

BRITISH *PHILATELIC*

The ROYAL MAIL magazine *for stamp collectors*

Volume 40 Number 6

FEBRUARY 2003 £1.10

Bulletin

Philatelic promotions • Fun
Fruit & Veg issue • Auctions



1ST



Forthcoming issues and withdrawals

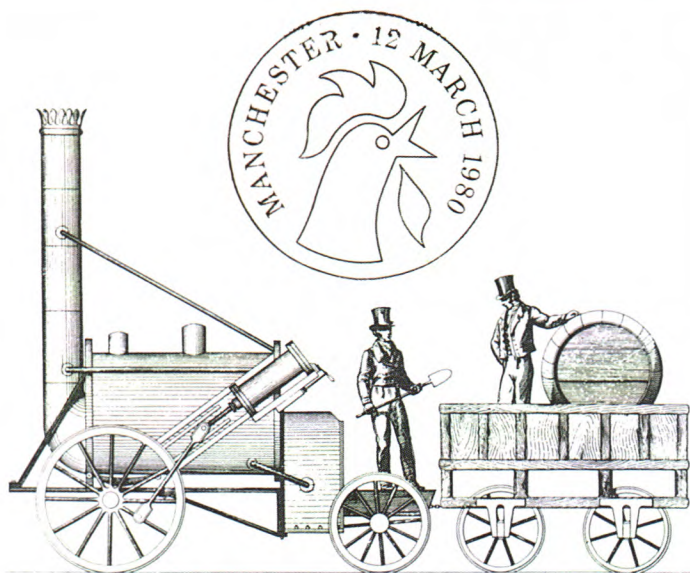


Cover Royal Mail's 'design-it-yourself' Fruit & Veg stamps are previewed this month, on p176. A corner of the postcard of the lemon stamp is shown with lemons, photographed by Geoff Dann.

4 February	Issue Occasions stamps, presentation pack and Smilers sheet (generic and personalised versions)
5 February	Withdrawal Golden Jubilee stamps, presentation pack, and <i>A Gracious Accession</i> prestige book
18 February	Issue Secret of Life stamp cards
25 February	Issue Secret of Life stamps and presentation pack; <i>Microcosmos</i> prestige book, Secret of Life coin cover
4 March	Issue 6 x 1st class stamp book – 'Hello' (2002) Occasions stamps
18 March	Issue Fun Fruit & Veg stamp cards
18 March	Withdrawal Coastlines stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards
25 March	Issue Fun Fruit & Veg stamps and presentation pack
27 March	Issue Universal Europe and Universal Rest of World definitive stamps in books of 4; stamp cards showing Universal Europe and 1st class gold Machin definitive stamps

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

Contents



Philatelic promotions An examination of Royal Mail's approach to special offers – from its initial reluctance to final embracing, by Richard West 170

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 Talents 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

Issues and withdrawals February to March 162

Stamp scene Stampex; World Championships 2004; Bookham Stamp Club anniversary; GB literature; Auctions 164

Royal Mail news New and forthcoming stamp issues; Wilding sheets; Series of ingot folders; Philatelic Census 167

Philately online Ron Negus looks at national sites 169

Fun Fruit & Veg This new issue offers a rare opportunity to design your own stamps 176

Auctions Windsor and Labrador Collections at Harmers; Cavendish news 180



Mainly Machins Report by D G A Myall 182

Salamanca exhibition Richard West reports 184



Michael Furnell *Stamp Lover's* Editor talks to Richard West 186

Posting boxes 187

Special draw Win one of 20 prizes 187

Postbag Letters to the Editor 188

Competitions £200 to be won in two easy-to-enter competitions 189

Events 189

Late news 190

Stamp scene Spring Stampex • FIP World Stamp Championship • New GB literature

Stampex opening times

26 February	Noon-19.00
27 Feb-1 March	10.30-18.00
2 March	10.30-15.00

.....
Admission is free on all days.

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

For a continually updated list
of dealers attending, see the
PTS website: www.philatelic-traders-society.co.uk

Spring Stampex, organised by the Philatelic Traders' Society, will be held at the Business Design Centre, Upper Street, London N1, 26 February - 2 March. On the 'Village Green' area the invited display entitled EuroApex will be mounted by the British Aerophilatelic Federation who will be displaying over 100 frames of exhibits from the many areas covered by their members. Up in the Gallery there will be a display of members of the Czechoslovak Society of Great Britain covering the many aspects of this fascinating country. Members of the societies will be on hand and happy to answer any questions regarding the Society. At the rear of the mezzanine will be an extensive display mounted by Heritage, Royal Mail entitled 'Royal Mail – the Real Network' featuring the real story and the real people of Royal Mail and containing much material from the archives never shown before, also artifacts.

There will be the usual range of dealers catering for all kinds of collector, from beginner to specialist, supplying mint and used stamps, old and new covers, accessories and literature. About one-fifth of dealers are from overseas.

Royal Mail will offer its full range of stamps and philatelic products, including the latest Occasions issue and Secret of Life stamps and PSB. A special postmark will be applied to mail posted at the stand at the exhibition. Collectors unable to visit Stampex can send covers, bearing at least 1st class postage, to: Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Mount Pleasant, London EC1A 1BB requesting Stampex postmark and stating date(s) required. Covers must be received by the date of cancellation wanted.

There will be a stand for the Friends of Postal Heritage, and David Harrop's display on the theme 'Coronations' will include more material from his Manchester Postal Museum. Members of the National Philatelic Society will man the information stand inside the main entrance where visitors can pick up the free Stampex catalogue. A number of societies, including the Great Britain PS, Egypt Study Group, Concorde Study Circle, Ceylon Study Circle, Polar Postal History Society, British Aerophilatelic Federation, and the Natal & Zululand Study Circle will hold meetings at Stampex on the Saturday or Sunday.

The National Youth Stamp Group will provide activities for young collectors including a chance to amass free points to spend in the free auction on the Saturday. The theme this time is Birds to coincide with the Royal Mail Birds of Prey stamps (14 January).

Stampex will be giving a free limited edition postcard to all visitors. The card, by kind permission of Heritage Royal Mail, features the original artwork by William W Lendon for the card for the 1911 Coronation Aerial Post. This will complement the Aerophilatelic show on the Village Green, also the theme of Coronation – 2003 being the 50th anniversary of The Queen's Coronation •

World Stamp Championship 2004 Some details have been announced of the first FIP (Fédération Internationale de Philatélie) World Stamp Championship to be held in Singapore, 28 August - 1 September 2004. It will cover approximately 15,000 square metres, with up to 400 frames of selected one-frame exhibits from all over the world, with prizes for the top 10 best exhibits nominated by a special jury. All accepted one-frame exhibits will be awarded a special medal of participation. The finals in each class are planned to be conducted on a specially designed stage where the judging can be filmed for television. There will also be a World Philatelic Seminar with world class speakers on topics of concern to the further development of philately and the future of stamp collecting as a hobby. The seminar topics will be relevant to educationists, philatelists, postal and philatelic administrators, and the general public. Further details in due course •

Bookham Stamp Club The Club, 10 years old next month, has been the fastest growing stamp club in the UK and won the prestigious Rowland Hill award for 'New Horizons' in 1996. The Club has over 100 members and attendance at the monthly meetings is between 50 and 60. As part of its 10th anniversary, the Club will be hosting the Federation of Surrey Philatelic Societies Spring Convention on 22 March in the Old Barn Hall, Church Road, Great Bookham, 10.30-16.30. This includes a stamp fair with about 15 dealers. Competition entries for the Federation's Annual competition and Open competitions will be on display together with the entries for the Dawes Cup, an inter-federation competition for Surrey, Sussex, Kent, Middlesex, and Essex. Refreshments will be available, admission free •

Bookham Stamp Club For more information about the Club and the Fair contact Rodney Partridge on 01372 456760.

GB literature The October issue of The GB Perfin Society Bulletin contains articles and notes on British gas perfin on registered postal stationery, a useful perfin glossary, new identities submitted to the catalogue editor, and an intriguing article about Thomas Cook's Underground Mail. During the First World War, Thomas Cook were asked by the Government to act as intermediaries in the mailing of private letters to people in enemy territory. The service began in 1917 and again operated during the 1939-45 war. Some of the mail handled bears TC/s perfins •

Enquiries Dave Hill, Wheal Florence, Helston Road, Rosudgeon, Penzance TR20 9PA.

Society membership is £5 UK, £7 Europe/abroad surface, and £10 airmail. Meetings are held in London in May and November.

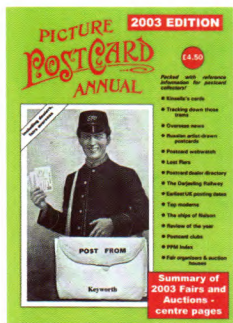
The long-awaited new (2003) edition of the *Collect GB First Day Covers* catalogue, compiled and edited by Jeffrey H Booth, is now available. It runs to 400 pages and includes a wealth of valuable information for collectors of GB FDCs from the Fourpenny Post of 1839 through to the World Cup stamps of May 2002. There are separate listings for the issues of Victoria to George VI, Channel Island issues (1940-48), Elizabeth II commemoratives, QEII definitives, regionals, booklets, Dues and coils, and GB overprint issues. Two special colour features show some collectors' philatelic gems and covers bearing 1924-25 British Empire Exhibition stamps. Other FDCs are illustrated and strategically placed throughout the book. There is an announcement of a GB FDC expert certification service – the first of its kind specialising in FDCs. Interestingly the values for FDCs of the 1952 1½d and 2½d Wildings range from £1.50 for a plain cover to £185 for an illus-

Collect GB First Day Covers

Price £8.50, postage £1 UK, £2 overseas from: First Day Publishing Company, PO Box 947, Lewes BN8 6ZS. Telephone 01903 883862.

Enquiries Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY

The London Philatelist, journal of the Royal Philatelic Society London, won a gold medal at Chicagopex, a major international philatelic exhibition. The journal is a credit to the Society and its Editor, Frank Walton. For details telephone 020 7486 1044, or write to the address opposite ●



2003 Picture Postcard Annual The 23rd edition of this useful reference guide for collectors of old and modern postcards is now available. It includes lists of postcard dealers, auction houses, fair organisers, postcard clubs, and a summary of 2003 fairs and auctions. Feature articles cover ships, trams, the artist Pat Kinsella, piers, and Indian railways. The list of earliest posting dates for postcards of various locations and subjects is updated, and a review of the past year and top modern cards of 2002 remind readers of the latest trends. The Annual is well-produced, 96 pages. Available from postcard dealers, fairs or shops, price £4.50 or £5.50 postpaid direct from the publisher: Reflections of a Bygone Age, 15 Debdale Lane, Keyworth, Nottingham NG12 5HT; telephone 0115 937 4079. *Picture Postcard Monthly* is available from the same address, the annual subscription is £28 UK, £34 Europe, £45 America, £47 Australasia •

166

Forthcoming auctions On 12 February Spink will auction the Richard Chan collection of used Victorian and mint and used Edwardian stamps and covers at its London headquarters. The next day the sale will take place in Singapore of the Dr Cheah Way Mun collection of Straits Settlements and Japanese Occupation of Malaya. The London auction on 20 March will be of British Empire stamps and postal history. Enquiries: Spink, 69 Southampton Row, London WC1B 4ET. Telephone 020 7563 4000 •

The Bonham Stamps & Covers of the World auction on 12-13 February includes a specialised collection of Wildings. Enquiries: Bonhams Stamp Dept, 101 New Bond Street, London W1S 1SR. Telephone 020 7468 8373 •

Cavendish will auction the Richard C K Chan collection of Hong Kong treaty ports on 6 March. Enquiries: Cavendish Philatelic Auctions Ltd, 153-157 London Road, Derby DE1 2SY. Telephone 01332 250970 •

Royal Mail news Current and future issues

• Wildings • Ingot folders • Philatelic Census

New issues Two sets of stamps are being issued this month. A third series of Occasions stamps and a Smilers sheet will go on sale on 4 February, followed by Secret of Life stamps and prestige book on 25 February. Both were previewed in last month's *Bulletin*.

A new book will be issued on 4 March – this will contain four 1st class definitives and two of the 1st class 'Hello' Occasions stamps of 2002. All are printed in gravure by Questa – the Hello stamp was previously litho. The book costs £1.62. Details of the Fun Fruit & Veg stamps (25 March) are given on pages 176-178 in this *Bulletin*.

Details will follow next month of the Extreme Endeavours issue (29 April), commemorating Amy Johnson, Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay, Freya Stark, Ernest Shackleton, Francis Chichester, and Robert Falcon Scott. Three of the six stamps are shown here, at proof stage •



Wilding miniature sheet The sheet issued on 5 December was printed in sheets of 18 (3 x 6) from cylinders 1A bistre brown (47p) 1B green (1st class) 1C red (2nd), 1D brown (33p) 1E magenta (37p) 1F orange (1p) 1G blue (2p) 1H deep brown (5p) 1I green (50p) P26 (phosphor). The numbers were printed in the right sheet margin and trimmed off when the individual sheets were cut from the printer's sheet.

A second Wilding miniature sheet will be issued on 20 May – details will be published shortly •

Ingot folders A series of attractive folders containing silver ingots of Victorian stamps is in preparation. These will feature: Penny Back, Halfpenny Red, embossed shilling, £5 orange, Penny Lilac, and a stamp from the 1887 'Jubilee' issue. Details of availability will be published here when known. These folders, and a presentation pack in which to store them, will be available only from Tallents House, Edinburgh. The first in a series of ingot covers featuring the Pillar to Post stamps is now available – see p135 of January *Bulletin* for details ●

Going off sale Readers are reminded that the Golden Jubilee stamps, presentation pack, stamp cards, and *A Gracious Accession* prestige book will be withdrawn from sale on 5 February ●

Philatelic Census Last year Royal Mail launched a scheme known as the 'Philatelic Census', the purpose of which was to collect the names of stamp collectors who only buy their stamps and stamp products from Post Office branches. The reason for launching the Census was to enable Royal Mail to keep these customers better informed about forthcoming stamp issues and to provide more in-depth information about these stamps. Over 20,000 people filled in the questionnaire, and every respondent received a special souvenir cover as a thank you.

Conscious that there is a considerable number of customers out there who did not get the chance to participate in the Philatelic Census, Royal Mail will be repeating this exercise over the coming months through a range of activities. Stamp collectors who buy their stamps from their local Post Office branch will be invited to complete a short questionnaire, which will be available from a number of sources. Once again every respondent will be sent a special gift and will also be entered into a prize draw for the chance to win a major prize. The questionnaires will be available from a number of sources: copies will be enclosed with the Secret of Life first day covers sent from the six Special Handstamp Centres; available at Spring Stampex (26 February - 2 March); counter clerks will hand out copies in a selected number of Post Offices on the day of issue of the Fun Fruit & Veg stamps (25 March); and copies will be enclosed in other key philatelic magazines. Alternatively, a copy can be obtained by writing to Paul Malone, Royal Mail Stamps & Collectibles, 3rd floor, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ ●

Bulletin price After more than six years since the last increase, it is necessary to raise the *Bulletin* price from this issue. Single copies are now £1.10, annual subscription is £11.75 UK and Europe and £16.75 rest of world (air-mail). The subscriptions to the *Postmark Bulletin* are also being increased – the first rise for over 10 years. Subscription is now £12.25 UK and Europe, and £24.95 rest of world.

For a free sample copy of the *Postmark Bulletin* write to: the Editor, Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ ●

Philately on-line Ron Negus investigates two national sites



The Royal Philatelic Society London



The Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY
Tel: +44 (0)20 7486 1044 Fax: +44 (0)20 7486 0803

New Additions
In the meeting handout section we have added the following:
Saudi Arabia: Development of the Postal Service (1861 - 2001)
Display for Members of the American Air Mail Society

WHAT IS NPS
About NPS
What can NPS Offer you?
I don't live near London
What about non-Members
OFFICERS & CONSTITUTION
NPS Officers and Council
Constitution
HOW TO JOIN
Annual subscriptions
Application form
MEETINGS & EVENTS
Monthly meetings
Other meetings and events
This Season
Next Season
NPS Annual Competitions
NEWS
Latest - 17/10/2002

The National Philatelic Society is one of the largest general philatelic societies in Great Britain whose members are drawn from throughout the UK and Overseas

The Society is based at

British Philatelic Centre
107 Charterhouse Street
London
EC1M 6PT
United Kingdom

Telephone: 020 7336 0882
Fax: 020 7490 4253
Email: info@npsphilately.org.uk

NATIONAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY
NEWS
The British Philatelic Centre
Weekend Underground
Courses at Farringdon
from 16 November
NPS Appraisal Scheme
for National Competitions
is now online

THE TWO MAJOR UK organisations that are non-specialist in their subject coverage are the Royal Philatelic Society London and the National Philatelic Society. Both of them support their own websites, and have recently spent much time developing them. Each is very well worth a visit.

The Royal Philatelic Society London is the oldest stamp society in the world and was formed as long ago as 1869. The opening page of its website (www.rpsl.org.uk) features its imposing front entrance in Devonshire Place, London W1. On subsequent pages are photographs of the building's interior, including its world famous library.

In the Library section, an explanation is provided of the way in which holdings are organised. This gives details of the access available to members for the various classes of publications. This part of the site also has a full listing of periodicals from around the world which the Library holds. This covers magazines that are extinct, plus those it now receives regularly, including the publication dates held for the current and past journal stocks. Another sub-section of the Library pages gives a summary of the large number of national and international exhibition catalogues held by the Society. Some of these refer to shows that took place in the 19th century.

The 'Publications' heading shows a priced listing of the various handbooks which the Royal has produced that are still in print. Also included here are details of the *London Philatelist*, the magazine the Society has published continuously since 1892. A separate section within this provides 'Notes for Contributors' explaining the house style for articles.

Details of the current programme are shown under the heading 'Events'. A new component of this section has started to give reproductions of the handouts provided by speakers at meetings. This is a very welcome addition as the extremely high quality of the material shown in displays at the Royal is renowned, and showing the handouts will allow the finer points of these shows to be appreciated by a wider audience.

The National Philatelic Society (at www.philately.org.uk/nps) also gives a short summary of recent meetings on its site, so that potential members can see the type of displays that are given regularly at its London headquarters. In addition, web pages are included covering the various activities of the Society, that used to be called the Junior Philatelic Society and was formed by Fred J Melville in 1899. These give details of the future meetings programme, *Stamp Lover* magazine, the Library, the Circulating Packet and the monthly auctions.

The NPS Library is second only to that of the Royal in terms of its holdings, and the pages concerned with it are very comprehensive. Of particular merit is an on-line searchable database of both books and periodicals. This is still under construction, but is already a valuable aid for locating philatelic literature. Another useful feature of this part of the site is the listing of thematic subject headings under which handbooks are classified.

Both of the websites mentioned here contain full details of how to join the relevant Societies, with subscription rates, contact addresses and telephone numbers ●

Philatelic promotions Richard West examines Royal Mail's

FOR MANY YEARS the Post Office tried to keep at arm's length from any suggestion of promoting the products of others. True, there had been advertising on the back of stamps, and of course on stamp booklet covers and interleaves, but any direct association was strictly forbidden. Many will recall the furore that followed the realisation that Newport, in using a postmark slogan as 'The home of the Mole Wrench', was in fact advertising a commercial product.

A change of attitude became apparent around the time of decimalisation. Indeed, I would suggest that the first of the, as now-designated, prestige stamp booklets was the initial step into the 'promotional' world taken by Royal Mail. Back in 1969 the *Stamps for Cooks* £1 booklet was produced in conjunction with the Milk Marketing Board, and it is well known that other sponsors were considered at the time, including Fortnum and Mason and Sun Alliance. More 'blatant' were many of the subsequent booklets, produced with such institutions as Wedgwood, Stanley Gibbons, The Times, P&O and The Financial Times.

However, from the early 1970s began a trend of companies using stamps, booklets and similar items as incentives for on-pack offers. Two have been previously mentioned (April 2002). One involved the redemption of labels from Heinz soup, offering a special 'pack' containing six of the 2½p Christmas stamp of 1971. In 1981 Ty-phoo Tea offered a special pack containing one each of that year's two Royal Wedding stamps. A small booklet accompanied this pack, about British stamps issued to mark Royal occasions from 1935 to 1980.

First day covers One of the most significant promotions was that involving Kellogg's Corn Flakes. This was linked with the issue of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway stamps in 1980, offering a cover bearing the strip of five stamps. What made this promotion so much more important was that it launched the Stamp Bug Club, which was Royal Mail's way of introducing the hobby to a young audience. It certainly worked, for over 70,000 were enrolled into the club as a result.

Collect British Stamps



This exclusive *Kellogg's* free offer introduces you to British Commemorative Stamps, with a set of postmarked stamps, a colourful book all about stamp collecting, and a Stamp Bug badge. Collecting British Stamps is great fun, because they are so bright and beautiful. And the more you collect, the more you learn. There will be stamps about Water Birds, London, Famous People, Sport and others. A marvellous selection is available now and every few months the Post Office issues a new set. Once you start collecting British stamps we guess that you'll soon turn into a Stamp Bug yourself.

FREE STARTER KIT

Special Cover

The latest set of British stamps to be issued 12th March 1980 commemorates the opening of the railway from Liverpool to Manchester (where we make our Corn Flakes) which started in 1825. There are five 10p stamps.

Send in the entry form on the side of this packet plus three tokens from the tops of special *Kellogg's* Corn Flakes packets. We will send you back the complete set free, franked and mounted on a specially printed envelope (called a 'special cover' by collectors).

The Stamp Bug Book

As well as the special cover we will send you *The Stamp Bug Book*. In it the Stamp Bug shows you how to go about collecting British stamps. It is in colour and describes the history of British stamps; how the latest collections are devised, designed and printed and how to plan your collection.



The Stamp Bug Badge

With each special cover you will also find a Stamp Bug Badge, announcing that you are a 'Stamp Bug'.



N.B. Your Free Starter Kit cannot be mailed to you before 12th March 1980.

Special packs of Corn Flakes were on sale before the stamps were issued, so early birds could obtain the specially designed cover with the stamps cancelled on the first day of issue, 12 March 1980. The handstamp used on that day was circular, and featured the Kellogg's cockerel, with the text 'Manchester 12 March 1980'. The majority, however, sent in their requests after the day of issue, so their covers received a rectangular handstamp featuring two cockerels, 'Manchester', and a movable date from 13 March onwards. Interestingly, the special Corn Flakes packet referred to, and illustrated, the stamps as 10p values, whereas when issued they were of 12p face value.

The Kellogg's rectangular handstamp remained in use until 31 December 1980. Another Kellogg's promotion featured the 1981 Christmas stamps and a circular handstamp similar to that of 12 March 1980. It was used on 18 November 1981 and every alternate Wednesday through to 29 December 1982. The size of this handstamp varied somewhat.

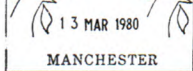
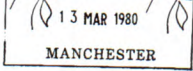
embracing of special offers, and looks at some of the results



LIVERPOOL & MANCHESTER RAILWAY
Post Office First Day Cover



LIVERPOOL & MANCHESTER RAILWAY
Post Office First Day Cover

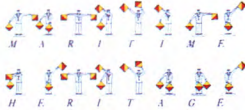


Left, the Kellogg's handstamp used on Post Office cover on the first day of issue, 12 March 1980. Below, the rectangular handstamp with moveable date, and circular handstamps used on subsequent 'first days'.

Opposite: the cover offer on Kellogg's Corn Flakes, which also launched the Stamp Bug Club, introducing the hobby to a young audience. Over 70,000 enrolled in the club as a result of this promotion.



BRITISH THEATRE
Royal Mail First Day Cover



ROYAL MAIL FIRST DAY COVER

Below: in 1981, Persil offered a free souvenir cover bearing the Royal Wedding stamps, handstamped at Port Sunlight, Liverpool. The design on the simulated cover is not as the issued stamps, shown right.

Below right: covers offered by the *Daily Mirror* in 1995 and by *The Sunday Times* in 1989.



The Royal Wedding

FREE
Souvenir Cover



In July 1981 the Post Office issued two special commemorative stamps to mark the occasion of the Royal Wedding. With the help of the Post Office we have designed a beautiful souvenir envelope (termed a 'cover' by stamp collectors) to carry these historic stamps.

PLUS Souvenir Book Offer

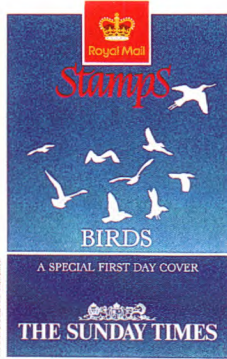
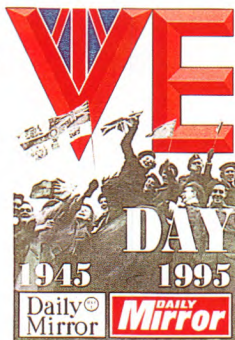
Souvenir Book Offer
For many of the important Royal Occasions over the last ten years the Post Office has published a souvenir book. For the marriage of The Prince of Wales and Lady Diana Spencer a similar publication will be available in July. The price is £1.50 and includes the two mint stamps mounted on the cover.



The price is £5.22. And if you buy it together with the Royal Wedding Souvenir Book then you will receive, FREE, an album in which you can collect all the 1981 stamp issues. The sixteen page album describes the story behind each of the commemorative issues.

OFFER CLOSES APRIL 30th 1982.

Wedding Presents-A whole list of gifts!



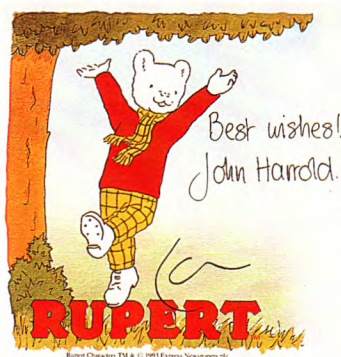
For the Royal Wedding in 1981, apart from the Ty-phoo offer already mentioned, packs of Persil offered a free souvenir cover bearing one of each of the two stamps, handstamped at Port Sunlight, Liverpool. Again the special packs of Persil were clearly designed before the stamps, as what appears on the simulated cover is not as the stamps finally appeared. This free cover offer was also linked with the opportunity to buy *The Royal Wedding souvenir book* and the *1980 Collector's Pack*.

First day covers have been used for several other promotions, 'off the page' of newspapers

and magazines. Back in 1989 *The Sunday Times* gave its readers a specially designed cover to be used with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds stamps issued on 17 January. Only a blank cover was supplied; readers had to 'service' the cover themselves.

Rather unusual is the 1993 cover that linked the Royal Mail Greetings stamp featuring Rupert Bear with a similar stamp, issued by Guernsey. The cover, offered through the *Sunday Express*, bore both the British and Guernsey stamps, separately cancelled, the handstamp on both stamps reading 2 Februarv.

This page: an unusual Rupert Bear cover combining issues from Guernsey and Royal Mail, and covers offered by *Radio Times* in 1991 and the *Evening Standard* in 1996.



Express Newspapers plc
Ludgate House
245 Blackfriars Road
LONDON SE1 9UX

Guernsey
Post Office



Express



Mr R J West



Evening Standard
Northcliffe House
2 Derry Street
LONDON
W8 5TT



Evening Standard

In 1995 a cover was offered to readers of the *Daily Mirror* to mark VE-Day; it bears the 19p and 25p values from the Peace and Freedom set, cancelled on the day of issue, 2 May. This special cover was also produced in conjunction with The Royal British Legion.

Next it was the turn of the *Evening Standard*, who, on 14 May 1966, provided a cover bearing the Football Legends set, again a specially designed cover, and handstamp including the name 'Evening Standard'.

In 1991 the name 'Radio Times' had appeared as part of the handstamp on a cover promoted

through its pages for the World Student Games stamps, the handstamp being dated 23 July.

For the British Composers set in 1985, branches of W H Smith offered a free first day cover with any record or cassette of music by one of the composers featured on the stamps: Elgar, Delius, Handel and Holst. The covers were the standard Royal Mail first day envelopes for the issue, and each bore just one stamp, of the composer whose music had been purchased. The handstamp used was for High Wycombe, and while it was inscribed 'European Music Year' no reference was made to 'first day of issue'.

Before leaving this section on covers, mention can perhaps be made of that offered in 1983 by Royal Mail (right) to raise funds for the Famine in Africa Appeal of that year.

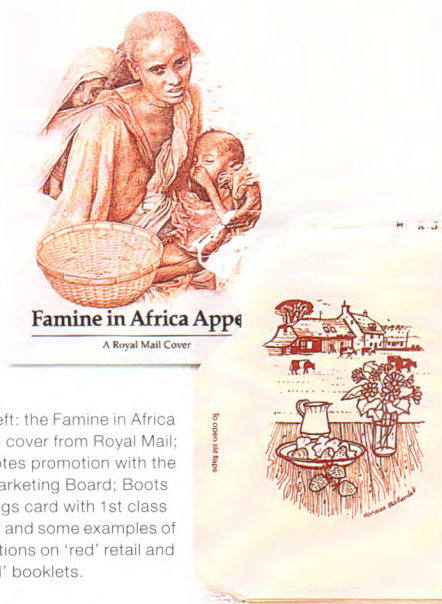
Postnotes In 1982 Royal Mail introduced the idea of Postnotes, similar to aerogrammes but intended for internal postage and pre-paid with a '1' indicium. The Milk Marketing Board was again involved, this time with packs of seven Postnotes, each of which bore on the front a specially created 'dairy' design (right). The offer also included a small book of recipes.

Stamps and booklets Over the years there have been many other promotions which have provided either mint stamps or stamp booklets as the redemption offer. These have been from such products as Kraft Dairylea, Cadbury's Smash, Katomeat, Branston Pickle, Quick-Brew Tea, plus P G Tips and Persil. However, in each case there was nothing 'different' about the items that were offered.

Greetings cards One of the most famous promotions is that instigated by Boots in 1994 involving greetings cards. For the price of the card, the buyer received a free 1st class stamp. The interest lay in the fact that the stamp was printed as part of a small sheet, which initially bore the Boots logo. The sheets were folded so that the 1st class stamp appeared over the top right hand corner of the greetings card, under the cellophane outer wrapping (see opposite page, centre). The sheetlets were also sold unfolded through the British Philatelic Bureau. These items are catalogue listed, and variations exist.

Later the small sheets were produced without the logo (initially printed by Questa, and then by Enschedé), still used with cards sold through Boots, albeit now the Boots logo was printed on the outer cellophane. These subsequent sheetlets were also available when buying gift vouchers from Woolworths, Comet or branches of MVC.

Marks and Spencer also offered cards with the cost of postage already paid, but in this case the envelopes bore a 'Postage Paid' indicium.



From left: the Famine in Africa Appeal cover from Royal Mail; Postnotes promotion with the Milk Marketing Board; Boots greetings card with 1st class stamp; and some examples of promotions on 'red' retail and 'folded' booklets.

Stamp booklets The name Marks and Spencer leads naturally to the subject of stamp booklets. It is widely recognised that once Royal Mail started offering booklets through non post office outlets, demand soared. While many retailers have the booklets available at the check-out, Marks and Spencer, in 1996, experimented by specially packaging books of 10 first or second class stamps on a card which would hang from a dedicated display. The books were sold at their face value of £2.60 or £2 respectively. Of interest to those who study booklets is that both come with the illustrations of the stamps on the booklet covers either with or without a white obliterating rule.

Over the years stamp booklets have been widely used for promotions, with items offered by Royal Mail, and on behalf of other organisations including chain stores. Perhaps the most significant have been enticements to buy booklets themselves, by offering these at a discount. In 1985 a book of ten 17p stamps was sold for £1.50, each stamp printed 'b' (discount) on the reverse under the gum. During the early 1980s many Christmas booklets were sold at a discount, the stamps often having a star printed on the reverse.



Booklets have promoted 'special offers', usually in exchange for three or four stamps taken from the booklets. During the period of 'folded booklets' with pictorial covers, such offers included a Birthday Box, 'Write Now' letter pack, National Gallery greetings cards, a handwriting booklet, a 'My Day' word book, 'Keep in Touch' pack, 'Ideas for your garden' booklet, a 'Brighter Writer' pack, a 'Jolly Postman' pack, postcards, recipes, a party pack, 'Write It' wallet, and a pocket planner. In 1982 a Holiday Postcard book provided a coupon giving 10p off the purchase of six or more postcards from any of the participating retailers.

With the introduction of the 'red' covered booklets (often referred to by collectors as 'window books') the offers continued. A new trend emerged: such booklets were initially sold only through designated outlets. Only after the promotion had 'closed' were the booklets put on philatelic sale through the British Philatelic Bureau. The first such came in 1984, with booklets sold through branches of W H Smith containing a competition to win Paddington Bear kites. In the following two years came further W H Smith

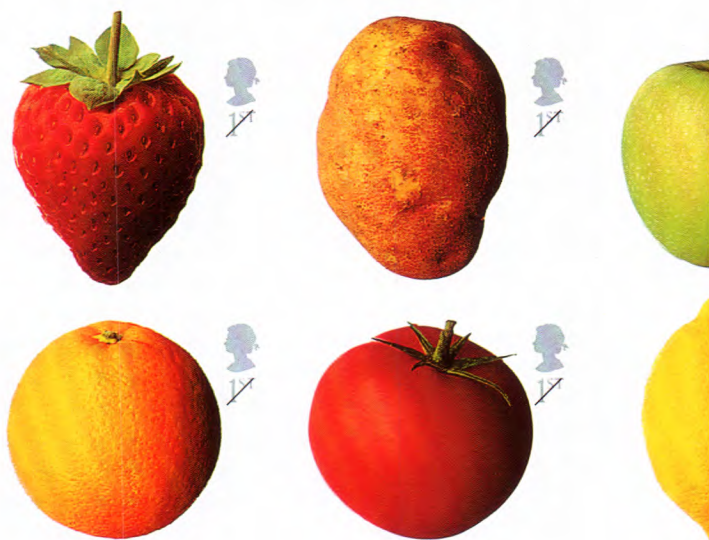
promotions, offering 50p off stationery and leisure guides. Similar promotions have been arranged through branches of Sainsbury's and ASDA.

For those with a sweet tooth, there has been the opportunity to obtain a box of chocolates from Thornton's or from ChocExpress, or some iced cakes.

Competitions have been frequent, often using a simple 'scratch off' technique to see if you are a winner (a dilemma of course for collectors, for scratching the panel renders the booklet no longer mint – only to discover you're not a winner anyway!). Prizes on offer have included a Peugeot car, Disney holidays, a trip to the Olympic Games, a camcorder, or a bouquet of flowers. Other items offered have included Greetings stamps postcards, personalised greetings cards, and various rubber stamps.

It has to be said that such promotions do seem to have declined in more recent times. Perhaps it is time for another 'on-pack' offer from a breakfast cereal to boost the hobby. In the meantime, there is much to collect, particularly if, in addition to the purely philatelic items, you include all the accompanying publicity paraphernalia ●

Fun Fruit & Veg New self-adhesive stamps



Technical details

Printer Walsall Security Print

Process Gravure

Size 39 x 28.5mm

Perforation 14.5 x 14 die cut.
The stamps are 'kiss cut' to
shape around each image

Phosphor Two bands

Gum Self-adhesive

Colours

Yellow, magenta, cyan (blue),
black, silver

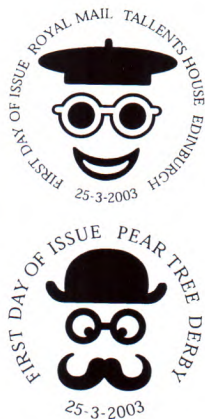
No cylinder numbers

TEN 27P (1ST CLASS) STAMPS featuring fruit and vegetables will go on sale at Post Office branches and Royal Mail Tallents House on 25 March. Hailed as Royal Mail Design-It-Yourself Stamps, they are aimed mainly at children as an inter-active product. Hopefully the colourful designs and fun labels will encourage more young people to take up stamp collecting as a hobby. The stamps are printed together in a block on self-adhesive paper. They feature: top row (left to right) strawberry, potato, apple, red pepper, pear; bottom row orange, tomato, lemon, cabbage, and aubergine. The Queen's head and 1st class indicator are positioned at top right.

The stamps will be supplied in a pack together with colourful self-adhesive labels (below) showing eyes, ears, mouths, hats, etc so that children (and no doubt some adults) can have fun adding faces to the fruits and vegetables on the stamps. The stamps were designed by Johnson Banks, using photographs by Kevin Summers.



present an opportunity to 'design-it-yourself'

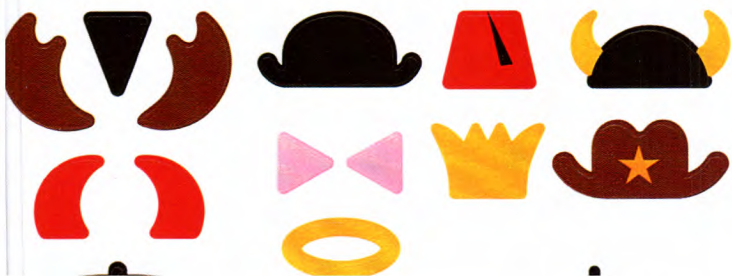


FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets about a week before 25 March, price 25p. Orders for serviced FDCs with pictorial first day postmark of Tallents House Edinburgh or Pear Tree, Derby must reach Tallents House (address below) by the day of issue. Price £3.59 UK or £3.06 overseas. Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB, or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, St Stephens Street, Birmingham B6 4AA (Pear Tree postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FD0307' (Tallents House), or 'FD0308' (Pear Tree). Covers posted at main Post Office branches will receive the Pear Tree postmark.

Details of sponsored handstamps for 25 March will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House. Please note the new prices given at right.

British Postmark Bulletin

£12.25 UK/Europe; £24.95 elsewhere. For a free sample copy write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ.



Fun FRUIT & VEG
Stamps

At daybreak, the hard core make it to the outside world and, full of zest, they each peel off for pastures new...

Fun FRUIT & VEG
Stamps

Pack includes:
10 First Class Stamps
+ 76 stickers to make
your own faces

5 014721 116488

Fun FRUIT & VEG
Royal Mail First Day Cover

Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorber Road
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

Royal Mail: Talents House 21 South Crib Corner, Salford M6 6PU

The stamps and labels will be sold in sealed packs (shown above), price £2.70.

PHILATELIC PRODUCTS A well-illustrated presentation pack containing the 10 stamps and labels (top, price £3.05) and stamp cards (not shown, 25p each) will be available from Tallents House and main Post Office branches. The pack was designed by Morgan Radcliffe •



Fruit and veg on stamps Somewhat surprisingly owing to their importance to our diet, the forthcoming set is the first devoted to fruits and vegetables. Indeed the number of stamps on the subject is very limited: 1989 one of the first issue Greetings stamps (bowl of fruit, top left), 1989 Food & Farming 19p (above left), 1993 Autumn 24p and 39p (blackberry and pear, top centre and top right), 1999 Millennium Settlers' Tale 26p (fruit, above centre) and Farmers' Tale 44p (peeling potato, above right).

Britain's farmers produce a wide range of fruit and vegetables – especially traditional crops such as apples, pears, currants, berries, salad plants, onions, leeks, cauliflower, broccoli, tomatoes, Brussels sprouts, peas and beans. In recent years several more exotic items have been grown in increased quantities, for example sweet peppers, aubergines, kohlrabi, mooli, pumpkins and squashes •

Auctions The Windsor and Labrador Collections at Harmers,



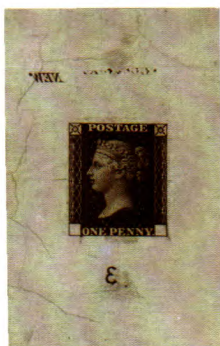
HARMERS ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE the sale of the 'Windsor' Collection of approximately 1000 Penny Blacks. One of the highlights of the sale in February will be a cover with a strip of three Penny Blacks used on the second day of validity, 7 May 1840. This is estimated at £4000. Several Mulready envelopes – an early version of 'pre-paid' envelopes – are included in the sale and expected to realise about £100 each. The Mulready is popular with collections for its ornate drawings by William Mulready, RA.

When stamps were first issued, they did not come equipped with handy perforations. Instead Post Office clerks had to cut the stamps from the sheets as required by customers. Blocks and vertical strips of Penny Blacks are much sought after. The Windsor Collection boasts an 1872 South Kensington Exhibition block of four and a pair which is estimated to sell for £1500. The stamps were printed from large plates, numbered from 1 to x1. As time went by other stamps were introduced and the Penny Black was phased out. Paradoxically this has resulted in stamps from the later plates becoming rarer than the earlier Penny Blacks. A Penny Black from Plate x1 in fine condition and used on an envelope will be offered, estimated at £750. A rare pair of Blacks from sheet 103 made to celebrate the 1867 Paris exhibition is expected to achieve £1500.

As stamps were a relatively new invention, experiments were constantly being made in terms of production and format. The so-called 'Rainbow Trials' were produced to determine the colour of stamps. A very rare complete sheet of 12 in deep red-brown is estimated at £5000.

Labrador Collection Harmers will also auction in February the 'Labrador' Collection of Newfoundland Airmails, including stamps of the world's first transatlantic crossing by air. The remarkable history surrounding these stamps began in 1913 when Lord Northcliffe, the owner of the London *Daily Mail*, offered a prize of £10,000 for the first non-stop North Atlantic crossing by a 'heavier-than-air' machine. On 18 May 1919 pilot Harry G Hawker and navigator Mackenzie Grieve began the first attempt in a Sopwith Rolls-Royce biplane. The plane encountered bad weather and technical problems and was forced to make an emergency landing on the ocean. Both pilot and navigator were rescued by a passing Danish ship; the plane was later salvaged by an American vessel. May 1919 also saw the first of the 'Martinsyde' attempts which was unfortunately also a failure. Two young British airmen rose to the challenge: John Alcock and Arthur Whitten Brown. On 14 June 1919 the 'Alcock' flight began. Hampered by fog and thick cloud, it was a dramatic flight

and a report of the latest results at Cavendish



Items from Harmers' Windsor and Labrador sales. For full details of future sales contact Harmers, No 11, 111 Power Road, London W4 5PY. Telephone 020 8747 6100 or visit www.harmers.com

with several close shaves. Some 16 hours and 12 minutes later, the first non-stop transatlantic flight was over and the *Daily Mail* prize claimed. As each new attempt was announced, Newfoundland's enterprising Postmaster General wrote to the pilots in the hope that they would also transport mail on the flight. Due to weight restrictions only a small amount of mail was eligible for the flights and the stamps are therefore correspondingly rare. Several philatelists have made it their life's work to collect Newfoundland Airmails. Cyril Harmer, once owner of Harmers, was one such expert. His collection was sold in February 2002 – all 213 lots were sold, for over £800,000.

The Labrador Collection includes items from many of the attempted crossings – 'Hawkers', including a mint pair and covers, manuscript Martinsydes with the unique 2c red on the cover (est £75,000), Alcock and Brown covers, ephemera, 1921 Halifax errors, De Pinedo covers, etc.

GB errors Harmers' auction on 18 December included some fine GB items. A set of 1841 2d blue with numbered Maltese Cross cancels, mostly with good to large margins all round, made £460 (est £300). A lovely vertical pair of £1 Seahorses in dull blue-green, with light postmarks realised £600 (£500) despite a slight crease and a few short perfs. There were a number of significant errors.

A vertical strip of eight of the 1966 Technology 6d with red omitted on the lower two stamps made £6500 (£5000); a single of the same stamp with Minis partly omitted went for £190 (£75). An imperf pair of the 1998 20p Christmas stamp with traffic lights in margin realised £140 (£120), and an imperf 2001 Submarines book made £900 (£1000). An imperf block of twenty 1p Machins, phosphorised paper, made £1300 (£155).

Cavendish auctions The December sales saw a healthy market for quality material. A beautiful £5 orange with neat cds made £1725, a Penny Black plate 3 on cover from Jersey to Plymouth £483, an imperf marginal pair of 3d rose plate 3 £3450, and a corner single unofficially perforated went for £1265. A 2s pale blue abnormal pl 3 on piece with 4d vermilion made £4600 (est £1000) and a George V is deep bronze green control strip went for £2300, 1903 Office of Works 10d £1265, and a rare Manchester 'RL' script mark in red on an 1841 Penny Back cover reached £690 (£140).

The sale on 6-7 March will include the Chan Hong Kong and a worldwide sale featuring Asia and British Royalty Postal History. For details contact Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, 153-157 London Road, Derby DE1 2SY; telephone 01332 250970; website www.Cavendish-Auctions.com •

Mainly Machins Specialist collectors report by D G A Myall



The third decimal Wildings issue, of 5 December last year, is the first instalment of what is intended to be a re-issue of the 18 pre-decimal Wildings. The values are 1p, 2p, 5p, 33p, 37p, 47p and 50p plus the 1st and 2nd class NVIs.

The Decimal Wildings Queen Elizabeth acceded to the throne on 6 February 1952. The first stamps of her reign were issued on 5 December that year. The designs included a portrait of Her Majesty based on a photograph by the studio of Dorothy Wilding. The stamps were, as might be expected, called Wildings. From 1967 they were replaced by the ubiquitous Machins, but 50 years on, the Wildings are making a comeback. A series of four issues will be completed next May. Before describing these, it will be helpful to say something about the stamp designs.

Five artists produced seven designs which were used for 18 values issued over a period of 14 months. These were in the pre-decimal currency which divided the pound into 20 shillings of 12 pence. The artists, and the values used were: Miss Enid Marx ($\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d, $1\frac{1}{2}$ d, 2d); M C Farrar-Bell, (first design $2\frac{1}{2}$ d and 3d, second design 4d and $4\frac{1}{2}$ d); G T Knipe (5d, 6d, 7d); Miss Mary Adshead (8d, 9d, 10d, 11d); Edmund Dulac (first design 1s and 1s6d, second design 1s3d). The unifying aspect of the series was the same portrait, appearing within an oval of one kind or another. All pre-decimal Wildings were on watermarked paper. This was uncoated except for some $\frac{1}{2}$ d and $2\frac{1}{2}$ d booklet stamps issued in 1963.

The first decimal Wildings appeared in *The Definitive Portrait* prestige book, issued on 10 March 1998 as part of the publicity build up for the Stamp Show 2000. The reason for this issue

was 'to commemorate the creation of the first postage stamps' of the reign. There were three values, 20p, 26p and 37p, all using George Knipe's design in which the values were stated in words. The question of whether this breached Universal Postal Union regulations was raised when this design was first used. A GPO spokesman at the time agreed that the UPU favoured numerals 'as far as practicable' but pointed out that the George VI values above sixpence had been stated in words 'for artistic reasons' and that no adverse comments had been received from any overseas postal administration. Presumably much the same reasoning applied to the re-use of the Knipe design in 1998. These decimal stamps were on coated unwatermarked paper. They were printed by Walsall.

A notable feature of these stamps is that the ellipses are placed one hole lower than normal. Curiously, a similar thing happened with the Harrison and Enschedé high values with Castles designs, Harrison's ellipses being placed nine holes from the top and eight from the bottom, whereas on the Enschedé stamps the placement was the other way round.

The second decimal Wilding issue was also in a prestige book. This was issued on 6 February 2002 to mark the golden jubilee of The Queen's accession. The values were 1st and 2nd class NVIs using, respectively, the designs by Enid Marx and M C Farrar-Bell. This time the stamps were on

an uncoated watermarked paper. The coating was omitted in order to make the stamps look more like their precursors. The original Wildings were issued with one of three different watermarks but a new one, comprising the figure 50, was devised for the decimals. This issue was printed by Enschedé.

The third decimal issue appeared on 5 December last, the 50th anniversary of the first Wilding stamps. This contained nine values and a label in a miniature sheet, and was the first instalment of what is intended to be a re-issue of the 18 pre-decimal stamps. Of course, that must not be taken literally as most of their decimal equivalents would not meet any postal duty today. Instead, rates suitable to current tariffs have been chosen and it is intended to use all seven of the original designs, all on uncoated paper with the 50 watermark. With this sheet, only Farrar-Bell's second design, with the letters E and R in the top corners, has yet to appear.

The NVIS in last year's miniature sheet, printed by De La Rue, cannot easily be distinguished from the previous issue which was by Enschedé. For specialists, the direction of printing is inverted on the Enschedé stamps but upright on De La Rue's (see the perforation swarf at the back of the stamps). Another fact of major interest is that we already have two different Wilding decimal 37p stamps. The one issued in 1998 differs from the 2002 stamp in almost every respect: design, colour, width of phosphor bands, direction of printing, screening of value, paper coating and watermark (or absence of one).

Next May's values are presently believed to be: 4p, 8p, 10p, 19p, 20p, 27p, 41p, 42p and 68p plus a label, but this may change. For example, a 1p increase in the inland basic letter tariff would make the 19p and 27p redundant. They would need to be replaced with other values if the total of nine is to be retained. On the other hand...

One feature of the Wilding designs has caused some comment, namely the inclusion of the words 'Postage' and 'Revenue'. The omission of these made a major contribution to the success of the Machin design. In the pre-decimal era, stamps were often used for revenue purposes. For exam-

ple, 2d was the stamp duty on all receipts for money or money's worth and 6d was the duty on all legal documents. These duties were abolished before the decimal Machins were issued. Stamps were also used to collect import and other duties although special 'To Pay' stamps were often used for this. These are no longer issued and the presence of the word 'Revenue' on the decimal Wildings is of nothing more than historical interest.

The decimal Wildings would make a most interesting subject for a collection. As well as the single stamps there are several se-tenant pairs, both horizontal and vertical. For those who collect only used stamps, finding suitable examples may be a problem and require some hunting. They have been issued only in forms which appeal to collectors of mint stamps and there have been many instances of postal staff failing to treat individual stamps as valid for postage. In a few cases, the addressee has been required to collect the envelope from the local sorting office and to pay a 'fine' of 69p made up of the 19p second class rate plus a 50p surcharge. I am glad to say that steps have been taken by the authorities to remind all staff of their validity so if you have any examples of envelopes with evidence of their wrong treatment, they would add interest to your display.

Enschedé coils Originally scheduled for release on 15 October last, the philatelic issue of rolls of 500 × 1st gold and 500 × 2nd NVIS was postponed until 21 January 2003. This was said to be because of unspecified production difficulties. However, enough of both rolls were ready for normal issue to some requisitioning offices from early October. These are not the first rolls of Machin stamps to be printed by Enschedé; those were the self-adhesive issues in dispenser boxes of 100 in 1997 and boxes of 200 in 1998. The new rolls are conventionally gummed and attached to the now standard yellow paper leaders, so-called because they lead the first stamp to the aperture when loading rolls into the dispensing machine. (They are also used to wrap the rolls up tight for storage and transport and are called wrappers by some collectors.) Leaders are interesting in their



own right and many people like to collect them. They usually contain printed information which in latter years has included the printer's imprint, the number of stamps in the roll, the value of either a single stamp or the complete roll, a barcode and a large number, known as the roll number, which indicates which column of stamps on the printing cylinder the roll came from. Some collectors even require a full set of roll numbers for each issue. These, however, will be disappointed with the new issue because roll numbers have been dispensed with. With the success of Electro-Mechanically Engraved (EME) cylinders, flaws requiring retouching are a thing of the past and it is no longer necessary to identify those parts of the cylinders needing such work.

The new rolls exhibit a feature which I have not seen before. Until now, the leaders (and end papers) have had a short perforated section to which the first (and last) stamps in a roll have

been attached. These stamps could then be used in the normal way as the remnants of the wrapper did not prevent them being stuck on an envelope. The leader and end paper on the new Enschedé rolls are not attached using the gum on the stamps. Instead, they are stuck down onto the face of the first and last stamps in the roll (as shown in the photograph above), covering the whole of their surface. This makes it impossible to use these two stamps. I have not seen a complete roll so I do not know whether this has been taken into account during roll making; do these rolls contain only 498 useful stamps or 502 stamps including the two defaced ones? It is possible that this novel method of attachment may be connected to the production difficulties which caused the rolls to be delayed. If so, and if the problem is overcome, future leaders may be attached in the normal manner; something to look out for ●

Text © D G A Myall 2003

Where were the young collectors? Richard West reports on the youth stamp exhibition held in Salamanca, Spain

WHAT WOULD YOU EXPECT from an international youth stamp exhibition? Probably plenty of activities to encourage young collectors. The Spanish Post Office organised such an exhibition in Salamanca during November; but it seems did not feel the need to cater for the young at all.

True, there were competitive displays by young collectors from many parts of the world: six from the United Kingdom entered. The exhibits were shown in four 'marquees' which were scattered around the centre of Salamanca. The marquees were each given a specific 'theme': Sport, Culture, Technology and Nature. There was a fifth marquee, in the main square in the centre of the

city, but this was used for various presentations, and seemingly few were stamp-related. This fifth marquee also included an exhibition on the development of handwriting.

Each marquee included a sales counter of the Spanish Post Office, but nowhere were any activities provided to encourage or help young stamp collectors. There were in fact few young visitors, and certainly I saw no organised visits by schools or other stamp groups.

Not that the exhibits were not viewed; far from it. The day starts and ends late in Spain, with the long 'siesta' during the middle. Consequently the marquees did not close each evening until 8pm,



One of the marquees housing the España 2002 international youth stamp exhibition, in the shadow of the new Cathedral in Salamanca.

Left: a miniature sheet issued during the week to support the exhibition.

and from 5.30pm each day were extremely busy, with the passing public stopping to look at all these stamps. This certainly was positive. A casual non-collecting public was probably better able to relate to the displays from young collectors than had there been more erudite, adult collections on display. On the negative side, had any of those visitors wanted to discover more, or perhaps even make a purchase to start a collection, the opportunity was denied.

The idea of an exhibition in 'marques' may seem strange, but as the walls were clear, the passing public could see what was on offer, and evidently did not feel intimidated to venture inside and have a look around. A more formal exhibition hall would probably have proved more daunting to casual visitors. It was a help that the display frames were extremely well lit, with strip lighting above each and every frame.

Equally strange was the fact that the organisers produced a good exhibition catalogue, detailing all the exhibits, but this was not made available, either on sale or as a give-away, to the visiting public. It seems that these catalogues were only supplied to exhibitors as a 'memento' of their participation.

The Spanish Post Office clearly felt the idea was worthwhile: it provides a great deal of re-

source into promoting the hobby. This includes staging regional national youth exhibitions, and promoting the idea of letter writing, offering the youngsters 'cut-price' postage during the promotion. This event was funded by a range of items, including a separate miniature sheet for each of the eight days.

So here was an exhibition which had its innovative points, but also missed a few opportunities. As for the six British exhibitors, all did very well. Martin Ferguson won a Bronze-silver medal with his display entitled 'Christmas', while his brother Scott achieved a Silver with 'They Travelled Great Waters', a look at the development of shipping. Jade Needs entered her first international stamp exhibition with her study of Australia, and received a Large Silver medal. Two sisters, Charlotte and Emily Rookes, both entered, Charlotte showing Great Britain postal history 'Before the Penny Black' and achieving a Large Silver medal, while Emily chose 'A Glossary of Philatelic Terms' for which she received a Silver medal. Scott Wilson's thematic display is called 'Hit that Ball', for which he received a Bronze medal. With the upper age for youth exhibits being 21, all six have more years to enter further youth internationals, and to bring further medals back home to Britain ●

A man of many parts Richard West talks to Michael Furnell



Editor of *Stamp Lover* since 1989, Michael Furnell.

FOR THE PAST 12 years Michael Furnell has edited *Stamp Lover*, the journal of the National Philatelic Society. Born in 1924, Michael is one of those who loves to be active, and clearly has a keen mind for business, or for the hobby – or probably both.

He was 13 when introduced to stamp collecting by his father, bringing a selection of stamps home from the office. The following year Michael joined the Brighton and Hove Philatelic Society (coincidentally, established as an off-shoot of the National – then Junior – Philatelic Society). A year on, he was already trading in stamps, essentially buying and selling among school friends, but he also established an approval business which he advertised in the *Philatelic Magazine*, one of several stamp journals that existed at the time. He also made up packets of stamps, which he sold through a newsagent in Hove.

War bring changes. Michael's father had established a successful publishing business following a distinguished First World War Army career. But the Second World War caused the business to suffer; Michael's father returned to the Army, and the family moved to Surrey. Michael left school and started working in banking. But again he demonstrated his philatelic business acumen, producing packets of stamps for schoolchildren, which were sold through local shops.

He also showed great enterprise. With wartime paper shortages, stamp hinges were in short supply. However, Michael persuaded Thomas Cliffe Ltd of North Wales to supply regular consignments of one million hinges, which he would then

re-package into smaller quantities. The packets were described as containing approximately 500 hinges, as they were weighed out on the kitchen scales. These hinges were not only sold locally, but also advertised to dealers through the *Philatelic Trader*. Stamp albums were also obtained for resale, from both Thomas Cliffe and Rapkins.

In his stamp enterprise Michael was joined by his two brothers, who continued the business when Michael left the bank and volunteered to join the Royal Navy at the age of 18. Sadly his Naval career was to be short-lived, for tuberculosis struck. He was retired from the Royal Navy, and started to receive 'retired pay' before he was even 21. Once he recovered, Michael joined a company of South African shippers based in London – he hoped the opportunity would arise to travel to Africa. Sadly tuberculosis struck again; he had to leave this job.

On his second recovery, in 1948, Michael joined his father's Homefinders publishing business, which had resumed after the war, taking control in 1953 until his retirement in 1989. The stamp interest was certainly not lost, with Michael running the Southern Stamp Exchange Club for two years. More importantly, he persuaded his fellow directors at Homefinders in 1956 to purchase the ailing *Stamp Collector's Fortnightly*. Unfortunately, he was not able to turn around the fortunes of this journal, which three years later was merged with the *Philatelic Magazine*.

However, a new chapter was to open. Michael joined the Stampex publicity committee, and was introduced to its then venue, the Central Halls

in Westminster. This location he found ideal for his own idea, the Homefinders New Homes Show for those buying a house or flat. (Later, like Stampex, the show would move to the Horticultural Halls.) For 10 years, from 1979, he was also property correspondent for *The Sunday Telegraph*.

Through his involvement with Stampex, the work of producing the exhibition catalogue, tickets and publicity was for many years entrusted to Homefinders. But then came the next big question – what to do following retirement in 1989? As it happens, I was at that time President of the

National Philatelic Society, and following the sad and premature death of Peter Collins, we were looking for a new editor for *Stamp Lover*. I approached Michael, and he has been editing the journal ever since, also producing the NPS Centenary Handbook in 1999. In recognition, he is an Honorary Life Member of the NPS.

And when Michael is not editing *Stamp Lover*? Happily married for 46 years, with one daughter, he still finds time to help out at a local book shop. Plus, he does collect, his interests being New Zealand and early Great Britain •

Posting boxes 214

THE NORTH OF IRELAND Philatelic Society has issued a postcard each year since 1987. The cards have a postal theme with a Northern Ireland connection. The latest card, no 17, shows an Edward VIII box. Only a couple of Edward VIII type pillar boxes were sent to Northern Ireland. This box, with its aperture partially sealed because of the recent troubles, was situated on the Upper Lisburn Road, Belfast. The box is now 'at rest' in the foyer of the Post Office building in Tomb Street, Belfast. The card is available unused at 35p each or used with 1st class Pillar to Post stamp postmarked Belfast at 80p. Postage is 40p on all orders which should be sent to Norman Scott, 49 Kingsdale Park, Belfast BT5 7BZ.

Eleven of the earlier cards are still available from Mr Scott. no 3 (produced in 1988) shows a VR pillar box, prices as above •

For details of the Letter Box Study Group send a SAE or IRC to the Membership Secretary, Mrs V Scott, 38 Leopold Avenue, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham B20 1ES. The Group produces many interesting publications and postcards.



Special draw Win one of our mystery prizes

OUR MYSTERY PRIZE DRAW in the November *Bulletin* proved so popular we have organised a second. Again we have 20 mystery prizes: year-books, prestige books, first day covers, presentation packs and Royal Mail publications, to give

away to the senders of the first 20 cards drawn on 28 February. To enter, write your name and address on the back of a postcard and send to: Mystery Prize Draw, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ •

Postbag Letters to the Editor

In December we invited readers to recall the issue of the first Wilding stamps in December 1952.

I recall this issue coming out well. I was an assistant manager in the Trade Dept of a publisher's head office and had charge of the postage book and of the buying of stamps for postage of parcels to our provincial branches. I had been doing this for some time (George VI issues before) and bought low values by the sheet and higher values by the quarter sheet. The postage rates at that time for parcels was 1s, 1s3d, 1s6d, 2s and 2s6d if I remember correctly. I was therefore able to put these new stamps on the parcels in blocks of four or six. We also requested our branches that when our van called to return the packing on parcels for re-use. When a consignment arrived, I would go through it carefully to cut out and recover for my collection these new stamps, albeit with parcel cancellations. I was also able to make a study of the jubilee lines and cylinder numbers of these values, and later the other values. ARTHUR SMITH (age 82), LONDON SW16 ●

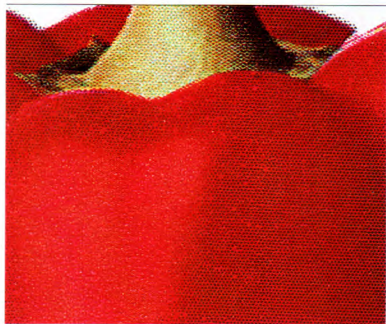
My memories of the Queen Elizabeth II Wilding stamps in December 1952 come from my brain archives of when I was five years of age, nearly six. I had recently returned from two years in Malta where I had been with my family, accompanying my father who was on a mission (to me) with the Royal Navy. During our time in Malta, I was fortunate enough to be taken along to a grand Naval ceremony at which the then Princess Elizabeth was present. The day was one of my earlier memories in life and I can still recall how overwhelmed I was by the whole affair, but particularly by this special Princess before us – a real Princess at that. On our return to England in 1952, with Christmas approaching, a small parcel arrived at our family home. I could hardly contain my excitement when my father showed me the stamps on the parcel, telling me that each one was a picture of my special Princess, now the Queen of England. The red ones were the best ones to me because red was my favourite colour,

being so bright and cheerful. I was so impressed by these stamps that I started keeping all the 'Princess pictures' that came to our house. They all became so precious to me that I kept them in an old (but washed) furniture wax polish tin and can still remember the excitement of turning the little twister contraption on the side of the tin to open the lid and look at all the pretty red and green pictures of 'my Princess', these being, of course, the new Wilding stamps. I didn't realise at the time that I actually started my first stamp collection, later to be expanded in a boy-dominated neighbourhood where stamp collecting was a popular childhood hobby and pastime. I have consequently become an enthusiastic philatelist with a particular love for the Wildings. MRS LINDA TOURGOUT, WEYMOUTH ●

I well remember the time of the issue of the Wilding stamps. I was approaching my GCE A Level exams, as I was 17½ years old at the time, and there was no local post office that was open at the time that I went to school. So I persuaded my mother to call in at the post office when she went shopping, and buy me copies of the stamps, and make up a first day cover for me. This she duly did, and I still have the cover complete with a 'Post Early for Christmas' postmark. I am sure that my mother thought I had finally gone mad. I remember that I was not impressed with the stamps at that time, although I grew to like them later. We had little chance of making our minds up beforehand, as the illustrations in the philatelic press in those days were not of high quality, and, of course, the *Philatelic Bulletin* had not yet been invented. G I MELVILLE, CAMBERLEY ●

The Editor is always pleased to receive contributions for 'Postbag', especially letters adding information to that already published, so benefitting fellow philatelists. All letters to the Editor are carefully read; matters of general interest will be dealt with in 'Postbag'. The Editor regrets that he cannot reply personally to any letters ●

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



November identify The detail is from the 1962 NPY 1s3d stamp. The winner was Mrs K Evans of Bristol.

October knowledge The answers: 1) Philip Sutton; 2) Shipbuilding; 3) Business Design Centre. The winner was G Gilmurray of Liverpool.

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

- 1 Who designed the 1963 Lifeboat Conference stamps?
- 2 Which set of Millennium stamps features Captain Cook?
- 3 Who is Editor of *Stamp Lover*?

Send your answer (addressed to either February *Identify* competition or February *Knowledge* competition), name and address on a postcard or back of a sealed envelope to: British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ. The senders of the first cards drawn in each competition on 14 February 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

31 January - 1 February 6th Annual London Westminster Stamp & Postal History Fair at Central Hall, London SW1. Open 11.00-18.00 Friday; 10.30-16.00 Sunday. Admission free. **Enquiries** John Auld, 01279 758 854.

15 February Streetly PS Stamp Fair at Collingwood Centre, Collingwood Drive, Pheasey, Birmingham. 10.00-16.30. Dealers in stamps, postal history, covers & postcards. Displays, meeting of Midland Postal History Society. Admission 20p, children 10p. **Enquiries** C T Poynton, 0121 360 0704.

18 February North of Ireland PS Grand Auction at Hunterhouse College, Upper Lisburn Road, Finaghy, Belfast. Viewing from 17.30, auction 19.30. 500 lots, sold at approx 200 per hour. **Enquiries** N Scott, 49 Kingsdale Park, Belfast BT5 7BZ.

22 February Welsh Philatelic Society meeting at Southgate Hotel, Aberystwyth. **Enquiries** P Gaywood 2 Fairways, Fulwood, Preston PR2 8FX.

26 February - 2 March Spring Stampex at Business Design Centre, London N1. Displays by British Aerophilatelic Federation and Czechoslovak PS. **Enquiries** Stampex, 020 7490 1005.

27 February - 2 March Philatex at Royal Horticultural Hall, Greycoat Street, London SW1. 27 Feb 11.00-19.00, 28 Feb 10.00-18.00; 1 Mar 10.00-17.00. Free entry. **Enquiries** 020 8946 4489 or 01793 513431.

1 March Display 'Early British Letters' by Malcolm Ray-Smith to GB Philatelic Society, at Spring Stampex, Business Design Centre, London N1, 14.00. **Enquiries** A Claridge, 01376 584412 •

Late news

Royal Mail news The 1st class Welsh country stamp has now been printed by De La Rue (previously printed by Walsall). Supplies of the DLR printing will be available from Tallents House Edinburgh and Post Office philatelic outlets from 4 March. Supplies will go on sale at Post Office branches in Wales as required.

Revised postal rates will be introduced on 27 March. Some of the higher rates for UK 1st and 2nd class mail will increase but no new stamps will be required. Some European rates will also increase, the basic rate increasing from 37p to 38p – this is already covered by the E stamp which will now be sold at 38p (£2.28 book of six). New books containing four Universal Europe and four Universal Rest of World stamps covering rates to 40g will go on sale on 27 March. The non-value indicator stamps are an adapted version of the Machin definitive, including airmail chevrons in the design. The Europe book will cost £2.12 (four stamps at 53p rate) and Rest of World book £4.48 (4 × £1.12). Full details of these new stamps, including first day facilities, will be published in the March *Bulletin*.

The UK rate books are being reprinted to include 'The Real Network' strapline on the cover. This is now used on Royal Mail advertising, letter heads, etc. The books – 12 × 1st and 2nd and six × 1st – will be available from philatelic outlets from 27 March.

Two new stamp cards will be available from 27 March: 1st class gold Machin definitive, and new Universal Europe definitive stamp. Cards cost 25p each.

Supplies of the *Microcosmos* prestige book having arrived from the printer, the order of the panes is: 1) Northern Ireland stamps; 2) 1st and E definitives; 3) 2nd and 1st Secret of Life stamps; 4) E rate Secret of Life stamps. This differs from the advance information in the January *Bulletin* •

Correction The Tallents House order code for the 6 × 68p self-adhesive book is UB221, not UB222 as stated on p152 last month. Apologies for any confusion caused •

Royal Mail Heritage The Royal Mail plc Board agreed in November to put the historical collections into a charitable trust, which will enable the development of improved access to the collections. This could take 2-3 years, and Royal Mail will continue to fund as normal in the meantime. It represents a welcome commitment to safeguarding the integrity of the collections for the future and opens the way for eventual funding by the trust of a new museum in some form •

New Royal Mail Chief Executive Mr Adam Crozier joins Royal Mail this month as its Chief Executive in succession to John Roberts who retired in December. Mr Crozier was previously Chief Executive of the Football Association. Also joining Royal Mail, as Executive Deputy Chairman, is Mr Elmar Toime, former head of the New Zealand postal service. Both will have a salary of £500,000 a year. Mr Allan Leighton remains Chairman of Royal Mail Group plc •

Exhibitions Visitors to the 50th anniversary Stampex (26 February - 2 March) will be given a free limited-edition postcard featuring, by kind permission of Heritage Royal Mail Group, an unadopted essay for the card for the 1911 Coronation Aerial Post. This will complement the Aerophilatelic show on the Village Green and also the theme of Coronation which will run through 2003. Celebrating the anniversary and complementing the Europex display, each visitor will be issued with a special stamp from the 'Smilers' series which will be the 1st class 'Hello' stamp depicting the word as an aeroplane contrail with the Stampex logo printed on the tab. To give a choice of use there will also be a free illustrated envelope. These stamps will be limited to a printing of 1000 sheets.

The Machin Collectors Club will be having a stand at Philatex at the Royal Horticultural Halls, London SW1, 27 February - 2 March. A special cover, designed by Jeffery Matthews, will be available. For details of the Machin Collectors Club write to M Philpott, 8 Jannys Close, Aylsham, Norwich NR11 6DL •

Isle of Man



Isle of Man



Isle of Man



Isle of Man



Isle of Man



The Postal Vehicles stamps to be issued by the Isle of Man on 14 February.

Postal vehicles on stamps The Isle of Man will issue five stamps showing postal vehicles on 14 February: 23p GPO delivery handcart; 27p Morris Z van of 1942; 37p Morris L van of 1960s; 42p GPO DI BSA Bantam motorbike; and 89p Ford Escort 55 delivery van in current use. The illustrations above are shown at 86% actual size. For details contact the Isle of Man Philatelic Bureau, PO Box 10M, Douglas, Isle of Man IM99 1PB. Telephone 01624 698430 •

Rundbrief Issue 130 of *Rundbrief*, journal of the German based GB study group (Forschungsgemeinschaft Grossbritannien EV) contains features of interest to GB stamp and postmark collectors. There are four articles on the Victorian period covering London postmarks of 1829-59 and Victorian stamps used on cover. There is a lengthy, well-illustrated piece on the change-over to decimalisation, showing numerous mixed frankings of pre-decimal and decimal stamps. New issues

are covered in detail, the Northern Ireland E stamp printed by De La Rue, London Bridges self-adhesive book, *Across the Universe* prestige book, Christmas books and the Pillar to Post stamps. There is a useful listing of articles on GB subjects in various specialist journals. Enquiries to: Bernhard Weiss, Florianweg 57, 47574 Goch, Germany •

Penny Black printing press The printing press used by Perkins Bacon to print the Penny Black is now on permanent display at the British Library in London. The press was saved from scrap in 1962. In fact there were three presses: number 1 was rescued and given to the British Museum (now British Library), number 3 was cannibalised to make up the full quota of parts. During 1965 the press was restored by technicians from De La Rue and displayed at the Daily Mail Schoolboys and Girls Exhibition where it was used to print a souvenir sheet comprising a block of four of the 1s stamp of British Honduras of 1866. The full story of the rescue and restoration was given in James Mackay's article in the *Bulletin* in July 2000. Two months earlier it has been one of the main attractions at Stamp Show 2000 where it was used to print reproduction sheets of the Penny Black •

New Royal Keeper Michael Sefi has been appointed Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection in succession to Charles Goodwyn who retired at the end of 2002. Mr Sefi is a well-known expert on the Downey Head stamps of George V and also collects stamps of Kenya. A profile of Mr Sefi will be published here next month •

De La Rue Stamp printing at the company's High Wycombe premises has now ceased; the last issue of special stamps to be printed there was the Coronation Anniversary set which will be issued in June. Work has now transferred to the former Questa premises at Byfleet – the first set of special stamps to be printed there under De La Rue ownership will be the Extreme Endeavour stamps which go on sale in April •

KEEP YOUR SMILERS SAFE WITH THE NEW SMILERS ALBUM



The brand new Smilers Album comes with 12 luxury pages to hold all Royal Mail generic sheets to date (2000-2002). This elegant black binder with gold-blocked spine and cover will also hold Personalised Smilers leaves allowing you to store your complete Smilers collection in style. Price £16.50. Code PA665.

Also available are packs of 5 blank Smilers leaves for personalised sheets. Price £2.99. Code PA633.

To order these products or for further information on the Smilers range of products please contact Royal Mail Tallents House, details as below.

Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB
UK telephone order line 08457 641 641, overseas +44 131 316 7483



5 014721 103112

