensively on the subject, winning a Rowland Hill Award in 2002. He also built up extensive collections of GB stamps and was an enthusiastic supporter of this *Bulletin*. He wrote 'Capital Appreciation' in the May 1980 issue, and was interviewed by Richard West in April 2002.

Jack Peach, who died in July aged 83, was a noted authority on early machine postmarks and metermarks, recording his research on these subjects in both books and articles. These included articles about the Pearson Hill Stamp Cancelling Machines in the *Bulletin* (June and July 1991) and an extensive series about meters in *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* in 2001. Mr Peach, a retired engineer, was always willing to assist collectors and worked for a while as a volunteer at the National Postal Museum •

The definitive stamp collection



This gatefold folder has been specifically designed to house six presentation packs containing all current national and country definitives: Low Values (1p-£1 plus the NVI stamps), High Values (£1.50-£5), England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, plus the recently issued 42p country stamps – some 43 stamps in total. The front cover of the folder bears the famous Machin head, which features on all national definitives.

Price: £28.75 (order code DY002). Empty folder to hold your packs: price £7.80 (order code DR005). Handling charge: £1.30 UK, £1.55 Europe, £2.15 Rest of World

Royal Mail

Tallents House, 21 South Gyle
Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB
Telephone orders: UK 08457
641 641; overseas +44 131 316
7483



5 014721 103112

