BRITISH PHILATELIC

Bulletin

The magazine for collectors of UK stamps

VOLUME 52 NUMBER 10 | JUNE 2015 | £1.50

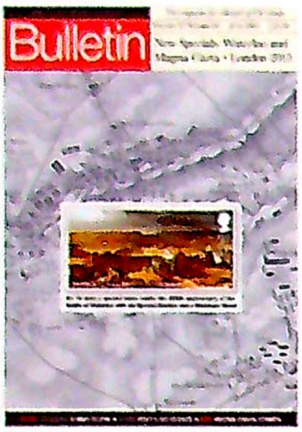
New Specials: Waterloo and Magna Carta • London 2015



On 18 June a special issue marks the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo with six Special Stamps and a Miniature Sheet

PLUS J HOLMAN STAMP SCENE • M FRY POST & GO UPDATE • WIN MAGNA CARTA STAMPS

Issues and withdrawals



Front page: Royal Mail marks the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo with a Special Stamp issue and Miniature Sheet on 18 June. Find out more on page 304

2 June	**Issue** Magna Carta: 6 Special Stamps in singles (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.33, 2 x £1.52), Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards (6 in set), Coin Cover. See page 308 and Preview on page 263 in May *Bulletin*.
5 June	**Withdrawal** Sustainable Fish: Stamps (10 x 1st Class in 2 se-tenant strips of 5), Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards (10 in set).
18 June	**Issue** Battle of Waterloo: Stamps (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1, 2 x £1.52), Miniature Sheet (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.33p), Presentation Pack, Prestige Stamp Book, Stamp Cards (11 in set), Coin Cover. See page 304.
16 July	**Issue** The 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain: Miniature Sheet (3 x 1st Class, 3 x £1.33). Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards (7 in set). Preview on page 295.
16 July	**Withdrawal** Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games: Stamps (1 x 2nd Class, 1 x 1st Class, 1 x 97p, 1 x £1.28, 1 x £1.47, 1 x £2.15), Presentation Pack, Stamp Book, Stamp Cards (6 in set), Silver Coin Cover, Gold Coin Cover.
18 August	**Issue** Bees: Stamps (1 x 1st Class, 1 x 2nd Class, 1 x £1, 1 x £1.33, 1 x £1.52, 1 x £2.25), Miniature Sheet (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.33), Stamp Book (4 x 1st Class, 2 x Specials), Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards (11 in set). Preview in July *Bulletin*.

Information about Royal Mail products is the latest available at time of going to press. Issue dates shown in advance may be subject to change. Stamps are not shown to scale. Stamp sizes are listed on Royal Mail Preview pages.

To order philatelic items, including those listed above, contact Royal Mail online at www.royalmail.com/stamps or at Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. We would advise you to quote 15CDE, the *Bulletin* media code. 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.

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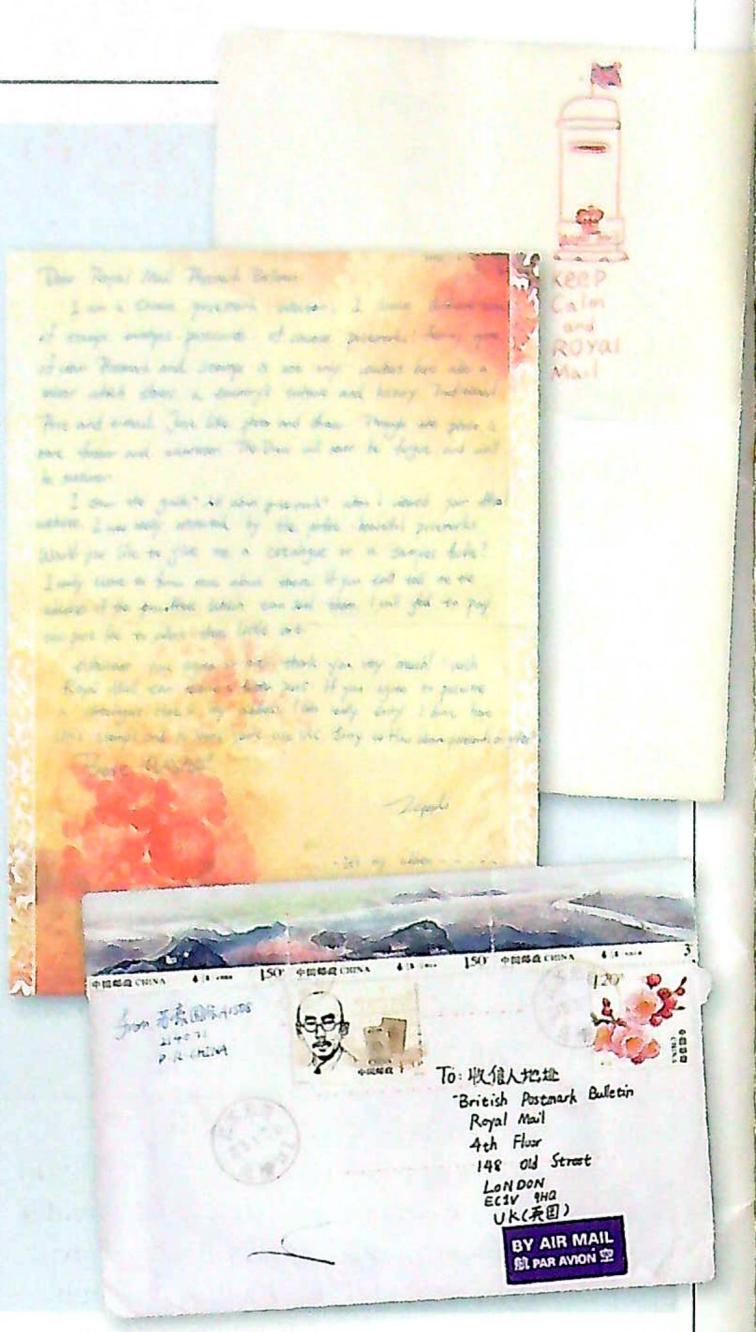


● **Royal Mail Editor** William Doherty, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB ● **Publishing Editor** Kate Shaw, HMS President (1918), Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0HJ ● Price £1.50 from Post Office Ltd philatelic outlets or by order from Post Office branches ● **Annual subscription** £12.95 UK & Europe, £17.95 rest of world. Send subscriptions to Royal Mail Tallents House (address above) ● **Binders** (to hold 24 issues) £8.50, storage boxes (about 30 copies) £9.95, available by post from Royal Mail Tallents House ● Royal Mail publishes the fortnightly *British Postmark Bulletin*, giving details of forthcoming special handstamps – available on annual subscription from Royal Mail Tallents House: £12.25 UK and Europe, £24.95 rest of the world ● Stamp images © Royal Mail. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or parts is prohibited without prior permission of the 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

Correspondence

Jiangsu jewel

The following letter celebrates the art of letter writing in its calligraphy, envelope and illustration as well as through its words. It is both graceful and bold, one of those rare letters that speaks to you even before you open the envelope. We publish an extract here simply because our sister publication the *British Postmark Bulletin*, to which it is addressed, does not have a Letters Page.



I am a Chinese postmark collector. I love different kinds of stamps, envelopes, postcards and, of course, postmarks! From my point of view postmarks and stamps are mirrors which reflect a country's culture and history. Traditional post and e-mail are just like photographs and drawings – though a photo is the faster and often more accurate, the drawing will be remembered for longer and gain significance over time.

I saw the online guide 'All about Postmarks' when I viewed your official website. I was really attracted by the perfect, beautiful postmarks ... please could you tell me the address of the post offices which can apply them? I will be glad to pay the post fee to collect these little works of art.

Zeppli, Wuxi, Jiangsu Province, China

Funny Machin maths

Can retailers other than Post Offices charge what they like for stamps? I recently popped into a newsagent's shop in Shirley, Croydon to buy six second-class stamps. I was charged £3.90 and my question as to whether the stamps had gone up in price was met with no response. When I did my sums at home, I realised that I had been charged 65p per stamp. I am a pensioner and have to take care of my money, so I was very annoyed at having been charged 11p over the face value of each stamp!

Sylvia Drake, Croydon



You can buy stamps from lots of different traders, not just from a Post Office. Any shop which sells stamps has to follow certain official rules, which include selling them at or below face value. They should not charge more than the face value. If you find an approved trader has charged you more than the face value for stamps, you can report them to Royal Mail (phone 08457 640 640). There are thousands of approved traders and Post Offices who sell stamps at the correct price, so you should have no difficulty finding one near your home.

A case for silver?

The April edition of the *Bulletin* showed the Penny Black Medal Cover to have black cancelling ink almost masking the stamps – and the wording is illegible over the dark grey/black background.

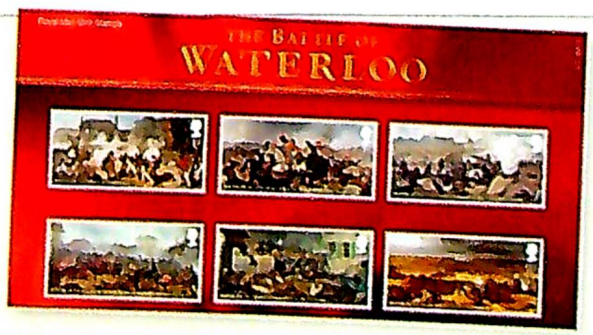
I did comment previously about using silver ink to cancel stamps with dark/black background, but saw no feedback nor improvement. I wonder if other *Bulletin* readers have other comments?

Frederick Yeung, Tennessee, USA

The possibility of using non-black postmarks was discussed in planning the Penny Black 175th anniversary issue. An important part of the story of the Penny Black is the fact that its black colour was soon changed to red for precisely the reasons you outline. It was decided to use black postmark options in keeping with the original issue, but also to offer a choice of two red postmarks on first day covers. The Tallents House special postmark, shown above, bears a red Maltese Cross (FD1509-TH) and the alternative pictorial postmark with the location Bath is also red (FD1509-PL).

Beautiful family correction

On our May Correspondence page we accidentally transposed the surname and first name of Farrukh Jamil. Farrukh's second name is an Arabic word لي مج, meaning 'beautiful', used as both a family name, a given name and a patronymic surname.



Keep the letters coming...

The Editor welcomes your letters and the senders of those published will receive a Waterloo Presentation Pack as a token of our thanks. Send your letters to: The Editor, *British Philatelic Bulletin*, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. You can also email: bulletin.enquiries@royalmail.com

Complete your collection

Do you have editions of *Bulletin* missing from your collection? Or archived copies that you are willing to pass on to another UK stamp collector?

Just write to the Editor or email rmbulletin@rocketmail.com and we will publish your requests on this page.

The truth will out



On page 83 in February *Bulletin*, in his interesting article about 50 years of Special Stamps, Philip Parker states that Winston Churchill was the first individual, other than a monarch, to be featured on a British stamp. William Shakespeare was in fact the first, in 1964.

Graham Mapp, Birmingham

The article named Churchill as the first 'contemporary individual' to be featured on a stamp other than royalty. The previous year the Shakespeare commemoration did feature the Bard. It went on sale on 14 August 1964, when The Beatles' *A Hard Day's Night* was number one in the singles charts and just before BBC Two launched the first *Match of the Day*.

Red light

I think I may have found a new security Machin variety – or error. It is a First Class Royal Mail Red with NO iridescent overprint. But it has correct die cutting and slits. Unfortunately it is on a small piece and is not postmarked so I have no idea when or where it was used.

***Michael L Goodman, Editor* Stamp Lover**

Thank you for bringing your stamp along to London 2015 and sharing it with us. We came to the conclusion that it was indeed a genuine stamp. It was below our usual strict printer quality control and we discovered a very faint iridescent overprint.



Post & Go Update Martyn Fry reports on new issues and Post & Go services at 2015 exhibitions





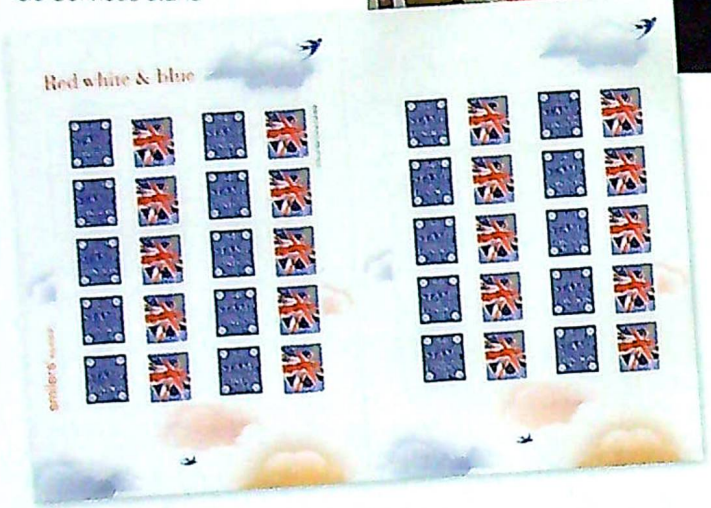


Above: three Post & Go stamps vended at London 2015. Gibraltar Post launched its G101 machine; Guernsey's machine GG01 and Jersey's JE01 also offered special event faststamps

Right: the A004 machine used at London 2015 will soon be placed at a static site – location to be confirmed

Below: this Union Flag Smilers® Sheet with exhibition labels was available from the Post & Go Services stand





Royal Mail attended the Essen show for the first time last month. Union Flag and Machin design Post & Go stamps proved popular, and were available from machine A006 with 'Messe Essen 7-9 May 2015'.

Machine A006 and A008 were at the Perth Congress (see page 303) and at London 2015 Europhilex, which saw the issue of Heraldic Beasts Post & Gos (see above and preview on page 236, April *Bulletin*) and a Machin Europhilex print marking the 175th anniversary of the Penny Black •

Post & Go machines at 2015 exhibitions

Date	Location	Reel stamp designs
14-19 August	FIP Singapore	Union Flag and Machin Smilers© (GB versions available from Tallents House)
16-19 September	Autumn Stampex, London	The Sea, Union Flag and Machin Smilers©
29-31 October	Sindelfinden, Germany	To be confirmed
6-9 November	Paris, France	To be confirmed

NB Exhibition locations may be added or removed and stamp listings may vary.
Static machines other than those in Post Offices: machine A001 at the British Museum & Archive has the static location identifier of 'The B.P.M.A.' and at the National Museum of the Royal Navy is machine A002 with 'The NMRN'. For Post & Go news and a current list of Post & Go machines, see www.royalmail.com/postandgonews.

Send your questions about Post & Go to bulletin.enquiries@royalmail.com

Exhibition photograph: Paul Elmes



Air worthy Honouring the heroes of the Royal Air Force, the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain Miniature Sheet goes on sale next month

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS of our finest hour is the Battle of Britain Miniature Sheet taking off next month. The Sheet pays tribute to the RAF pilots and ground crew who saw off Hitler's Luftwaffe in the summer and autumn of 1940.

Released on 16 July, the six-stamp set features two of the most famous fighter aircraft in history – the RAF's Supermarine Spitfire and the Hawker Hurricane. The Sheet border bears an image of Prime Minister Winston Churchill at a coast defence position near Hartlepool on 31 July 1940, alongside his famous quotation about 'the few'. Accompanying the Sheet are a Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards and Coin Cover (the Coin Cover is released on Battle of Britain Day – 15 September).

Below: the Tallents House, Edinburgh handstamp features a graphic image of the Supermarine Spitfire



Stamp by stamp The 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain Miniature Sheet comprises three First Class and three £1.33 stamps. All show original black and white photographs taken during the conflict, which raged from 10 July to 31 October 1940.

Action stations RAF fighter pilots rush to their Hurricanes after receiving the 'scramble' call to engage enemy aircraft. *First Class*

Eyes in the skies Supermarine Spitfires of 610 Squadron, based at Biggin Hill, patrol the skies in close formation. *First Class*

Ready for battle Armourer Fred Roberts rearms a Supermarine Spitfire while the pilot, Sergeant Bernard Jennings, talks to his mechanic. *First Class*

Good spot Recruits of the Auxiliary Territorial Service receive their first lesson in identifying enemy aircraft. *£1.33* ▸

75th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain Stamps – Specifications

Date of issue	16 July
Number of stamps	Six
Stamp design	The Team
Sheet design	Supple Studio
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	41mm x 30mm
Sheet size	179mm x 74mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	14.5 x 14
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate



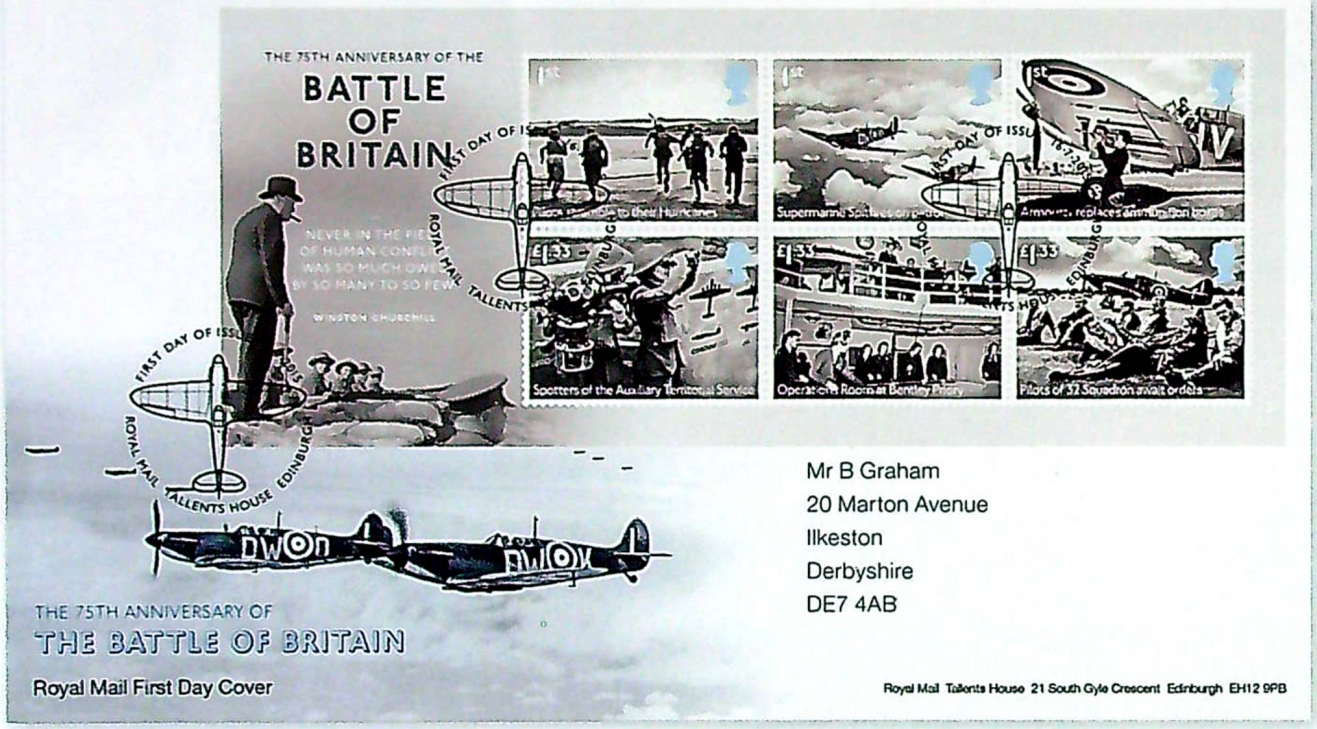
Commanding role The Operations Room at Bentley Priory, the headquarters of Fighter Command, was part of a complex air defence system. *£1.33*

A welcome break British fighter pilots of 32 Squadron relax between flying missions at RAF Hawkinge in Kent. *£1.33*

Also in the issue is a Presentation Pack (shown right) telling the story of this historic battle, with an overview written by Peter Devitt, a curator at the Royal Air Force Museum in London. On the informative insert sheet he analyses the aircraft involved on both sides and pays tribute to the many personnel who helped our fighter pilots beat the Luftwaffe. These include WAAF personnel, ground crew and RAF intelligence officers.

A Coin Cover will be released on Battle of Britain Day – watch out for your *Bulletin* Preview.

Orders for Serviced First Day Covers (shown below, with insert shown left) must reach Royal Mail by 16 July. You can send stamped envelopes on the first day of issue to Tallents House for the Tallents House, Edinburgh postmark (see address on page 290), which shows a Spitfire. The alternative pictorial and plain postmarks both have the post code London NW9, the location of the Royal Air Force Museum •





FD1519-PL

75th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain Stamps – Prices

Miniature Sheet – 3 x 1st Class, 3 x £1.33	£5.88
Miniature Sheet First Day Cover/overseas	£7.53/£6.28
Presentation Pack	£6.40
Stamp Cards	£3.15
Coin Cover (issued on Battle of Britain Day, 15 September)	£17.50



FD1519-NP

Top: the alternative postmark location is London NW9, home of the RAF Museum. The image alludes to a Hawker Hurricane that was excavated from a London street on live television in 1994. See next month's *Bulletin* for the full story.



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

UK diary dates



6 June Yorkshire Philatelic Association Convention & Fair, Pudsey Civic Hall, Pudsey LS28 5TA, 10am to 4pm. Details: 01977 793566.

13 June Swinpex, St Joseph's School, Ocotal Way, Swindon SN3 3LR, 10am to 4.30pm. Details: D Gibbon, 01793 813484.

19-20 June Stafford Stamp Show, Staffordshire County Showground, Weston Road, Stafford ST18 0BD. Friday, 10am to 5pm; Saturday, 10am to 4pm. Over 50 dealers. Free admission and parking. Details: www.jrs-stamp-shows.co.uk.

25-28 June Welsh Postal History Society Annual Weekend, Maentwrog (left). Details: N Prior, 01656 740520, www.wps.wales.org.

27 June GB Philatelic Society meeting: Philatelic Mail (Maurice Buxton, 11am), AGM and Members' Displays (2pm), Grosvenor Auctions, 399 Strand, London WC2R 0TL. Details: P Tanner, 01753 887755.

3 July Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, London WC1, 9am to 4pm. Details: 020 8946 4480, www.stampshows.net.

4 July Magnapex, Addlestone Community Centre, Addlestone. See below.

4 July Midpex, Warwickshire Exhibition Centre, Leamington Spa. See below.

11 July Telford Stamp, Card and Coin Fair, Belmont Hall, Wellington Centre, Telford TF1 1LU, 10am to 3pm. Free entry, good range of stalls, free valuations, buy and sell. Details: Bob Hemmings, 01694 720192.

11 July National Philatelic Society AGM, Welsh Centre, Gray's Inn Rd, WC1.

17-18 July York Racecourse Coin & Stamp Fair, The Grandstand, York Racecourse, York YO23 1EX. Friday, 11am to 6pm; Saturday, 10am to 4pm. Admission free. Includes York National Postal History Competition. Information: C Rainey, 01793 513431, www.stampshows.net •

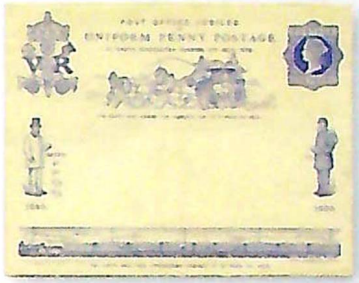
UK exhibitions

The Magnapex 2015 stamp fair and exhibition, celebrating the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta, will be held at the Addlestone Community Centre, Garfield Road, Addlestone KT15 2NJ on 4 July, from 10am to 4pm. Attractions include dealers, stamp displays and competitions. For more details phone Mike Wilson on 01932 844215 or email mikewwilson@virginmedia.com.



The popular Midpex show takes place at the Warwickshire Exhibition Centre, Leamington Spa CV31 1XN on 4 July, from 10am to 5pm. This biennial exhibition, first held in 1995, is attended by collectors from across the UK, and brings together 40 specialist societies and 70 local, national and international dealers covering all aspects of philately – and postcards are included for the first time. Among the societies taking part will be the Great Britain Philatelic Society (with a display of GB line-engraved at 3pm), British Postmark Society, TPO & Sea Post Society, Railway Philatelic Group and Cinderella Stamp Club. The Stamp Active group will hand out goodie bags to young visitors and hold activities with prizes. Royal Mail will provide Post & Go machines. For more information see www.midpex.wordpress.com.

© David Kitching



The Philatelic Congress of Great Britain will be held at The Queens hotel, Leeds LS1 1PJ on 6 to 9 August. The theme will be '1890', to mark the anniversaries of the Leeds Philatelic Society, *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* and Uniform Penny Post Jubilee of 1890. Among the events planned for the Congress are talks about the city of Leeds (combined with a display by Leeds Philatelic Society), the Royal Armouries in Leeds, the early years of Stanley Gibbons and *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, and postal services in 1890. There will be a display of 1890 Postal Jubilee material, and the Kay Goodman Lecture on Philatelic Auctions. The Congress banquet will be held at the Royal Armouries and there will be a walking tour of the city. For Congress details see www.gbcongress.org. Contact Paul Gaywood on gaywood@hotmail.co.uk to book your place and hotel accommodation •

International exhibitions

The next international stamp exhibition will be held in Singapore, from 11 to 16 August, and marks the 50th anniversary of the country's independence.

The famous British Guiana One Cent Magenta stamp, which sold last year for £5.5 million, will be on show at the MonacoPhil 2015 exhibition in Monte Carlo, from 3 to 5 December. The show will include the traditional exhibition of 100 world rarities, an exhibition of Polar philately, with particular emphasis on Russian expeditions, as well as 80 postal administration and dealer stands. For more details visit www.monacophil.eu.

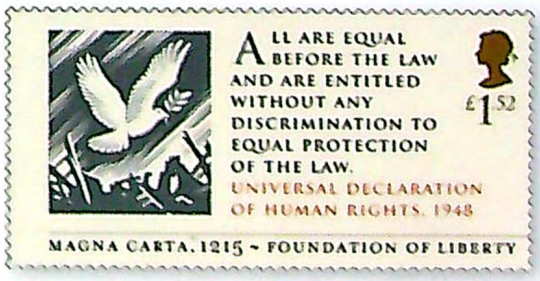


The World Stamp Show-NY2016 will be held at the Javits Center in New York (right) from 28 May to 4 June next year. There will be some 3,800 competitive frames with entries in all 13 FIP-recognised philatelic categories. For the first time, first day cover exhibits will be accepted under the Experimental Exhibiting Group. For show information see www.ny2016.org.

A General World Stamp Exhibition, Philataipei 2016, will be held at the World Trade Centre, Taipei, Taiwan, from 8 to 13 October next year. It is organised by the Chung Hwa Post and Chinese Taipei Philatelic Federation •

Stamp-related exhibitions

2015 is a year of many anniversaries commemorated by exhibitions and events. Stamps marking the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta go on sale on 2 June (see page 308). A Magna Carta exhibition – called Law, Liberty, Legacy – is on at the British Library until 1 September. Visit www.bl.uk/magna-carta for details.



A commemorative sheet marking the bicentenary of the birth of Anthony Trollope – novelist, travel writer and Post Office employee – was issued on 24 April. A British Library display, focusing on Trollope's approach to authorship, runs until 7 June (admission free).

The 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo will be celebrated on 18 June with six stamps (see page 304). Until 13 January 2016, visitors to the state apartments at Windsor Castle can enjoy a 'Waterloo at Windsor' themed trail with a display of prints, drawings and archive material exploring the battle and its aftermath. Objects on show include Napoleon's red cloak presented to King George IV, and letters written by the Duke of Wellington and Napoleon. An exhibition called Wellington: Triumphs, ▸

Politics and Passions can be seen at the National Portrait Gallery, London WC2 (near the Trafalgar Square Post Office) until 7 June. An online exhibition of Waterloo artefacts is at www.waterloo200.org.

The Death of a Hero exhibition, marking the 50th anniversary of the death of Sir Winston Churchill, is on show at Chartwell, his country home in Kent, until 1 November. Included are plans for Churchill's state funeral, a photograph of the PM on VE Day signed by all members of the Royal Family pictured with him, and the silent typewriter used by his secretaries so he could dictate without being distracted by the noise. Visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/chartwell or phone 01732 868381 for information.

The Churchill's Scientists exhibition is at the Science Museum in London until 1 March 2016 and Churchill's birthplace, Blenheim Palace at Woodstock in Oxfordshire, is hosting the Winston Churchill Exhibition and Trail. Visit www.blenheimpalace.com or phone 01993 810530.



The 150th anniversary of the publication of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* was commemorated by Royal Mail stamps in January. An exhibition called The Alice Look, examining how Alice has influenced style and fashion over the past 150 years, can be seen at the Victoria & Albert Museum of Childhood, Bethnal Green, London E2 until 26 September. Alice in Cartoonland runs at the Cartoon Museum, 35 Little Russell Street, London WC1A 2HH from 15 July until 1 November.



Stamps marking the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain go on sale next month (see page 295). In March The Queen opened The Wing, a new £3.5 million visitor centre at the Battle of Britain Memorial at Capel-le-Ferne, Folkestone, Kent. The Centre is open to the public daily from 10am to 6pm until 30 September, then 10am to 4pm until 28 February 2016.

One of the stamps in the Great British Fashion set of May 2012 shows the 'Black Raven' dress designed by Alexander McQueen. This features in an exhibition entitled Alexander McQueen: Savage Beauty at the Victoria & Albert Museum in London until 2 August. On display are almost 250 exhibits associated with the designer who died in 2010 •

British Postal Museum & Archive

The BPMA, located at Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1, near the famous Mount Pleasant sorting office, is open Monday to Friday, 10am to 5pm (Thursdays until 7pm) and on Saturday 13 June (10am to 5pm, but closed the following Monday). The BPMA archives will be closed from 1 to 12 June for stocktaking.

On show at Freeling House until 7 August is an exhibition marking the 175th anniversary of the Penny Black. This will include the registration sheet of the Penny Black and other items of great philatelic importance.

Visit the BPMA website – www.postalheritage.org.uk – for details of the Post Office in the Community exhibition at Blists Hill Victorian Town at Madeley, Shropshire. Twenty-five BPMA exhibitions can be seen online, including Aerial Post, regional stamps, Machins, David Gentleman, postal vehicles and letter boxes.

Also see the website or the BPMA's Events Guide for details of the Archive tour (17 June, 3pm); tour of the BPMA Museum Store (Debden, Essex, 1 June

at 6pm, 3 June at 1pm), 'Pillar to Post' London walking tours (21 June at 11am), and a talk, Letters from a Long Road (Phoenix Centre, 4 June at 7pm). A charge applies to some events. Contact the BPMA for a copy of the Events Guide: phone 020 7239 2570 or email info@postalheritage.org.uk.

The BPMA's online shop offers a wide range of products, including philatelic items, postcards, replica GPO posters and Mail Rail prints •

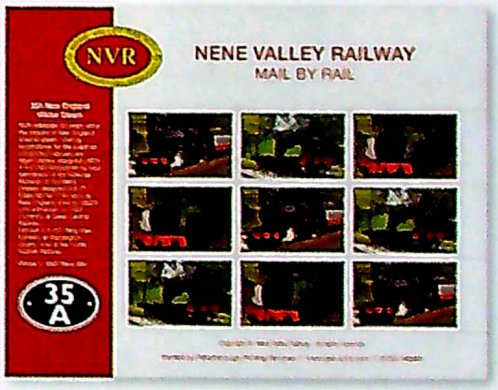
Society news

The Spring 2015 issue of *TPO*, the journal of the TPO & Seapost Society, includes features on the cessation of TPO services during the Second World War and their restoration afterwards, the Bristol Sorting Tender/Carriage, 'GPO 1' (the first mobile post office, from 1936), and late fee mailings for carriage by rail of letters destined for the USA. For details of the Society contact Julian Jones, 19 Richmond Lane, Romsey SO51 7LB or visit www.tpo-seapost.org.uk. The Society will have tables at Stafford Stamp Show (19 to 20 June) and Midpex (4 July) •



Railway letter stamps

The Nene Valley Railway issued three new 25p stamps on 21 February featuring locomotives visiting the NVR for a '35A New England Winter Steam' event: Nigel Gresley designed LNER 4-4-0 D49 Morayshire (from the National Museum of Scotland), 0-6-2T Class N2 No 1744 (from the Great Central Railway), and Hunslet 0-6-0ST Ring Haw, formerly at Nassington Quarry (from the North Norfolk Railway). The stamps were printed in sheets of nine containing three of each design in different se-tenant order, and priced at £2.25. First day covers were serviced with each of the three se-tenant arrangements, at £12 for the set of three covers.



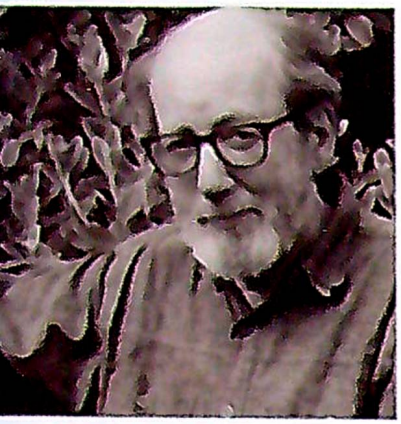
A new 25p + 50p stamp was issued on 6 April to raise funds to provide replica Victorian/Edwardian postman uniforms to be worn by staff selling railway letter stamps on NVR trains. The stamp depicts a postman in Victorian/Edwardian uniform collecting mail from a posting box. The stamp is printed in sheets of ten (price £7.50). The FDC bearing a single stamp is £5. Minimum order: £5 plus £1 p&p. Enquiries: Nene Valley Railway (Stamps), Wansford Station, Stibbington, Peterborough PE8 6LR.

The Festiniog Railway will issue a new stamp on 23 July to mark the 60th anniversary of restoration of the line from Portmadoc (Porthmadog) to Boston Lodge in 1955. The stamp, reproducing a painting called The New Arrivals at Boston Lodge in 1923 by Edward Paget-Tomlinson, is printed in sheets of nine – price: £2.50 plus postage. Orders and enquiries: Festiniog Railway Letter Service, Rosebank, 1 Kepax Gardens, Barbourne, Worcester WR3 7LB.



A new stamp is expected from the Talyllyn Railway in July to mark the 150th anniversary of the Act of Parliament authorising the building of the railway. Enquiries: Postmaster, Talyllyn Railway, Wharf Station, Tywyn, Gwynedd LL36 9EY •

Obituaries



FRITZ WEGNER, who designed over 30 stamps between 1969 and 1984, died in March aged 90. He was born in Vienna and left Austria in August 1938 followed by his parents; his grandparents died in the Holocaust. At just 14 he was offered a place at St Martin's School of Art. In 1942, classified as a 'friendly enemy alien', he went to work on the land, later getting an appointment as a poster artist in Buckinghamshire. After the war he became a freelance graphic artist and teacher at St Martin's. He illustrated many children's books, including Enid Blyton's *Christmas Story* in 1950.

His first stamps were the 1969 Christmas set, followed by 1970 Anniversaries (5d, 9d and 1s 6d), 1971 British Anniversaries, 1972 General Anniversaries (7½p), 1974 Medieval Warriors, 1978 Cycling, 1979 Christmas, 1981 Folklore (see *Bulletin* February 2015, page 186), and 1984 European Parliament Elections. He also designed 70p and 90p stamp book covers in 1979, and telegram forms •



LORD MASON OF BARNSLEY, who died on 19 April 2015 (the day after his 91st birthday), was the last surviving holder of the historic office of Postmaster General (PMG), albeit for only a few weeks in 1968. Roy Mason was born near Barnsley and left school at 14 to become a miner. He worked his way up the Miners' Union and became involved in Labour politics. He was elected MP for Barnsley in 1953 and represented the town until 1987. When Labour was elected to government in 1964, Mason expected to become PMG, but the job went to Tony Benn. Mason joined the Board of Trade as Minister for Shipping, later moving to Defence as a Minister for Procurement. In April 1968 he got the job he wanted as PMG. In an interview with me in the *Bulletin* (October 2002), he recalled that the PMG had probably the best car of any government minister, certainly the only one with a phone. During his short stay as PMG he was involved with the colour of telephone boxes, size and bulk of telephone directories, and an attempt to raise the TV licence which caused a storm with fellow ministers. He upset the Chancellor of the Exchequer over a postal union pay dispute. He recalled being involved with proposed stamps to celebrate Celtic as the first British team to win the European Football Cup.

After a few weeks he was promoted to the Cabinet as Minister of Power, but he remained interested in postal affairs and continued to collect FDCs, posting new issues for Buckingham Palace and Houses of Parliament postmarks, and getting many signed by dignitaries including the Prince of Wales.

Mason's time at the Ministry of Power was also short-lived with advancement as President of the Board of Trade until Labour lost the election in 1970. Four years later he became Secretary of State for Defence – the government job he most enjoyed – and then, from 1976 to 1979, Northern Ireland Secretary. His hard-line approach meant that his home had a permanent police guard for many years. I well remember the armed policemen when I visited Lord Mason's home to conduct the *Bulletin* interview.

Mason left the Commons in 1987 and was given a life peerage, speaking in the Lords until old age and infirmity took their toll. He was a keen angler, fervent pipe-smoker, and 'cravatologist' (designer of ties). Not impressed by the tie I wore on the day of my visit, he later sent me a rather better one! Lord Mason's autobiography *Paying the Price* was published in 1999 •



Alan Watson reports from Perth on the 86th Scottish Philatelic Congress

PHILATELISTS FROM ALL OVER SCOTLAND and some from further afield gathered at the Dewars Centre in Perth for the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies' (ASPS) 86th Scottish Philatelic Congress. Some 35 dealers were present, and 160 frames of material were on display. Hosting the Congress was Falkirk & District Philatelic Society, who marked their 50th birthday this year with a special cover depicting Callendar House in Falkirk.

In addition to competitive frames, postcards and an open competition, exhibits from a dozen societies showed a greater than ever range of collecting interests.

Speyside meets spyspeak For the first invited talk, Willie King showed ten frames of material for the Tom Rielly Display. They covered two areas – one display on Speyside postal history and one on correspondence to and from Harry St John Philby, father of the famous spy Kim Philby. On Friday night Willie gave an illustrated talk on the subjects linking them with the theme of 'the changing face of philately'.

At the civic reception, generously sponsored by Perth & Kinross Council, provost Liz Grant welcomed philatelists to Perth. The Congress Dinner was followed by an excellent talk from Guest of Honour Douglas Muir, Senior Curator Philately at the British Postal Museum & Archive (BPMA). Douglas talked on aspects of Falkirk recorded in the BPMA. There was a lot of information on pillar boxes, many of which were manufactured in the area, and he disclosed that Falkirk has on its streets a rare Nigerian pattern box.

Various trophies were awarded for the National Exhibition, including ASPS Awards of Merit for Alfred and Edith Thorp (Kirkcudbright PS), Mavis Pavey (Germany and Colonies) and the late George Burney (Hawick).

Stewart Gardiner was invited to sign the Book of Scottish Philatelists, in recognition of his contribution to the advancement of Cinderella philately and his work *A General Illustrated Catalogue of Exhibition and Event Poster Stamps to 1914*. Douglas Muir brought the second invited display from the BPMA. It was entitled From the Archives Something New.

The Congress closed with the AGM, where Jean Osborne handed over the presidency to Paul McGowan of the Caledonian Philatelic Society – the hosts of the 87th Congress, which will be held on 15 and 16 April 2016 ●

Alan Watson is Secretary of the ASPS

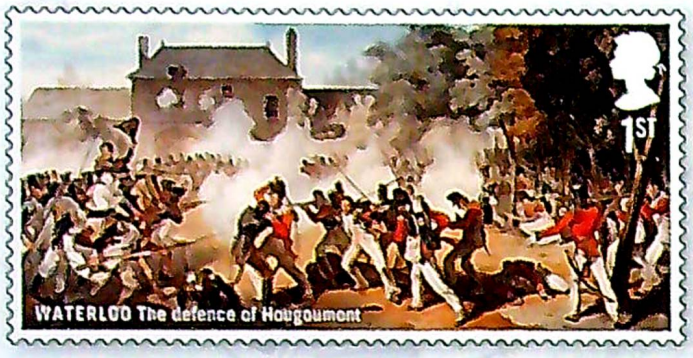




From top: 50th birthday cover from Falkirk & District Philatelic Society, hosts of this year's Perth Congress; Stewart Gardiner of the Cinderella Stamp Club signing the Book of Scottish Philatelists; Jean Osborne hands over the presidency to Paul McGowan

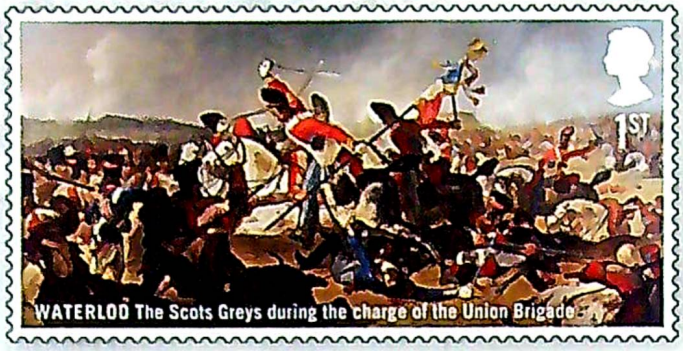
Historic victory

This month's Battle of Waterloo issue plunges you into the smoke and clamour of a confrontation that changed the course of history. The Special Stamps set reveals the drama of every pivotal clash in the battle while the Miniature Sheet salutes the troops who took part



The defence of Hougoumont

The chateau of Hougoumont was one of three garrisoned farms forming part of Wellington's line against Napoleon's numerically superior forces at Waterloo on 18 June 1815. The positioning of his troops behind a ridge and at the two other farms, La Haye Sainte and Papelotte, gave Wellington a solid defensive chain that the French emperor was determined to smash. He sent his brother Jerome and 5,000 men to wipe out Wellington's 1,500-strong garrison at Hougoumont. But the British defended bravely, musketing their attackers through fire holes they had punched in the walls of the farm.



The Scots Greys during the charge of the Union Brigade

At 1pm Napoleon pushed his right flank under the command of Count d'Erlon to Wellington's left, hoping with this infantry assault by his Armée du Nord to take the village of Mont St Jean. But the Scots Greys, with fellow cavalry units the Royal Dragoons and Inniskilling Dragoons – forming the Union Brigade – poured down the slope and crashed into the French, slashing them with their sabres and trampling them with their mounts as they went.



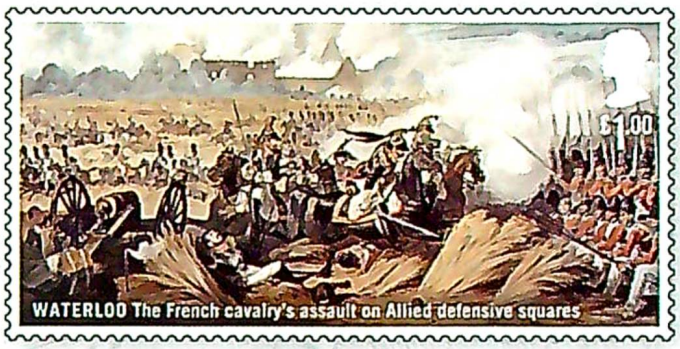
15th Infantry Regiment, IV Corps, Prussian Army

The soldiers of IV Corps bore the brunt of the fighting for Prussia at Waterloo. It was in the vanguard of the Prussian assault on Napoleon's flank, leading the mission against the Emperor's right rear at the strategic village of Plancenoit. During bitter street fighting that destroyed the village, a number of French cannon and several hundred prisoners were taken.



Light Infantry, King's German Legion, Anglo-Allied Army

The heroes of La Haye Sainte, the Legion soldiers formed a British Army unit, having volunteered to fight against Napoleon after his forces had invaded and occupied Hanover and a number of other German states. Their defence of La Haye Sainte is legendary, but they also fought hard in the orchard at the farm of Hougoumont.



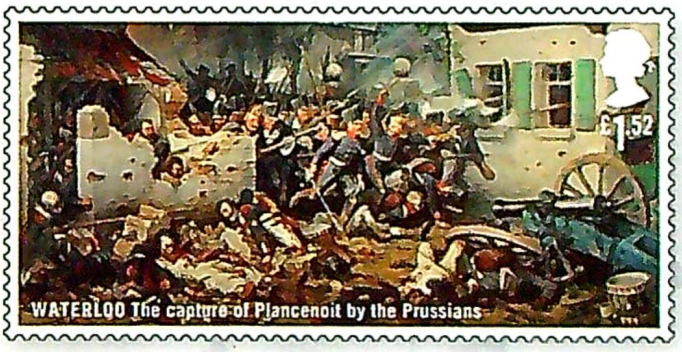
The French cavalry's assault on Allied defensive squares

During the assault against La Haye Sainte, some 4,000 French cavalry troops made charge after charge on Wellington's line. His Allied forces formed up into defensive squares and beat off the mounted attackers.



The defence of La Haye Sainte by the King's German Legion

Under furious fire from the French, the outnumbered King's German Legion of Hanoverian troops held La Haye Sainte farm for the entire afternoon of the battle until a shortage of ammunition finally forced them to retreat and give up the position to Bonaparte's men.



The capture of Plancenoit by the Prussians

Marshal Gebhard Leberecht von Blücher's Prussian armies had been arriving from the east in the afternoon, forcing Napoleon to send large quantities of men to defend the French position at the village of Plancenoit – a key strategic point as it lay to the rear of the Emperor's right flank. But Plancenoit was later overrun by the Prussians.



The French Imperial Guard's final assault

Seeing Wellington's centre dangerously weakened by the loss of La Haye Sainte, Napoleon sent his elite Imperial Guard up the ridge to the Duke's line. The British, crouched in long grass, bided their time, then fired into the advancing French at extremely close range. The Imperials broke and ran, pursued by the British and the Prussians. Order collapsed and the entire French army fled in panic. The Battle of Waterloo was lost for Napoleon, whose imperial dreams lay in bloody tatters on the fields of Belgium.



92nd Gordon Highlanders, Anglo-Allied Army

The Gordons' motto was 'Steadfast' and they proved their courage at Waterloo. When Napoleon's troops attacked Wellington's left flank, the men from the 92nd were ordered to meet them. The Gordons' assault scattered the leading ranks of the French column, which was then pursued by the cavalry of the Scots Greys. Legend has it that some of the Highlanders were so keen to carry on the fight that they hitched a lift on the stirrups of the Greys to catch up with the fleeing French.



Grenadiers, Imperial Guard, French Army

The Imperial Guard traced its origins to the small elite unit created in 1799 to act as Napoleon's personal guards. By 1814 they were 100,000 -strong. Known as 'The Invincibles', these bearskin-wearing assault troops were often kept back in reserve by Napoleon, then deployed at a vital moment. Such was his tactic in the final stages of Waterloo. But their attack on Wellington's centre was shattered by Allied fire. The Imperials were invincible no more ●

Turn over for philatelic specifications ▸

Right: Battle of Waterloo Miniature Sheet

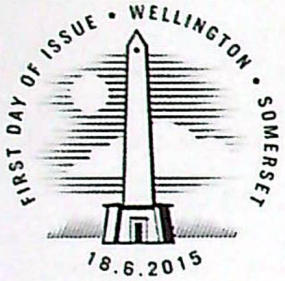
Below: the Coin Cover and its handstamp showing the Wellington Monument near Wellington in Somerset



Battle of Waterloo Mini Sheet – Specifications

Number of stamps	Four
Design	Webb & Webb Design Ltd
Illustrations	Chris Collingwod
Stamp format/size	Portrait 27mm x 37mm
Miniature sheet size	146mm x 74mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA
Perforations	14 x 14

The defeat of Napoleon and the destruction of his empire is remembered in the new Battle of Waterloo issue released for the 200th anniversary of this historic engagement. It features six stamps that tell the story of the bloody day-long engagement in Belgium in the summer of 1815; and a Miniature Sheet parades the soldiers of the armies that took part (see details of all stamp images on previous pages). The issue includes a Presentation Pack, Prestige Stamp Book, Stamp Cards and Coin Cover, as well as special handstamps. The 200th Anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo issue is released on 18 June – the date of the clash that changed the world.



FD1518 CC

The stamps come in a range of values: two First Class, two £1 stamps and two at £1.52. The stamps feature classic paintings showing cavalry charges, infantry assaults and fierce hand-to-hand fighting. The Miniature Sheet comprises First Class and £1.33 values. The Presentation Pack, written by the Napoleonic era expert Professor Charles Esdaile, offers a visually rich analysis of the battle and its place in European history. It includes the story of Napoleon's 'Hundred Days' after his escape from Elba, a timeline, and



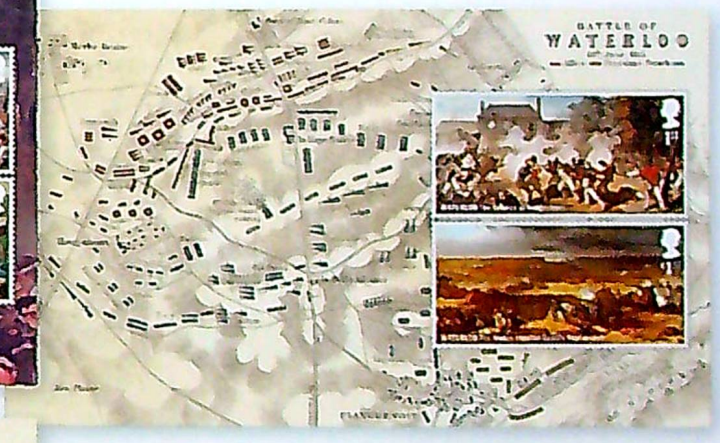
Battle of Waterloo Stamps – Specifications

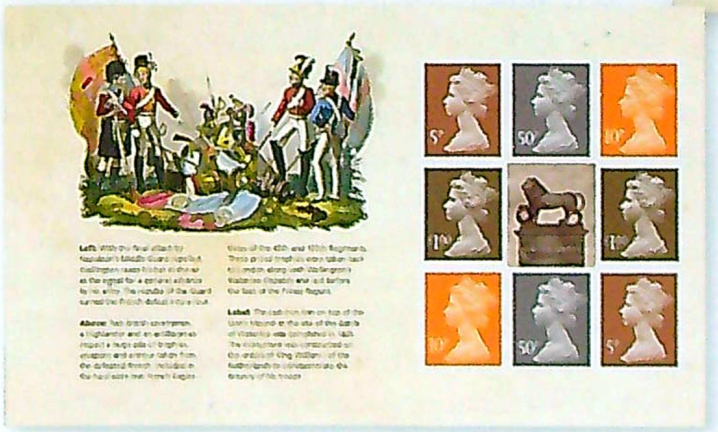
Date of issue	18 June
Number of stamps	Six
Stamp design	Silk Pearce
Stamp format/size	Landscape 60mm x 30mm
Number per sheet	18/36
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA
Perforations	14.5 x 14.5











Waterloo – Prestige Stamp Book panes

Pane 1 has the four Miniature Sheet values and shows an oil study of an aide-de-camp's military equipment. Adjacent text explains the make-up of Wellington's army – about a third of the 70,000 were British and the rest came from the Netherlands, Belgium, Nassau and Hanover.

Pane 2 carries four of the six Battle of Waterloo stamps, set within part of a painting of the courageous 1st Foot Guards and Coldstream Guards defending the fortified farm at Hougoumont against a French attack.

Pane 3, with the remaining two first-class values from the Battle of Waterloo set, features a finely detailed map engraving showing the strategic positioning of the Allied, Prussian and French forces.

Pane 4 has eight mixed-value Machins with a central label showing the lion from the Lion's Mound memorial at the site of Waterloo. The illustration portrays a Highlander, an artilleryman and two cavalrymen inspecting a pile of trophies taken from the French.

Battle of Waterloo – Prices

Stamp Set – 2 x 1st, 2 x £1, 2 x £1.52	£6.30 (set)
Miniature Sheet – 2 x 1st, 2 x £1.33	£3.92
Presentation Pack	£10.75
First Day Cover Stamps/overseas	£8.04/£6.70
First Day Cover Miniature Sheet/overseas	£5.18/£4.32
Prestige Stamp Book	£14.47
Stamp Cards (set of 11)	£4.95
Coin Cover – brilliant uncirculated £5 coin; 6 Specials	£17.50

profiles of Wellington and the Prussian commander Gebhard von Blücher.

The Prestige Stamp Book is a sumptuous 24-page souvenir of Waterloo (above). It explains political events before the battle and an hour-by-hour account of the fighting. Orders for Serviced First Day Covers should reach Royal Mail at Tallents House (address on page 290) by 18 June, quoting *Bulletin* code 15CDE ●

Above: panes from the exquisitely illustrated 24-page Prestige Stamp Book, which reveals intriguing details about the battle



A noble clause

The Magna Carta stamp issue marks the historic document's 800th anniversary and echoes national celebrations of this influential declaration of freedom

THE NEW six-stamp Magna Carta set features the document signed on 15 June 1215 by King John in the meadow of Runnymede, which continues to inspire freedom movements around the world. The civil liberty declarations that it influenced are also detailed on the stamps released on 2 June – including the American Bill of Rights, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Charter of the Commonwealth (see the philatelic preview on page 263 in May's *Bulletin*).

Over eight centuries the influence of the Magna Carta, with its 63 historic clauses supporting the cause of civil freedom, has been enormous. So it is only fitting that commemorative events are taking place in the UK throughout the year to mark its signing by John. Magna Carta was effectively a peace treaty between the king and the rebellious barons he met in the meadow at Windsor.

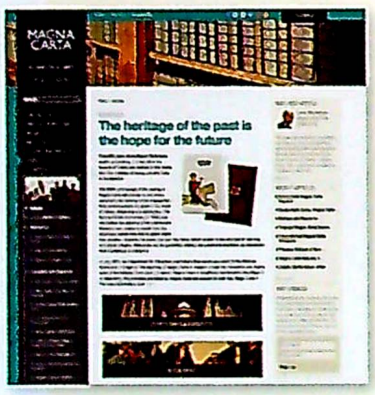
The agreement arose after nobles in the north of England and East Anglia rebelled in 1214 against John's taxation plan to fund a campaign to recover his territories in Normandy. They refused to pay the king's levies. When London went over to the rebels, the barons then had enough power to force John to negotiate. And Magna Carta was born.

Yet Magna Carta was so much more than a peace deal between the powerful. It also established for the first time that a king was subject to the law as much as the next man, and not above it; that

First-class Carta

Freebie alert for young collectors! Every primary school in Britain is being sent a souvenir copy of Magna Carta and a timeline wall chart and guide that follows 800 years in the struggle for civil liberties.

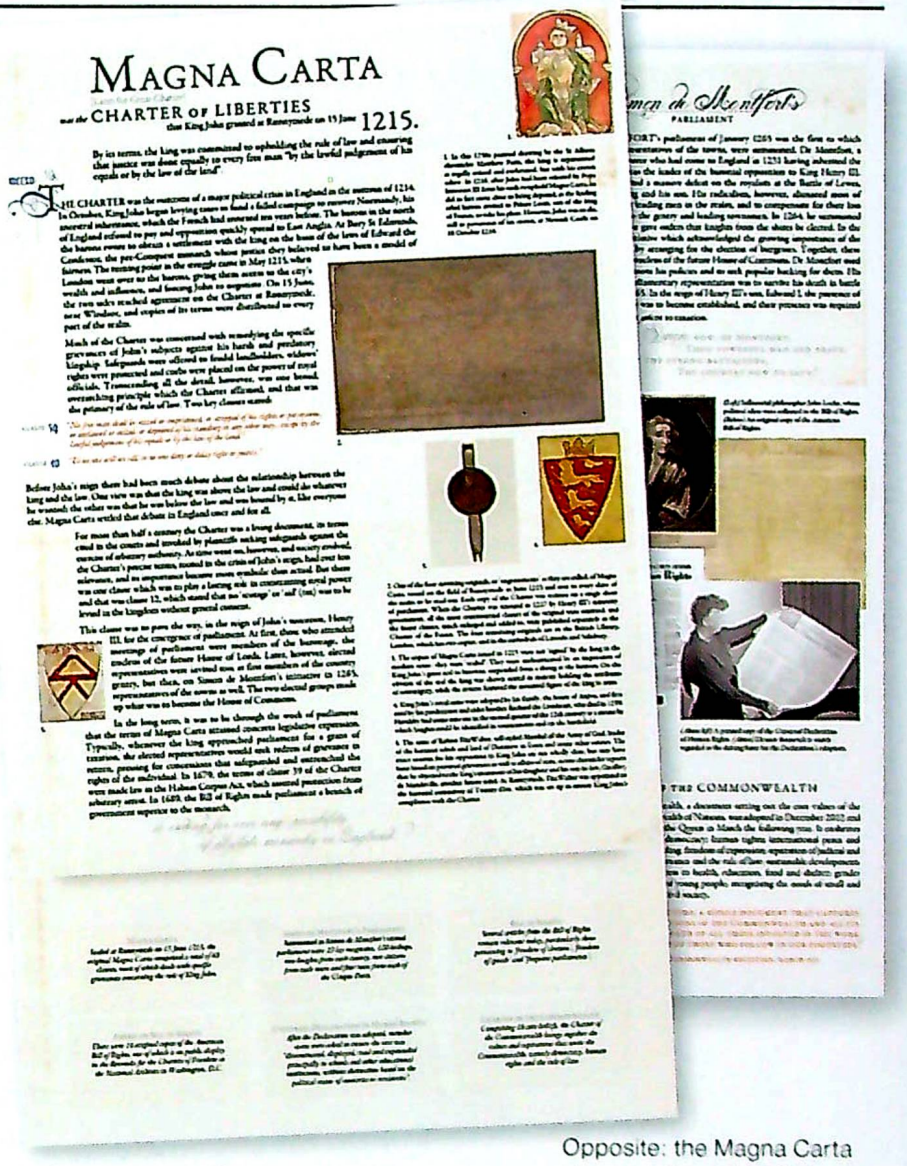
This facsimile of the 1215 edition of Magna Carta, now kept at Salisbury Cathedral, features easy-to-follow annotations that simply explain the document's key clauses.



Many learning resources, linked to key stages of the National Curriculum, are available online, from the Magna Carta Trust at www.magnacarta800th.com/schools and from the British Library at www.bl.uk/magna-carta/teaching-resources.

there were limitations on the monarch's behaviour. Indeed the Royal Mail issue (in the Presentation Pack written by the leading medieval England expert Professor Nigel Saul) reveals the document's enduring importance and the significance of the freedoms it enshrined. Even today some of the freedoms remain on the statute books, such as those from Magna Carta's 39th and 40th clauses, establishing that no person will be imprisoned or have his land taken away unless by the law and judged by his peers.

And the Magna Carta remains a vital cornerstone of the British constitution; its noble principles are echoed in the US constitution and other constitutions across the world. Britain's 1689 Bill of Rights is in some way a progression of the Magna Carta, with its advocation of civil liberties, such as the freedom of speech in Parliament. The US Bill of Rights' indebtedness to the Magna Carta is clear in its fifth amendment, which states that no person should be 'deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law'. The very wording has its roots in the 39th clause of Magna Carta ●



Opposite: the Magna Carta stamps released on 2 June

Above: the Magna Carta issue's Presentation Pack

Magna Carta events 2015

1 June-31 August Exhibition: Magna Carta and the Changing Face of Revolt, Palace Green Library, Palace Green, Durham.

9 June Magna Carta Citizenship Ceremony, Salisbury Cathedral, 6 The Close, Salisbury.

13-14 June Magna Carta 800 medieval festival, Royal Windsor Racecourse, Maidenhead Road, Windsor, 10am to 6pm. Jousting, medieval encampment, a history tent with speakers, falconry.

1 August-30 September Exhibition: The Impact of Magna Carta on the Way We Live, Supreme Court, Parliament Square, London.

Until 1 September Exhibition: Law, Liberty, Legacy, British Library, 96 Euston Road, London. The exhibition features some of history's most influential documents, including the British Library's Magna Cartas, the US Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights.

Until 20 September Exhibition: Marks of Genius, Bodleian Library, Broad Street, Oxford. Oxford's 'Gloucester' Magna Carta will be on display.

25-29 September Cartmel Priory Magna Carta 800 festival, Cartmel, Cumbria. Medieval encampment and tournament, flower show, son et lumiere.

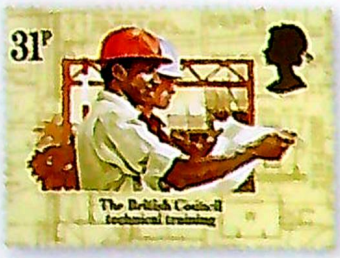
Until 30 September Exhibition: Magna Carta: Icon of Justice – Pledge of Freedom, Hereford Cathedral, Cathedral Close, Hereford.

Until 31 December Exhibition: Magna Carta: Freedom Under Law, Chertsey Museum, 33 Windsor Street, Chertsey.

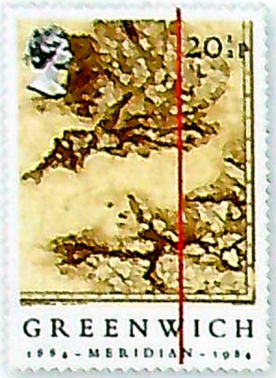
Words on stamps

Decent type We reveal the visual power of the printed word to create stunning stamp issues

Royal Mail is famous for stamp designs that use exquisite art or glorious photography. But as the new Magna Carta issue shows, with its excerpts from historic documents, we should not underestimate the ability of typography to entertain and inform even at postage stamp size. So we have delved into the archives for stamps with lettering that either plays a star role or adds an extra dimension to the artwork – handwriting, print, maps, manuscripts and more…



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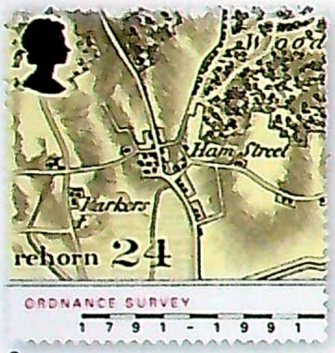
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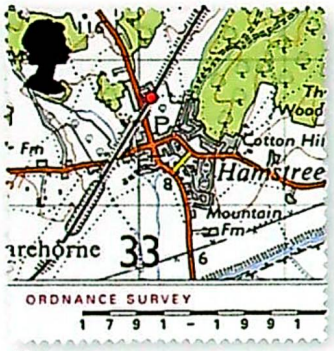
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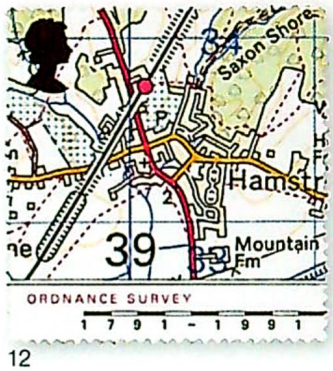
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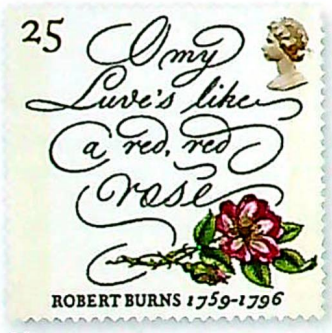
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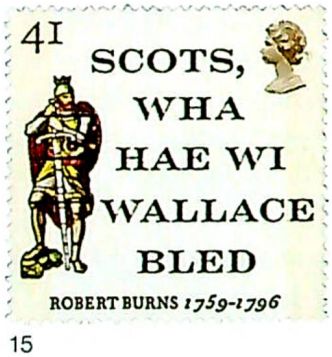
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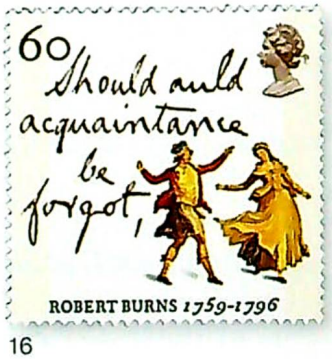
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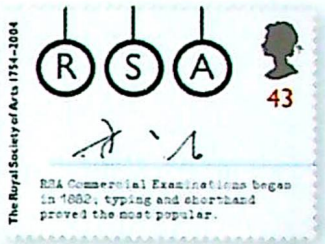
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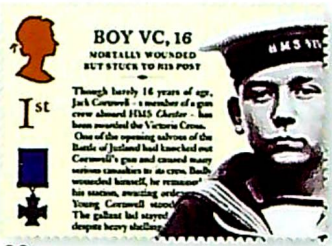
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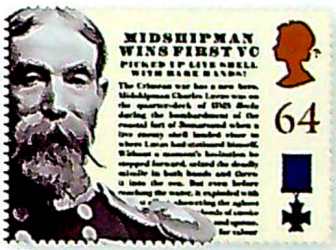
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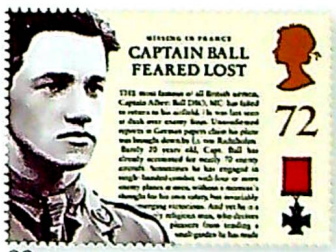
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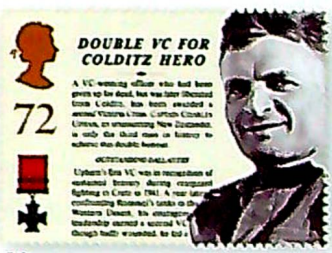
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1 The British Council 1984: Technical Training. **2, 3** Greenwich Meridian Centenary 1984. **4** Death Centenary of Edward Lear 1988. **5-8** Bicentenary of the Linnean Society 1988. **9-12** Ordnance Survey Bicentenary 1991. **13-16** Death Centenary of Robert Burns 1996. **17** Spirit and Faith 2000: St Patrick Centre. **18** JRR Tolkien The Lord of the Rings 2004: Map of Middle Earth. **19-24** 250th Anniversary of the RSA 2004. **25-30** 150th Anniversary of the Victoria Cross 2006. **31-36** Bicentenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade 2007.

What are your favourite words on stamps? We welcome views and any memories evoked by delving back into modern UK stamp history. Just email rmbulletin@rocketmail.com or write to the address on page 293. You can jog your memory by viewing all Royal Mail Special Stamps from the last 50 years at www.rmspecialstamps.com.

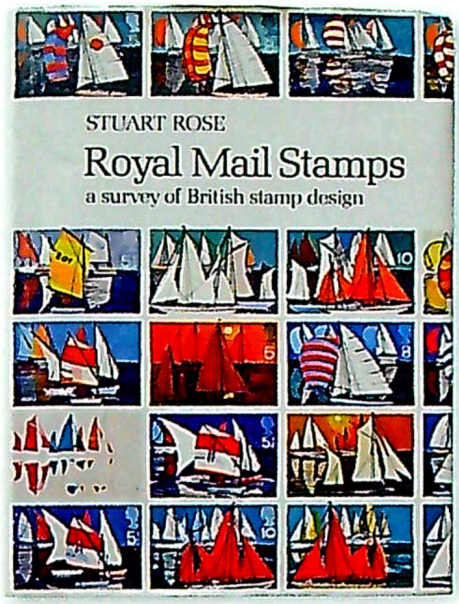


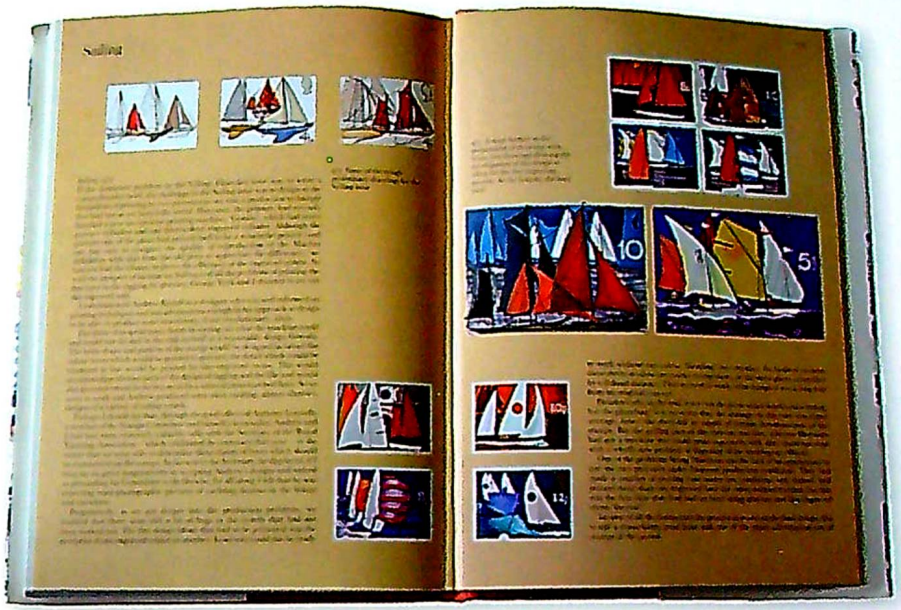
This month in history

John Holman looks back 40 years to a bright and breezy issue of Special Stamps that was anything but plain sailing

FORTY YEARS AGO, on 11 June 1975, the Post Office issued one of its more interesting sets of Special Stamps. The four-stamp Sailing issue, marking the bicentenary of the Royal Thames Yacht Club and the centenary of the Royal Yachting Association, comprised: Sailing Dinghies (7p), Racing Keel Boats (8p), Cruising Yachts (10p) and Multihulls (12p). The set was designed by Andrew Restall, who first came to fame with his Forth Road Bridge stamps in 1964. Restall's bold and colourful designs were popular with Stuart Rose, the Post Office design chief who devoted two pages to this issue in his 1980 book Royal Mail Stamps; Restall's unused designs for the issue featured on the dust jacket of the book. Rose described Restall as 'a designer who was well informed on printing techniques and was adventurous enough in his approach to design to be able to produce some innovatory, if not revolutionary, ideas'.

The Sailing stamps were printed by Harrisons in photogravure and recess (intaglio) – the first time Harrisons had done so in a single run using its famous Jumelle machine. The end results should have been rather impressive but production coincided with industrial disputes in the printing industry, and this affected not only the quality of print but also the numbers produced. The recess printing was particularly affected and outlines, waves and rigging were often partially lost. The black recess colour is known totally missing on 10p stamps, but the numbers found make this a rather inexpensive missing colour error compared to many others. The 7p and 12p stamps were printed in five photogravure colours, the 8p in six and the 10p





in four, and all with gold for The Queen's silhouette and black recess printing. The *Stanley Gibbons GB Specialised Catalogue* notes that the printing of the 10p value was interrupted because the orange colour was unstable and could be rubbed off. For the second printing, a sealer was added, which resulted in a paler, duller orange. Stamps from the two printings are priced the same in the catalogue; stamps from the first printing are found in the Presentation Pack.

About 200 copies of the 8p with missing recess black are known, including one on a first day cover with Bury St Edmunds postmark. About 50 8p stamps exist with missing gold, the result of a dry print. The 12p exists with missing phosphor, and with the rose colour omitted in the sails. Over 1,000 copies are believed to exist, making it one of the cheapest missing colours. The 12p also exists with rose and black colours partially omitted. Two constant varieties are listed in the *Specialised Catalogue* on the 7p stamp and four on the 10p value.

Post Office first day covers were serviced with the Philatelic Bureau postmark, and the *Bulletin* announced a one-off 'First Day of Issue' postmark for Weymouth. Covers exist with Bureau postmark and 'Arphila 75 Paris' exhibition cachet, and sponsored special handstamps for the Royal Thames Yacht Club (London SW1) and Royal Dorset Yacht Club (Weymouth). Covers were also posted to receive relevant local postmarks: the one for Cowes, Isle of Wight was popular and highly priced in FDC catalogues. A presentation pack was available, as was a stamp card (sold at 5p) reproducing just the 8p stamp.

Supplies of the 12p stamp sold out shortly after issue, while the other values remained on philatelic sale until 10 June 1976. Owing to the production problems, the numbers sold are rather less than for other issues of the time, ranging from 2.5 million of the 12p to 17 million of the 7p first class UK letter rate stamp. Some 125,610 presentation packs were sold.

The June 1975 issue of the *Bulletin* made much of the printing of the stamps by two processes, and also included features on yacht and dinghy racing, and notable sailing anniversaries •



Top: Stuart Rose's book *Royal Mail Stamps* featured the design development of the Sailing issue

Above: the 1975 *Bulletin* feature about Sailing stamps

G is for... guaranteed delivery



Fig 1



Fig 2

From its beginnings in 1878, Colin Baker traces the history of guaranteed delivery service

Fig 1 1878 issue – the first issue of special envelopes for the registration of coin

Fig 2 Registration envelopes were often used for mail to foreign countries – this one was sent to Germany, with no street address

Fig 3 A fresh compensation schedule pasted over an outdated version

Fig 4 Combined registration fee and postage stamps were introduced in 1902

Fig 5 1995 waterproof, plastic registration envelope

Fig 6 In 2004 the stamp was replaced with a simple device to indicate postage was paid

IN THE 19TH CENTURY large numbers of people worked away from home in factories located in big towns and cities. They would send part of their wages back to their families by enclosing coins in a cheap envelope. Banks were for the very rich, postal orders were yet to be created and bank notes were usually too high in value for the small sums being posted. All too often, therefore, the coins would fall out of these cheap envelopes and would be found in mailbags, leading to the Post Office being accused of stealing people's cash.

The registration of letters had been available from the early days of the postal service, though they often guaranteed nothing but a signature on delivery, and certainly no recompense for loss of contents. In any case the additional cost of registering a letter was beyond anything that could be afforded by the working classes.

The Post Office had to do something, and in 1878 it introduced prepaid registration envelopes, a service we now know as guaranteed delivery. These tough envelopes, made from stout reinforced paper, could not burst open and if they were lost in the post the Post Office would pay the sender compensation. The registration fee payable, in addition to the normal postage cost, was set at 2d, a small enough sum that most ordinary working people could afford.

For reasons that are not completely clear today, the Post Office decided that the new envelopes would carry a 2d stamp for the basic registration fee only. The normal cost of postage would have to be paid with adhesive stamps. The registration stamp was placed on the envelope flap where there was no paper reinforcement and hence no undue wear on the embossing dies. The envelope

design put this stamp on the reverse once the envelope was sealed. Changes in the position of this stamp were made at the end of the 19th century, but it was not until the King Edward VII registration envelopes were issued that a combined postage and registration fee embossed stamp was used, positioned on the front of the envelope.

The amount of compensation payable for loss or damage changed as the registration fees changed. In the era of Queen Victoria this was often printed on the backs of registration envelopes, but the continual changes made to compensation schedules meant that many envelopes had to have revised tables of compensation charges pasted over outdated information. This practice put an undue burden on postmasters in busy post offices, and it came to a stop at the end of Queen Victoria's reign when users were referred to the Post Office Guide for the latest information.

Throughout the 20th century there were few changes to registration envelopes and the service continued to be popular and widely used. Today the service has been extended, becoming a guarantee of delivery by a specific time in addition to giving security to users. The old-fashioned reinforced paper envelopes have been replaced by plastic ones with self-seal flaps, though modern prepaid envelopes are no longer sold over the counter and have to be ordered from Post Office stores, either online at shop.royalmail.com/special-delivery-guaranteed or through your local Post Office counter •

Next in Baker's A to Z of Postal Stationery: H is for Halfpenny Post. Colin Baker is Secretary of the Postal Stationery Society. He welcomes enquiries about the Society by email at pss.secretary@gmail.com.

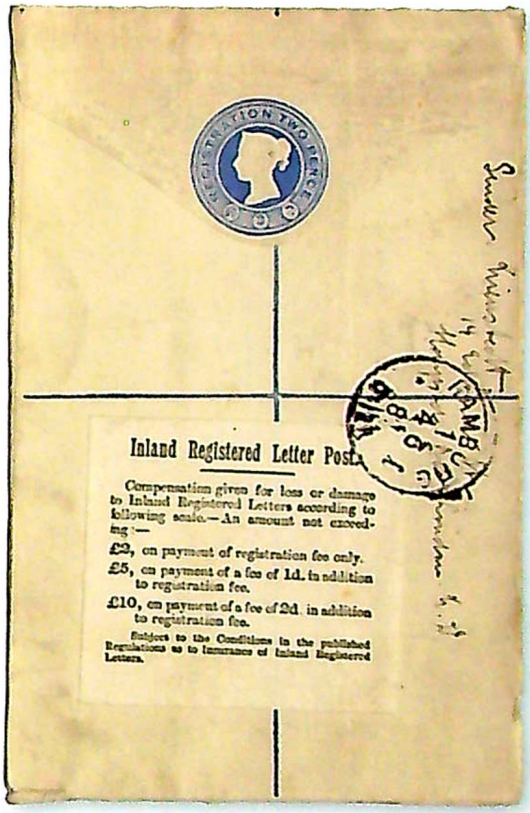


Fig 3

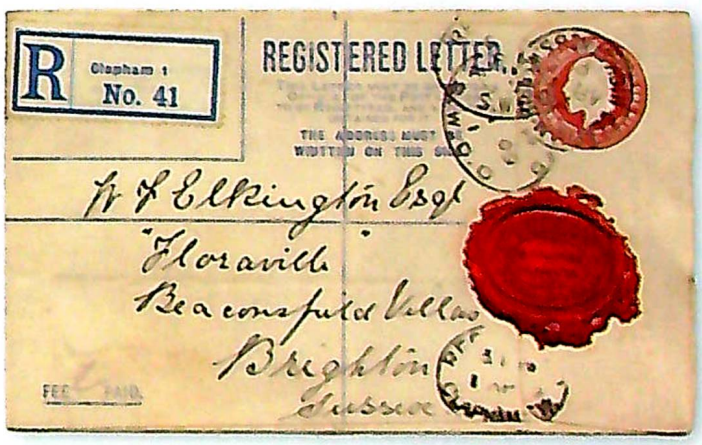


Fig 4

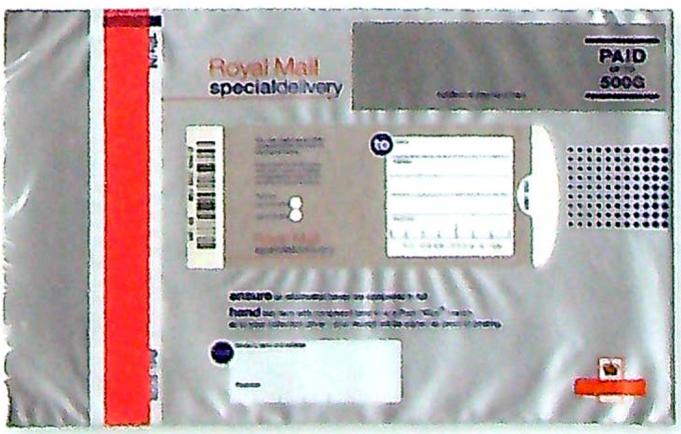


Fig 6

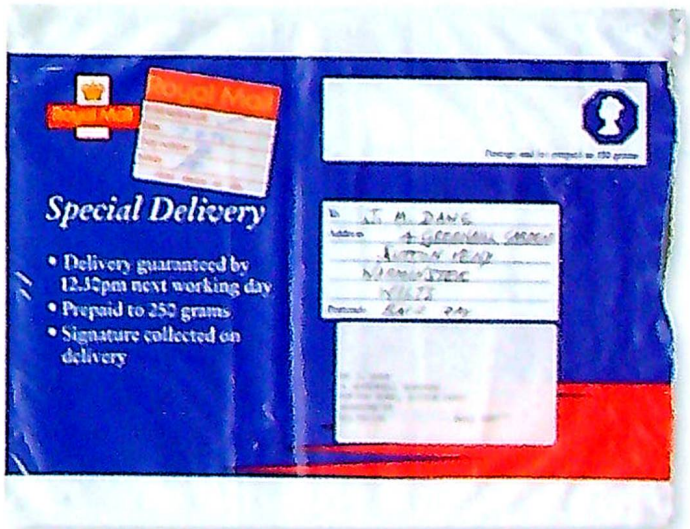


Fig 5



1840 EUROPHILEX STAMP EXHIBITION LONDON 2015

Above: building the Royal Mail stand; inside the Business Design Centre; the philatelic counter at the Royal Mail stand; the exhibition logo used on special postmarks

A show to remember

London 2015 Europhilex was a stamping success

AROUND 13,500 PEOPLE took the opportunity of celebrating their shared interest in stamps by visiting the recent four-day London 2015 Europhilex. The atmosphere was lively and congenial, with Islington's Business Design Centre lit by spring sunshine for much of the time and many languages to be heard as various study groups and philatelic friends met up along the galleries.

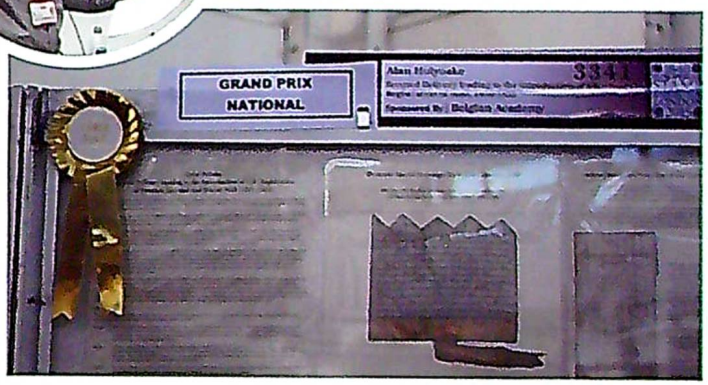
Highlights of the event included a huge display area containing more than 1,500 frames of competitive exhibits and winning displays from the thematic arm of London 2015 held a week earlier in Essen, Germany.

In the remarkable Club de Monte-Carlo exhibition of 'Philatelic Events That Changed The World', pride of place was given to original designs for the Penny Black, the world's first adhesive postage stamp issued in May 1840. Marking its 175th anniversary was the limited-edition exhibition issue of Royal Mail's Penny Black Miniature Sheet, which was in great demand. Other popular choices for first day covers with the daily special Europhilex souvenir postmarks were the Royal Mail First World War 1915 Special Stamps and Post & Go Heraldic Beasts ●













Clockwise from top left: Patrick Maselis opens 'Philatelic Events That Changed The World'; Marcus James gives a seminar on stamp design; a young collector in the Stamp Active youth area; Alan Holyoake's Grand Prix-winning display; the Royal Mail stand; philatelic exhibits area; William Doherty and Pritpal Mann talk with *Bulletin* prizewinner Roger Hawkins; Roger meets Andrew Hammond and Martyn Fry at the exhibition, after his guided tour of Royal Mail's Special Handstamp Centre

Photographs: Jay Bigalke/American Philatelic Society www.stamps.org; Paul Elmes; Dane Garrod

Palmares

- Grand Prix d'Honneur – Best in show

James Peter Gough for 'The UPU and its Impact on Global Postal Services'.

- Grand Prix National

Alan Holyoake, 'Secured Delivery Leading to the Introduction of UK Registration of Internal, External and Transit Mail 1450-1852'.

- Youth Philately Best in Class

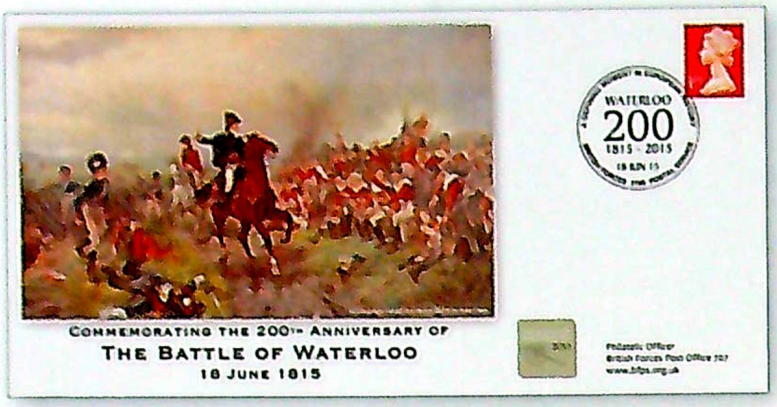
Hanna Pilpipovich, 'On the 100th Anniversary of the Romanov Series'.



Waterloo hat trick

Orders and enquiries

The British Forces Philatelic Service
BFPS
The Old Post Office
Links Place
Elie
Fife KY9 1AX
www.bfps.org.uk
(Cheques payable BFPS CIC. Postage and packing is free for UK/BFPO addresses.)







The British Forces Philatelic Service (BFPS) marks the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo with a set of three commemorative covers for release on 18 June. To produce these handsome covers, the BFPS has worked in partnership with the Waterloo 200 Committee, the Headquarters of The Royal Logistic Corps and the Headquarters of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards.

Two of the covers bear the new Special Stamps from the Royal Mail Battle of Waterloo issue, and each one is cancelled with a unique handstamp. They depict various battle scenes and use images taken from painting by notable artists: *Wellington at Waterloo* by Robert Alexander Hillingford; *The Resupply of Ammunition by the Royal Waggon Train to Hougoumont Farm on the Afternoon of 18 June 1815* (colloquially referred to as 'Powder and Shot' and currently in the Officers' Mess at Grantham) by Charles Stadden; and 'The Charge of The Royal Scots Greys' by Lady Elizabeth Butler.

'An epic and important battle such as Waterloo deserves commemorating in a special way and we believe that BFPS has done that with the release of these covers,' says Lt Col Denis Dillon, Joint Managing Director of the British Forces Philatelic Service.

Price: £6 for the unsigned version and £12 for signed versions (details of high-profile signatories to be announced at www.bfpa.org.uk) ●

Cover producers wishing to announce a recent or forthcoming cover should submit copy of up to 75 words and a high-resolution image of the cover. Announcements are published at the discretion of the Editors.
Send submissions for August *Bulletin* by 3 July to the address on page 290 or by email to rmbulletin@rocketmail.com.

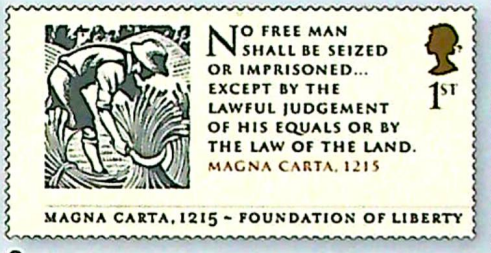
Wise words Win a new issue with our clever quiz on wordy stamps



1



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3



4

WORDS QUIZ The new Magna Carta issue shows tracts from famous declarations of freedom, so this month our quiz is all about stamps featuring the written word. Get all the answers write (sorry) and you could win the new issue's Presentation Pack and a Royal Mail Presentation Pack album.

1 What word describes the cat on this 1998 stamp commemorating the centenary of Edward Lear's death?

a Loony **b** Lovely **c** Leary

2 What location was the focus of the 1991 Ordnance Survey stamps?

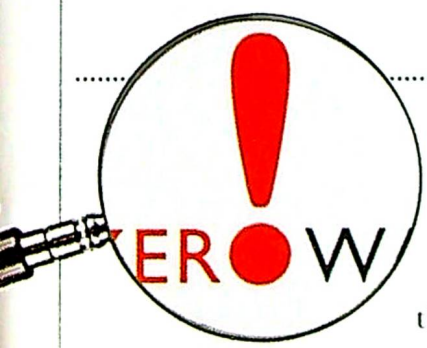
a Ham Street **b** Coronation Street **c** Sesame Street

3 The Magna Carta was signed in a meadow near which famous English 'royal' town?

a Bracknell **b** East Grinstead **c** Windsor

4 What beastie is described on this stamp from the 1996 Robert Burns issue?

a Louse **b** Mouse **c** Grouse



NAME THAT STAMP From the detail shown left identify the stamp's value, the name of the stamp issue and the year of issue.

How to enter Send your answers, marked 'Words 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 10 July 2015. The first correct entries drawn in each section after the closing date win the Magna Carta Presentation Pack and Royal Mail album, shown below. Four runners-up win stamps.



February solutions and winners *Lab Test* 1a, 2c, 3c, 4b. *Winners* R J Hawkins; J Bruce; S Kempster. *Name That Stamp* Inventive Britain, £1.47, DNA Sequencing. *Winners* K Khoo; P Hanna; D Dick.

March solutions and winners *Bridges Brainteaser* 1a, 2c, 3b, 4a. *Winners* E Emery; K Ruffell; D Squires; M Tauru; D Hughes. *Name That Stamp* Tees Transporter Bridge, First Class, 2015. *Winners* R Sayers; D Bowcock; A Domenici; S Brennan; J Baldwin •

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.

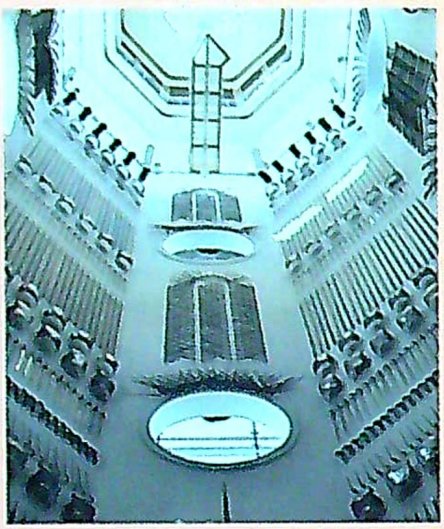
Stamp images © Royal Mail Group Ltd

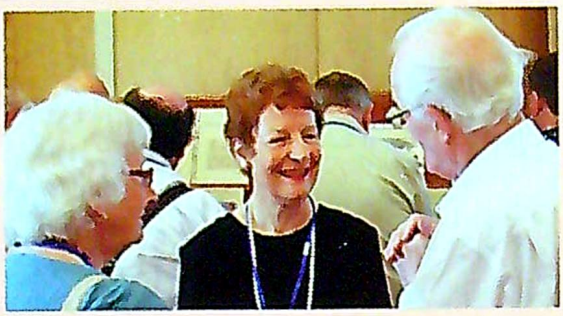
Looking forward to Leeds











Collectors gathering at The Queens hotel (above left) can explore local attractions including Temple Newsam House (above) and the superb shopping centre including the Victoria Arcade (far left). The Congress Banquet takes place at the Royal Armouries (left). Yvonne Wheatley (above) is Chairof Congress. Find further details and programme at www.gbcongress.uk

6 to 9 August 2015

The Philatelic Congress of Great Britain is organised annually by the Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS). It offers a great chance to meet fellow collectors in an informal atmosphere and to enjoy a wide range of displays and expert talks.

Now is the time to book for the 97th Congress, which begins on the first Thursday of August at The Queens hotel, Leeds. This four-star landmark hotel is right next to Leeds railway station, so rail travel is recommended. The host association is the Leeds Philatelic Society, which was founded in 1890 – the year chosen as the theme of the Congress and also the year in which the Uniform Penny Post celebrated its Golden Jubilee.

To book for Congress 2015 or to find out details about the programme of events, call Paul Gaywood on 01772 713917 or email gaywood@hotmail.co.uk or visit www.gbcongress.uk •

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