

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The ROYAL MAIL magazine *for stamp collectors*

Bulletin

Volume 40 Number 12

AUGUST 2003 £1.10

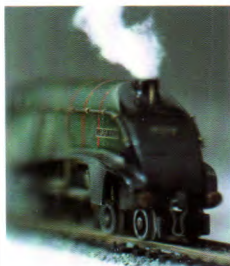
Transports of Delight issue •
Inn signs • Europa stamps



**Remembering the golden age of
British toys: Transports of Delight
stamps go on sale 18 September.**



Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



Cover A 1950s Hornby Dublo model of the class A4 Pacific locomotive *Silver King*. The aerodynamic profile of these engines, designed by Sir Nigel Gresley, created a sensation when they were introduced in 1935. *Transports of Delight*, Royal Mail's tribute to classic British toys, is previewed this month. Photograph by Geoff Dann.

Correction Please note the July *Bulletin* should have been headed volume 40 number 11.

Issues Note some items are available only from Royal Mail Tallents House Edinburgh 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 Gatwick Airport, Glasgow Grimsby, Guildford, Harrogate Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool London (Trafalgar Square and Eastcheap), Manchester, Newcastle upon Tyne, Norwich, Nottingham, Oxford, Plymouth Portsmouth, Southampton Southend-on-Sea, Stevenage Stratford-on-Avon, Stroud Truro, Windsor and York

29 July	Issue Pillar to Post ingot cover no3.
29 July	Issue Smilers sheet: 20 x 1st class Cartoons stamps and labels.
5 August	Issue Pub Signs stamp cards.
12 August	Issue Pub Signs stamps and presentation pack.
12 August	Issue Victorian Stamps ingot pack no3.
19 August	Withdrawal Peter Pan stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards.
27 August	Issue Extreme Endeavours coin cover.
9 September	Withdrawal Bridges of London stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards. (Self-adhesive stamp book sold out).
11 September	Issue Transports of Delight stamp cards.
18 September	Issue Transports of Delight stamps, miniature sheet, presentation pack and stamp book (2 x Transports of Delight stamps and 4 x Machin 1st class, all self-adhesive).
23 September	Withdrawal Astronomy miniature sheet, presentation pack and stamp cards, and <i>Across the Universe</i> prestige book.
30 September	Issue Christmas Smilers sheet (generic): 20 x 1st class Robins (2001 Christmas stamp).
30 September	Withdrawal Smilers sheets: Christmas Cracker and Teddy/Dennis the Menace (both issued 1 October 2002).

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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 Limited philatelic outlets • **Annual subscription** £11.75 in UK and Europe; £16.75 rest of the world. Subscriptions should be sent to Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB • **Binders** to hold 24 issues, price £7, are available by post from Royal Mail (Edinburgh address above) • Royal Mail also publishes the fortnightly *British Postmark Bulletin*, which gives details of forthcoming special 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 specific author. All requests to reproduce any article should be sent to the Editor, *British Philatelic Bulletin*, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ • **Design** by Robert Maude • **Printed** in Great Britain by the Perivan Group Limited • **ISSN** 0953 8119 • Royal Mail is a trading name of Royal Mail Group plc. Registered in England and Wales, number 4138203, registered office 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ

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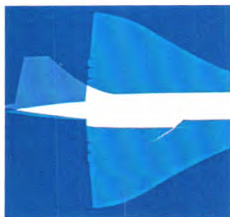
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Stamp scene UK exhibitions • Publications • Mail by Rail day • Max Stern • Auctions

UK Exhibitions The Picture Postcard Show will be held at the Royal Horticultural Society New Hall, London SW1 (27-30 August), followed by: Autumn Stampex, Business Design Centre, London N1 (17-21 September); Philatex, Royal Horticultural Society New Hall, London SW1 (30 October - 1 November); and Thematica 11, Carisbrooke Hall, Seymour Street, London W2 (28-29 November) •

Stampex opening hours

17 Sept	12.00-19.00
18-20 Sept	10.30-18.00
21 Sept	10.30-15.00

Entry will be free.

The Business Design Centre is a short walk from the Angel underground station (Northern line) and is served by bus routes 4, 19, 30, 38, 43, 56, 73, 153, and 341.

Enquiries Stampex, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1M 6PT. Telephone 020 7490 1005.

Autumn Stampex, organised by the Philatelic Traders' Society, will include the annual national competitions, displays by the British Society of Russian Philately, and the National Youth Stamp Committee activities area and Saturday auction.

The national competitions cover the following classes: Aerophilately, Postal History, Postal Stationery, Revenue, Special Studies, Social Philately, Thematic, Traditional (GB, Commonwealth, Foreign), and Literature. Over 20 trophies and special awards will be competed for, including the Silver Mailcoach for the best exhibit, the National Philatelic Society Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee trophy for an outstanding exhibit from a first time entrant, and the Royal Mail trophy for a GB exhibit from the Traditional Class. Last year's winner of the Silver Mailcoach was M I Basaran for his display of the early stamps of Turkey. A number of societies will be holding meetings at Stampex at the weekend.

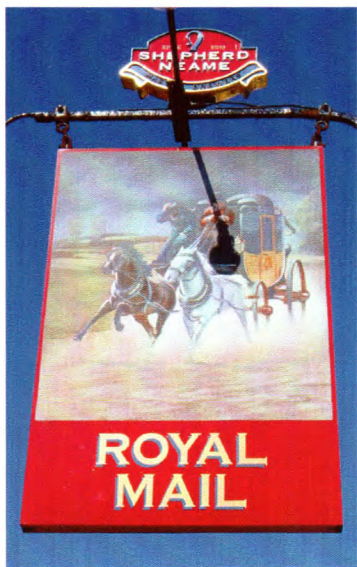
There will be about 100 dealers' stands, including many from overseas, satisfying all requirements for stamps, covers, accessories or literature. The Royal Mail stand will offer the full range of current GB stamps and collectibles. A posting box will be provided at the stand for visitors to post mail to receive the special Stampex handstamp. The Transports of Delight stamps will be issued on 18 September, the second day of Stampex. An additional Stampex First Day of Issue handstamp will be available that day. A display relating to the 40th anniversary of this *Bulletin* can be seen on the Royal Mail stand.

It being the 50th anniversary year of Stampex, and following the interest generated at the Spring show, a second Customised Sheetlet of 10 stamps will be produced in limited numbers. The first 7500 visitors will receive one of these special stamps free (full sheets can be purchased if required). Visitors will also receive a special limited edition postcard (the fifth in a now popular series) and a special mini-sheet produced and donated by the Crown Agents, featuring the new image of The Queen for use on high value stamps from overseas dependencies. Extra copies will be available at £1 each •

The Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain put on an excellent 140-frame (each of 16 sheets) display at the Embassy of the Czech Republic on 22-24 May. The exhibition, visited by the Ambassadors of the Czech and Slovak Republics, included postcards, interesting documents of social history and stamps, postmarks and covers. It was highly instructive

as to the history of the two countries, their peoples, culture, and development. A nicely produced catalogue was available at the exhibition. Several of the exhibits included material from the philatelic activities of the Czechoslovak Army in Great Britain during the Second World War – a subject covered by Richard Beith (one of the exhibitors) in articles in this *Bulletin*. The exhibition marked the Society's 50th anniversary and followed similar but smaller displays at Spring Stampex and to the Royal Philatelic Society London in March •

For details of the Society contact Mrs D Gren, 146 Old Shoreham Road, Shoreham-by-Sea BN43 5TE.



Pubs with postal connections In May we asked readers to send in photographs of any pub signs having a postal connection. Thanks to Mr E Roberts of Conwy, we show here 'Ye Olde Mailcoach' in Conwy. Mr Roberts, a subscriber to the *Bulletin* since it started in 1963, tells us that in olden times mail coaches used to meet at the pub to change horses. He also mentioned that an hotel at Capel Curig near Betws-y-Coed on the main A5 London-Holyhead road, has an original stagecoach on display. Mr C Barber of Kent tells us about 'The Royal Mail' in Park Street, Lydd; the sign shows a mail coach. The former Head Post Office in Paisley is now a pub called 'The Last Post' (photo from Kerri Price), and Mrs B McTaggart reports an 'Old Post Office' pub in Liverpool. Stamps showing pub signs go on sale on 12 August; they were previewed in last month's *Bulletin*. A feature on pub signs, by Robert Webber, is published this month •

Publications The May issue of *Britannia News*, published by the Studiegroep Britannia in the Netherlands, includes features on new issues (definitives and specials), Victorian postmarks, George VI and Elizabeth II stamped to order stationery •

Studiegroep Britannia P de Rooij, Verlengde Horstlaan 4, 3971 MP Driebergen-Rijsenburg, Netherlands. Website www.sgbritannia.nl

British Postcard Collectors Magazine £1 postpaid from: Ron Griffiths, 47 Long Arrotts, Hemel Hempstead HP1 3EX. e-mail ronfgriffiths@aol.com

Issue 74 of the *British Postcard Collectors Magazine* marks the 25th anniversary of this compact but informative publication, edited and produced by Ron Griffiths. This issue contains features on the centenary of the teddy bear, silhouettes on postcards, the postcards of Faga (Frederick Foley) and Rick Geary, wood engravings on postcards, R F Outcault (creator of popular American comic strip characters), book reviews and listings of modern postcards •



Further details Contact Cyril Macey, 23 Reading House, Hallfield Estate, London W2 6HD. Telephone 020 7402 4881.

Mail by Rail Day The Buckinghamshire Railway Centre will be the venue for this event being organised by The Friends of Postal Heritage on Sunday, 31 August 2003. Exhibits will include one devoted to the Great Train Robbery, which was committed in Buckinghamshire and whose 40th anniversary falls on 8 August 2003. Heritage, Royal Mail is providing panels about the Victorian Railway era, Travelling Post Offices (TPOs) and Mail Rail, the Post Office Railway that ran under London between Paddington and Whitechapel. The classic 1930s film *Night Mail* and a video showing progress on restoring a TPO for Heritage will be shown. Friends will be contributing displays of covers connected with TPOs. The displays and presentations being mounted by The Friends will all be located under cover in the restored Rewley Road Station (see above) recently transported piece by piece from its original location in Oxford. Visitors will have full access to all the facilities of the Railway Centre including free rides on a steam train. The Centre's collections include Mail Rail car no 803, also several passenger brake vans and other wagons that carried mail. The Buckinghamshire Railway Centre is situated at Quainton, between the A41 Bicester to Aylesbury road and the A413 Buckingham to Aylesbury road. Drivers should look out for brown road signs near Waddesdon on the A41 and at Whitchurch on the A413. The Centre opens at 10.30 am •

Enquiries Bill Tonkin, 23 Bramley Way, West Wickham BR4 9NT (please send SAE). Telephone 020 8777 8861. Website studygroup.org.uk

Exhibitions Study Group The Group's Annual Convention will take place at the Holgate Hill Hotel, 124 Holgate Road, York on 27-28 September. There will be a number of displays on various exhibition subjects; these will start immediately after the 10am Annual General Meeting on the Saturday and continue until about 4.30pm. The Annual Dinner is held on the Saturday evening. Sunday's displays will start at 10am •

A philatelic autobiography The philatelic world is noted for a good many characters who have interesting tales to tell – yet philatelic autobiographies are few and far between. Perhaps some potential authors feel their stories would be seen as too far fetched to be believed, or perhaps even libellous! Max Stern is a highly respected stamp dealer, whose reputation has spread far beyond Australia where he has lived for the past 55 years. His story, *My Stamp on Life*, has recently been published and, as might be expected, is a good read. He was born in 1921 ‘into an observant Jewish, middle-class family’ in Bratislava, then part of Czechoslovakia. He had two sisters and four brothers, two of whom died in the Holocaust; his father ran a haberdashery business, patronised by the monks of a nearby Capuchin monastery. Young Max became interested in stamps at the age of 12 when, for his Bar Mitzvah, his father bought him an illustrated Schaubek stamp album. He collected whatever he could and his ‘biggest treat’ was obtaining a triangular stamp from South Africa. Ironically he bought many stamps from a local dealer who later became a strong fascist. Soon Max was ‘making money from stamps whilst still at school’ His father shared his son’s interest in stamps and they also shared another passion – football. Even now, in his 80s, Max still plays. He was also keen on swimming and water polo. In 1936 he moved to Vienna to study engineering but had to return to Bratislava when the Nazis invaded Austria in 1938. The war affected his father’s business and Max had to support the family with the proceeds of his stamp dealing, buying Croatian stamps from an Ustasha officer. He traded every Sunday and Tuesday at a bourse in a large café. The new overprinted stamps for Bohemia-Moravia and the independent fascist state of Slovakia created a lot of philatelic interest and were Max’s ‘lucky break’; obtaining supplies of these issues ‘really established me as a trader’. He explains in some detail how he developed contacts and his business. In contrast to his success in philately, the war meant his family ‘was rapidly being torn apart’. Two of his brothers were sent to England; one later published his memories of the experience. Max spent three weeks in prison and on release had to find an Aryan to run his business as Jews were forbidden to trade. He found an Austrian woman who let him operate under cover of her book shop. He lived under the name Michael Zadetsky but remained Max Stern to his customers. Later he was sent to the Zilina labour camp, while his father and uncle were prominent members of an underground resistance group. Following the fateful Yom Kippur night of October 1944, he went into hiding but ended up in the Sachsenhausen concentration camp and on a ‘death march’, the details of which make gruesome reading. After the war he resumed dealing, going to Hungary



Max Stern's lively text is complemented by contemporary photographs of his childhood, war-years and his philatelic career.

My Stamp on Life is published by the Makor Jewish Community Library. Available from Max Stern & Co, GPO Box 997, Melbourne 3000, Australia, price AUD\$30 plus \$10 postage. Credit card only.

where, in another lucky break, he managed to buy hundreds of sets of the Hungarian Liberation stamps then in great demand. Based in Prague he travelled around Europe obtaining stock, Vienna and Budapest being the 'most active philatelic markets'. In 1947 he was called up for the Czechoslovak army but managed to bribe his way out with a bottle of scotch and a leather satchel. In 1948 Max married Eva and emigrated to Australia and set up, enrolled at a school to learn English, and made contact with Australian stamp dealers. He started to import rare Australian stamps through contacts in Europe, also European stamps which were much in demand. He was quickly accepted by the Australian trade and established as wholesale dealer. Important opportunities came in 1948 and 1949 with the George VI Silver Wedding and UPU omnibus issues. In 1952 he opened his first shop opposite Flinders Street Station in Melbourne. Today his business represents philatelic publishers, album manufacturers and many postal administrations including Royal Mail, China, USA, Canada and New Zealand. The later chapters of this enthralling story deal with Max's passion for soccer (he is the oldest registered player with the Victorian Soccer Federation) and his philosophy of life. He loves solving life's problems and never gives up. Max is very much a family man, proud of his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. They too are proud of him – a man who has lived through much and achieved a great deal. In 1999 he was made a Member of the Order of Australia in The Queen's birthday honours 'for services to philately and the promotion of Australian stamp series overseas'. It is good that in a still busy life he found time to write his memoirs ●

Grosvenor Details of future sales from Grosvenor, 399-401 Strand (Third Floor), London WC2R 0LT. Telephone 020 7379 8789.

GB at auction The first auction held by Grosvenor in their new salerooms on London's Strand (15-16 May) achieved record prices for the auction house with realisations totalling £889,727. Amongst many notable GB items was a 1649 Civil War letter written 'from aboard the *Triumph* neare the Isle of Lundee' (Lundy, Bristol Channel) which made £7057, an 1841 1d plate 77 'B-blank' error (£4940), imprimiturs of the 1855 6d and 1882-83 5s plate 4 (£1646 and £3764), and a Paris exhibition proof of the 1867-80 2s green (£7292). A fine Edward VII section included two paste-up essays of the 2d (£3764 each) and the highest price of the sale was achieved by a unique complete pane of 48 of the 1911-13 10d dull reddish purple and aniline-pink (£14,115). A block of four of the George V Seahorses £1 paper trial overprinted CANCELLED made £5881 ●

Harmers For details of future sales write to Harmers, No 11, 111 Power Road, London W4 5PY, telephone 020 8747 6100 or see website www.harmers.com

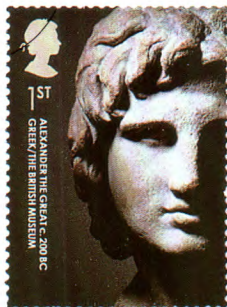
Harmers report exceptionally high sales of GB material at their All-World sale on 28 May. A George V 1912-24 1d in horizontal strip of three with the control 'M' and the number '18' missing from the control went for £2700, more than double the estimate of £1200. Other lots in this section surpassed the estimates. A selection of different control blocks of six made £2470 (est £500), reflecting the competition between bidders keen to acquire rare items. A magnificent example of the rare 1867-83 £5 orange realised £7057 (£5000), and a specialised collection of the 1934-36 issue in four albums went for £8233 (£3000). A specialised George VI collection, including control blocks realised £10,674 (£2800) ●

Royal Mail news Special issues • Coin and ingot covers • Smilers • New collectibles

Future special issues The special issue this month is Pub Signs. The five stamps, to be issued on 12 August, were previewed in last month's *Bulletin*. The special stamp programme will continue with Transports of Delight (toys) on 18 September, the British Museum on 7 October and the Christmas issue on 4 November. The Transports of Delight stamps and miniature sheet are previewed in this *Bulletin*.

The British Museum stamps feature heads – coffin of Denytenamun c900BC (Egyptian), Alexander the Great, c200BC (Greek), Sutton Hoo Helmet c600AD (Anglo-Saxon), sculpture of Parvati, c1550AD (South Indian), mask of Xiuntecuhltli, c1500AD (Mixtec-Aztec), and Hoa Hakananai'A, c1000AD (Easter Island). The stamps are being printed by Walsall.

The Christmas stamps, to be printed by De La Rue, will feature ice sculptures by Andy Goldsworthy, who designed the Springtime stamps of 1995. There will now be six Christmas stamps covering the most used British and overseas rates: 2nd class, 1st class, £ (letters to Europe up to 20g), 53p (letters to Europe 20-40g), 68p (airmail letters 10-20g), and £1.12 (airmail letters 20-40g). There will also be Christmas stamp books (folded sheetlets) containing 2nd and 1st class stamps, and the traditional airletter in standard and bilingual Welsh/English versions •



Two of the British Museum stamps, shown at proof stage.

Coin and ingot covers A new Extreme Endeavours coin cover will be available from Tallents House from 27 August, price £13.50. It bears the six Extreme Endeavours stamps issued in April cancelled by a special Plymouth Globe design postmark and a £1 coin. A medal cover is in preparation for issue along with the British Museum stamps in October. Details will be published later.

The third Pillar to Post ingot cover is now available. The ingot reproduces the £ stamp from the Pillar to Post set (October 2002). A pair of the stamps is cancelled by a special London postmark in the style of the Air-mail handstamp in use in 1934. The cover is available from Royal Mail Tallents House, price £29.95 (order code A1005). The fourth and fifth ingot covers are scheduled for 21 October and 27 January. A storage box is free with regular orders.

The third in the 'Victorian Stamp Ingot Collection' series of attractive folders containing silver ingots of Victorian stamps will be available from 12 August – this features the 1870 ½d 'Bantam' stamp. Price £26.95 (order code AC004). The Victorian Stamp Ingot Collection, and a collection device in which to house them (free with regular orders), is available from Tallents House, Edinburgh only •



The postmark for the Extreme Endeavours coin cover.

Smilers For an order form or further details phone 0845 074 2000 (UK customers) or +44 131 316 7489 (overseas).

Smilers A new Smilers generic sheet of 20 1st class Cartoons greetings stamps of 1996 is now available from Tallents House and Post Office philatelic outlets, price £6.15. The sheets contain two of each of the 10 stamps. Labels attached to the stamps contain crossword grids with the clues printed at the foot of the four columns. Thus there are four crosswords to try.

Also available will be sheets of 20 stamps with your personalised image printed on the labels, price £14.95. The sheets include a crossword puzzle in the bottom margin. Answers to the crossword puzzles on both generic and personalised sheets will be published in this magazine next month.

There will be three Smilers sheets for Christmas. The first, on sale from 30 September contains 20 × 1st class robins 2001 Christmas stamps, price £6.15. The other two sheets – 20 × 1st class 2003 Christmas stamps, and 20 × 2nd class 2003 Christmas stamps – will be available from 4 November, price £6.15 and £4.20 respectively. All three sheets will be printed in litho by De La Rue and have self-adhesive stamps. The stamps in sheets and books are printed in gravure.

The two Smilers sheets issued on 1 October 2002 (Christmas Crackers and Teddy/Dennis the Menace) will be withdrawn from sale on 30 September. An album to house Smilers sheets is now available from Tallents House, price £16.50 (order code PA665). See the back cover of the May *Bulletin* for further information.

Since early June personalised Smilers sheets can be produced in Snap Digital photo booths in shops and post offices around the country. These can produce any sheets in the current Smilers range. Price £15 per sheet ●

New collectibles New products are being added to Royal Mail's popular collectibles range from September. Four bone china mugs will feature classic Victorian stamps – the Penny Black, 1881 1d lilac, 1882 £5 orange, and 1900 1s green and red. Postmarks in use at the time will be reproduced inside the mugs. Price £19.95 per set of four. The four mugs reproducing the 1953 Coronation stamps are still available at the same price (see back of June *Bulletin*). Also available from September are two jigsaws, one of the Penny Black (200 pieces), the other (250 pieces) featuring a TPO train hauled by locomotive *Seaforth Highlander* – as in the *Night Mail* film. Price £19.95 each. Orders for all these products should be sent to Tallents House ●

Coming off sale The Peter Pan stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards will be withdrawn from sale on 19 August and the London Bridges stamps, pack, and cards on 9 September. The Bridges stamps were voted the most popular set of 2002 and the 1st and 47p values in the set the favourite individual stamps of the year (see April *Bulletin*) ●

Philatelic census In February we announced a census of our philatelic customers at Post Office branches. We were delighted to receive some 13,000 completed questionnaires which have provided useful information on our customers' collecting interests and habits. All questionnaires were entered into a prize draw. The overall winner was Mr T Gulson of Leicestershire

who wins a 1935 George V Silver Jubilee FDC, a 1953 Coronation FDC, and a 2003 Coronation Anniversary FDC cancelled with a special 'Long Live the Queen Philatelic Census' handstamp. The three runners up were Mr P Harris, Merseyside; Mr P J Goddard, Middlesex; and Mr S W Collis, Essex. Each wins a 1953 Coronation FDC. A further 50 were sent a 2003 Coronation FDC cancelled with the special 'Census' handstamp •

Coronation PSB Panes in the prestige book (2 June) were printed in sheets of 10 (2×5), then guillotined for making into books. The uncut sheet of the pane of 47p and 68p Wildings and £1 in 1953 Coronation design is shown here. We hope it will be of interest to specialist collectors of prestige books •

Coronation PSB 'Traffic lights' and other colour markings were printed in the right sheet margin but there were no cylinder numbers shown.



Sign language Robert Webber on pub signs



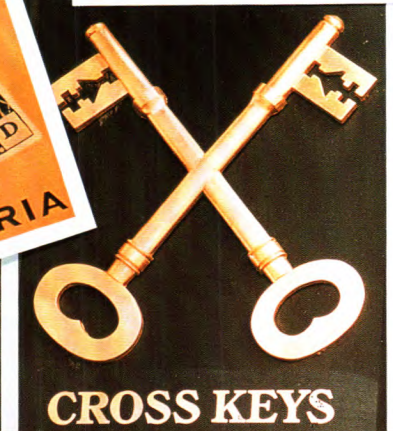
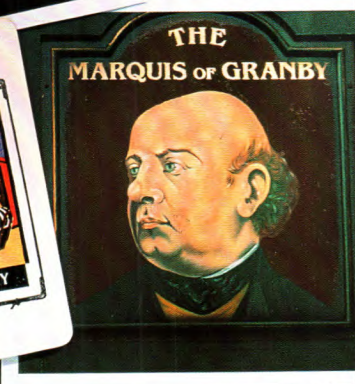
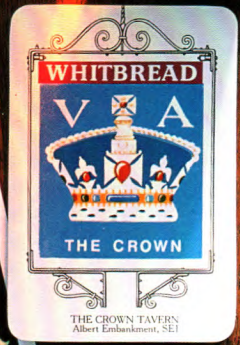
THE PILLAR BOX Mount Pleasant, W.C1

ALE-HOUSES or taverns surviving from Roman or early post-Roman times tended to have simple signs like The Boot or The Jug or The Bush, while inns where food and lodging was available had descended mostly from the ecclesiastical establishments. Because of this many of the inns, and their names, were already old when, in 1784, the newly organised postal system went into service, and those along the trunk roads were chosen as the collecting and distribution points for the mail. 'The New Inn', a name still found, dates back to the days when the Church first encouraged pilgrimages. It set up inns, run by the village priest, to house and feed the pilgrims and when the numbers grew too large for the first it opened another – a New Inn. Eventually, anyway, they would all merge into 'The Pub'!

Church inns had religious names, naturally: The Sun signifying Christ, The Moon the Virgin Mary, and The Star the Holy Spirit. All these signs could be easily carved from wood and were displayed outside the building. The Moon has survived to today but usually as The Half Moon which was also put in the Arms of some great families to symbolize their temporal power or an ancestor who fought in the Crusades. The Moor's Head, or The Saracen's Head stem also from the same campaigns.

Later, religious pictures appeared using Biblical stories understood by the people. The Adam & Eve, The Cross Keys (St Peter's Keys), The Salvation, and The Virgin. The last two would undergo changes after the Reformation when the Virgin was painted out leaving just The Angel in the former or just the hands holding lilies in the latter. If the hands were badly painted, The Flower Pot may have been the result while neat hands gave us The Hand and Flower! Other names appeared after the Church lost control of the inns. Allegiance to the king became more important than to the Church, shown by using the Sovereign's name or one of his badges. In uncertain times, The Crown would be safer than reference to a particular Sovereign – after the Battle of Bosworth a rapid change of Richard III's White Boars into The Blue Boars of the Earl of Oxford was very necessary! In the 1960s the last official count of names was conducted by the brewing industry, and The Crown, with and without adjuncts (Crown and Cushion, Rose and Crown, etc) outnumbered all other names. A common heraldic name is The Red Lion, often attributed to the Union of the Crowns in 1603 as the Red Lion of Scotland, but it was in use long before. In 1371 John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, married Constance of Castile and Leon and, claiming the throne of those countries put the Red Lion – 'El Leon Rojo' – in his Arms which were displayed as a sign by loyal followers.

Probably every British monarch has appeared on a pub sign at one time or another, up to and including King George VI who was the last. Queen Victoria, who looks out from more pub signs than any other monarch usually under the name of The Queens Head but sometimes as The Victoria, decided that living members of the Royal Family should no longer be used for advertising, a decree still upheld. A local family or a Guild might be commemorated if a pub was built on their land or if they were owed a debt





of gratitude. Another reason for Arms and badges to be used was that many of the aristocracy maintained town houses identified by family Arms at the door. The family lived there in the winter and retreated to the country in the summer when those servants left to look after the property might take in paying guests. These would learn of accommodation being available at the sign of, say, the Earl of Wherever! Soldiers and sailors, home from the wars, used names of commanders, battles and ships, to attract old comrades. Some of these names were corrupted: for example, the *Bellerophon*, a 74-gun ship that fought under Nelson at The Nile and Trafalgar became The Billy Ruffian, and 'The Estapona' became The Stew Pony. The military did not have a monopoly on this habit for the swallows, *les hirondelles*, in the Arms of the Arundel family were seen as The Iron Devils.

John Manners, the Marquis of Granby and a cavalry commander, should always be shown with a bald head. He lost his wig in a charge, giving rise to the expression 'to go bald-headed' after something. The Ivy which could have been a shortening of The Ivy Bush might also refer to King William IV, formerly an admiral, and misread by local people as William Ivy!

While some names have been with us for many centuries there are some which have definite 'not before' dates. The Royal Oak, for example, cannot predate 1651 when Charles II escaped by hiding up a tree, and any name connected with the railway must postdate the building of the 'iron road'. The Black Swan, on the other hand, which might be supposed to have been unknown before the bird was imported from Australia, was used as a pub sign long before! It was most likely a whim of the landlord who wanted a colour unlikely in such a well-known bird. Larwood, the Victorian historian Larwood tells us that The Black Swan in Bartholomew Lane, London, was kept by Owen Swan, Parish Clerk of St Michael's, who always wore a black gown. That pub was nicknamed Cobweb Hall and not, as many are today, the Dirty Duck!

In a country with a rich agricultural history we would expect to find signs relating to the land and The Wheatsheaf, singly or in threes, is common but The Barley Sheaf is not. When the barley was mown it was carted and stacked in a heap and The Barley Mow is reasonably common but it refers, not to the act of cutting the crop, but to the heap and the joy of having the source of malt and beer safely harvested. The Oat Sheaf is known but is rare as a sign.

Travel is another subject common on signs due mainly to inns being at the roadside. From The Coach and Horses with attending Highwaymen or The Wagon and Horses with an extra ('Cock') horse waiting, or The Old Cock at the bottom of a hill, on through the railway era to flying. The Airman, The Air Hostess and The Chopper are examples in south west London, the last being very close to The London Chatham and Dover Railway Tavern. Akin to travel are exploration, settlement and achievement and all have examples. Captain Cook's Endeavour, The Mayflower, The Top of the World (conquest of Everest), and Sir Francis Chichester are all there.

Space does not allow for further expansion but, hopefully, this short article and the stamp issue will encourage more interest in our pub signs ●

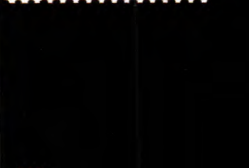
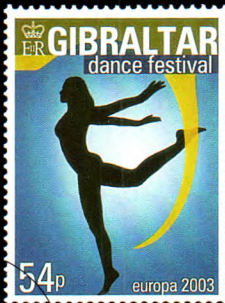
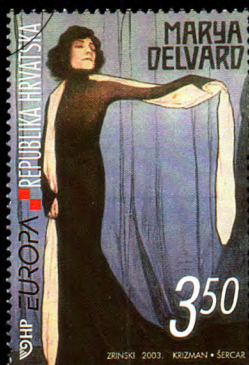
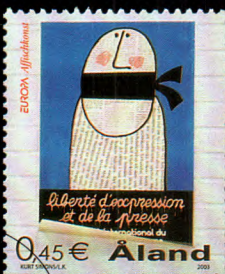
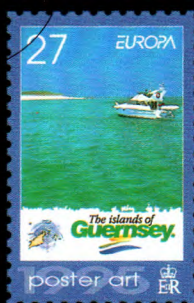
Robert Webber has formed a thematic collection relating to pub signs; he is President of the Kingston upon Thames Philatelic Society.

Text © Robert Webber 2003

Europa stamps 2003

SHOWN HERE are some of this year's Europa issues, on the theme of Poster art. Royal Mail's contribution, the Pub Signs stamps, go on sale on 12 August. Posteurop, the association of European public postal operators, selects the themes for the annual Europa stamps •

The Europa stamps the next year is Holidays, a 2005 Gastronomy.



Transports of Delight Royal Mail celebrates



MECCANO
Constructor Biplane c1931



WELLS-BRIMTOY
Clockwork Double-decker Omnibus c1938



HORNBY
M1 Clockwork Locomotive
and Tender c1948

Technical details

Printer Joh Enschedé Stamps

Process Gravure

Stamp size 41 × 30mm

Sheet size 50

Perforation 14.5 × 14

Phosphor Two bands

Gum PVA

Gutter pairs Vertical

Cylinders and colours

All values E1 silver ● E1 deep blue ● E1 black ● E1 cyan (blue) ● E1 magenta ● E1 yellow ● E1 phosphor

FIVE STAMPS, a miniature sheet, and a retail stamp book featuring historic toys will be available from Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and from Royal Mail Tallents House Edinburgh from 18 September. They feature: 1st class Meccano Constructor Biplane (c1931), E rate Wells-Brimtoy Clockwork Double-decker Omnibus (c1938), 42p Hornby M1 Clockwork locomotive and tender (c1948), 47p Dinky Toys Ford Zephyr (c1956), and 68p Mettoy Friction Drive Space Ship *Eagle* (c1960). The Queen's silhouette and value/service indicator are printed in silver and positioned at top right on the 1st, 42p and 68p stamps and at top left on the E and 47p.

The five stamps will also be issued in a miniature sheet (price £2.23), and the 1st class stamp in self-adhesive form in a book with four 1st class Machins (£1.68). The sheet stamps and miniature sheet are being printed by Enschedé, the self-adhesive book by De La Rue.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets about a week before 18 September, price 25p. Orders for serviced FDCs with the stamps or miniature sheet cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of Tallents House Edinburgh or Toye, Downpatrick must reach Tallents House (address below) by the day of issue. Price £3.04 UK, £2.59 overseas. Please state whether stamps or miniature sheet required when ordering.

Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (Tallents House postmark), or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Rutherglen DO, Duchess Place, Rutherglen, Glasgow G73 1BT (Toye postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FD0319' (Tallents House), or 'FD0320' (Toye). Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Offices for the Toye postmark.

Additionally there will be a first day of issue postmark for Autumn Stampex, the stamps/sheet being issued on the second day of the exhibition. Collectors may post FDCs in the special box on the Royal Mail stand or send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Mount Pleasant, London EC1A 1BB marking the outer envelope 'Stampex First Day of Issue Postmark'.

Other handstamps for 18 September will be listed in the *British Postmark Bulletin*, available on subscription from Tallents House (£12.25 UK/Europe; £24.95 elsewhere). For a sample copy write to the Editor (address at left).

British Postmark Bulletin
Royal Mail, 148 Old Street,
London EC1V 9HQ.

the 'Golden Age' of British toy manufacturing



DINKY TOYS
Ford Zephyr c1956



METTOY
Friction Drive
Space Ship Eagle c1960

The Transports of Delight stamps were designed by Trickett & Webb with photography by Martin Langfield. The Meccano biplane and Wells-Brimtoy bus are shown courtesy of Pollocks Toy Museum; the Hornby train, Dinky Toys car, and Mettoy spaceship are from private collections.



MECCANO
Continuator Biplane c1950



WELLS-BRIMTOY
Clockwork Double-decker Omnibus c1958



HORNBY
N Gauge train c1958



DINKY TOYS
Ford Zephyr c1956



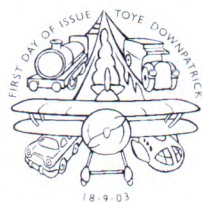
METTOY
Friction Drive
Space Ship Eagle c1960



TRANSPORTS
OF DELIGHT

ROYAL MAIL FIRST DAY COVER

Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbie Road
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB



TRANSPORTS
OF DELIGHT

A COLLECTION OF CLASSIC TOYS

Hornby trains, Dinky cars or Wells-Brimtoy vehicles. Collecting by type will enable you to form an orderly collection; toys by the same maker will complement each other far better than a random, mismatched collection. With a specific focus in mind a complete and comprehensive collection is more achievable – although considering the sheer number of toys produced by the various makers, still an ambitious goal. It is more realistic to narrow your interest to one area, for example Hornby trains of the 1930s or television-related Dinky toys from the 1960s.



WELLS-BRIMTOY
Clockwork Double-decker Omnibus c1958

Once your collection has begun to grow then you can think about expanding into other related areas. Many simple toy cars, lorries and vans made by Lines Brothers in the 1930s are a perfect size match to accompany the Hornby 'G' gauge range of trains.



Lines Brothers car



HORNBY
N Gauge train c1958

Most television- and film-related models – such as Thunderbirds vehicles or the James Bond Aston Martin – came in very decorative boxes with inner scenic stands and accessories such as rockets or ejector seats. They remain in constant demand and sell for high prices when in mint condition. It is sometimes worth forgoing these toys of average condition and investing in one excellent, boxed example for the same price. Any toys that have been repaired or have missing parts should be avoided.



A checked collection box is very best preserved, displayed or glass action in a hard used cabinet.

LOOKING AFTER
YOUR TOYS

Never leave a toy in strong sunlight as this can eventually cause the paint colours to fade. Also, the heat from radiators or light bulbs can prove damaging. Many collectors display their toys in specially-built cabinets



An example of a typical 'Club Valley' plate from a previous generation box.

WHERE TO BUY?

Collectors' and toy fairs, adverts in collecting magazines, auctions and collectors' clubs are all good places to find toys. Societies such as the Hornby Railway Society or the Meccano Toy Club are useful for broadening your knowledge. They often issue monthly newsletters, as well as informing collectors of future events. 'Swap-meets' are usually held once a month, all over the country. They are an excellent opportunity to meet other collectors from your area, discuss toys and perhaps swap or buy that long-sought-for model. More information can be accessed by visiting toy clubs' sites on the internet.



The Hornby Railway

a maker's mark the surface of a toy. The maker's mark is the surface of a toy.

Mint A toy with a maker's mark.

Model A miniature of a vehicle or building.

Novelty Toys Any non-vehicular mechanical toy which has an amusing action.

Penny Toys Inexpensive toys usually made from lithographed tinplate, with a simple push-along action. Production was mainly between 1900 and the 1930s.

Scale An evolving method for measuring all elements in a train set were compatible. Standard scale (2 1/8") from wheel hub to wheel hub, was developed to create 'G' gauge which is still in use today.

Table A method of joining two pieces of metal by folding a small tab through a slot.

Tinplate Thin sheets of iron or steel that were coated with a tin-plated alloy and used widely in toy manufacturing until the advent of



Mettoy

Founder ... Philip Ullmann

Formed ... 1933

Location ... Northampton

Closed ... 1983

Dinky Toys

Founder ... Frank Hornby

Formed ... 1933

Location ... Liverpool

Closed ... 1979

Lines Brothers

Founder ... George & Joseph

Formed ... 1919

Location ... London

Closed ... 1983

A pack containing the five stamps (left, price £2.60) and six stamp cards reproducing the five stamps and the miniature sheet (30p each) will be available from Talents House, main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets.



Collecting toys Toys can be good investments: Dinky toys bought with pocket money in the 1950s may now be worth a week's wages. Above, the AEC 508 forward control 5 ton cabover, from Corgi's Classic vintage vehicles (1980s).

Collecting toys is popular in the UK with, it is said, 30,000 avid collectors eagerly seeking items from the British 'golden age' of toy production: 1910-70. The appeal of collecting is nostalgia for the carefree days of childhood.

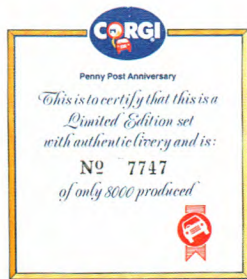
Toy trains date back to the early 19th century, soon after the first passenger-carrying train services. Early toy trains were of a simple, pull-along nature, referred to as 'carpet trains'. Later working models were produced with water-filled boilers heated by a methylated spirit burner, and by the end of Victoria's reign clockwork was the chief motive power. Toy aeroplanes came on the market soon after the Wright Brothers flights in 1903.

Famous British toy manufacturers include Meccano, Tri-ang, and Wells. Frank Hornby, credited as the 'father' of the British tin toy industry, had the inspired idea for a new toy, 'Mechanics Made Easy', later renamed Meccano. His ingenious design was for perforated metal strips, enabling different models to be constructed. He patented this innovation in 1901. Hornby trains appeared in 1920 and were an instant success. Three years before his death in 1936, Hornby oversaw the manufacture of Modelled Miniatures which became Meccano Dinky Toys. By the time his famous Liverpool factory closed in 1979 over 1000 different Dinky toys had been produced.

When beginning a collection, it is advisable to choose one type of toy – such as cars, boats or aeroplanes – or focus on a particular manufacturer such as Hornby trains, Dinky cars or Wells-Brimtoy vehicles. This way a complete and comprehensive collection is a more achievable – if still ambitious – goal. Some collectors restrict their interests to a specific area, such as Hornby trains of the 1930s or television-related Dinky toys from the 1960s.

Try to find toys with their original paintwork and in their boxes. Many tv- and film-related models – such as Thunderbirds or James Bond – were sold in decorative boxes with inner scenic stands and accessories. Ever in demand, they sell for high prices in fine condition. Repainted or incomplete toys are always worth much less. Collectors' and toy fairs are often advertised in collecting magazines, some collectors' societies publish newsletters, and monthly 'swap-meets' are held all over the country.

Toys on stamps Toys first appeared on British stamps in 1968 – on the Christmas stamps, designed by Rosalind Dease, the 1s6d value showed a boy with a train set. In 1989, one of the first Greetings stamps featured a teddy bear and the Games and Toys set depicted a toy train and airplane, building bricks, dice and board games, a toy robot, boat and a doll's house. A teddy bear featured again on a greetings stamp the following year, and a model car was the subject of one of the 1992 Memories greetings stamps •

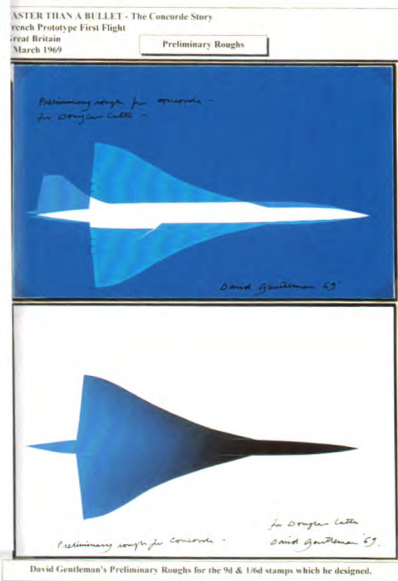
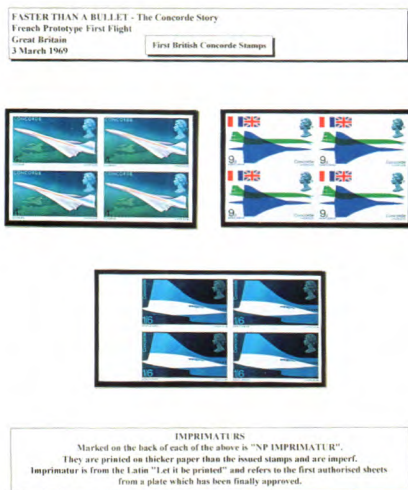


Left, a limited edition Corgi model of a closed-top London tram, issued to mark the 150th anniversary of the introduction of the Penny Post.

Concorde Items in Brian Asquith's collection

AT SPRING STAMPEX and at the Royal Philatelic Society London in April, Brian Asquith displayed part of his extensive collection of stamps, postmarks, covers and ephemera relating to Concorde. His display at the Royal happened to coincide with the announcement that British Airways was to take the supersonic aircraft out of service. We are delighted that Brian has agreed to us showing some of the pages from his collection in the *Bulletin*.

Shown below (left) is a page bearing imperf imprimatur blocks of the three British stamps of 1969. The reverse of the stamps are marked 'NP IMPRIMATUR'. Imprimatur is from the Latin 'let it be printed' and refers to the first authorised sheets from a plate which has been finally approved. The second page shows David Gentleman's preliminary roughs for the 9d and 186d stamps. Further pages from Mr Asquith's collection will be shown in future *Bulletins*.



Brian Asquith is pictured at right, at a presentation to mark his 25th year as Chairman and Newsletter Editor of the Concorde Study Circle. The Circle was founded in 1978 and has 80 members. There are normally two meetings and newsletters each year. The Circle endeavours to supply some collectable item with each newsletter – postmarks, postcards, stickers, etc. For details of the Circle contact Brian Asquith, Alandale, Radcliffe Gardens, Carshalton Beeches SM5 4PQ •

The Great Train Robbery Peter Johnson on a famous TPO



Left: the interior of 30272, a carriage of the ill-fated train.

Above: Nene Valley Railway letter stamp (1997) showing TPO coach 30272.

THE HOLD UP and robbery of £2.6 million from the Up Special Travelling Post Office in Bedfordshire in the early hours of 8 August 1963 achieved notoriety as 'The Great Train Robbery'.

The train, an icon of the TPO service, had been carrying mail from Aberdeen to London since 1917. However, in addition to carrying and sorting mail, it had become the practice to use the TPO to carry high-value packages, in this case used £5 notes being returned to the Bank of England for destruction, the robbers' target.

By tampering with signals the train was forced to stop at Sears Crossing where, after the second-man had left the train to report to the signalman, in accordance with regulations, driver Jack Mills was brutally attacked. The train was divided and the front portion moved a short distance southwards to Bridego Bridge where, after the Royal Mail personnel had been threatened and coshed, the money was unloaded and taken to Leather-slade Farm, obtained for the purpose.

The robbery was carried out by a group of South London crooks, some of whom had previously stolen registered mail from trains in the London area. Ten men were brought to trial for their part in the robbery in 1964, a further two in 1966 and one more, who had escaped to Mexico, in 1968; all except one was found guilty. The sentences, up to 30 years imprisonment, were considered excessive and some were reduced on appeal. Most served just over 10 years. A further

seven people were charged with minor offences relating to the crime.

Only £336,534 of the stolen money was retrieved. Driver Mills never fully recovered. The carriage that was robbed was later scrapped, although one of the train's carriages, no 30272, is preserved and being restored by the Nene Valley Railway. Following the robbery Royal Mail increased its security on TPOs and the Bank of England made other arrangements for transporting used currency; the villains had been considerably helped by the knowledge that the trains were easily identifiable and ran to strict timetables ●

Peter Johnson is the author of *Mail by Rail – the history of the TPO & the Post Office Railway*, published by Ian Allan in 1995. Signed copies are available from the author at 4 Parkside Close, Leicester LE4 1EP, price £15 postpaid. The book was reviewed here in May 1996.

A book on the Great Train Robbery, *Hold Up At Sears Crossing*, by Bill Williams is available from the Nene Valley Railway, price £7.65 postpaid. Orders to Nene Valley Railway (Stamps), Wansford Station, Stibbington, Peterborough PE8 6LR. If ordering other items from the Railway, a separate cheque should be enclosed for this book as receipts go into a separate fund. The NVR will commemorate the anniversary of the robbery with a special cover on 8 August – see *Commemorative Covers Review* for details ●



I recommend this site to all GB collectors. Not only for the mass of data about *Machins* that it contains, but also for its very practical approach. Here is an ordinary collector who has tried to simplify what can be a very complex study area, and, in my opinion, has succeeded. ●

Mainly Machins D G A Myall reports on De La Rue reprints, new stamp books, and the second Wildings miniature sheet

Definitive reprints by De La Rue In my last article in this series I mentioned the short lives of the three values 20p, 33p and 41p printed at Byfleet. These three stamps have proved to be interesting in another respect, namely the paper on which they were printed. The paper used for printing Machins on the Jumelle press at High Wycombe was finished (coated and gummed) by De La Rue themselves. That used for non-self-adhesive printings on the ATN press at Byfleet is finished by Tullis Russell Ltd. When all gravure stamp printing was centred at Byfleet residual stocks of High Wycombe paper were transferred there. The three values concerned were the first sheet Machins to be printed by De La Rue on the ATN. Not surprisingly, therefore, the High Wycombe (HW) paper was used up before the Tullis Russell (TW) paper was employed. As a result, the 33p was on HW paper, the 41p was on TW paper and the 20p was on both. How can one tell?

If you look at the paper under an ultraviolet lamp (for this purpose it doesn't matter whether it is long- or short-wave) you will see that the HW paper is distinctly duller than TW paper. Place a 33p and a 41p over each other and view both at once to see this clearly. Now you know what to look for, examine a copy of the 20p. There was clearly more than one printing of the 20p, with the one on TW paper much scarcer of the two.

The tariff changes of 8 May produced only one new value, a 34p. This was on TW paper. However, the rest of the current range is being reprinted from ATN cylinders and will appear over the coming months. As I write, the 10p has already been found. All ATN definitives are double pane printings and all cylinder numbers, including that for the phosphor, are D1 no dot and dot. No matter which paper was used, all are overprinted with Novaglo phosphor and therefore give an afterglow when irradiated with either long- or short-wave ultraviolet

There are other features of interest to collectors. The phosphor no longer extends into the

sheet margins but ends exactly in the middle of the outer perforations of the stamps. It takes only a slight mis-registration (of no great operational consequence) to create varieties which are proving to be very popular. These may have phosphor bars which are inset from the left (stamps from column 1) or from the right (column 10) or may be short at the top (stamps from row 1) or at the bottom (row 20). The 34p has already been found with the inset left bar. Keep a lookout for similar varieties as each value in the range is reprinted; this may well happen more than once, creating a possible four varieties for each value.

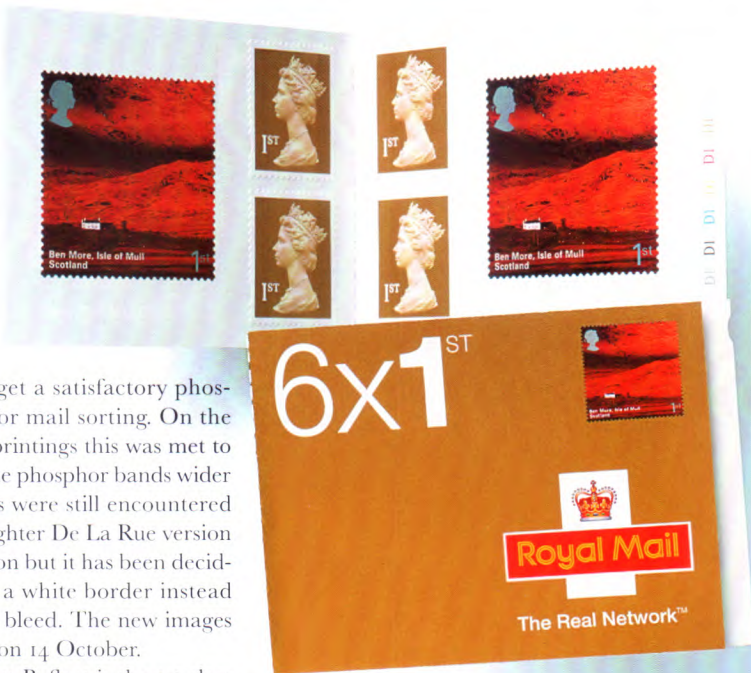
Another feature of interest is one which has disappeared. Solid lines co-extensive with the printed image underneath those in the bottom row and in the colour of the stamp have been a feature of our sheet definitives for many years. They are often referred to as 'Jubilee' lines. This name derives from the fact that they were first seen on the 1887 Queen Victoria issue, the year of her golden Jubilee. Their purpose was actually to protect the edge of the printing plate from damage by the inking roller. This has long been unnecessary and the making of new cylinders has provided an opportunity to discontinue them.

De La Rue Byfleet have also reprinted some of the country pictorial definitives to meet demand, and this has meant new cylinders as these were formerly printed either by Walsall (from w1 cylinders) or on the Jumelle (from 1A etc cylinders). Seen so far is the Wales 2nd class, printed from cylinders D1 D1 / D1, both dot and no dot, which went on philatelic sale on 28 May. It is a noticeably lighter shade than that of the Walsall stamp and has a different direction of print, ascertained by seeing whether the swarf is at the top of the perforation holes (Walsall) or at the bottom (De La Rue). Like the Walsall stamps, however, the phosphor is Novaglo. I believe the England 2nd class has also been printed at Byfleet.

A major change is scheduled for these pictorial stamps. Many of the designs are rather dark

Mixed specials and Machins

A book with two Scotland 1st class stamps of the 'A British Journey' series was issued on 15 July. This has the standard layout of four Machins with a special on each side. Note the cylinder numbers have serifs for the first time.



and make it difficult to get a satisfactory phosphor signal from them for mail sorting. On the Walsall and De La Rue printings this was met to some extent by making the phosphor bands wider than usual, but problems were still encountered from time to time. The lighter De La Rue version may be part of the solution but it has been decided to give all 16 designs a white border instead of allowing the image to bleed. The new images are scheduled to appear on 14 October.

Another new issue from Byfleet is the 1st class gold NV1 stamp available from philatelic outlets, in rolls of 500, strips or single stamps, from 28 May. There were no cylinder numbers and no roll numbers on the leaders. Leaders and end papers were attached by sticking them onto the first and last stamps in the roll in the same manner as in the Enschedé rolls of last October. This means that the rolls of 500 contain 502 stamps although two are supposedly unusable. Sheet versions of this stamp were due to have been issued on 1 July replacing those formerly printed by Walsall.

Books Just as De La Rue are now the main contractor for sheet and coil stamps, Walsall are the main, but not exclusive, supplier of books. There are several new ones to mention this time, although space will not allow lengthy comment to be made. First is the prestige book *A Perfect Coronation*, marking the golden jubilee of that event. Details have already been given in the *Bulletin* so I will limit myself to a few observations of interest to specialists.

Three different papers were used for the stamp panes. Pane 1, comprising 4 × 1st gold and 4 × 2nd

Machin NV1s alternating around a label, is on coated paper without a watermark. Panes 2 and 3, comprising eight of the 10 special issues, are on coated paper with an all-over 50 watermark. Pane 4, containing Wilding decimal issues, is on uncoated watermarked paper. If you are breaking up a book for single stamps or se-tenant pairs, why not keep the stubs as a reference source of these papers? If you take account of value types and settings, the 1st class stamp on pane 1 is a new single. The figure '1' is the thin type 1 and is set further from the left edge than any previous issue. The only other 1st stamps with this setting, also in gold and printed by Walsall, are self-adhesives and have value type 2 with thicker elements. Two of the three values on pane 4 are new, the £1 having appeared previously on the Stamp Show 2000 miniature sheet. However, it is a new stamp because it is on watermarked paper with phosphor bars, whilst that on the miniature sheet was on phosphorised unwatermarked paper. Make sure you have your copy.

Last time I wrote about the mixed specials and gold NV1 Machin books and how attractive they

are. Following the *Extreme Endeavours* book of 29 April will be one with two Scotland 1st in the new *British Journey* series issued on 15 July. This has reverted to the standard layout of a block of four Machins flanked on each side by a special. The cylinder numbers are D1 phosphor, D1 grey, D1 black, D1 cyan, D1 yellow, D1 magenta, and D1 gold, reading upward on the white strip at the right. I am always amazed at the results achievable from what is basically a four-colour process and never more so than with the Scotland stamps. One detail of interest is that while the numbers on the *Endeavour* book were also D1 the new ones have serifs for the first time. Serifs are the little projections at the ends of numbers and letters in a font, fonts without them being known as sans (without) serif.

New strapline The range of self-adhesive books with the new strapline 'The Real Network' under the cruciform logo on the front cover has now been completed. There is no change in the cylinder numbers used for the stamp content. There is a text change on the back cover of the E book to make it clear that the 20g limit to their validity applies to cards as well as letters.

Wilding miniature sheet no2 This was issued on 20 May and as I expected the images are the same smaller size as those on the first sheet. Due to the tariff change of 8 May, four values differ from published artwork. The new values, with the previous ones in brackets, are: 20p (19p), 28p (27p), 34p (41p) and E (20p). Current Royal Mail advertisements show the earlier values •

A man of many parts Richard West meets one of philately's key and keenest workers, Pat Rothnie of the ABPS



SOME BELIEVE – indeed complain – that much of what happens within philately is centred on London. In reality, this is far from the case, for the hobby is alive and well across the UK. Perhaps this misconception developed because many who were involved with the organisational aspects of the hobby seemed to live in the South-East.

When, nearly ten years ago, the Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS) was created, one aim was to demonstrate that the key word is 'British' – a conscious effort was made to ensure that those involved represented all regions. One area which is particularly active philatelically is the north-east of England. There always seems to be some major event there either happening or well in the planning stage, whether it be Conventions, residential philatelic week-ends, or, as has just happened, hosting the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain. Among the organisers you are certain to find one name, that of Pat Rothnie.

Even when he was working with the Department of Social Security, Pat devoted much time to organised philately: since his retirement it has become almost a full-time career. Telephone Pat

at home, but don't be surprised if your call is answered by his wife Morag, with the message that Pat is away at some stamp meeting or other, often involving an overnight stay. In Morag, Pat has found an extremely tolerant wife.

From the moment the ABPS was formed, Pat has been heavily involved, first as Assistant Secretary, but more recently as Honorary General Secretary. In this role he has been involved with all aspects of the services that the ABPS offers, not least the exhibitions held every two years by the Association (not surprisingly the first was held in Newcastle, in 1996), the UK Philately website established jointly with the British Philatelic Trust (BPT) and National Philatelic Society (NPS), and the information stands (again with the BPT and NPS) at major events such as Stampex.

Pat has felt that the time had come to throw off at least one of the many hats that he wears: at the recent AGM of the ABPS he stood down as Secretary. But that still leaves much for him to do. For a start, he remains a member of the Public Relations Committee of the ABPS. He will still be heavily involved with the activities of the NEPA (the North East Philatelic Association), of which he has been President and Secretary. Likewise of the Germany and Colonies Philatelic Society, of which he is Vice President, and has once again been the Secretary, and of his local Newcastle upon Tyne Philatelic Society.

Born in Aberdeen, he was at one time a Council member of the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies, and also Chairman of the Borders

and Blyth Philatelic Society. The first major event with which he was involved was the Borders Philatelic Exhibition in 1980, an event which was seen on television. He was involved with the former British Philatelic Federation, particularly the Committee that organised the annual Congress, and is a Fellow of The Royal Philatelic Society London, being the society's representative for Northumberland. In 2000 he took on the thankless task of being in charge of the Bin Room of The Stamp Show. The Bin Room is the place from which all the competitive exhibits are controlled, from their arrival and mounting in the frames, to the dismantling and dispatch back to their owners at the close of the event. With several millions pounds' worth of stamps and covers involved, it is clear that this is an extremely important, responsible task. For all his work, Pat has been rewarded with the Congress Medal.

Among all this activity, many must wonder whether Pat has any time for collecting. Like most, he started when he was young, at the age of nine, endeavouring to collect the whole world. However, a fascination for the history of central Europe led him to refine his interests, which now include Czechoslovakia from 1938 to 1948, Danzig, Germany Third Reich, and Montenegro 1874 to 1916. He frequently gives displays to societies.

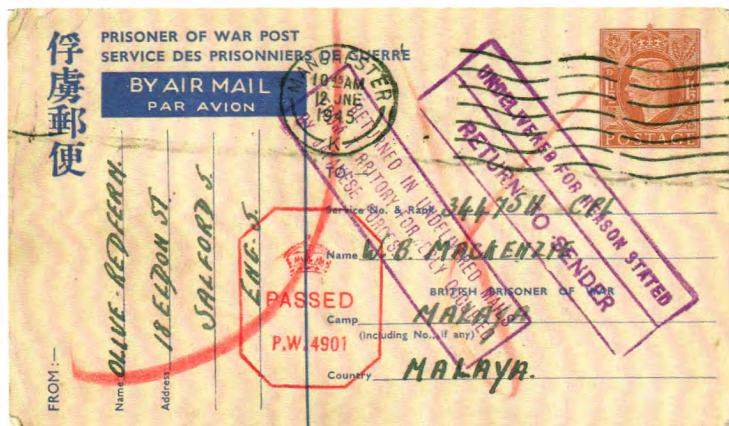
With his meticulous devotion to duty, Pat has been instrumental in ensuring that the ABPS and the North-East have made a major impact on British philately •

Postbag Letters to the Editor

Stamp design A note of appreciation and thanks for your piece on the Coronation stamps and for showing the unaccepted design which was our own favourite. Referring to recent articles on Edmund Dulac, I suppose we regret the passing of the design discipline incorporating subject, portrait, value, etc as a whole. I wonder what standpoint Eric Gill and Dulac would have taken in correspondence with today's stamps? MICHAEL GOAMAN, LYNDHURST, HANTS •

Coronation Anniversary stamps This special issue is, in my view, the best set of stamps ever issued to honour any member of our Royal Family. On this se-tenant block of 10, Kate Stephens assembled both parts of this special event, firstly the Coronation procession and ceremony, and secondly scenes from the street parties. This set of stamps is absolutely fantastic. M K P KAHLBOW, REUTLINGEN, GERMANY •

Cover corner Far East POW mail cards, by Robert Phillifent



Far East POW mail This 1½d card, postmarked Manchester 12 June 1945, was sent to a POW in a camp in Malaya.

CARDS for Far East pow mail were introduced on 27 March 1944 – these were printed with a violet 3d stamp. The rate was halved to 1½d on 2 April 1945. Few, if any, of these cards reached the persons to whom they were sent. By late/middle 1945, the Allies had captured large areas of territory formerly occupied by the Japanese, and pow camps and administrative organisations and their contents fell into their hands. The card

above certainly did. As well as the usual 'Return to Sender' and censor strike it also carries a rectangular boxed violet marking 'RETURNED IN UNDELIVERED MAILS / FROM TERRITORY FORMERLY OCCUPIED / BY JAPANESE FORCES'. The reverse is equally interesting. The message had to be no longer than 25 words and either typed or in block capitals as the Japanese found difficulty with cursive script ●

Special draw Win a high value definitives presentation pack



Yearbook draw winners The winners of the 2002 Yearbook in our May special draw were: Charles Reich of Queensland, Australia; Shirley Mason of South Wales; and Mr & Mrs M Turner, Cumbria.

FOR THIS MONTH'S DRAW we have five presentation packs containing new £1.50, £2, £3 and £5 definitives printed in gravure which went on sale on 1 July. For a chance to win a pack simply write

your name and address on the back of a postcard and send it to: High Values Draw, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ to arrive by 29 August ●

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



May identify The detail was from the 1948 Olympic Games 1s stamp. The winner was Miss P Wedd of London SE3.

May knowledge Answers: 1) Jean Luc Benard; 2) Water & Coast; 3) Michael Sefi. The winner was I Loasby of East Sussex.

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

- 1 Who designed the 1971 University Buildings stamps?
- 2 In which year did Charles Sturt feature on a stamp?
- 3 Who was awarded the Rowland Hill Lifetime achievement Award in March?

Send your answer (addressed to either the August *Identify* competition or August *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 15 September will each receive £100. Ten runner-up prizes of presentation packs or FDCs will be awarded in each competition.

The competitions are not open to Royal Mail employees •

Events

27-30 August Picture Postcard Show 2003 (formerly BIPEX) at New Royal Horticultural Hall, Greycoat & Elverton Streets, London SW1. 27 Aug 11.00-20.00, 28-29 Aug 11.00-19.30, 30 Aug 10.00-17.00. Admission £5 first day, £3 others. Accompanied children free. **Enquiries** Michael Day, 0151 339 5422 or Derek Popplestone, 02380 446143.

29-31 August 55th International Stamp Fair and 42nd 'Europa' International Philatelic Exhibition at Palace of Tourism, Riccione, Italy. **Enquiries** Comune Di Riccione, Palazzo del Turismo, I-47838 Riccione, Italy. Telephone +39 0541 692194.

31 August Mail by Rail Day at Bucks Railway Centre, Quainton Road. See p358. **Enquiries** C Macey, 020 7402 4881.

17-21 September Autumn Stampex at Business Design Centre, London N1. See p356.

4-13 October Bangkok '03, world international exhibition at IMPACT Convention Centre Muang Thong Thani, Nonthaburi Province, Thailand. **Enquiries** UK Commissioner, K Fitton, 01932 840549.

11 October Assn of Sussex Philatelic Societies Ardingly Stamp Show and Sussex Convention at South of England Show Ground, Ardingly. 30 dealers, guest speaker. **Enquiries** M Pullan, 01892 655269.

18 October Hampex 2003 (Hampshire Federation Convention) at Romsey School, Priestlands, off Greatbridge Road, Romsey, 10.00-16.30. **Enquiries** 01256 476937 •

Late news

Machin handbook *Bulletin* contributor Douglas Myall has spent some 10,000 hours on a new (3rd) edition of his *The Complete Deegam Machin Handbook*. Vol 1 (776 pages) includes 12 chapters and 12 appendices, and vol 2 (496 pages) the catalogue listings, Deegam valuation scale, glossary and subject index. Price £59, postage £9.95 UK, £20.75 Europe, £17.25 worldwide surface mail, £35.75 airmail Zone 1 and £40.95 airmail Zone 2. Orders to: John M Deering, The Machins, PO Box 2, South Molton EX36 4YZ •

Auctions In Cavendish's GB sale on 5 June, a Mulready lettersheet posted 6 May 1840 made £1840, and another with a Penny Black added went for £1495. Specialised collections of 1841-55 Plate 4 2d, Plates 1a-10 Penny Blacks, and 1841-54 Penny Reds – all with Maltese Cross cancels – went for £747, £632, and £2530 respectively. An example of the first Christmas card went for £6325, and an 1857 1d pink envelope uprated with seven 2d blues made £2760 against an estimate of £240! The 25-26 September All World auction includes some good GB material, Australasia, and the Geoffrey Manton collection of Queensland. Enquiries: Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, 01332 250970 •

Coronation Anniversary stamps The press reported that some of the people shown in local events and street parties on the Coronation Anniversary stamps had been identified. The first stamp in the bottom row shows Lorraine Cross (now 56) winning a race in Morpeth Street, Bethnal Green, London. Her friend June Rose came second. The photograph was by John Chillingworth, now 75, for *Picture Post*. The photo of children looking at a poster was taken in Stepney •

Stamp designers The artist Elizabeth Blackadder, designer of the 1995 Cats stamps, was made a DBE in The Queen's birthday honours.

The cartoonist Terence Parkes (Larry), whose work featured on a 1996 Greetings stamp, died on 25 June, aged 75 •

Events The National Youth Stamp Committee is holding a 'Youth Day' together with Stanley Gibbons on 19 August (10.00-16.00) at the SG shop, 399 Strand, London, WC2. The NYSC will stage various activities, goody bags will be supplied by Stanley Gibbons and lots of special offers will be available in the shop. Enquiries: Anne Dummer, 01536-519959.

The Leamington & Warwick Philatelic Society starts its 48th season on 10 September with an Introductory Evening, with wine and cheese, to encourage potential new members to come along. Meetings are on alternate Wednesdays at 19.30 at the Odd Fellows Hall, Clarence Terrace, Warwick Street, Leamington Spa. Future evenings include Columbus Gallery (24 September), India (22 October), and Postal Stationery (19 November). Enquiries: M C Aston, 01926 403451 or <http://leamphil.users.btopenworld.com> •

The British Decimal Stamps Study Circle Barrie Murton will give a presentation entitled 'Boring Machins' at Autumn Stampex. We are assured that the display will be far from boring and includes something for everyone from beginner to expert. Non-members welcome. The presentation will follow the Circle's AGM which begins at 14.00 in a meeting room at Stampex on Saturday 20 September. Enquiries: Dave Threadgold, 01277 655389 •

Top QEII stamps Thematica (28-29 June) visitors were asked to vote for their favourite stamps of the Queen's reign. They had to choose from 10 stamps from GB (3 stamps), Guernsey, Jersey, Isle of Man, Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, New Zealand and Singapore. The NZ 1957 2s6d stamp came first, followed by the GB London Bridges 1st class and London 1980 50p stamps •

Bulletin back issues Martin Green has a complete run from January 1977 to December 1995 available for cost of postage and an (optional) contribution to the NSPCC. Contact Mr Green at 20 Victoria Road, Bridgnorth WV16 4LA •

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Notes

(C) = correction

(L) = letter

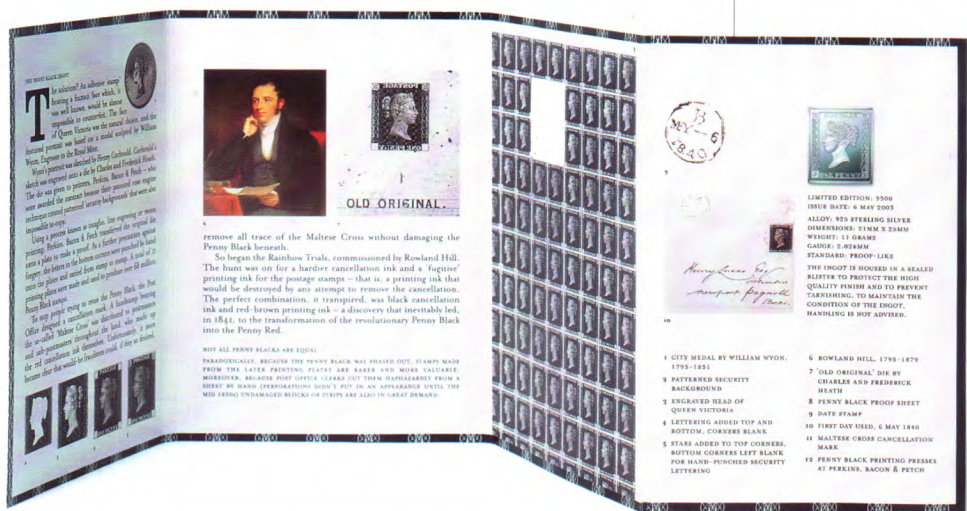
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