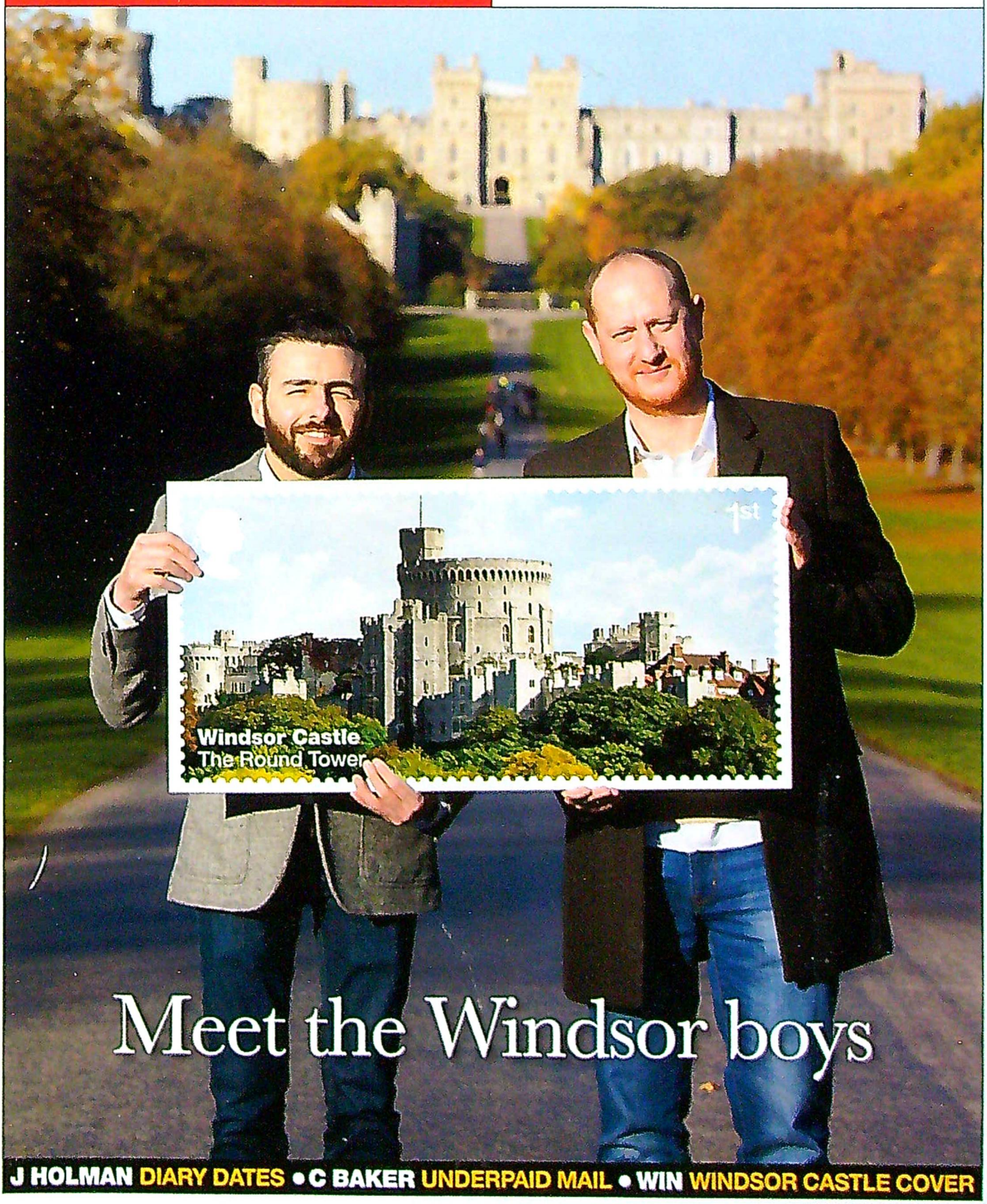
BRITISH PHILATELIC

Bulletin

The magazine for collectors of UK stamps

VOLUME 54 NUMBER 6 | FEBRUARY 2017 | £1.95

Previews: David Bowie • High Value Machin • Museum Sheet



Meet the Windsor boys

J HOLMAN DIARY DATES • C BAKER UNDERPAID MAIL • WIN WINDSOR CASTLE COVER

STAMPEX

THE BRITISH NATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION

SPRING 2017 15TH - 18TH FEBRUARY

Free admission

The essential UK exhibition for stamp collectors

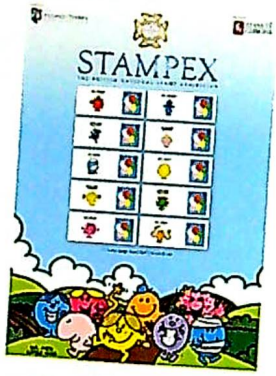
Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street,
Islington Green, London N1 0QH

Nearest Underground station: Angel Islington (Northern Line)

OPENING TIMES

Wednesday 15 February, from 11am until 7pm
Thursday 16 February, from 10am until 6pm
Friday 17 February, from 10am until 6pm
Saturday 18 February, from 10am until 5pm

At the Royal Mail stand you willl find a huge range of stamps and philatelic products, including the WIndsor Castle issue and Post & Go Mail by Rail stamps issued on 15 February



Organised by
The Philatelic Traders' Society Ltd
PO Box 290, Lingfield, Surrey RH7 9AX.
Tel: +44 (0) 1342 830225
Email: info@thepts.net

For further information visit:
www.philatelic-traders-society.co.uk

Contents





Music Giants Preview First glimpse of Special Stamps issued next month in tribute to the life and music of David Bowie **164**

Diary dates Brighten up your February and March stamping schedules with this handy list of local and national meetings and displays **169**

Stamp Scene John Holman keeps you abreast of news, views, events and publications in the world of UK philately **170**



Sapphire celebration Details of a £5 definitive that will mark the 65th anniversary of HM The Queen's Accession **174**

WONDERS OF WINDSOR CASTLE

Designer profile Meet the dedicated designers behind this month's stunning new issue **176**



Chapel in miniature Your guide to the glorious detail of St George's Chapel, on the Windsor Castle Miniature Sheet **180**

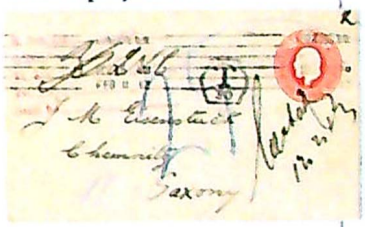


● **Royal Mail Editor** William Doherty, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB ● **Publishing Editor** Kate Shaw, 26 Throgmorton Street, London EC2N 2AN ● **Price** £1.95 from Post Office Ltd philatelic outlets or by order from Post Office branches ● **Twelve months' subscription** £18.95 UK and Europe, £24.95 rest of world. Subscribe online at www.royalmail.com/bulletin or write to Royal Mail Freepost, Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles, PO Box 1373, Sunderland SR5 9PG, UK. Overseas subscribers will need to use a stamp, as freepost is for UK only ● **Binders** (to hold 24 issues) £8.50, and storage boxes (about 30 copies) £9.95, are also available by post or online ● Stamp images © Royal Mail. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or parts is prohibited without prior permission of the Editors ● **Printed** in Great Britain by Zenith Print & Packaging Ltd ● **ISSN** 0953 8119 ● Royal Mail is a trading name of Royal Mail Group Ltd. Registered in England and Wales, number 4138203. Registered office: 100 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0HQ



Thoughtful sheets Join us in spreading the love on Valentine's Day, with special-purpose Smilers® sheets **182**

A-Z Postal Stationery Colin Baker guides you through a range of collectable evidence of underpayment **184**



This Month in History A nostagic view of Europe on stamps of February 1967 **186**

Postal Museum Ahoy A colourful stamp sheet celebrates the opening of the new museum **188**

Windsor wisdoms Get puzzling for your chance to win the stunning Windsor Coin Cover **190**

Issues & withdrawals Your guide to the latest issues and a last chance to buy current sets **192**



THE STARMAN ON STAMPS Next month's very special stamp issue pays tribute to David Bowie, one of the most influential musicians of all time

Internationally renowned music, album art and fashion landmarks come together in the special stamp issue, available on 14 March, which pays tribute to the life and works of David Bowie.

During his 50 years as a leading light in the music industry, Bowie released more than 30 albums. He made his commercial breakthrough with the 1969 album *Space Oddity* with its single of the same title. In 1972 he recorded *The Rise and Fall of Ziggy Stardust and Spiders From Mars*, featuring the hit *Starman*, and toured to promote the album with an elaborate stage act as his alter ego Ziggy Stardust. This established Bowie as a leader of glam-rock in the mid-1970s.

With his 1975 album *Young Americans* he entered his 'plastic soul' period, and in the 1980s he established a more elegant rock presence with hits including *Under Pressure* (with the band Queen) and *Let's Dance* (from his 1983 album of the same name). Bowie also made records in collaboration with Mick Jagger, John Lennon, Brian Eno, Lou Reed, Iggy Pop and Mott the Hoople. His most recent releases were *The Next Day* of 2014, which was critically acclaimed throughout the world, and *Blackstar*, his parting gift released two days before his death in January last year.

As an actor, David Bowie took the tile role in

David Bowie Miniature Sheet	
Date of issue	14 March 2017
Number of stamps	Four
Stamp format	Square
Sheet size	115mm x 89mm
Stamp size	35mm x 35mm
Printer	International Security Print
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	14.5 x 14.5
Phosphor	Bars
Gum	PVA



the Broadway stage production of *The Elephant Man* (1980-81). He also acted in films, notably in Nicolas Roeg's *The Man Who Fell To Earth* (1976), Martin Scorcese's *The Last Temptation of Christ*, Tony Scott's *The Hunger* (1983) and Nagisa Oshima's *Merry Christmas, Mr. Lawrence* (1983). In 2007 he appeared as himself in a well remembered television episode of Ricky Gervais's *Extras*.

Special Stamps The Music Giants II: David Bowie issue comprises six stamps – three First Class and three £1.52 values – showing iconic album covers.

Hunky Dory – Bowie's fourth album, released in December 1971. Time magazine chose it as part of their '100 best albums of all time' list in January 2010. First Class.

Aladdin Sane – his sixth album, released in April 1973, was among six Bowie entries in *Rolling Stone* magazine's 2003 list of the 500 greatest albums of all time. First Class.

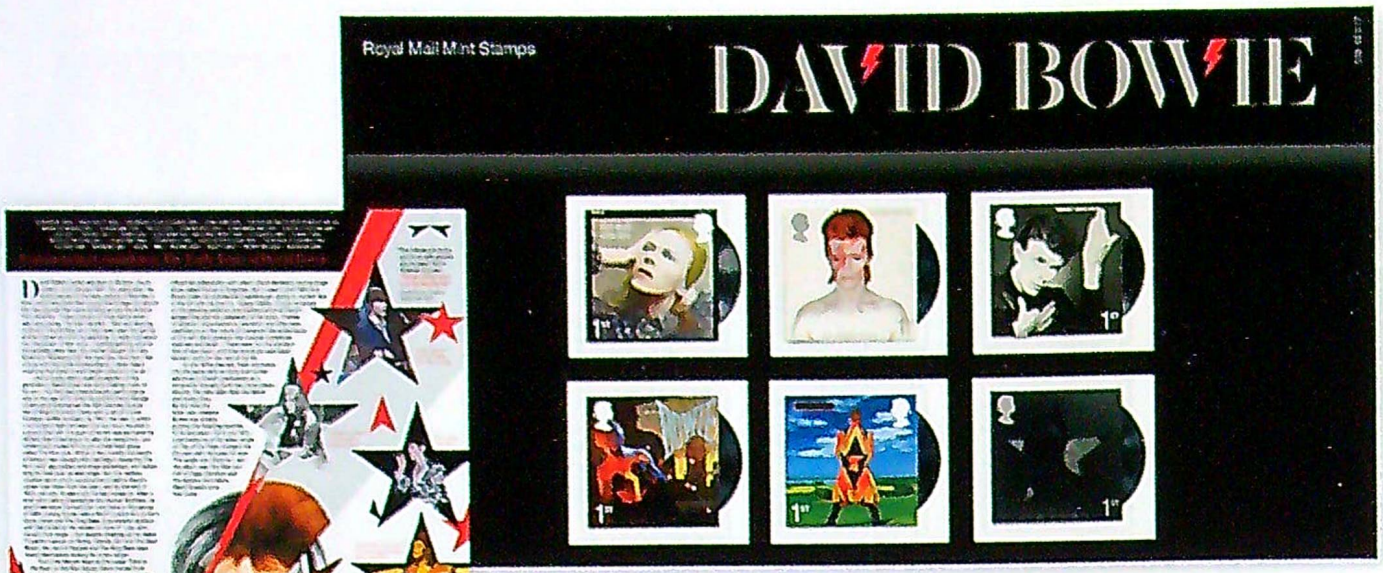
"Heroes" – his twelfth studio album, released in October 1977. This was the second instalment of Bowie's Berlin Trilogy, recorded with Brian Eno and Tony Visconti. The title track remains one of his best known songs. First Class.

Let's Dance – David Bowie's fifteenth studio album and best-seller, released in April 1983. Co-produced by Nile Rodgers, it features three of Bowie's most successful singles: *Let's Dance*, *Modern Love* and *China Girl*. £1.52.

Earthling – his twentieth studio album, released in February 1997. The first album Bowie had self-produced since *Diamond Dogs*. £1.52. ▶

David Bowie Stamps Specifications

Date of issue	14 March 2017
Number of stamps	Six
Design	Royal Mail Group Ltd
Sheet size	115 x 89mm
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	34mm x 32mm
Printer	International Security Print
Print process	Gravure
Number per sheet	25/50
Perforations	Die-cut simulated
Phosphor	Bars
Gum	Self-adhesive



Blackstar – Bowie's final studio album, released on 8 January 2016 to coincide with his 69th birthday. £1.52.

Miniature Sheet The Music Giants II: David Bowie Miniature sheet has two First Class and two £1.52 values, each showing photographs of different tours. The stamps are set in a background image of the Glass Spider tour of 1987, launched to promote the album *Never Let Me Down*.

The Ziggy Stardust Tour, 1972. The tour promoted *The Rise and Fall of Ziggy Stardust and the Spiders from Mars* studio album and took in the UK, North America, and Japan. First Class.

The Serious Moonlight Tour, 1983. The tour was designed to support the *Let's Dance* album and was Bowie's longest, largest and most successful concert tour. First Class.

The Stage Tour, 1978. Also known as Isolar II – The 1978 World Tour and The Low / "Heroes" World Tour because it was staged to promote the *Low* and "*Heroes*" albums. £1.52.

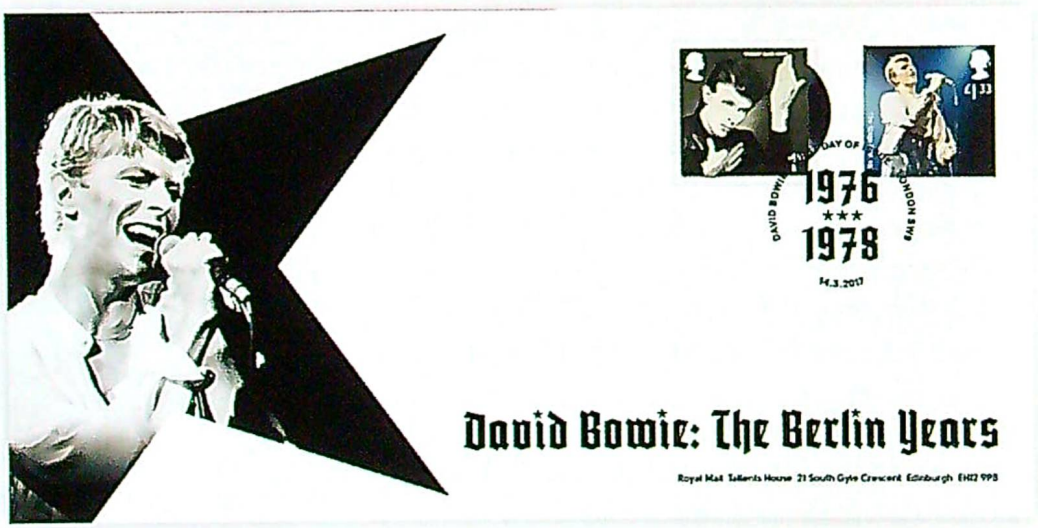
A Reality Tour, 2004. Promoting the *Reality* album, this was to be Bowie's last tour. £1.52.

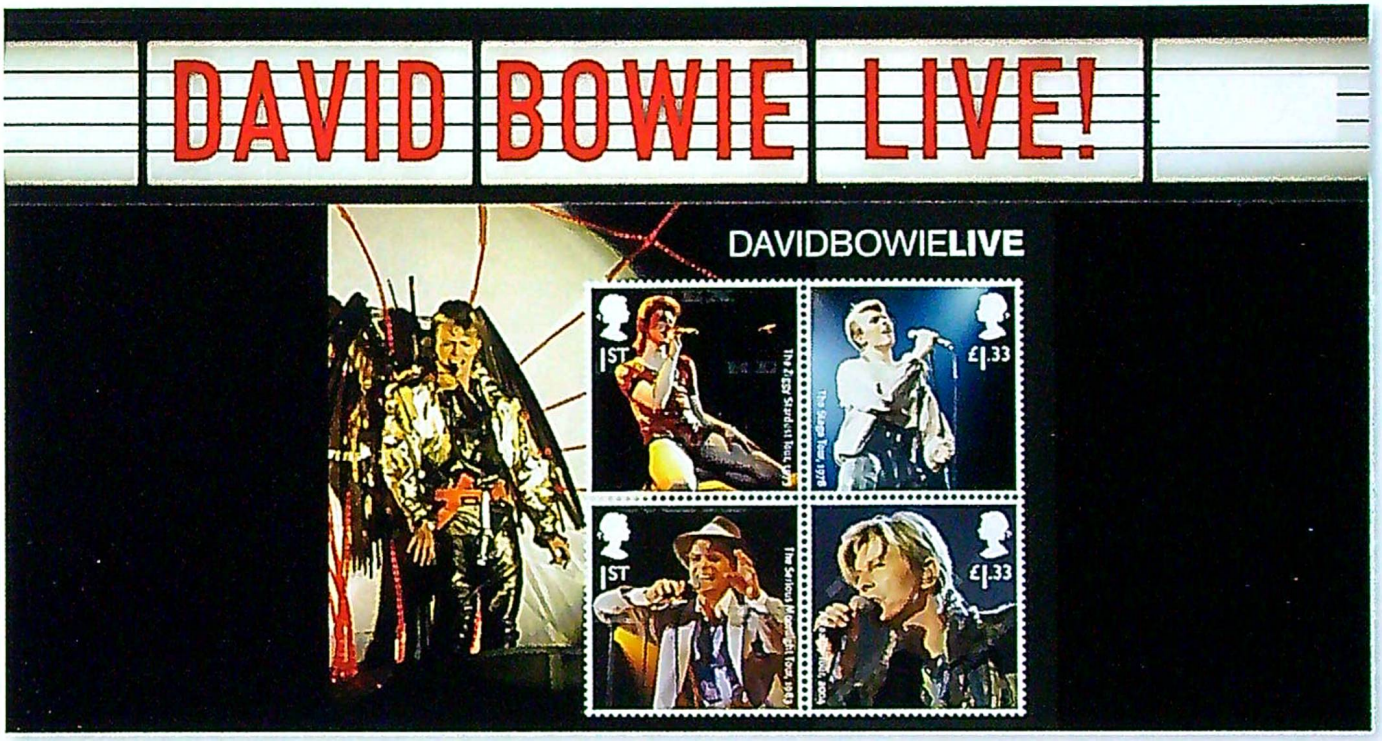


FD1705-TH

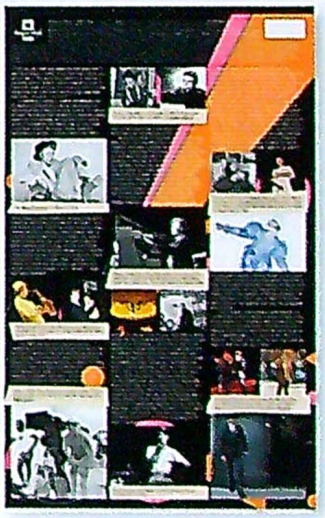


FD1705-PL





Accompanying this issue are the following items:



- A Stamp Book containing the *Aladdin Sane* and "*Heroes*" First Class stamps, alongside a central block of four First Class Definitives.
- A set of 11 Postcards featuring the Special Stamp set and Miniature Sheet stamps.
- Three individually numbered Fan Sheets, each including five stamps as shown above, and each in a limited edition of 7,500: *Hunky Dory* Fan Sheet, *Aladdin Sane* Fan Sheet and "*Heroes*" Fan Sheet.
- Album Art Fan Sheet in a limited edition of 10,000, 2,500 of which are reserved for use in the Stamp Art Souvenir Folder (see below). Each includes three First Class Stamps (*Hunky Dory*, *Aladdin Sane* and "*Heroes*") and three £1.52 Stamps (*Let's Dance*, *Earthling* and *Blackstar*).
- A Stamp Art Souvenir Folder includes the Album Cover Fan Sheet and six A4 prints with stamps affixed and cancelled with alternative handstamps chosen to complement the stamp images.
- The Berlin Years Souvenir Cover comes in a limited edition of 3,000, with an illustrated insert card detailing Bowie's visits to Berlin and the city's influence on his music and life.

David Bowie Retail Stamp Book Specifications

Date of issue	14 March
Book format	4 x Royal Mail Red 1st Class Machin definitives. 2 x David Bowie Special Stamps 1st Class
Printer	ISP
Print process	Gravure
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	Self adhesive





• Stamp and Print editions comprise a 31.5cm x 29cm print in a black art frame, printed in Giclée process on Durst Bockingford textured 190gsm fine art paper. The Aladdin Sane Framed Stamp and Print is shown above. Also available are *Hunky Dory*, *"Heroes"*, and a rectangular frame containing the six-stamp set, overall size 27mm x 23cm.

Customers can receive a 10 per cent discount if they purchase the Stamp Souvenir, Stamp Sheet Souvenir, Postcards and Presentation Pack – just ask for the Classic Bundle.

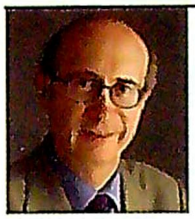
Orders for Serviced First Day Covers should reach Royal Mail by 14 March. For the Tallents House, Edinburgh postmark, customers may send stamped envelopes on the day of issue to Royal Mail, Tallents House at the address on page 192.

Please quote the *Bulletin* media code 17BUL11 with your orders •

Music Giants: David Bowie Prices	
Stamps (3 x 1st & 3 x £1.52) separate sheets	£6.48
Miniature Sheet (2 x 1st, 2 x £1.52)	£4.32
First Day Cover – Stamps	£8.20
First Day Envelope – Stamps	£0.30
First DayCover – Miniature Sheet	£5.60
First Day Envelope – Miniature Sheet	£0.30
Stamp Souvenir	£8.20
Stamp Sheet Souvenir	£5.60
First Day Envelope	£0.30
Retail Stamp Book	£3.84
Presentation Pack	£11.30
Post Cards (11 in set)	£4.95
Berlin Years Souvenir Cover	£24.99
Hunky Dory Fan Sheet	£7.50
Aladdin Sane Fan Sheet	£7.50
"Heroes" Fan Sheet	£7.50
Album Art Fan Sheet	£12.95
Stamp Art Souvenir Folder	£29.99
Six Stamp Frame	£29.99
Hunky Dory framed Stamp and Print	£79.99
Aladdin Sane framed Stamp and Print	£79.99
"Heroes" framed Stamp and Print	£79.99
Classic Bundle	£27.05



Acknowledgements: *Hunky Dory*, *Let's Dance*, *Earthling* and *Blackstar* album covers © Jones/Tintoretto Entertainment Company LLC; *Aladdin Sane* album cover © Jones/ Tintoretto Entertainment Company LLC and Duffy Archive Limited; *"Heroes"* album cover © Jones/Tintoretto Entertainment Company LLC and Masayoshi Sukita.



Stamp Scene John Holman keeps you posted on events and activities in the philatelic world



4 February National Philatelic Society meeting – Anglo-French Postal History 1580-1900 by Tony Allen, Welsh Centre, Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8UE. Display 2.45pm, preceded by Members' Auction at 12.50pm. Enquiries: Peter Mellor 01582 762284.

10 February Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, 38-51 Bedford Way, London WC1H 0DG, 9am to 4pm. Admission free. Enquiries: Kate Puleston 020 8946 4489.

11 February Kent Philatelic Federation AGM & Spring Rally, Langley Park Boys School, South Eden Park Road, Beckenham BR3 3BP.

15-18 February Spring Stampex, Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, Islington Green, London N1 0QH.

18 February GB Philatelic Society meeting at Spring Stampex. GB Perfins by Richard Husband, 2.15pm. Enquiries: Peter Tanner 01753 887755.

4 March Royal Sutton Coldfield Philatelic Society (formerly Streetly Philatelic Society) Stamp Fair & Exhibition, Collingwood Centre, Pheasey, Birmingham B43 7NF, 10am to 4pm. Car parking, refreshments, dealers in stamps, postal history, covers & postcards. Displays by Society members. Enquiries Steven Harrison 0121 313 0671, e-mail sharrison500@btinternet.com.

10-11 March Southern England Stamp Show, Farnborough Leisure Centre, Westmead, Farnborough, Hants GU14 7LD, Friday 10am to 5pm, Saturday 10am to 4pm. Free admission, programme, and raffle tickets. Extensive parking nearby. Nearly 60 dealers covering most aspects of philately. See www.southernenglandstampshow.com for further information.

11 March GB Philatelic Society meeting at Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1. 'GB Specialised Catalogue Day' by Hugh Jefferies, SG Catalogue Editor (11am). Enquiries: Peter Tanner, 01753 887755.

17 March Strand Stamp Fair, see 10 February for details.

23 March Royal Philatelic Society display 'GB Railway Station Cancellations from 1840' by Bill Pipe at 41 Devonshire Place, London W1, 1pm onwards. Non-members welcome to attend by prior arrangement – phone 020 7486 1044.

25 March National Philate;lic Society country meeting at Westbex, Kennet School, Stoney Lane, Thatcham RG19 4LL, 1.30pm.

30 March-2 April Melbourne 2017 Stamp & Coin Show, Caulfield Racecourse Melbourne, Australia. See below •

2017 events

Spring and Autumn Stampex will be held in London 15-18 February and 13-16 September 2017. Spring Stampex will be a full national exhibition with all classes and countries, but focusing on the former Ottoman Empire. There will be some 100 trade stands including Royal Mail with its usual sales stand and Post & Go area. New special and Post & Go stamps will be issued during the exhibition. Young visitors will be able to create their own piece of stamp art with the help of Suzanne Ray of Art Stamped at a free workshop held each day at 12 noon. ▸

STAMPEX

Stampex is open Wednesday 11.30am to 7pm, Thursday & Friday 10am to 6pm, and Saturday 10am to 5p, admission free. The Business Design Centre is near Angel underground station (Northern Line) and served by bus routes 4, 19, 30, 38, 43, 56, 73, 153, 205, 214, 274, 341, 394, and 476. Stampex enquiries: 01342 830225and thephilatelictraderssociety.co.uk/stampex/

The Lanarkshire Philatelic Society will host the Scottish Philatelic Congress at the Dewar's Centre, Perth on 21-22 April. The Tom Riley Display will be given by Professor Iain Stevenson. The Congress cover and special handstamp will commemorate the Cameronian Regiment in 1917. A special postcard will depict famous people born in Lanarkshire. Midpex, the specialist society exhibition, will be at the Warwickshire Exhibition Centre, Leamington Spa on 8 July, the 99th Philatelic Congress of GB in Cardiff, 27-30 July, and Stampa (Irish national stamp exhibition) on 6-8 October in Dublin.

Major international exhibitions will be staged in 2017 in Melbourne, Australia (30 March-2 April), Tampere, Finland (24-28 May), Bandung, Indonesia (3-7 August), and Brasilia, Brazil (24-29 October).

The Melbourne 2017 Stamp & Coin Show will be staged at the Caulfield Racecourse about 15 minutes from the city centre with good transport links. The competitive exhibits (1000 frames) will be in some 14 classes including postal history, postal stationery, thematics, open, youth, literature and modern philately (1980 onwards). A 200-frame non-competitive display, entitled 'Royalpex 125' by members of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria will mark the Society's 125th annivesary. Postal administrations attending include India, Macau, and United Nations, and stamp printers Cartor will have a stand. For more information see www.melbourne2017.com.au.



The Indonesia exhibition, at the Trans Studio Convention Center, Bandung, will have full FIP patronage with competitive classes of Traditional Philately, Postal History, Postal Stationery, Thematic Philately, Youth Philately, Philatelic Literature, One-frame exhibits, and Modern philately. Further details can be found on the exhibition website: www.bandung2017.org The Tampere exhibition marks the centenary of independence of the Republic of Finland - see finlandia207.fi for further information.

Displays at the MonacoPhil 2017 exhibition, 30 November-2 December, will feature 100 iconic stamps and documents, the philately of North and South America, and marking the centenary of eminent early philatelist Ferrari de La Renotiere. Items from the collections of HM The Queen, Prince Albert II of Monaco, postal museums, and private collections will be on show •

Postal Museum news



The Postal Museum (formerly British Postal Museum & Archive) is now closed to the public and will reopen in new premises nearby in mid-2017 (date to be announced). Staff continue to deal with telephone and email enquiries, but cannot undertake detailed research for enquirers. For more about the new Museum see interview with the Director, Adrian Steel, in February 2016 *Bulletin* (pp. 179-181). A preview of a special Postal Museum Stamp Sheet is on page 188 of this edition.

The Museum's website shows progress in the construction of the new museum and the MailRail experience. Visitors will be able to take a 15-minute journey in specially constructed trains on part of the former Post Office Underground

Railway which opened 90 years ago in 1927 and was used to carry mail beneath the streets of London until 2003. An article on this railway was published in the *Bulletin* in July 1966. All TPM enquiries, phone 020 7239 2570, email info@postalheritage.org.uk, or write to: The Postal Museum, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL.

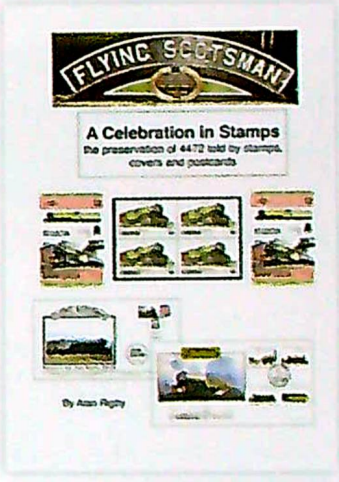
The online shop offers a wide range of cards, DVDs and CDs, gift sets, homeware, maps, postcards, posters, prints, publications, and stationery •

Stamp-related exhibitions

Special stamps issued on 2 September commemorated the 350th anniversary of the Great Fire of London. The 'Fire! Fire!' exhibition can be seen at the Museum of London until April 2017. Visit www.museumoflondon.org for further information and to book tickets. An exhibition ' 'Out of the Fire' is on show at St Paul's Cathedral until 17 April. Admission included in general admission charge to the Cathedral •

New books

The Flying Scotsman is the name of both a railway locomotive and a train service. The locomotive, built in 1923, is perhaps the most famous locomotive ever, and the train probably second only to The Orient Express. The locomotive has had a chequered career but has now been fully restored by its new owner the National Railway Museum in York and is used to haul special trains popular with railway enthusiasts and the general public alike. A new book Flying Scotsman: A Celebration in Stamps, recently produced by Alan Rigby, is essential reading for anyone building a collection of philatelic material relating to the locomotive.



The book is profusely ilustrated, showing all relevant stamps, covers, postcards as well as photographs of No 4472 during its illustrious life. FS featured on a Royal Mail Smilers® stamp in 2010 and on stamps from Chad, Grenada, Lesotho, Liberia, and St Lucia. Special handstamps were used for Flying Scotsman rail tours in 1969 and covers and labels produced for the US and Canadian tours of 1969-70. In 1973 FS was bought by Sir William McAlpine and returned to the UK with 'welcome home' covers serviced in Liverpool.



An interesting, and probably quite scarce, cover commemorated FS's visit to the Paignton & Dartmouth Steam Railway in August 1973. The cover is inscribed 'Posted on board the first ever post office on a preserved standard gauge railway hauled by B.R. 60103 Flying Scotsman'. Covers were serviced with Royal Mail's 1985 Famous Trains stamps, one of which featured the FS train but hauled by Gresley A4 locomotive rather than by FS itself, and other covers commemorated the locomotive's visit to Australia in 1989 and 50th and 75th anniversaries in 1973 and 1998. Terence Cuneo's evocative painting of FS crossing the Forth Bridge was reproduced on a special cover in November 2004.

Bringing the story up to date FS featured on labels attached to Union Jack stamps in a 'Flying Scotsman Return to the Rails 2016' Smilers® souvenir sheet and a special postmark used at Bury on 8 January 2016 when the locomotive made its first public appearance on the East Lancs Railway after its ten-year restoration. No doubt the locomotive will feature on many more stamps, postmarks and covers in the future. Mr Rigby's 128 page book is an excellent guide to the material currently available. Price £9.95, UK postage & packing £2, overseas £5.50 from: Alan Rigby, 4 Staveley Avenue, Sharples, Bolton ▸

BL1 7HD. Profits from sales will go to the Railway heritage movement and the National Railway Museum to be used towards the running of FS.

The 2017 edition of Stanley Gibbons popular *Collect British Stamps* catalogue lists all basic stamps from the Penny Black to the 2016 Christmas issue. Prices have been fully reviewed, with many increases to Machins and regionals (Country Defins) as well as earlier issues. The Post & Go section has been completely updated. Price £14.95 at the SG shop at 399 Strand, London WC2 and by mail order from Stanley Gibbons Ltd, Donnington Priory, Oxford Road, Donnington, Newbury RG14 2JE, phone 01425 472363), email orders@stanleygibbons.com, or from Royal Mail Tallents House in Edinburgh. Collect British Stamps this year celebrates its half-century, first published in September 1967 •

Postbus anniversary





This month marks the 50th anniversary of the introduction of the UK's first postbus service, from Llanidloes to Llangurig in mid-Wales, on 20 February 1967. For many years postbus services provided important transport links in rural areas, particularly in Scotland and Wales. At their peak over 200 services carried some 50,000 passengers a year. The Llanidloes-Llangurig service ceased in August 2006. Today just the Talmine-Tongue-Lairg route in Sutherland remains in operation. A postbus stamp was included in the 1985 350th anniversary of Royal Mail as a public postal service issue. For some years many postbus routes used tickets bearing stamps to denote the fare paid, cancelled by a handstamp denoting the route.

For more on postbus services, tickets and other collectables see *Bulletin* articles by the late Len Newbury September 1981 to February 1982, and by Martin Robinson in June 1993, February 1997, March and June 1998, and February, May and June 2007. The May and June 2007 articles include lists of routes with dates of introduction and closure •

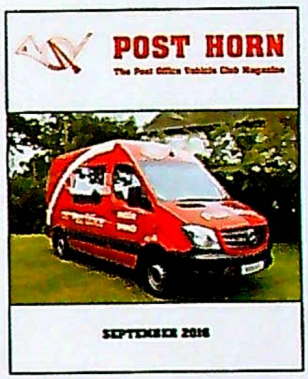
Society News



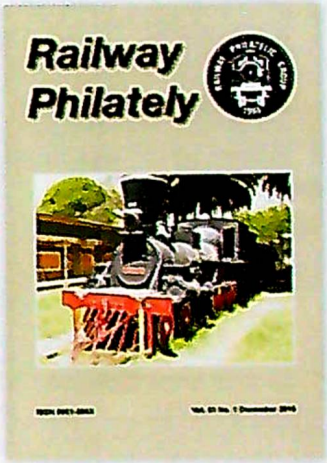
The November/December 2016 issue of the GB Philatelic Society's magazine, *The GB Journal*, includes two erudite feature articles on Victorian issues – Surface Printed Low Value Striking Book Proofs (Bob Galland), and Serpentine Roulette Fingerprints (David Escott). Iain Stevenson writes on George V Colour Standard for Postal Stationery Dies, and those interested in the change from £sd to decimal currency in 1971 will find Mike Jackson's 'Demonetisation of £sd Stamps' of interest. The GBPS Newsletter, sent out with the Journal, includes reports on GBPS displays on Travelling Post Offices and Suffolk Postal History. Ray Simpson writes on 'Research: Philatelic Myths', and there are useful notes on Elizabeth II Wilding stamp rolls (coils), Overland Mail labels, 4d Late Fee cover, airmail rates to British Guiana via Natal, and an unusual London cancellation on Seahorses stamps. Membership of GBPS is £25 UK, £27 Rest of World seamail and £33 airmail. For membership application form contact Ian Harvey, 27 Landford Road, London SW15 1AQ, email iph@harvey27.demon.co.uk.

The Post Office Vehicle Club has recently published the 500th issue of its well-produced magazine *Post Horn*. This September 2016 issue includes a detailed account of changes to postal services and vehicles in 1946-47 following the Second World War based on formal accounts presented to Parliament for the

postal, telegraph and telecommunications services. The main concern of the Post Office Board in 1946 was manpower and the speed of release of staff from the services, coupled with public demand for the restoration of pre-war standards of postal and telephone services and the need to provide telephone services to many more people. There are reports of vehicle preservation and latest news of Royal Mail, Parecelforce and BT fleets. Amongst the photographs is one of a mailvan with rear shutters at Stornoway where the high winds of the Western Isles makes the use of vans with large hinged doors hazardous for staff. For details of the Club, see www.povehclub.org.uk.



The December 2016 issue of *Railway Philately*, published by the Railway Philatelic Group includes features on Station and Railway Sub Office postmarks, and recent railway letter stamps and covers. There is a lengthy, well-illustrated section reproducing pages from John Bathard's display on 'The Steam Locomotive 1804-44' which includes a number of Royal Mail stamps as well as many from around the Globe. Keith Downing provides his usual comprehensive guide to new issues featuring railways from over 30 countries including Austria, Belarus, Croatia, Japan, Liberia, Mozambique, Sierra Leone, and Ukraine. Preliminary details are given of the RPG convention to be held at the National Railway Museum at Shildon, Co Durham on 13 May 2017. Membership of RPG costs £20 UK, £25 overseas. Details from Patricia Peters, 81 Kirriemuir Avenue, Glasgow G52 3DP or visit wwwrailwayphilatelicgroup.co.uk.



The Scarborough Philatelic Society, now approaching its 80th anniversary, welcomes new members. Chairman's/President's Night on 7 February, will be followed by the Rev. Walden's 'Wacky-Wacky' (an evening of fun and frivolity) on 7 March. Contact Chris Phillips on 01723 368475 or email chris@philatelic.org.uk for further information •

Railway anniversary

In December 2016 the narrow-gauge Talyllyn Railway in mid-Wales celebrated the 150th anniversary of passenger services with a re-enactment of the first train hauled by loco No 2 'Dolgoch' with two carriages and a guard's van. Commenorative covers were carried bearing a TR 'Dolgoch' stamp tied by special cancel and Royal Mail Penny Red anniversary stamp cancelled by Chester pictorial handstamp. Price £3.50 plus £1.50 p&p from Talyllyn Railway Letter Service, Wharf Station, Tywyn, Gwynedd LL36 9EY.

Two new stamps (one inscribed in English, the other in Welsh) will be issued in May 2017 to mark 60 years of TR railway letter stamps. For more on the Talyllyn Railway and its stamps see *Bulletin* May 1997 and August 2007 •

Mauritius-engraved plate

The highlight of a visit to the Europhilex exhibition in London in May 2015 was seeing the remarkable engraved copper plate used to print the 1847 'Post Office Mauritius' 1d and 2d stamps – amongst the rarest and most famous of all early stamps. The plate, once owned by eminent philatelist Maurice Burrus and rediscovered in the effects of his niece Odile in 2015, was sold by David Feldman auctions in Geneva for £1,125, 000 in December 2016. A cover, addressed to Bombay, bearing two of the 1d stamps, sold for £2,045,000. For us poorer mortals, the 1d and 2d stamps were reproduced on Mauritius stamps in 1997 and on a souvenir sheet for the London Stamp Fair of 1963 •





HM: Royal Mail News A new high-value Sapphire Blue definitive is issued this month to mark the 65th anniversary of HM The Queen's accession

On 6 February in 1952 His Majesty King George VI died peacefully in his sleep. His eldest daughter Princess Elizabeth, who was on holiday in Kenya at the time, was proclaimed Queen at the age of 25. To commemorated the event, Royal Mail has chosen a high value definitive stamp – a £5 Sapphire Blue Machin, with an iridescent overprint featuring the legend *65th Anniversary of Accession*, is to be issued on Monday, 6 February 2017.

The Presentation Pack holds one £5 stamp and contains information written by Douglas Muir, outlining the development of the Machin head design on definitive stamps since 1967. Also available are a Royal Mail First Day Cover, with informative insert cards. As an alternative to the Tallents House, Edinburgh postmark, there are pictorial and non pictorial (plain design) postmarks, as shown on this page.

First Day facilities Unstamped Royal Mail First Day Cover envelopes (price 30p) are only available from selected Post Offices. They will be available approximately one week before the stamps go on sale.

Serviced (i.e. stamped and postmarked) Royal Mail Post & Go Covers can be purchased by mail order from Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle,Edinburgh EH12 9PB. The stamps will be cancelled with a first day of



FD 1702-TH

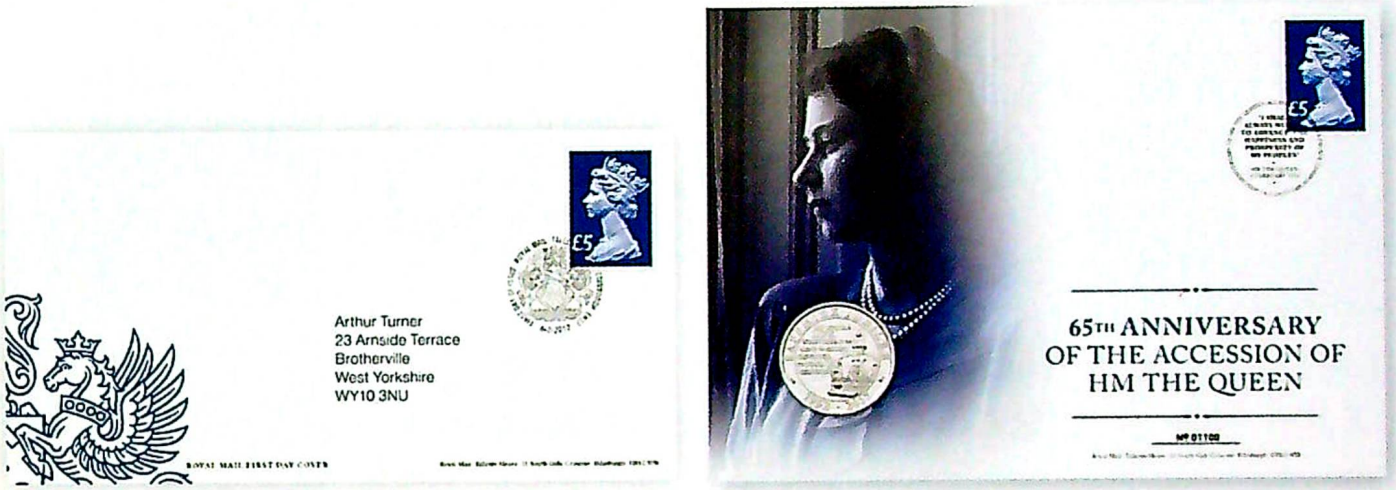


FD 1702_PL



FD 1702

Sapphire Blue £5 Definitive – Specifications	
Date of issue	6 February
Number of stamps	One
Stamp format	Large definitive
Stamp size	30mm x 41mm
Design	Royal Mail Group Ltd. Bas-relief portrait by Arnold Machin. Typography by Jeffery Matthews
Printer	International Security
Print process	Gravure
Number per sheet	10
Perforations	14 x 15
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA (polyvinyl alcohol)



Above First Day Cover and Coin Cover marking the 65th Anniversary of the Accession of HM The Queen

issue postmark of the Tallents House, Edinburgh or the alternative WINDSOR postmark. Orders for serviced Stamp & Miniature Sheet First Day Covers have to reach Royal Mail by 15 February 2017.

Customers who hand in or post stamped Royal Mail First Day Cover envelopes at main Post Offices® on the day of issue will receive the pictorial first day WINDSOR postmark. Alternatively, customers may send stamped envelopes to any of the five Royal Mail Handstamp Centres listed below, for the pictorial or plain WINDSOR postmark:

St Stephens Street, Birmingham B6 4AA.
220 Penarth Road. Cardiff CF11 8TA.
Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent Edinburgh EH12 9PB.
Royal Mail Mount Pleasant, Farringdon Road, London EC1A 1BB.
South Shields DO, Keppell Street,South Shields NE33 1AA.

Coin covers Produced in association with the Royal Mint is the handsome coin cover shown above, available in a limited edition of three values– 10,000 Brilliant Uncirculated, 500 Silver Proof and 50 Gold Proof •

Pack illustrations acknowledgement: Arnold Machin at work from the 1969 Post Office Film Unit Office film, *From Picture to Post*. Original 1964 photograph of HM The Queen courtesy of Lord Snowdon, Sketch of Queen Elizabeth II by Arnold Machin based on the Penny Black, mould for decimal coinage worked on by Machin, sketch design with regional symbols by Machin. Machin's simplification of his coinage head, further simplification with decreased legend and sketch by Machin featuring diadem courtesy of Francis Machin. Machin's head for decimal coinage courtesy of Royal Mail. Photograph of gravure printing of Diamond Jubilee definitives courtesy of Paul White.
All other images courtesy of the Postal Museum and Royal Mail Group Ltd.

65th Anniversary of the Accession of HM The Queen – Prices

Machin definitive	£5
Presentation Pack	£5.50
First Day Cover	£6.42
First Day envelope	30p
Coin Cover Brilliant Uncirculated	£19.95
Silver	£82.50
Gold	£1,945

Coin Specifications

Diameter	38.61mm
Weight of Brilliant Uncirculated and Silver Proof	28.28g
Weight of Gold Proof	39.94g
Alloys	Cupro-nickel; 925 Ag; 916.7 Au
Edge inscription	Shine through the Ages
Obverse design	Jody Clark
Reverse design	Glyn Davies

Onward & Upward

Meet Chris Challinor and Scott Keightley, designers of the new Windsor Castle Special Stamp issue

Interview Andrew Neish **Photographs** Conor Masterson



Windsor Castle is their very first stamp set and one can surmise that The Queen is delighted to see their portrayal of the beloved home where she has spent so much of her time, and which has given her many happy memories. No wonder Scott Keightley and Chris Challinor of design agency Up are excited.

'I hadn't anticipated just how exciting it would be to hear that The Queen had approved the stamps – the moment of Royal Approval!' says Chris, a proud grin firmly franked to his cheerful face. 'If I was told that my home was going to feature on a stamp I would notice all the little details, so it was quite something to know we had got the job right in the eyes of The Queen!'

Her Majesty's approval is not a bad accolade for this design duo from Skegness who happily admit that art was near enough their only skill at the local secondary where they met aged 13. (They are called Up because they grew up together, even graduating together from Norwich School of Art and Design.) As Scott puts it, in a remark that reflects both his and Chris's modesty, 'Coming from our background, from a comprehensive school and all the rest, and now being part of such a prestigious project involving The Queen, makes us immensely proud. We're very fortunate.' Fortunate, perhaps, but talented certainly. The duo have won more than 30 design awards between them, and, apart from Royal Mail, have created designs for a parade of other famous names. Scott's clients include Selfridges, Debenhams, Speedo and Marks & Spencer; Chris has also designed for Marks & Spencer, as well as the BBC and AstraZeneca.

Modest these 37-year-olds may be, yet they have produced a stunning Special Stamp Set and Miniature Sheet that somehow articulate the sheer lavishness of Windsor Castle with an elegantly simple splendour. They also created the Presentation Pack, Medal Cover and Handstamps. And while Scott and Chris have previously produced Stamp Sheets, a Yearpack and other philatelic items for Royal Mail (see page 179), and Chris worked on the design of the 2009 British Design Classics issue, Windsor Castle is the Up consultancy's debut Special Stamp issue. The six stamps, available from 15 February, are a richly coloured journey to, into and around the historic halls of a building

SCOTT ON DESIGN

Design inspiration 'Great work is always an inspiration, when someone comes along and refreshes something you thought was all over. Like James Dyson with his vacuum design: a clever bit of insight, lots of thought, and you have the whole bagless thing. What an innovation.'

Creative heaven 'The Design Museum, Tate Modern, Design Week exhibitions to see what's new. But walking along the beach in Skegness, with my partner Diane, is creative in itself: you are taking in the world around you, which you can somehow draw on at any time.'

Fantasy project 'I'd love to invent something amazing to give me a comfortable retirement!'



Above: Scott Keightley (left) and Chris Challinor on the Long Walk at Windsor Castle, holding a giant version of the First Class Special Stamp that shows the same view but in a different season

almost 1,000 years old and the oldest inhabited castle in the world. Three show iconic exterior views of Windsor Castle – the Long Walk, the Round Tower and the Norman Gate. The other three take us inside, to St George's Hall, the Queen's Ballroom and the Waterloo Chamber.

The sophisticated beauty of the final product is the last stage of a creative journey in which very different ideas for the issue were considered but rejected. 'Before these designs were decided, we looked at some alternatives,' Chris explains. 'For the main stamp set we looked at an approach featuring one image across three stamps as an aerial triptych, each depicting one of the Castle's three wards. And there were a number of interior shots that were rejected, before we settled on the featured three. We considered some alternative ideas for the Miniature Sheet, too, showing different interiors of the Chapel in a particular order – the West Window, Nave and the Quire – to illustrate a visitor's experience.'

Chris and Scott had looked at using digital technology so you could use your smartphone to scan a stamp to trigger a video tour of rooms in the Castle. Another design proposal was to make each stamp look like a postcard, given Windsor Castle's allure for visitors from around the world. Chris admits: 'Though Scott and I pride ourselves on creating surprising, memorable, distinctive design, we felt that an offbeat approach didn't work here.'

He adds, 'The video idea could be seen as gimmicky, and Windsor Castle isn't gimmicky, it's a national monument. The postcard idea was ▸

> I'd love collectors to look at these stamp sets and think how simple the design is



Above: early tries of the Windsor stamp designs with notes made when they were presented to the Stamp Advisory Committee

in danger of reducing the Castle to no more than a tourist destination, when in fact we are respecting its historical importance. By the time we had worked through the different proposals, the choice was pretty clear and we were pleased at how quickly the final design solution was agreed with Royal Mail.'

Examine the Windsor Castle stamps as a whole and you appreciate what a beautifully cohesive set this is. The exteriors share a common wash of sunlight on their hallowed stonework. The interior stamps share a similarly dramatic perspective, encapsulating the vast majesty of the architecture. In a nicely balanced Miniature Sheet presenting the interior of Windsor's St George's Chapel, there is an effective diagonal symmetry to the four stamps. Two feature roof bosses, two the chapel's fan-vaulted ceiling in what seems like effortless perfection. (See our focus on the Miniature Sheet on page 180 for further details.)

'I'd love collectors to look at these stamp sets and think how effortless, how simple the design is,' says Chris. 'But there is so much that went into achieving that sense of effortlessness. A lot of blood, sweat and tears.'

I am not sure about tears. Chris's mint blue eyes seem permanently set to twinkle mode. Scott's, a Bournville brown, ooze calm. But hard work, definitely. Because their Royal Mail brief required library pictures for the stamps rather than a fresh, pre-planned photoshoot. The designers were therefore unable to control the art direction. So their challenge was to find photographs by different photographers that sat together harmoniously. This meant matching photographic style, selecting images that shared similar elements of composition, perspective, tone and colour. But not so similar as to become boring. Same-same but different if you will.

However, Scott and Chris are no armchair warriors. First, the two friends got out of the studio to recce Windsor. (Chris returned for more field work, combining it with days out with wife Emma and daughter Amelia, five, walking the family dog Roxy). The key to their successful design was that soul-grinding quest for images that lasted several months: 'It was intensive, and sometimes intense, research. We used around a dozen picture libraries and sourced hundreds and hundreds of images,' explains Scott, in the garden of the Windsor Castle pub, a short royal carriage ride away from the real thing, where we have met for our interview after a stroll along the Long Walk.

'We were always clear that, given Windsor Castle's special status and historical importance, we were not creating images at all but finding the best ones and making them work together.

'There would be slight retouching of the images to organic elements around the structure – the grounds, trees, branches and plants, the sky.

CHRIS ON DESIGN

Design inspiration

'Having a great partnership. I get very excited and jump straight in when we start a project; Scott is calmer and tells me to slow down, to step back and consider for a while. We inspire ideas in each other by approaching creativity from these different angles but together as a team.'

Creative heaven

'I'm a massive fan of Jackson Pollock: there was no particular shape, or frame, for his art, whereas in my work as a designer there has to be shape, a frame, a reason and a purpose for what I do. The fact that Pollock is so anti how I do everything intrigues me.'

Fantasy project

'Well, I fulfilled two of my ambitions – designing a stamp issue and setting up my own design agency. But if I was reincarnated I'd come back as an architect.'



Left: Windsor Castle stamps, issued on 15 February. See page 141 of January's *Bulletin* for full philatelic preview of Special Stamps, Miniature Sheet, Stamp Book and Prestige Stamp Book, and for photograph description and acknowledgements

Those things naturally change, so we felt it was legitimate to adjust those to ensure a consistency of look across the pictures.

'But the Castle itself is this enduring place that has stood for almost a thousand years, so we didn't want to play about with images of it. That meant that our selection of pictures had to be just right in the first place.'

Hence the bulk of Up's 'blood, sweat and tears' was spilled in hunting down the right images. Holed up in the Up studio at Chris's house in Woking, the designers amassed, debated, rejected, shortlisted, edited, and finally chose their working images. It had not been easy. Scott had discovered, for example, that much of Windsor Castle is built from Bagshot Heath stone, which appears to change hue according to the time of day and the strength of the light shining on it. 'The stone can look creamy, yellow or brown as well as grey,' says Scott. 'It made the image selection more tricky.'

'It was a jigsaw puzzle,' agrees Chris, 'fitting the pieces together, making the images match and balance with each other.' Indeed, to help solve the puzzle, all three final exteriors, though from different photographers, were selected partly because they were shot around the same time of day and all in late summer.

Chris and Scott then applied some subtle retouching to finish the balancing job. Aircraft vapour trails were removed (Windsor is under the Heathrow flight path); tree and plant colours were balanced across the three exteriors. The designers visually 'knitted together' the exterior and interior stamps by getting the colours to feed through from the outside views to the room shots. In the Long Walk, yellow tones in the foliage are picked up by St George's Hall's glow; the blue tones in the Round Tower shadows are echoed by the Ballroom walls; the cream and brown of the Norman Gate stone appears in the woodwork of the Waterloo Chamber.

The interior images were cropped to the perfs to absolute perfection. Just look at the snug fit of the chair and picture frame on the right edge of the Queen's Ballroom stamp, and the table on the left. 'If you get the cropping right,' explains Chris, 'then for me there is nothing more beautiful or glorifying than placing an image in a perforated picture box, and creating a beautiful stamp.'

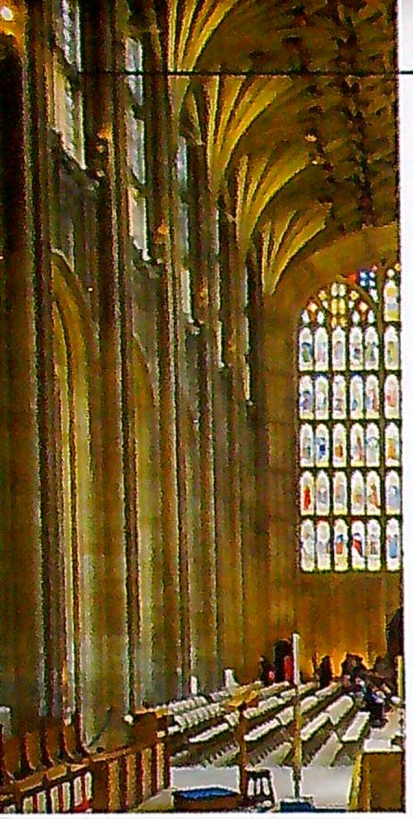
Scott adds: 'Surely people want to see pure images of what Windsor Castle stands for. I'd like to think that for collectors the stamps are a welcome addition to their world that they will be proud of. I'd also like to think that because the issue is about our history and heritage, anyone putting a Windsor Castle stamp on an envelope would then send it off with a little bit of pride' •

UP'S ROYAL MAIL COLLECTION

Here is a selection of Up consultancy's design work for Royal Mail. Which one is your favourite?

- Seahorses Facsimile Pack
- Buckingham Palace Coin Cover
- Ryder Cup Medal Cover
- Europhilex Exhibition Sheet
- Animals of the First World War Commemorative Sheet
- New York Exhibition Sheet
- GPO Posters Exhibition Pack
- Anzac Commemorative Sheet
- Yearpack 2016
- Windsor Castle Special Stamps
- Windsor Castle Medal Cover
- Order of the Garter Exhibition Pack

Turn over for details of the Windsor Castle Miniature Sheet



The glories of St George's Chapel

The Miniature Sheet and Stamp Book of this month's pictorial issue features the ancient Chapel that stands right next door to Windsor Castle

Enter the hushed halls of St George's Chapel at Windsor Castle and you will find yourself in a richly decorated shrine to British history. Great kings are buried here, Henry VII and VIII, Edward VII, King George IV, V and VI, and more. Members of the Royal Family have been married here, including Prince Edward and Sophie Rhys-Jones. Prince William was baptised here, Prince William confirmed here. The Queen worships here, attending Mattins on Easter Day and other services and ceremonies.

St George's is also the spiritual home of the Order of the Garter and world-

NAVE: Sir Reginald Bray roof boss FirstClass



Need to know Knight of the Garter Sir Reginald Bray left a legacy in his will that enabled the nave of St George's Chapel to be completed in the 16th century. His initials, along with the Order of the Garter motto, appear in this decorative roof boss from the Chapel.

Claim to fame Sir Reginald was a courtier and close confidante of King Henry VII and his importance is reflected in the 175 representations of his badge, the hemp bray, made from stone, glass and wood in the Chapel.

Inside story The depiction of the hemp bray, a device for crushing the crop, is clearly a pun on Bray's name – such word play is typical in English heraldry •

NAVE: fan-vaulted roof First Class



Need to know The fan-vaulted roof in the Chapel nave was completed in the reign of Henry VIII and is a rare piece of gothic architecture. It covered both the nave and the quire, whose wooden roof was replaced by the new structure.

Claim to fame The roof plays host to the magnificent roof boss bearing Henry VIII's coat of arms, which marks the completion of the Chapel's construction. On the coat of arms are three golden lions, introduced by 'The Lionheart' Richard I, signalling royal power; the smaller arms around Henry's belong to his Knights of the Garter.

Inside story The roof is an example of stone-ribbed star vaulting design, and stretches from west to east, with pendant roof bosses in the quire part of the chapel •

Photograph: Jack Pease Photography. Stamp images ©Royal Mail Group



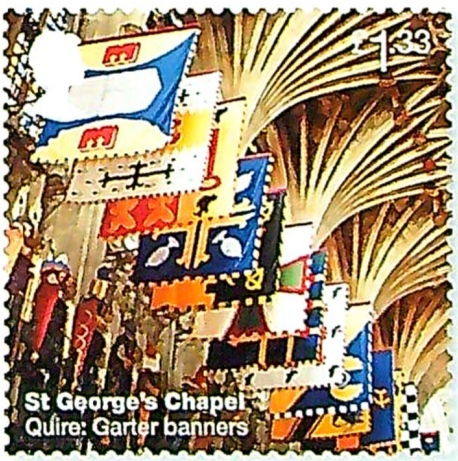
famous figures who became Knights of the Garter have stood under its soaring vaulted roof as the monarch of the day conferred the honour upon them. Those Knights include Churchill, Field Marshal Montgomery and Edmund Hillary.

Every June on Garter Day Her Majesty walks with Knights and Ladies of the Garter from an investiture at Windsor Castle, if there are new members of the Order, for a service in St George's, where they are installed. The day represents a long tradition, where the sovereign recognises individuals' service to the life of the nation by admitting them to the Order of the Garter, which has continued since the Order was created by Edward III in 1348. The order's motto '*honi soit qui mal y pense*' ('shame on him who thinks this evil') has resonated in the national consciousness through centuries of history lessons.

No wonder, then, that the Chapel is part of the Windsor Castle Special Stamp issue released on 15 February, given its historical significance and fascinating architectural heritage. The St George's Chapel Miniature Sheet pays tribute to the rich history of the building and the treasures found within. Here we explore the fascinating stories behind each of the four Miniature Sheet stamps •

See page 141 of January Bulletin for philatelic preview details of the Windsor Castle issue.

QUIRE: Garter banners £1.33



Need to know A new Knight or Lady of the Garter is granted a stall in the Chapel for life, and above it is fixed their Garter Banner and crest.

Claim to fame Apart from members of the Royal Family and British aristocracy, leading figures in the nation's history who have seen their Garter Banner fly in the Chapel include William Gladstone, Anthony Eden, Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery, Sir Edmund Hilary and Margaret Thatcher.

Inside story After Labour's 1945 election landslide a defeated Sir Winston Churchill initially refused his appointment to the Order saying: 'I can hardly accept the Order of the Garter from The King after the people have given me the Order of the Boot.' Churchill did relent, however, and had two Garter Banners. One resides at his birthplace Blenheim Palace, the other at Chartwell •

QUIRE: St George's Cross Roof Boss £1.33



Need to know The roof boss – such as this example showing the St George's Cross supported by angels in the Chapel nave – is an architectural device used to cover intersections and joints in vaulted ceilings. As well as coats of arms and badges, the 675 roof bosses in St George's Chapel show a range of heraldic subjects, including angels, dragons, a black raven, a greyhound, the Prince of Wales's three feathers motif, flowers, flags, monarchs, bishops and crosses.

Claim to fame An intriguing roof bosse feaures one of the Chapel's most treasured relics – the Cross Gneth.

Inside story Henry VIII, who completed the Chapel in 1528, is also buried there with his favourite wife Jane Seymour. Ironically, some of the roof bosses in the Chapel bear the initials 'HK' – standing for Henry and Katherine of Aragon, the first of his six wives •

Kind hearts and Smilers® sets

William Doherty presents three charity sheets, to help you spread the stamp love on Valentine's Day

Although Royal Mail issues no Special Stamps for Valentine's Day, many creative collectors know how to spread the stamp love all year round – using personalised Smilers® Sheets to support their favourite causes.

When the *British Philatelic Bulletin* ran a special offer last year, for the 175th Anniversary of the Penny Black Smilers® Sheet in aid of Rowland Hill Fund, readers rose to the occasion in large numbers and responded generously. The sheet sold out so quickly that the charity decided to follow it up with the Penny Red sheet shown below.



Below: the Rowland Hill Fund celebrated its first awards ceremony in the presence of Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, the patron of the charity. Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles team won an award for creating the exclusive set of Rowland Hill Fund Penny Black Smiler Stamps used for fundraising

Special reader offer This exclusive Penny Red sheet carries ten of the pictorial definitives issued to mark the 175th anniversary of the Penny Red, each with an adjoining label printed with the charity logo and mission statement – *Rowland Hill Fund; Helping each other in times of need.* There are 60 sheets of 20 stamps available and we are pleased to be able to offer them to readers at £50 for a sheet of 20 and £25 for a sheet of ten, subject to availability.

This Penny Red Smilers® sheet celebrates the strong traditions of philanthropy in our postal service, inspired by Sir Rowland Hill over a century ago. All proceeds will be used by the Rowland Hill Fund to support Royal Mail and Post Office employees and pensioners, and their dependants who are struggling financially.



Why support the Rowland Hill Fund Active since 1882, the Fund has helped people in challenging financial situation for a variety of reasons – illness, mental ill-health issues, bereavement and mobility aids. To become a contributor to the Rowland Hill Fund, go to www.charitycheckout.co.uk/207479/Donate. Or donate via TEXT to 70070 – in the message type RHFT10 and the amount to donate.

The Rowland Hill Fund is easy to find on Facebook and Twitter. And you can find more details at www.rowlandhillfund.org

How to order Orderlines for the Rowland Hill Fund Sheet open on 1 February. To make a payment or make a enquiry, call 0207239 2043 or email rhfpromotions@royalmail.com with your name, address, telephone number and the number of sheets you wish to order. Please use the reference Penny Red CDL on payments.



Email rmbulletin@rocketmail.com if you are interested in purchasing HMSP Sheet A (left) or HMSP Sheet B (right) – or both!

Save HMS President (1918) Some readers may remember that the *Bulletin* editorial headquarters were on the Thames between 2010 and 2015, on board *HMS President (1918)*. When the ship was moved to dry dock for refurbishment, we didn't really say goodbye, as all indications were that in a couple of years we would be able once again to nip round to nearby Tudor Street to pick up printers' proofs and then read them on the front deck on a summer's morning. It was an inspiring 'office'. So we were sad to learn that new owners had been obliged to change plans and the ship is at risk of being scrapped.

We have created two Smilers® Sheets to help support the HMS President (1918) Preservation Trust – Sheet A shows the ship alongside Union Flag Smilers® and Sheet B shows her 'dazzled' with 'Love' stamps.

Why support the HMS President (1918) Preservation Trust This is an opportunity to save London's last remaining World War One ship, one of only three such warships remaining. During WW1 *HMS President 1918* was a secret German U Boat Submarine hunter (a 'Q ship') shadowing the Atlantic convoys with concealed guns. In WW2 she was used to protect St Paul's Cathedral from the Luftwaffe. And in the years since her war service ended, the ship has seen training for naval cadets (including Michael Sefi), business conferences, dance classes, grand dinners, wedding parties and evening drinks on deck with a beautiful Waterloo sunset – enjoyed by thousands.

How to order The sheets shown above, each in a limited edition of 100, £35 for a sheet of ten and cost £60 for a double sheet of 20, with all proceeds going to the HMS President (1918) Preservation Trust. To order or for more details, email rmbulletin@rocketmail.com. You can also show support by signing the petition at https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/163742 •



Fig 1



Fig 2

U... is for underpayment marks

When a letter is heavier than it ought to be, it attracts interesting marks on the journey to its destination – which results in covers that tell a story for collectors

Fig 1 'More to pay' stamped on an overweight letter
Fig 2 Printed papers weighing more than the stipulated two ounces, in a newspaper wrapper

For as long as there have been postage stamps there has been someone forgetting to weigh a letter before putting it into the post, or hoping the postman will not notice that it is slightly overweight. These oversights will almost certainly mean that the letter will be surcharged at the sorting office. As soon as it gets into the hands of experienced postmen, they will know immediately thaat it is too heavy, meaning that money will be asked for before the letter can be delivered to the addressee.

It is not just overweight letters that get treated in this way. Postage rates to overseas countries have often been higher than that for inland destinations, and you might think people should know better than to use the wrong rate. But from the end of the Victorian period until the start of the Second World War, the postage to many countries was the same as the inland post, including every country in the Empire and a few more besides. Europe was the exception. In the 1930s the airmail rate to many countries was also fixed at a low level, although to other destinations it was much higher. And this all led to uncertainty about rates, even among people accustomed to posting letters abroad – they managed to get it wrong on numerous occasions.

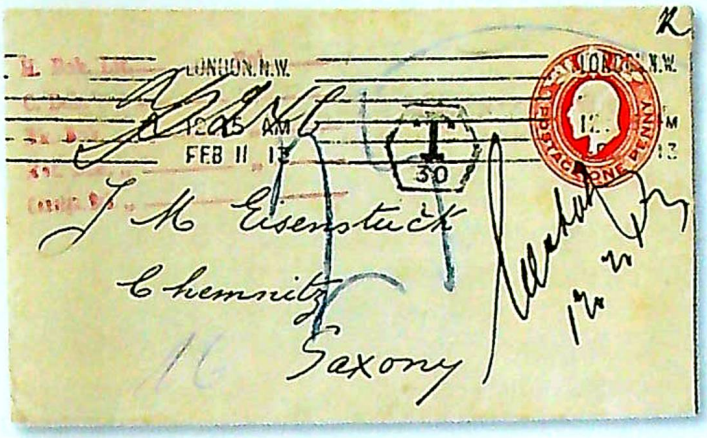


Fig 3

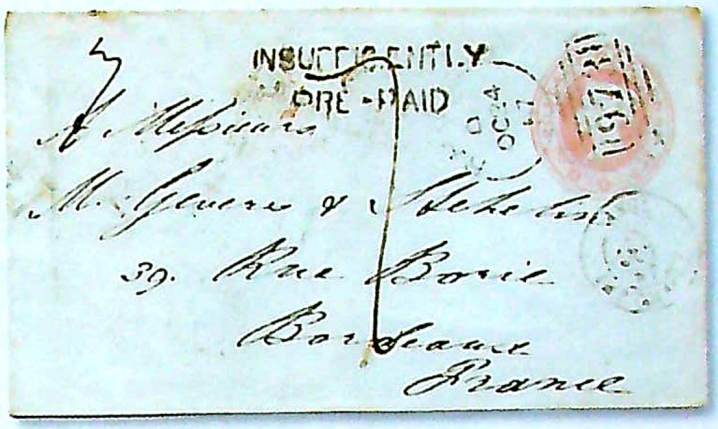


Fig 4

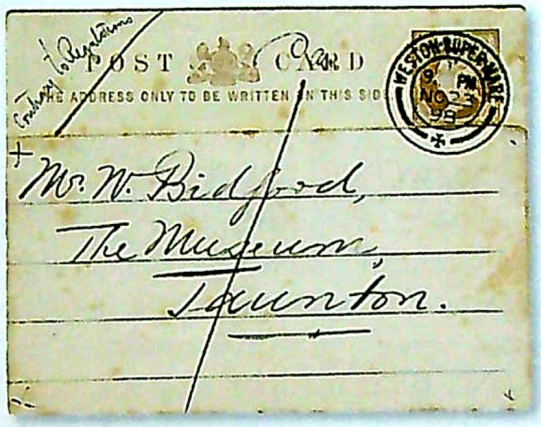


Fig 5



Fig 6

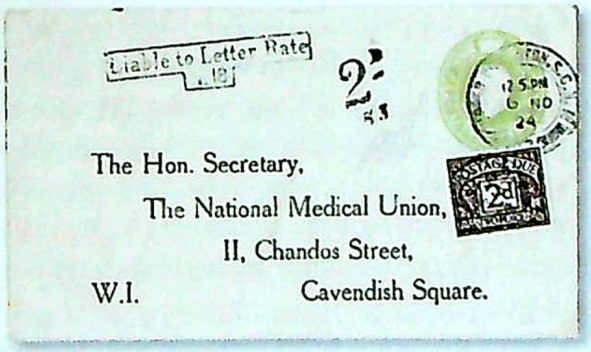


Fig 7

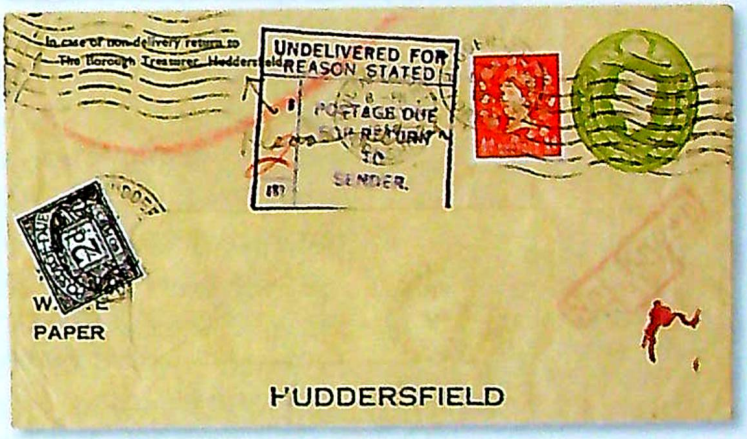


Fig 8

In the 19th century letters and postcards that were redirected had to pay the same inland postage as if they had just been put into the post, although this could be paid at either end of their journey without surcharge. Black ink indicated the additional fee had not been paid. Letters that could not be delivered also had to pay a fee equal to the original postage for returning them to the sender. In Fig 8 above, the envelope used in Huddersfield probably contained a rate or rent demand. But the occupier had moved and consequently postage due was applied.

The postcard in Fig 5 has an address label stuck to the front, which was against regulations. The Post Office thought the postcard could have been used previously, but not cancelled, and the label was covering the original address.It has been treated as a letter, with the deficiency of ½d doubled to 1d, indicated by the black line down the front of the card. The rate for printed papers was much less than that for letters and some people were tempted to send letters by the cheaper rate – but postmen were always on the lookout for this and when an underpaid letter was discovered it was surcharged •

Next month: V for Variety of Usage. Colin Baker welcomes email enquiries about the Postal Stationery Society at pss.secretary@gmail.com

Fig 3 A 1d envelope sent to Germany at the inland rate. It should have been prepaid 2½d

Fig 4 A letter sent to France in 1857 at the 1d inland rate, when it should have been 4d

Fig 5 A postcard with an address label; labels were not allowed and it has been surcharged as a letter

Fig 6 A redirected postcard with a further ½d charged for the service

Fig 7 A KGV ½d envelope that contained a letter and was surcharged twice

Fig 8 An envelope returned to the sender, with postage due equal to the original postage



Above: the January 1967 *Bulletin*, in which readers were reminded that on 31 December 1966 most of the remaining import duties on industrial goods traded between EFTA countries had been removed and so EFTA became the world's first free trade area

This Month in History

John Holman recalls how, half a century ago, European free trade was viewed as a positive development worthy of a special stamp issue... in the same year as the first Machin

As the UK prepares for Brexit, it is interesting to note that 50 years ago this month the Post Office issued special stamps celebrating Britain's membership of EFTA, the European Free Trade Association. The stamps were announced, as part of the 1967 stamp programme, by the Postmaster General Edward Short in the House of Commons on 30 November 1966. Four other sets were announced – British Flora, Paintings, Discovery, and Christmas (and another later, to mark Sir Francis Chichester's circumnavigation). Mr Short added that the 4d value of a new definitive series would be issued in 1967 – the start of the Machin series.

Details of the First Day services for the EFTA stamps were given in the *Bulletin* of December 1966, and the stamps themselves were described, but not illustrated, in the *Bulletin* of January 1967 which included some details of EFTA's history and aims. The 9d stamp was shown enlarged on the front cover of the February *Bulletin*, but the 1s 6d stamp was not illustrated in the magazine.

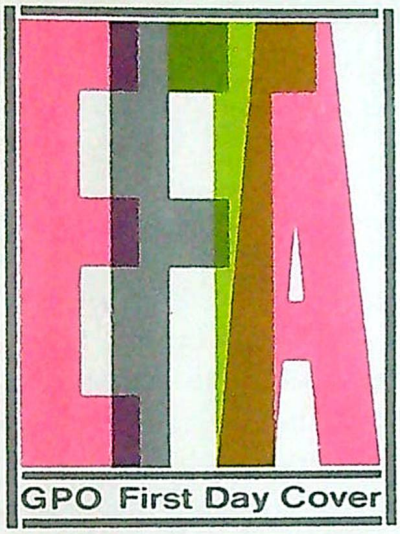
The two stamps issued on 20 February 1967 were designed by Clive Abbott and submitted to the Post Office by stamp printers Harrison & Sons Ltd. The 9d and 1s6d stamp show a merchant ship and a BEA Argosy cargo plane being loaded, with the flags of EFTA countries. The 9d stamp was printed in eight colours and the 1s6d in nine. The Queen's silhouette, in black, was positioned at top right with the acronym EFTA in large bold letters at left above the ship and plane designs. The flags of the EFTA countries were positioned along the foot of the design with the value at bottom right. The imprint Harrison and Sons Ltd appears in the bottom right margin.

The Post Office Stamp Advisory Committee (SAC) considered other designs submitted by Harrisons, and by designers Nicholas Jenkins, Jock Kinneir, and Peter Wilbur. Kinneir's designs featured a map of Europe showing air routes between the EFTA countries with the inscription 'European Free Trade Area'. Harrisons submitted two similar designs plus one showing crates being winched for loading, and a montage of flags. Flags were the design element chosen by Jenkins and Wilbur whose designs were favoured by SAC. However the Postmaster General favoured the Clive Abbott designs and recommended these to The Queen as best symbolising 'the movement of trade within the Association'. The Committee were annoyed by the PMG's intervention and threatened resignation. Shortly afterwards Mr Short dissolved the Committee and later replaced it by one with a broader-based membership.

The stamps were printed in single-pane, sheet-fed printings, the sheets passing twice through a Rembrandt press. Both plain and phosphor versions were produced for the penultimate time. By then the sales areas of phosphor stamps had been extended to cover some 36 Head Postmaster's districts (listed in the *Bulletin*, July 1966), so the differential between the number of plain and phosphor stamps printed and sold had considerably narrowed. Three bands were

ABOUT EFTA...

The European Free Trade Association was established in 1960 with UK, Austria, Denmark, Norway, Portugal, Sweden and Switzerland as members. Finland joined in 1961, followed by Iceland in 1970 and Liechtenstein in 1991. By 1966 trade between member states had doubled. The free trade area was achieved three years earlier than originally envisaged and this meant that the UK was part of a single industrial market of almost 100 million people. But EFTA's aims were not limited to the creation of free trade between members; the Association's ultimate goal was the establishment of a single European market. Today just Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland remain members.





Mr. D. T. Taylor,
32, Seigley Road,
Tollerton,
NOTTINGHAM.

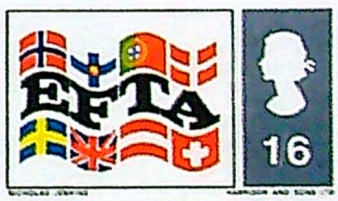
Below: the EFTA two-stamp issue from 1997, designed by Clive Abbot

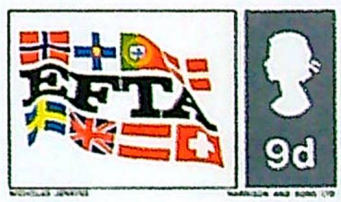
Left: the GPO First Day Cover.





Below: the flag-based designs from Nicholas Jenkins, and Peter Wilbur were favoured by SAC but ultimately rejected







applied to both stamps, by flexography on the 9d and typography to the 1s6d.

The large number of colours used resulted in missing colour errors. The 9d stamp is known with five of the eight colours individually missing, and the 1s6d with seven of nine colours missing. Most spectacular is the 9d plain with four of its eight colours all missing – black (Queen's head), brown, light blue, and yellow – priced in the GB Concise catalogue at £1,300. The Woodstock Catalogue noted that one sheet of this 'dramatic and major error' was found, and only about threee-quarters of a sheet of the 9d phosphor with missing lilac at the Ormskirk, Lancs post office. Highest priced in the *Stanley Gibbons GB Specialised Catalogue* is the missing green on the 1s 6d plain at £3,750, while the missing red (phosphor) may be even rarer but is unpriced. The 9d phosphor and 1s6d plain and phosphor exist with watermark inverted, the 9d being scarcest.

Colour shifts on the 9d value were numerous, most notable is a very marked downward shift of the brown colour so the railway wagons appear white, their intended brown colour being superimposed on the tops of the first five flags. The SG Catalogue (Vol. 3) lists one noteworthy constant variety on the 9d stamp and three on the 1s6d; a number of minor flaws are also noted. The 1s6d stamp is listed but unpriced with 'All over' phosphor instead of the usual three bands and with the note that this came from the first vertical column of a sheet, due to a weak mixture of the phosphor ink leaking under the doctor blade.

The Post Office provided first day covers and presentation pack. The cover featured the acronym EFTA in bright pink, grey and green colours, with those serviced by the Philatelic Bureau receiving the Bureau First Day of Issue handstamp (as shown above). Posting boxes were provided at nearly 100 main post offices for collectors and dealers to post covers for local first day handstamps. Existing first day offices used large diameter First Day handstamps for the last time; most offices introducing first day postmarks with this issue used the new smaller size datestamps. The one special handstamp used on the day of issue marked a radiation biology conference at Portmeirion so was not directly related to EFTA. Collectors tend to like FDCs with local handstamps of EFTA ports such as Grimsby, Hull or Newcastle, or with relevant slogan postmarks such as 'Ship through the port of London' •

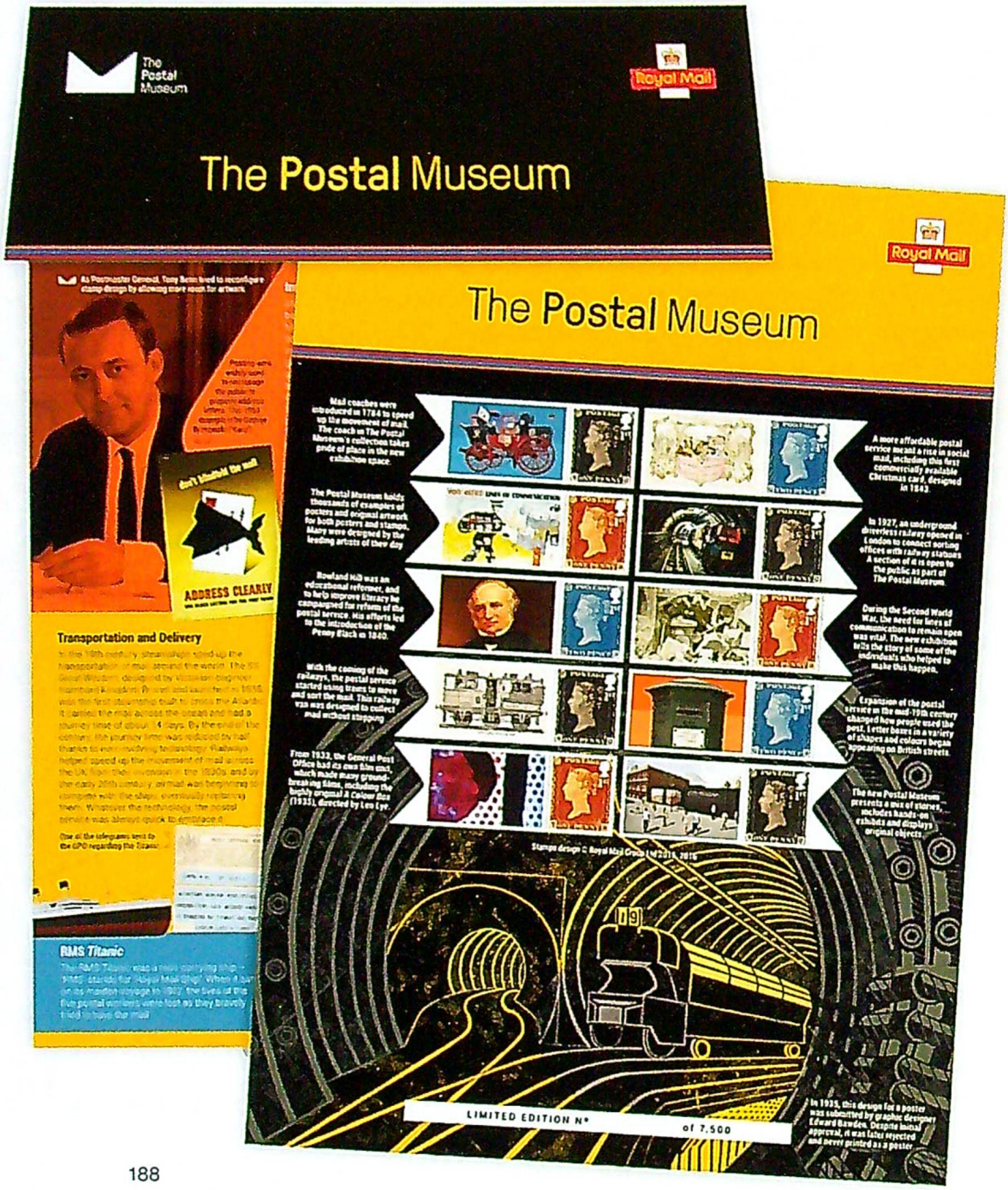
For more information about the EFTA stamps, see Martin Robinson's 'Treasures of the BPMA' article in the February 2007 *Bulletin*. An excellent article by Richard West about Clive Abbott, showing his initial sketches for the EFTA stamps, was published in the Spring 2007 edition of *Cross Post*, journal of the Friends of the Postal Museum.

Grand opening The issue of this bright and fact-packed commemorative sheet coincides with the opening of the new Postal Museum in London

This year London gets its first new national museum in over a decade. The opening of The Postal Museum, in a purpose-built space across the street from the historic Mount Pleasant sorting office, brings to life fascinating stories of postal history contained in the nation's unique postal history archive.

To create a philatelic celebration of this event, Royal Mail has worked together with The Postal Museum (formerly the British Postal Museum and Archive, on a commemorative stamp sheet that will be on sale when the new Museum opens.

The sheet comprises ten pictorial definitive stamps – four Penny Blacks, three Penny Reds and three Twopen Blues – with ten different labels







Two of the lables on the forthcoming Commemorative Sheet portray the New Postal Museum.
Left: an artist's impression of the building
Below: the Mail Rail
Adjacent are Penny Black Smilers®





illustrating elements of the history of the postal service.

Postal history in pictures The labels of the Postal Museum stamp sheet carry the following images:
The first commercial Christmas card, designed in 1843, as social mail became affordable.
The driverless underground railway, which connected London sorting offices with railway stations in 1927.
GPO employees working with servicemen remove rubble from around a postbox in a bombed street, to keep open lines of communication in the Second World War.
A green letter box from the mid-19th century, before red became the officially designated colour. Its sign announces a number of weekday collection time.
The new Postal Museum – an artist's impression showing the entrance to the Mail Rail attraction.
Publicity for 'A Colour Box', a 1933 film produced by the General Post Office's own film unit.
A railway post van designed to collect mail on the move, without having to stop the train.
Rowland Hill, whose campaigning for reforms in the postal service led to the introduction of the Penny Black – famous throughout the world – in 1840.
Poster publicity, one of thousands of pieces of original artwork held at the Postal Museum.
An original mail coach, like the ones introduced in 1784 to speed up the movement of mail across the country.

The stamps and their labels are set in an A4 sheet bearing a line drawing of the Mail Rail, the driverless 10.5km (6½-mile) subterranean railway that was constructed to speed up the movement of mail across the capital and has now been transformed into a museum attraction.

The illustrated presentation folder for The Postal Museum Sheet carries clear and concise information about the history of our postal services, written by Chris Taft, an archivist at the Postal Museum •

The Postal Museum Commemorative Sheet	
Date of issue	20 March 2017
Price £15.95	Code AV046
Number of stamps	10x 1st Class pictorial definitives (4 x Penny Black, 3 x Twopenny Blue, 3 x Penny Red)
Sheet and folder design	Frontmedia Studios
Words	Chris Taft
Sheet format	A4
Stamp format	Portrait
Stamp size	20mm x 24mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	Die-cut simulation
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	Self-adhesive
Price	£15.95 each

Acknowledgements: stamp images © Royal Mail Group Ltd 2017, other images courtesy The Postal Museum and © Fellden Clegg Bradley Studios, Haley Sharpe Design, iStock.com/Mashuk, Duncan1890, Nerthuz and Breckeni, Miles Willis, PSL Images/Alamy, Andrew Holt.

Why do up to 6xMORE Collectors Bid in a UPA Auction than our competitors....??

Perhaps the reason why is that

–I firmly believe Collectors Want Stamps

NOT Charges...

so at UPA you'll find:

1 NO Pernicious Buyer's Premiums
2 NO Extra Charges for anything
3 NEW Loyalty Post-Free UPA Bonus to Regular Collector Clients
4 And, YES, ALL Lots Guaranteed
5 PLUS Your 1st £55 Winnings FREE
6 and MASSIVE CHOICE - up to 26,510 Different Lots including 3578 Lots GB



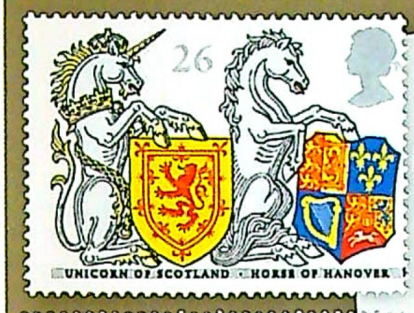
Andrew McGavin
Managing Director,
Universal Philatelic Auctions (U P A)

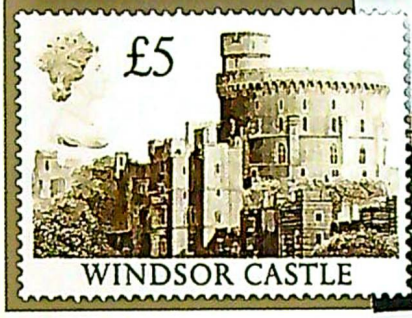
Request Your FREE Catalogue NOW: 01451 861111

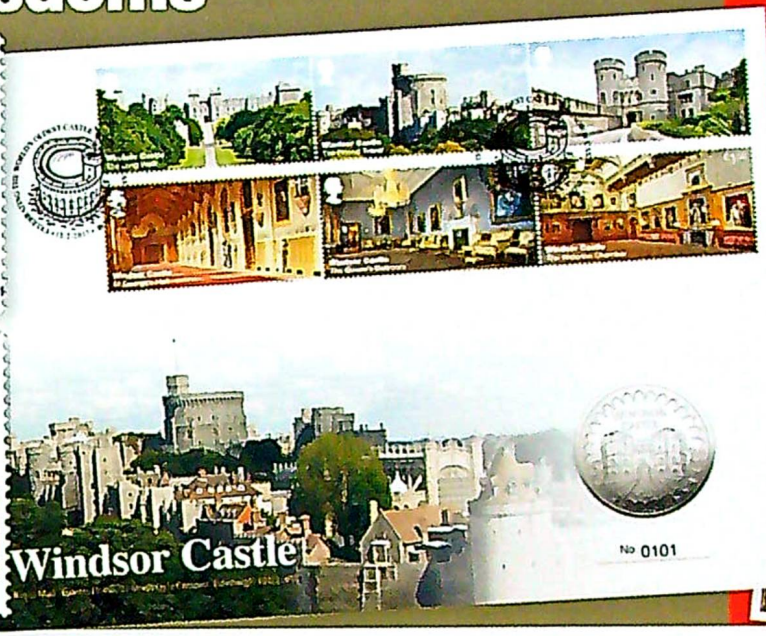
info@upastampauctions.co.uk www.upastampauctions.co.uk

UNIVERSAL PHILATELIC AUCTIONS (BPB)
4 The Old Coalyard, West End, Northleach GL54 3HE Glos, UK
T: 01451 861111 F: 01451 861297

Windsor wisdoms







WIN WINDSOR CASTLE MEDAL COVER AND CHORAL MUSIC ALBUM



Castle quiz. Answer the four questions below about the pictures above and you could win a Windsor Castle Coin Cover.

1 Which of the heraldic animals celebrated in The Queen's Beasts issue of 1998 is illustrated on the Royal Mail First Day Envelope for the forhcoming £5 Sapphire Blue Machin?
a) Unicorn of Scotland **b)** Horse of Hanover

2 In what year was the £5 Windsor Castle stamp first issued?
a) 1978 **b)** 1988 **c)** 1998

3 From which approach is Windsor Castle viewed on the Medal design shown above?
a) Castle Hill **b)** Long Walk **c)** North Terrace

4 Which room in featured in this month's new issue, is hung with painting by Van Dyck?
a) The Queen's Ballroom **b)** St George's Hall
c) The Waterloo Chamber

How to enter Send your answers, marked 'Castle Quiz' or 'Name That Stamp', to Bulletin Draws, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB or email to rmbulletin@rocketmail.com.
Closing date 9 March 2017. The first correct entries drawn in each section after the closing date win the Windsor Brilliant Uncirculated Medal Cover, and a CD of the Choir of St George's Chapel. Four runners-up win the Windsor Presentation Pack.



NAME THAT STAMP
From the detail shown left, identify the stamp and its date of issue

October Hastings Quiz *Solutions* 1b 2b 3a 4c 5a 6a *Winners* J McKay, J Shannon, G Peat, R Hanson, R Sayers, G Levitt. *Name That Stamp* 1966 David Gentleman. *Winners* J Mosedale, L Bowater, A Everall, M Ryan.
November Animal Magic *Solutions* a) Woodland Species 2004. b) British Wildlife 1977. c) d) and f) Action for Species 2010. e) Animail 2016 g) Alice's Adventures in Wonderland 2015. *Winners* P Welburn, A Adcock, E Wilkes. *Name That Stamp* Beatrix Potter, Tale of Mrs Tiggywinkle 2016. *Winners* L Bowry, P Bowater, R Sayers.

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

Royal Mail stamp issues and withdrawals

6 February — **Issue** 65th Anniversary of the Accession of HM The Queen: £5 Large Sapphire Blue Machin Definitive, Presentation Pack, Coin Cover (£5 Coin, Brilliant Uncirculated, Silver Proof and Gold Proof). See page 172.

15 February — **Issue** Windsor Castle: Stamps (3 x 1st Class, 3 x £1.52), Limited Edition Exhibition Miniature Sheet only available at Stampex (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.33), Miniature Sheet (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.33), Press Sheet (16 Miniature Sheets), Presentation Pack, Stamp Book, Prestige Stamp Book (6 x 1st Class), Stamp Souvenir, Stamp Sheet Souvenir, Stamp Cards (11 in set), Medal Cover. See page 175 and 178 of this edition and the philatelic Preview on page 141 of January *Bulletin*

15 February — **Issue** Post & Go Royal Mail Heritage: Mail by Rail: self-service stamps in six designs, Collectors Pack. Preview on page 100 of December *Bulletin*.

17 February — **Withdrawal** Royal Mail 500: Stamps, Miniature Sheet, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards, Prestige Stamp Book.

17 February — **Withdrawal** 175th Anniversary of the Penny Red: Generic Sheet, Smilers®, Stamp Book (6 x 1st Class). See Rowland Hill Charity Sheet, page 183.

14 March — **Issue** Music Giants II, David Bowie: Stamps (3 x 1st Class, 3 x £1.52), Miniature Sheet (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.52), Presentation Pack, Stamp Souvenir Cover, Stampex Souvenir Cover, Stamp Book (4 x Machin definitives, 2 x Music Giants 1st Class, Stamp Cards (11 in set). Limited Edition Sheets – *Hunky Dory* Fan Sheet (5 x 1st Class), *Aladdin Sane* Fan Sheet (5 x 1st Class), *"Heroes"* Fan Sheet (5 x 1st Class), Album Art Fan Sheet (5 x 1st Class). Limited Edition Souvenir Cover – The Berlin Years. Limited Edition Stamp Art Souvenir Folder (6 x A4 sheets with 1st Class stamp **tbc**). Limited edition Framed Prints and Stamps (available in UK only), each with 1 x album cover stamp, cancelled – *Hunky Dory*, *Aladdin Sane*, *Heroes*, Classic.

15 March — **Withdrawal** British Humanitarians: Stamps (3 x 1st Class, 3 x £1.33), Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards (6 in set).

20 March — **Issue** Smilers® Commemorative Sheet: Opening of the Postal Museum.

Order all philatelic items, including the stamp products listed on the left, at **www.royalmail.com/stamps** or from **Royal Mail Tallents House** 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. Telephone order line (08.30 to 17.00 Monday to Friday): 03457 641 641. From overseas: +44 131 316 7483. Minimum handling charge UK £1.45, Europe £1.55, rest of world (airmail) £2.15. We would advise you to quote **17BUL11**, the *Bulletin* media code. Selected items are available at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets at main post offices.

5 014721 144030 >

FSC MIX FSC™ C019570

Information about Royal Mail products is that which is available at the time of going to press. Royal Mail is not responsible for opinions and information provided by independent writers in this publication.

Royal Mail

All stamp images © Royal Mail Group Ltd. Royal Mail. The cruciform and the colour red are registered trade marks of Royal Mail Group Ltd, © Royal Mail Group Ltd 2016, all rights reserved.

HAVE YOUR SAY ON STAMP SUBJECTS FOR 2019

What subjects have you always wanted to see on Royal Mail Special Stamps?

We know from readers' letters that people have some very strong ideas about what kind of imagery they like to see on postage stamps.

Here is you chance to get involved with planning the list of pictorial subjects for 2019 – visit www.royalmail.com/2019

