BRITISH PHILATELIC

Bulletin

The magazine for collectors of UK stamps

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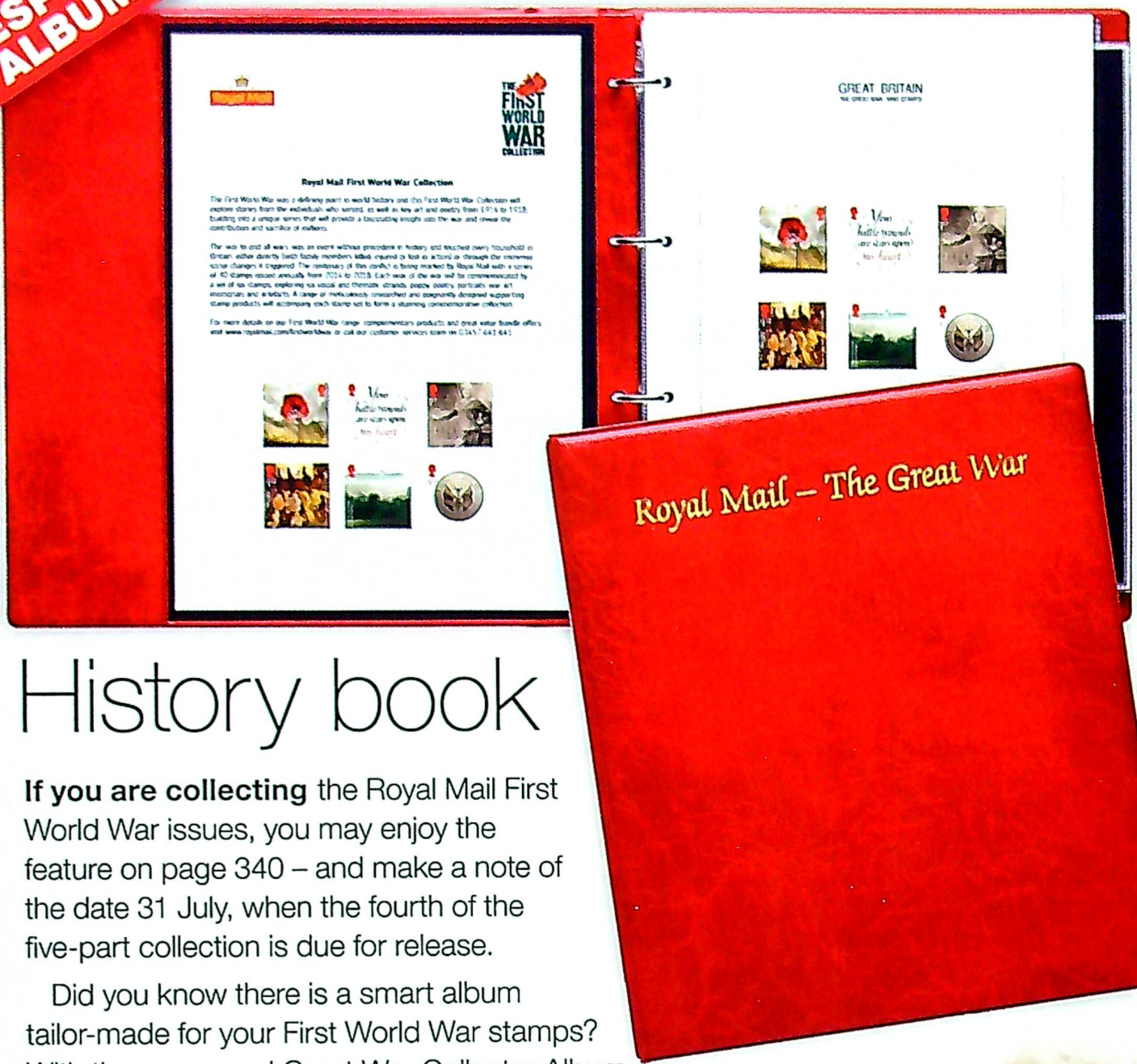
Previews: First World War 1917 • Classic Toys • Canada Sheet



Landmark Buildings

DIARY DATES • MARCELLUS CASTLE • WIN STAMP PACK • CARDIFF CONGRESS

BESPOKE ALBUM



History book

If you are collecting the Royal Mail First World War issues, you may enjoy the feature on page 340 – and make a note of the date 31 July, when the fourth of the five-part collection is due for release.

Did you know there is a smart album tailor-made for your First World War stamps? With the poppy-red Great War Collector Album and Slipcase you can create a self-contained commemorative collection and keep it in pristine condition.

The special Collector Album will hold and display the entire five-year series of Royal Mail stamps, First Day Covers, Presentation Packs, Prestige Stamp Books, Postcards and Coin Covers being issued to mark the centenary of every year of the First World War from 1914 to 1918.

To order: contact Royal Mail at the address on page 352 or order online at www.royalmail.com/firstworldwar. Simply type in Collector Album with the product code PA777 in the search box. The Album and Slipcase costs £24.99. Rememer to use the *Bulletin* Media Code: 17BUL07 •



Contents

Playtime Trip back to childhood with your first glimpse of the Royal Mail Classic Toys Special Stamp issue released next month **324**



Post & Go update Self-service machines in unusal places – well worth a visit **327**





Stamp Mounties The Stamp Sheet marking 150 years of Canadian independence **328**

Stamp Scene Diary dates and events keep you abreast of UK stamp news **330**

Inside story Take our tour of the architectural masterpieces in the Landmark Buildings set, out this month **334**



Father of philately Dane Garrod examines the extraordinary life of philatelic pioneer M P Castle **338**





First World War 1917 Personal viewpoints on the fourth set of Special Stamps commemorating the 1914-1918 war **340**

For the fallen The Commonwealth War Graves Commission is on a new cover **345**

Z is for Zululand We conclude Colin Baker's fascinating A to Z of Postal Stationery with Zululand overprints **346**



Correspondence More energetic *Bulletin* readers' letters **349**

Culture quiz Win the Landmark Buildings Presentation Pack with our museum and art gallery stamp quiz **350**

Issues and Withdrawals Check out new issue dates and catch the last of your favourite Beatrix Potter stamps **352**

● **Royal Mail Editor** William Doherty, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB ● **Publishing Editor** Kate Shaw, 26 Throgmorton St, London EC2N 2AN ● Price £1.95 from Post Office Ltd philatelic outlets or by order from Post Office branches ● **Twelve months' subscription** £18.95 UK and Europe; £24.95 rest of world. Subscribe online at www.royalmail.com/bulletin or write to Royal Mail Freepost, Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles, PO Box 1373, Sunderland SR5 9PG, UK. Overseas subscribers will need to use a stamp, as freepost is for UK only ● **Binders** (to hold 24 issues) £8.68, and storage boxes (about 30 copies) £10.16, are also available by post or online ● Stamp images © Royal Mail. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or parts is prohibited without prior permission of the Editors ● **Printed** in Great Britain by Zenith Print & Packaging Ltd ● **ISSN** 0953 8119 ● Royal Mail is a trading name of Royal Mail Group Ltd. Registered in England and Wales, number 4138203. Registered office: 100 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0HQ.

Front page background: Daniel Libeskind's sketch for his design of the Imperial War Museum North



Fair play A beautiful set of stamps featuring iconic British toys is bound to bring back happy memories of childhood – and parenthood – playing with the likes of Action Man, Meccano, Sindy and Hornby trains

Above: the Classic Toys First Day Cover with the Tallents House postmark, which shows a Spirograph illustration

TEN CHARMING PICTORIAL stamps are available next month, showcasing some of the world's most famous toys. Action Man, Meccano, the Space Hopper and the Sindy Doll are among childhood icons that span a century of playthings in the Classic Toys issue.

Accompanying the set are a Stamp Souvenir, Presentation Pack, ten Postcards and a Framed Set of Stamps. The Stamp Souvenir is a non-personalised version of the alternative First Day Cover which, unlike the latter, will not have the customer's name and address printed on the front and will be available for sale for three months – in this case until 22 November 2017 inclusive. It contains the same Information Card as the First Day Cover (see above) and is cancelled with the alternative TOYS HILL, EDENBRIDGE postmark.

Classic Toys – Specifications	
Date of issue	22 August
Number of stamps	Ten x 1st Class
Stamp design	Interabang
Stamp format	Square
Stamp size	35mm x 35mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Number per sheet	25/50
Perforations	14.5 x 14.5
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA

Stamp by stamp The ten stamps in the Classic Toys issue are all First Class and are lithography printed by International Security Printers.

The Merrythought Bear The most famous individual bear from the Merrythought toy manufacturing



FD1718-NP



FD1718-PL



FD1718-TH

Left: the three special issue postmarks for Classic Toys First Day Covers – plain (order code NP= non-pictorial), pictorial and Tallents House

company, established in 1930, was 'Mr Whoppit'. He became the mascot of land and water speed record holder Donald Campbell.

Sindy Doll Sindy was modelled on a girl aged 12 to 14 and made her first appearance in 1963. New outfits for Sindy were originally released every six months and accessories such as a fully equipped kitchen and a grand piano then followed. In the early Seventies Sindy, though quintessentially a British doll, was made to look more American, but recently she has been remodelled to look more like her original incarnation.

Spirograph This pattern-making toy uses complicated mathematical formulae to create hypotrochoid and epitrochoid shapes using 'rotor' and 'stator' pieces. Not that youngsters needed to understand the maths element to create amazing abstract art.

Stickle Bricks Primarily intended for toddlers, Stickle Bricks were invented in 1969. The colourful plastic bricks have a brush of small plastic 'fingers' that interlock with the fingers of other bricks so construction can take place. The standard sets include square, rectangular and triangular bricks, but other pieces include heads, wheels and teddy bear shapes.

W Britain Toy Figures William Britain originally made lead soldiers but later switched to plastic. The soldiers proved particularly popular in the 1970s – the key selling point was that the figures came already painted. Popular characters included US Cavalry, cowboys and ancient Greek warriors.

Space Hopper The origins of the Space Hopper are Italian – Aquilino Cosani registered a trademark for the 'Pon Pon' in 1968, intended as an exercise device rather than a toy. But the version we know and love is British and from Mettoy, which used ribbed handles and the iconic kangaroo-like face.

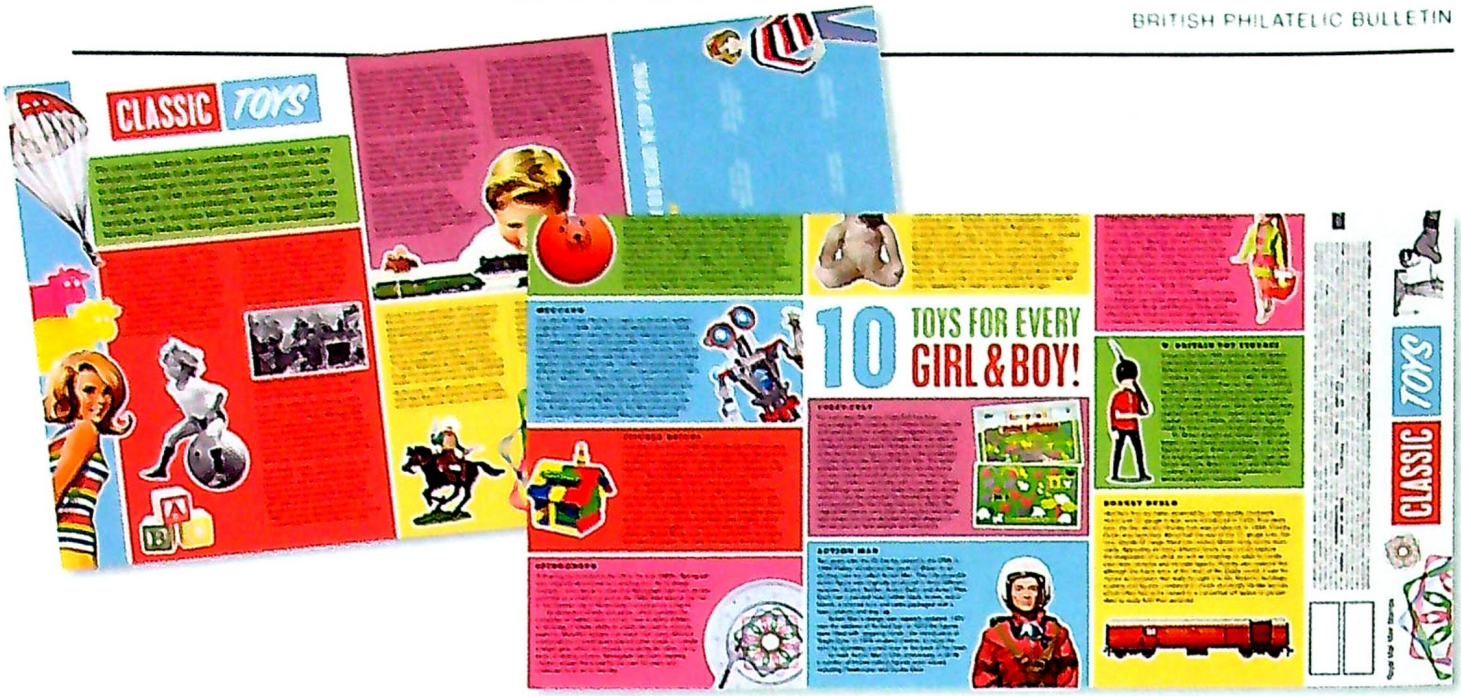
Fuzzy-Felt Created in 1950 by Lois Allan, Fuzzy-Felt comprises a flocked backing board onto which a number of felt shapes – silhouettes or more detailed printed versions – can be placed to create pictures.

Meccano Originally marketed as 'Mechanics Made Easy' in 1901, the name changed to the more familiar Meccano in 1907. Meccano retains the same sized perforations and the same thread on the screws, so new sets can still incorporate old pieces. The enduring appeal of Meccano is borne out by the fact that today's special edition sets feature parts in the original green and red colours. ▸

First day facilities

Orders for Serviced (ie stamped and postmarked) First Day Covers have to reach Royal Mail by 22 August, stipulating which of the three special postmarks is required. Customers may also send stamped envelopes on the day of issue – to Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB – for the Tallents House postmark. Please quote the *Bulletin* media code 17BUL07 with all your orders

Classic Toys – Prices	
Stamps	£6.50
First Day Cover	£8.22
First Day Envelope	30p
Stamp Souvenir	£8.22
Presentation Pack	£7.00
Postcards (set of ten)	£4.50
Framed Set of Stamps	£29.99



Above: the informative insert card of the Classic Toys Presentation Pack, written by toy historian David Smith

Action Man US toy firm Hasbro invented the concept of a doll that boys could play with – its 1964 GI Joe had features based on decorated war veterans. The first doll made under licence from Hasbro for the British market was called Action Soldier. Later named Action Man, it was produced by Palitoy and UK-specific outfits were made. As well as the purely military uniforms, popular outfits included football kits and the Red Devil parachutist.

Hornby Dublo First introduced in 1920, Hornby sets were built in the 'O-gauge' scale (about twice the size of the current Hornby sets), which was the standard format in America. Hornby changed to the narrower OO-gauge – 'Hornby Dublo' – in 1938, which allowed more complex layouts to be built on a smaller budget and in a smaller space.

A colourfully illustrated Presentation Pack, written by toy historian David Smith, reveals fun facts behind every plaything in the issue and tells the story of British toy-making over the last five centuries •

Classoc Toys acknowledgements: all photography by John Ross © Royal Mail Group Limited 2017: the Merrythought Bear © Merrythought Ltd 2017: Sindy is the registered Trade Mark and Intellectual Property of Pedigree Dolls and Toys, used under licence by Royal Mail Group Limited: SPIROGRAPH © 2017 Hasbro. All rights reserved. Licensed by Hasbro: STICKLE BRICKS © 2017 Hasbro. All rights reserved. Licensed by Hasbro; W. Britain toy figures © The Good Soldier LLC/W. Britain 2017; fuzzy-felt® © Mandolyn Ltd 2017; MECCANO® & © 2017 MECCANO, used under licence. Ferris wheel model built by Ralph Laughton; ACTION MAN and all related characters are trademarks of Hasbro and are used with permission © 2017 Hasbro. All rights reserved. Licensed by Hasbro; Hornby Dublo © & ™ Hornby Hobbies Limited.

Thematic fun Inspired by Classic Toys to start a toy-themed collection for yourself or a junior collector? Look no further than the Europa stamps of 2015, when the theme was Old Toys. Shown below is the Europa winner from Hungary and a teddy bear from Eire. Paddington Bear appeared in Royal Mail's Classic Chidlren's TV Special Stamp set of 2014 •

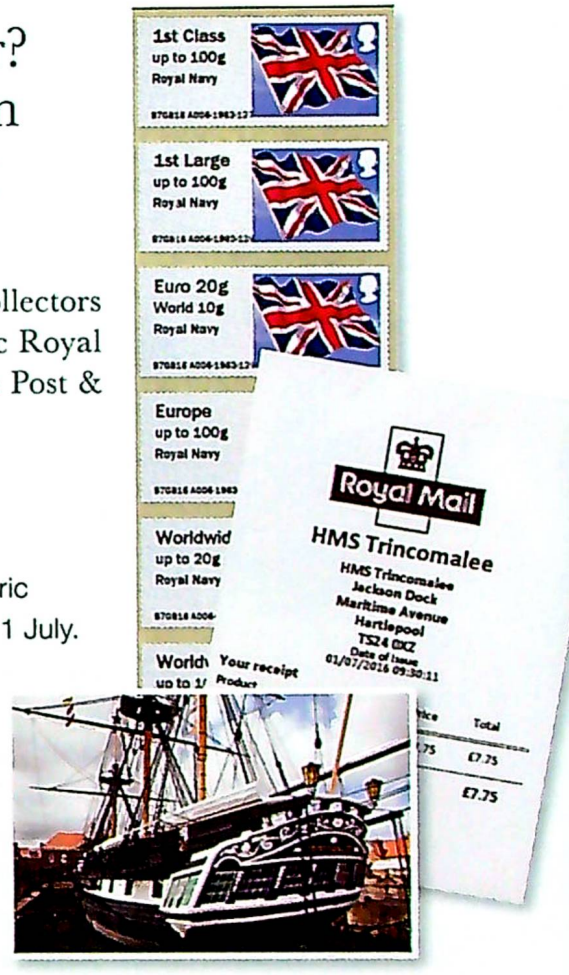


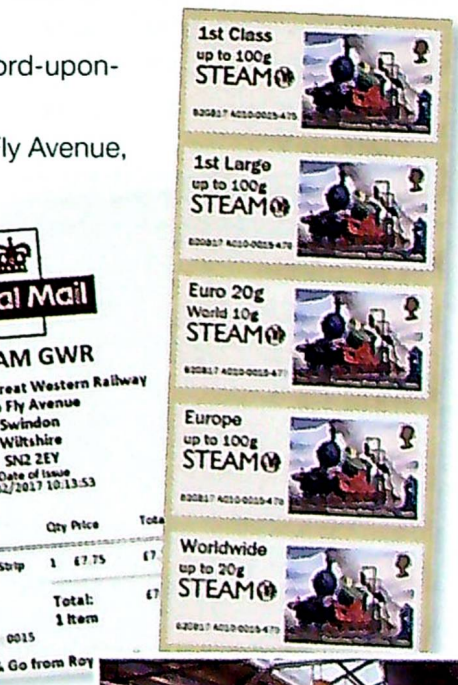


Post & Go Out and about this summer? Then take the opportunity to pocket an unusual Post & Go cover when visiting tourist attractions across the UK

With no new Post & Go stamps until September, we thought collectors would find the following list useful – showing museums with static Royal Mail Post & Go machines, where you can serve yourself for some Post & Go stamps themed with special overprints.

KIOSK NAME	ADDRESS
A001	**The Postal Museum** London WC1X 0DL.
A002	**National Museum of the Royal Navy** Portsmouth Historic Dockyard PO1 3LJ. *HMS Warrior* joins the NMRN fleet on 1 July.
A003	**Fleet Air Arm Museum** RNAS Yeovilton, Ilchester, Somerset BA22 8HT. New exhibition.
A004	**Royal Navy Submarine Museum** Haslar Jetty Road, Gosport, Hampshire PO12 2AS.
A005	**East Anglian Railway Museum** Chappel Station, Colchester, Essex CO6 2DS.
A006	***HMS Trincomalee*** Jackson Dock, Maritime Avenue, Hartlepool TS24 0XZ.
A007	**Explosion! Museum of Naval Firepower** Heritage Way, Priddy's Hard, Gosport, Hampshire PO12 4LE.
A008	***HMS Caroline*** Alexandra Dock, Queens Road, Belfast BT3 9DT. *HMS Caroline* refloat on 1 July after leaving dry dock.
A009	**Shakespeare Birthplace Trust** 13 Henley Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire CV37 6QW.
A010	**Steam – Museum of the Great Western Railway** Fire Fly Avenue, Swindon, Wiltshire SN2 2EY.
A011	**Royal Signals Museum** Blandford Camp, Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 8RH
M001	**RAF Northolt** West End Road, Ruislip, Middlesex HA4 6NG. BFPO open day •







The special venue Post & Go overprints shown here were all available on eBay at the time of writing







A mari usque ad mare* A colourful and fact-packed Commemorative Sheet marks the 150th anniversary of the independence of Canada

THE DOMINION OF CANADA was established in 1867 on 1 July, a date known today as Canada Day. On the eve of the 150th anniversary of that event, Royal Mail has released a Commemorative Stamp Sheet which comprises ten First Class Firework Smilers® with ten labels featuring photographs that pay a fitting tribute to the development of Canada's cultural identity.

The stamps and labels are set in a background that carries informative captioning for each of the labels and is illustrated with bright red maple leaves, evoking the country's national symbol. The Sheet is presented in a protective pack and backing sheet that carries a wealth of information about Canada's history, sports, world role, landscapes and conservation issues – written by consultant editor David Michon, who was born in Winnipeg.

Canada –Celebrating 150 Years Commemorative Sheet – Specifications

Issue date	30 June
Number of stamps	10 x 1st Class Smiler® Firework Design
Studio illustration	Kam Tang
Sheet and Pack design	The Team
Word	David Michon
Sheet format	A4
Stamp format	Portrait
Stamp size	20mm x 24mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	Die-cut simulated
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	Self-adhesive
Price	£15.95

Label by label Photographs on the left side of the Sheet represent:

Canada's aerospace industry which accounts for nearly £17 billion of the country's GDP.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police, known as the Mounties, created in 1873 as the North-West Mounted Police.

Canadian Museum of Human Rights, which opened in 2014 in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Ice hockey Canada's most popular sport.

Nunavut The newest territory of Canada, formed in 1999, is home to just over 37,000 people, about 85 per cent of whom are Inuit.

On the right side of the sheet, from the top:

* *A Mari Usque Ad Mare* (From Sea to Sea) is the Canadian national motto. The phrase comes from the Latin Vulgate translation of Psalm 72:8 in the Bible: 'Et dominabitur a mari usque ad mare, et a flumine usque ad terminos terrae' (King James Bible): 'He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth...'



Canoeing Once a key mode of transportation, canoeing is now enjoyed as a popular pastime by Canadians and, since 1936, as an Olympic sport.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau photographed with The Queen.

Canada's national flag, as it is today, first flew over Parliament at noon on 15 February 1965.

The Canada Memorial in London's Green Park commemorates a million Canadians who served with the British forces in both world wars.

Banff National Park, inaugurated in 1885, is the first of Canada's 46 national parks.

You can order this Sheet online at www.royalmail.com/stamps. Please quote the *Bulletin* Media Code: 17BUL07 •

Artwork acknowledgements

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Stamp Scene Keeping you posted on key events in the world of UK stamp collecting



7 July Strand Stamp Fair, Galleon Suite, Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, London WC1H 0DG, 9am to 4pm. Admission free. Enquiries: Kate Puleston, 020 8946 4489.

8 July Midpex 2017, Warwickshire Exhibition Centre, Leamington Spa, CV31 1XN, 10am to 5pm. See opposite for further details.

8 July Telford Stamp, Card & Coin Fair, Belmont Hall, Wellington Centre, Telford TF1 1LU, 10am to 3pm. Free entry, good range of stalls. Enquiries: B Hemmings, 01694 720192.

8 July National Philatelic Society AGM, Auction and Members' Displays, Welsh Centre, Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8UE. Enquiries: Peter Mellor, 01582 762284.

15 July Kent Federation of Philatelic Societies Summer Rally, Aylesford Community Centre, 25 Forstal Road, Aylesford ME20 7AU, 9.30am to 3.30pm. Organised by Maidstone and Mid-Kent Philatelic Society.

21-22 July York Racecourse Stamp & Coin Fair, Racecourse Grandstand, YO23 1EX. Friday 11am to 6pm, Saturday 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Chris Rainey, 01793 513431 and email chris@chrisrainey.com; Kate Puleston, 020 8946 4489; www.stampshows.net.

27-30 July Philatelic Congress of GB, Jury's Inn, Cardiff. Enquiries: Steven Harrison, 0121 313 0671, sharrison500@btinternet.com. Details opposite.

30 July Hampex 2017 (Hampshire Philatelic Federation), Wickham Centre, Mill Lane, Wickham PO17 5AL, 10am to 4pm.

5 August Cornwall Philatelic Federation Newquex, Trevisker St Eval Community Centre, Orion Drive, St Eval, Wadebridge PL27 7TU (follow brown signs to the Chocolate Factory), 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: 01288 355918, see www.cornwallphilatelic.co.uk.

4 August Strand Stamp Fair, Galleon Suite, Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, London WC1H 0DG, 9am to 4pm. Admission free. Enquiries: Kate Puleston, 020 8946 4489.

13 August Moving the Mail, an event that offers a fascinating day out, especially if you have an interest in the Travelling Post Office (TPO). At Buckinghamshire Railway Centre, Quainton Road Station (left), Quainton near Aylesbury. From 10.30am to 5pm, with the TPO display coach open at 12.30pm. For more details and ticket prices (free steam train rides included), see www.bucksrailcentre.org ●

ABPS Congress

The 99th Philatelic Congress of GB in Cardiff runs from 27 to 30 July and, although it is likely that the delegated hotel (see page 251) will be booked up by the time you read this, it is not too late to book as a day visitor.

This is only the third time Congress has met in Wales, previous venues being Llandudno in 1972 and Cardiff in 1991. The event includes the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists (RDPs) ceremony at Cardiff City Hall. The

new signatories are Alan Holyoake (UK), Colin Tarbeart (UK), John Hotchner (USA) and Steven Walske (USA).

This is one of the highest and most prestigious honours in philately, which recognises achievement, research, publication and service. The Roll was first signed in 1921 and this year's signing ceremony will take place in Cardiff on Friday 28 July. The four new signatories join 78 other current RDPs from 25 countries spread over five continents.

The displays at Congress will have a Welsh theme and there will be a lecture on the future of the Association of British Philatelic Societies. See the ABPS website – www.abps.org.uk – for further information ●



Midpex

Midpex, the largest stamp event in the Midlands, takes place on 8 July (see Diary Dates opposite for venue details). This prestigious biennial exhibition is attended by collectors from across the UK. Some 40 specialist societies showcase their interests, research projects and publications, alongside about 50 local, national and international dealers covering all aspects of philately. As well as a wide choice of stamps, thematics and postal history material, there is also space for postcard dealers this year.

Specialist Societies holding their regional meetings at this month's Midpex include Meter Mail, TPO, Revenue, Malta, Opal, Pacific Islands and Iran Study Groups.

For more information see www.midpex.wordpress.com. Additional details of the venue, the hall location and nearby parking facilities can be found at www.warwickshireexhibitioncentre.co.uk ●

The Postal Museum

The eagerly anticipated opening of the UK's new Postal Museum is scheduled to take place on 28 July, just in time for the school holidays. In a ceremonial launch last month, HRH The Princess Royal declared the Museum open, unveiled a commemorative wall plaque and signed a sheet of special stamps. Princess Anne was taken on a tour of The Postal Museum by the Museum Director Adrian Steel.



Princess Anne visited the Museum's Mail Rail ride (right), which conducts visitors on an interactive tour of the Post Office underground railway, and stops at the original Mount Pleasant station platforms.

A limited edition cover (right) was created for Princess Anne's visit, bearing equestrian-themed Smilers® stamps franked with The Postal Museum's postmark ● ▸



Autumn exhibitions

Autumn Stampex will be at the Business Design Centre, Islington, London N1 from 14 to 17 September. The popular Scotex event takes place at the Dewars Centre, Perth on 14 and 15 October, and Stampa (the Irish national stamp exhibition) at Griffith Conference Centre, Dublin from 14 to 16 October. Watch out for more details in future editions of the *Bulletin* ●

Society news

The Great Britain Philatelic Society (GBPS) library has a number of duplicate books and the librarians, Cheryl and Matthew Toomey, have decided to sell these on a first come-first served basis through the website www.gbps.org. At keen prices, the books are offered to GBPS members only, so this might be a good time to join. For details email Victoria Lajer at membership@gbps.org.uk or telephone 07841 526919. Victoria recently took over as Membership Secretary from the long-serving Peter Tanner.

After giving the vote of thanks for RPSL President Frank Walton's presentation of Chinese International Air Mail to 1949, at a June meeting of the Royal Philatelic Society London, Paul Davey was presented with the Society's Tilleard Medal for the best afternoon display of the previous year. In May, Scott Treacey (left with Frank Walton) talked to RPSL members on his specialist subject – Great Britain Line-engraved Plate Repairs 1840-1855. Scott's talk was illustrated with clear images showing the changes caused by plate wear and following plate repair. Many in the audience were surprised to learn that even after quantities of the Penny Red had been printed, Perkins Bacon was still required to print more of the Penny Black, a fact confirmed by the existence of Penny Blacks in a repaired state ●



Special stamp items

The six stamps in the Miniature Sheet Machin Definitive 50 years Of A Design Icon each carry an embossed Machin head. This fact was not clear on our preview illustrations (page 260, May *Bulletin*). For similar reasons, the Preview of the Songbirds Special Stamp issue (page 228, April *Bulletin*) did not mention that Royal Mail was about to create a 'singing' version of the Nightingale stamp: download the relevant smartphone app and you can hold your mobile phone over the stamp to trigger an audio clip of birdsong ●

New from the islands



Jersey Post issues stamps marking 200 years of kaleidoscopes on 10 July, followed by the fourth part of its First World War series (War in the Air) on 4 August. Enquiries: Jersey Philatelic Bureau, Freepost JE793, Jersey Post, Jersey JE1 1AF, www.jerseystamps.com.

The Isle of Man Post Office has released an issue in recognition of a lifetime of service by HRH Prince Philip. Enquiries: Isle of Man Stamps & Coins, PO Box 10M, Douglas, Isle of Man IM99 1PB, 01624 698430, www.iom post.com.

Guernsey has a six-stamp set out on 19 July called Guernsey Folklore that reveals the island's fascinating legends and superstitions. To mark the solar eclipse on 21 August, Alderney releases a set featuring coastal areas that will experience a partial eclipse. Enquiries: Guernsey Stamps, Freepost GU267, Envoy House, La Vrangue, St Peter Port, Guernsey GY1 5SS, www.guernseystamps.com ●



Obituary: John Holman 1950–2017

John Holman was Editor of the *British Philatelic Bulletin* from 1988 to 2010 and of *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* from 1985 to1988.

He was born in Kent in 1950 and went to Bristol University to study economic history with the view of becoming a teacher. Instead he joined the civil service in 1975 but found the work unfulfilling. In 1980 he joined Stanley Gibbons as assistant to Catalogue Editor Jim Negus and was appointed *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* Editor in 1985. He left Stanley Gibbons to join Royal Mail in 1988 as Editor of the *Philatelic Bulletin* and the *Postmark Bulletin*. He worked in these roles until 2010.

John's collecting started at the age of seven in 1957 and he began writing about philately in 1977. He specialised in British Private Posts, Royal Household, Official Mail and some aspects of modern British postmarks and postal history. He was also an old-fashioned collector of stamps, postal labels and covers from around the world, from which he took great pleasure.

Of his specialist interests he most liked stamps of the British bus companies, railway letters and some offshore island posts, especially Lundy. By his own admission he was not a disciplined or well-organised collector. Some of his collections were carefully ordered, others rather higgledy-piggledy – true, no doubt, of many collectors.

John was a member of a number of philatelic organisations including 'The Royal' and the Cinderella Stamp Club, and was a signatory of the Maurice Williams Roll of Notable Cinderella Philatelists. He wrote over 3,500 articles and book reviews, and edited numerous books for Stanley Gibbons.

He always maintained his interest in history and had a soft spot for Jacobite history, contributing some articles to the magazine of the 1745 Association. Scotland was his favourite part of the UK and he visited in the 1960s and again regularly from 1991 to 2007. John had many good Scottish friends.

He had no children of his own but John took great joy from the success of his nephew Tom at Cambridge University and from him becoming a director of a major London antique jewellery company. They got on extremely well together, shared many interests and sense of humour.

John's final illness was thankfully short and he died peacefully early in the morning of 10 June 2017 •



It is with great sadness that we put to page the words above, written for Stamp Scene by John Holman himself while in hospital just a few days ago. Since his 22-year editorship ended in 2010 he has continued to contribute Stamp Scene and This Month in History articles for the *British Philatelic Bulletin*. We will very much miss John at the heart of this publication – his incisive, fact-packed writing style, his gentle wry humour and the constant, kind support and expert advice he has so generously given to the *Bulletin* publishing team over the last seven years. *Kate Shaw*



Landmark buildings

On 13 July Royal Mail launches an intriguing stamp issue featuring ten buildings which have become famous landmarks over the last 20 years

Over the last two decades, there has been a surge in the construction of new public buildings in the UK. A great many of these adventurous and innovative structures, serving culture, sport, government and business, have since become popular and integral parts of their local landscapes. Some were initiated by central government, some by civic leaders, and others were the ideas of passionate individuals.

Since its launch in 1994, the National Lottery has made a vital contribution, its proceeds having funded numerous key building projects. There has also been a renewal of confidence in British architecture led by world-famous architects including Zaha Hadid, Richard Rogers and Norman Foster, along with a host of other talents. Architects from abroad have also been welcomed, with companies and individuals such as Herzog & de Meuron from Switzerland and Spain's Miralles Tagliabue EMBT further enriching the range of ideas and approaches.

On the following pages we present some key facts about the fine array of striking buildings featured on the Landmark Buildings stamp set •

London Aquatics Centre, Queen Elizabeth Park

Architect Zaha Hadid Architects

The main foundation The shape of the centre is inspired by the fluid form of water in motion, with the 1,040-square metre, wood-clad steel roof flowing and undulating like a marine animal.

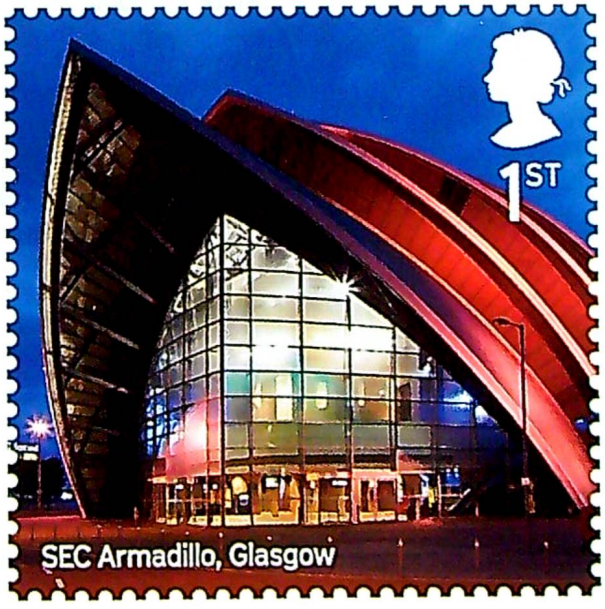
Inside story Inside the centre, where Team GB won a silver and three bronzes in the 2012 London Olympics swimming events, are three pools containing a total of ten million litres of water.

Material fact The roof is made from 3,200 tonnes of structural steel; the building features 628 glass panes; and the six-board diving platform comprises 462 tonnes of concrete.



Library Of Birmingham
Architect Mecanoo Architecten
The main foundation This library is so much more than rows and rows of books – the Library of Birmingham features a musical collection, studio theatre and exhibition gallery.
Inside story Ten storeys in fact – helping to make this building Europe's largest public library. A huge cylindrical void rises dramatically through the centre of the library, criss-crossed by blue-lit escalators and providing access to many different sections of the building.
Material fact The metal filigree of interlocking circles jacketing the library's glass structure symbolises Birmingham's long history of jewellery making, specifically the silver and goldsmiths of the city's Jewellery Quarter.

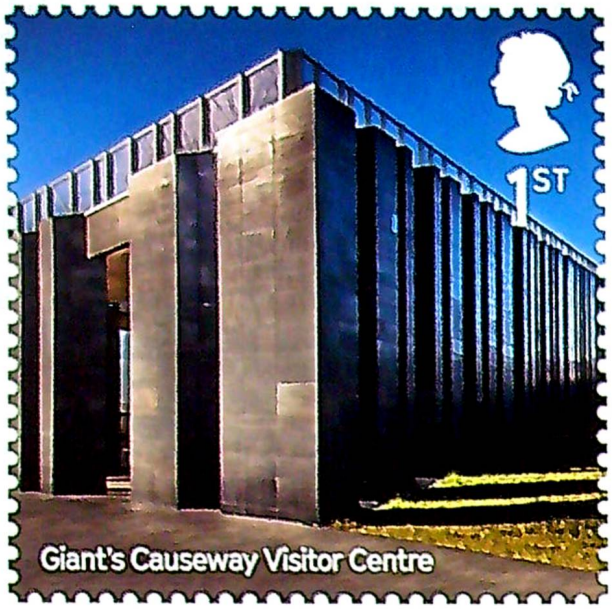




SEC Armadillo, Glasgow
Architect Foster + Partners
The main foundation The interlocking shells cladding this conference centre represent hulls to reflect the shipbuilding legacy of the city's River Clyde and the building's location – Queen's Dock.
Inside story The SEC Armadillo features 13,000 square metres of floor space and capacity for up to 3,000 conference delegates spread over three floors.
Material fact Shiny flat sheet aluminium is used to clad the shells so they dramatically reflect sunlight during the day.

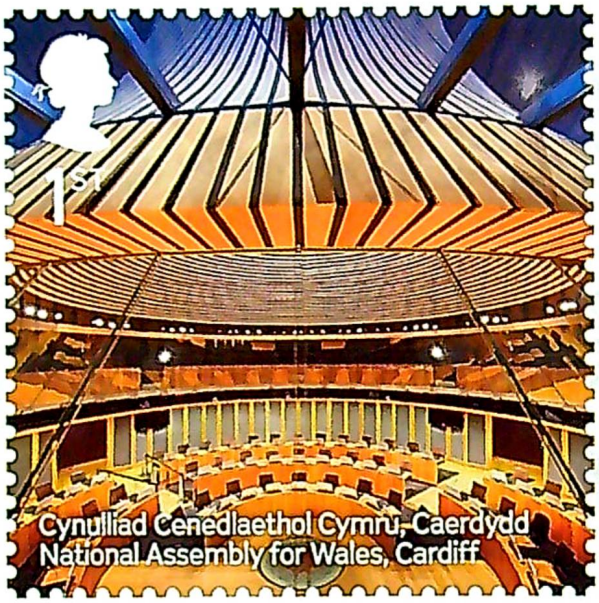
Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh
Architect Miralles Tagliabue EMBT
The main foundation In their plans for the Scottish Parliament building, the architects wanted to find a way to express national identity – their design is therefore inspired by the surrounding landscape, local leaf shapes, boats upturned on the shore, and the flower paintings by celebrated Scottish architect Charles Rennie Mackintosh.
Inside story Above the door leading to the Debating Chamber are the Arniston Stones, which were part of the Scottish Parliament before the Act of Union of 1707.
Material fact Much effort was made to use Scottish materials – for example Scottish oak, Caithness stone, and Kemnay granite from Aberdeenshire.





Giant's Causeway Visitor Centre, North Antrim
Architect Heneghan Peng Architects
The main foundation As the Giant's Causeway is an ancient UNESCO World Heritage Site the central aim of the visitor centre design was to protect the integrity of the Causeway's geology. The centre is located just a kilometre away from the site and the building itself is cut into the terrain, so its profile does not spoil the wild, beautiful Antrim landscape.
Inside story The centre's columns are built from the same lava flow that created the Causeway, with some of the basalt blocks reaching a height of six metres.
Material fact In keeping with the centre's ecological credentials, its roof is effectively a grass-carpeted viewing platform – allowing visitors a 360-degree panorama of Antrim's ruggedly handsome coastline.

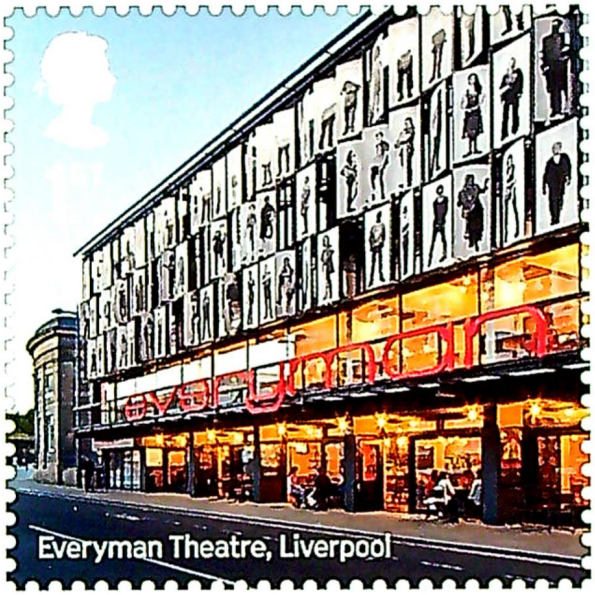
National Assembly For Wales, Cardiff
Architect Richard Rogers Partnership
The main foundation The Senedd – home of the National Assembly for Wales – is built around the idea of sustainability, its design incorporating a number of ecological features. For example, the funnel design of the roof in the Siambr (Debating Chamber) is in fact an immense air vent that cools the room using largely natural means.
Inside story The widespread use of glass throughout the Senedd is intended to signify openness and transparency of government.
Material fact Toilets in the building are flushed and its plants are irrigated using rainwater harvested on the roof and stored in two 50,000-litre tanks.





Eden Project, St Austell
Architect Grimshaw Architects
The main foundation The Eden Project is a massive conservation programme that promotes the preservation of plants from across the globe. Its design – near-spherical biomes holding thousands of species – is inspired by the concept of soap bubbles being able to settle on, and adapt to, a wide variety of surfaces.
Inside story The Eden Project supports almost two million plants from 5,000 species – from cacao trees and olive trees to black bamboo and bergamot – and the world's largest indoor rainforest.
Material fact The biomes' hexagon-shaped windows are made not of glass but ethylene tetrafluoroethylene copolymer (ETFE) – 'cling film with attitude' as the Eden team call it. ETFE is incredibly light (one per cent the mass of glass) but strong, able to take the weight of a Ford Escort.

Turn to page 350 for your chance to win the Landmark Buildings Presentation Pack. You can



Everyman Theatre, Liverpool
Architect Haworth Tompkins
The main foundation The Everyman replaces the much-respected original 19th century theatre of the same name but with some cool contemporary touches. For example, typographer and artist Jake Tilson created a special font – Merseyside Neon – to refresh the theatre's iconic red 'Everyman' sign.
Inside story The inside story of the Everyman – a theatre for all, locals and visitors – is actually told on the outside of the building: on aluminium sunshades over the entrance appear 105 life-size portraits of Liverpudlians by local photographer Dan Kenyon, chosen from an original pool of 4,000 photographs.
Material fact 25,000 bricks from the original Everyman were reclaimed after the old theatre walls were dismantled, and used in the new building.

Imperial War Museum North, Manchester
Architect Studio Libeskind
The main foundation The museum design represents a shattered globe – the world torn apart by total war. Hence the layout is divided into three fragments, 'EarthShard', 'WaterShard' and 'AirShard', to illustrate warfare on land, in the air and at sea. (As Libeskind's drawing on the front page.) The layout is deliberately twisting and confusing to articulate the disorientation caused by war.
Inside story The exhibition space slopes down by eight feet – to imitate the curvature of the earth and heighten the visitor's sense of confusion.
Material fact IWM North is built on a bomb site where a Hovis grain store was destroyed by the Luftwaffe in the Manchester Blitz. When the foundations were excavated, shrapnel and a cartridge case from an anti-aircraft shell were discovered.





Switch House, Tate Modern, London
Architect Herzog & de Meuron
The main foundation The Switch is an intriguingly twisted ten-storey pyramid-shaped extension to Tate Modern in London that refuses to comply with design convention. Reflecting Tate Modern's aims of presenting groundbreaking art to the world, Switch's central staircase changes direction and form at every level.
Inside story The entire structure is built on tanks that once stored fuel for the old power station that now accommodates the main Tate Modern building. These 30 metre-wide, seven metre-high clover-shaped tanks now contain exhibition space.
Material fact Switch's façade is lined by 336,000 bricks in a lattice structure that allows interior lights to 'seep' through the walls, making the building a glowing beacon at night.

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Meet a 'father of philately' M P Castle

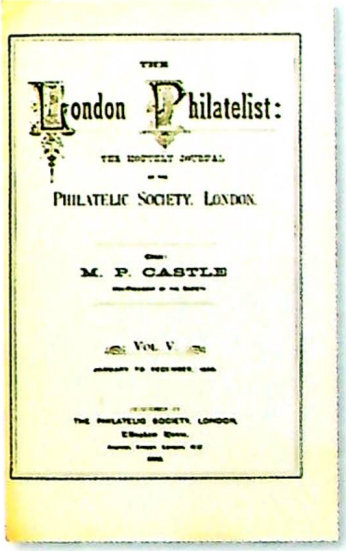
Dane Garrod explores the life and legacy of a key philatelic advisor to King George V

This Castle was a bastion of all things philatelic. A true pioneer of philately, Marcus Purnell Castle – known invariably as M P Castle – was also a founding member of the Expert Committee of the Royal Philatelic Society London. But his life-long obsession with stamps (he was born in 1849) was almost cut short in childhood – for he had the misfortune of having his schoolboy stamp collection stolen while in Germany. But Castle persevered, building up collection after collection over his lifetime. After completing his education at Oxford University, Castle went on to purchase, in 1878, a fine general collection accumulated by J Carrick of Liverpool. The following year Castle joined the Philatelic Society in London (now the RPSL – Royal Philatelic Society, London), which was then in its infancy with only 30 members.

Career and collecting Castle was the owner of the Albion Brewery in Brighton, and the success of the business allowed him time and money to pursue his

hobby – the study and accumulation of stamps as well as becoming the first editor of the new magazine, *The London Philatelist*, which was established by the Philatelic Society of London in 1891. By this time he had been elected to the Society's committee and made a Vice-President. His editorship continued over 25 years until his death in 1917 after a major operation, and included writing a large part of the many issues himself. In addition, from 1913 he had taken on the role of President of the Royal Philatelic Society London.





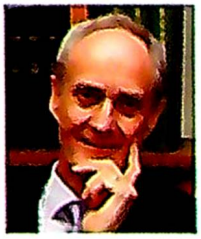
Opposite: M P Castle in his study
Above: front page of *The London Philatelist* 1896
Top: unissued Mauritius stamp, overprinted LPE for the London Philatelic Exhibition of 1890

Philatelic style Castle's approach to collecting was like many philatelists' today, where they study and build up a particular collection: after reaching a level of 'completeness' or meeting a financial barrier too great to be able to continue, a collection is sold to provide funds for a new and fresh collecting area. So it was with M P Castle. Having added to his already outstanding general collection, in 1886 he decided to disperse it and to specialise and concentrate on the Australian portion.

His expertise and skill were such that when he sold this collection eight years later, it filled 22 volumes and contained nearly 30,000 stamps. No sooner had Castle disposed of his Australian stamps than he began a collection of European issues. This new direction filled a further 67 albums when Castle sold it in about 1900. Perhaps wishing that he had not left the stamps of Australia, he then began a second Australian collection.

The 1890 London Philatelic Exhibition Along with Messrs Bacon, Tapling and Tilleard (also profiled in this series on eminent British philatelists), M P Castle was one of the seven members of the organising committee for the 1890 exhibition, for which souvenirs were prepared. About 2,700 unissued Mauritius Britannia Seated stamps, which were in sheets and were no longer valid for postage, were overprinted 'L.P.E. 1890' for the stamp show. Overprints and varieties were additionally made by Castle himself. In the exhibition, his display of New South Wales stamps was awarded a Gold Medal.

M P Castle's legacy As a member of the Expert Committee of the Royal Philatelic Society London from its inception, Castle's wide philatelic knowledge and judgement were considered of great value, and his written opinions given to collectors have assisted many. Castle's articles in *The London Philatelist* are also a part of his legacy to the hobby. On a local basis, he was a joint founder of the Brighton and Sussex Philatelic Society, of which he was President for ten years. Additionally, his name was entered on the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists as one of the 'fathers of philately'. Two further awards he received are worthy of note. Firstly, the award of the Lindenberg Medal in 1909 for his 'conspicuous service to philately' in the area of investigations and contributions to philatelic literature; this award is considered by some as the Nobel Prize of philately. Secondly, King George V, himself a keen philatelist, awarded Castle membership of the Royal Victorian Order in 1911 for his services. Among various descriptions of Castle's qualities is that he was a particularly kind, genial man, with a good measure of quiet humour that endeared him to all. He leaves, then, a fine personal legacy as well as a philatelic one •

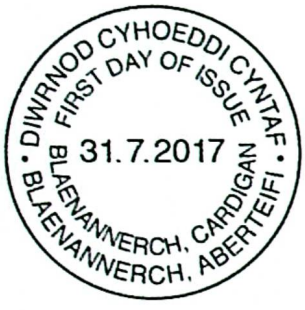


Dane Garrod FRPSL is a social historian and philatelist

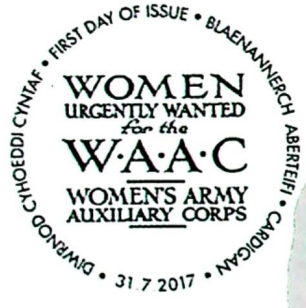


A year of bitter attrition

Six new Special Stamp are issued by Royal Mail this month in commemoration of 1917, the fourth year of the First World War



FD1717-NP



FD1717-PL



FD1717-TH

The slaughter continues without cease, without relief. Allied commanders aim to make 1917 their year after the bloody, nightmarish lessons of 1916 and the Somme. But it is not to be. This year stretches millions of men to their limit. The French Army unleashes its Neville Offensive, but it falters and staggers to a halt. Without hope of victory or survival, exhausted French troops mutiny until half of France's infantry divisions are refusing to fight. In the summer, the Russians launch their Kerensky Offensive. It too is blunted, and a German and Austro-Hungarian counter-attack brings the Russian Army to its knees.

This year only the British seem capable of breaking the deadlock. But their assaults at Arras, the Third Battle of Ypres – also known as Passchendaele – and Cambrai are bitterly inconclusive. The casualties at Passchendaele, for example, are mind-bogglingly high: the British forces suffer 240,000 casualties; and in any case, the Germans retake the ground that the British gained at Passchendaele and at Cambrai, rendering the slaughter as pointless as it is cruel.

1917, then, is a year of hope and despair. Royal Mail's new First World War stamp issue we examine here reflects this bitter blend of emotions.

Hope resides in the heroism of nurses Elsie Knocker and Mairi Chisholm, appearing on one of the three First Class values. They treated 23,000 Allied casualties at the frontline first aid station they ran in Pervyse, Belgium.

Hope also resonates in the miraculous survival story of infantryman Lemuel Thomas Rees. The Bible he kept in his breast pocket stopped a German shell splinter killing him at Passchendaele. One of the £1.57 stamps features his Bible, a chunk of scripture torn out by shrapnel. If men complained in 1917 that God had abandoned hope and humanity at Passchendaele, others might say Private Rees's Bible testifies otherwise.

Hope, along with British determination and innovation, is reflected on



Above: a section of *Over The Top* – as featured in the Presentation Pack – by John Nash, one of the few survivors of the Artists' Rifles counter-attack at Welsh Ridge near Marcoing in December 2017

Facing page: First World War 2017 First Day Cover and alternative first day postmarks

another £1.57 value, where a British ship sports ground-breaking 'dazzle' camouflage. This pattern was designed to disrupt a vessel's profile and so confuse U-boat commanders – a bold response to Germany's decision in 1917 to conduct unrestricted submarine warfare against Allied merchant shipping.

Yet the six-stamp issue, the fourth in a series of five, must portray the horror. And it does with great poignancy. Photographer John Ross's 'Shattered Poppy' image on a First Class stamp is an unsettling symbolic reminder of the tempest of violence that war visits upon the human body; on another First Class, an extract from war poet and infantryman Isaac Rosenberg's doomy *Dead Man's Dump* articulates the irresistible evil of war in which men are destined to die; on the final £1.57, Belgium's Tyne Cot war cemetery lies cold and quiet under a veil of snow: carved on the Tyne Cot Memorial are the names of 35,000 serviceman killed at Ypres who have no known grave, so indiscriminate was the annihilation in the battle.

On the following pages we talk to people who have been involved in making the new stamp issue, and to those closely associated with the brave souls who are featured. John Ross explains how and why he interpreted the poppy, that symbol of remembrance, as destroyed flesh; Bernard Wynick, nephew of Isaac Rosenberg, reflects on the poet's legacy; Nurses Knocker and Chisholm's biographer Diane Atkinson (who successfully campaigned for a statue to be built in their honour on the site of their first aid post) examines their courageous spirit; and art director Gareth Howat, whose agency Hat-Trick has designed the whole series of five First World War commemorative stamp issues, discusses the magic of dazzle camouflage. *Bulletin* associates William Doherty and Sarah Larkin describe their personal responses to the poignant stamp images of Tyne Cot Cemetery in its shroud of snow and Private Lemuel Thomas Rees's life-saving Bible. ▸

Stamp images © Royal Mail Group Ltd 2017



Shattered Poppy,
J Ross



John Ross
Veteran Royal Mail photographer
To create the image for this stamp, a studio was set up in a barn with a supply of liquid nitrogen

It is a shocking reminder that all life wilts under the whirlwind of war: photographer John Ross's extraordinary 'Shattered Poppy' image says it all. The delicate flower of remembrance explodes in symbolic response to the drilling of a bullet or the blast of a shell – one more man dead in the mud.

John explains his interpretation: 'The poppy is deemed a fragile flower that sanctifies the fields where it grows. But here it is shattered and destroyed, when a once peaceful land is torn up with the violent eruption of war.'

To create this image John chose the location of a barn in Berkshire next to a poppy field. Plucking around 50 poppies from the field during the six-hour shoot, he froze the flowers in liquid nitrogen then smashed them with steel medical tweezers and meticulously photographed the fragments. 'When you freeze the poppy, it seems even more fragile,' muses John. 'I like to think this image is eye-catching, thought-provoking, alarming even, especially when today, after 70 years of peace, we seem so ready to rip that peace apart again – and we need to be alerted to the danger' •



Dead Man's Dump,
I Rosenberg



Bernard Wynick
The poet's nephew
The lines on this stamp evoke the idea of thousands doomed to die

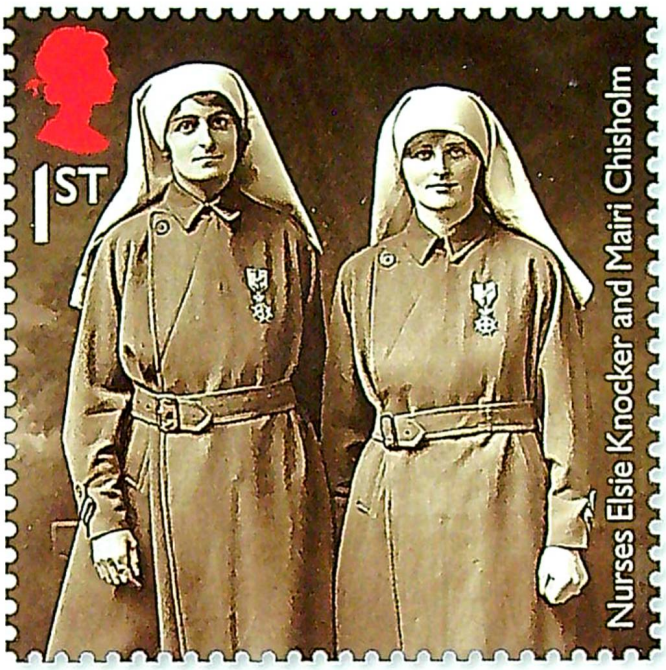
He was sickly and stunted, but Isaac Rosenberg's war poems are giants of the genre. Though no great warrior – he was obliged to join a 'bantam' battalion for men under 5ft 3in – Isaac stuck out the horrors of the trenches in France, where he scribbled masterly anti-war poems until he was killed on patrol near Arras on 1 April 1918. He was 27.

'I'm so pleased these lines were chosen for the stamp,' says the poet's nephew Bernard Wynick, 'as they are some of my favourites in the way they talk about war. We all have to die some time, and the earth stands waiting to engulf us at the finish, but so many die too young in war, like my uncle.

'*Dead Man's Dump* is an amazing poem yet it's full of horror too, and here we see my uncle experiencing it at first hand. He was a small man, a private; he wasn't a typical war poet of the dashing officer class. He was there in the trenches and he wrote poems in the trenches. He lived it, experienced the terrible conditions, the horror, and he wrote about it. That is his poetry's legacy' •



Self-portrait by Isaac Rosenberg, 1915, courtesy the National Portrait Gallery, London.



Nurses Elsie Knocker and Mairi Chishholm



Dr Diane Atkinson
Nurses' biographer and historian
The photo that appears on this stamp inspired Diane to write her book Elsie & Mairi Go to War.

'I'm so pleased Elsie and Mairi have been recognised for the enormous courage they showed,' says Diane of the British nurses who treated 23,000 wounded soldiers at a first aid post in Belgium – just 50 metres from the front line – during four terrifying years of service.

'This picture is extremely poignant because their faces look so innocent and yet they saw such terrible things. Bombs and mortars were going off around them, with shrapnel everywhere, and they were almost killed several times rescuing wounded from no man's land.'

Until they were caught in a gas attack in 1918 and sent home, Elsie (30) and Mairi (18) survived partly by negotiating with the Germans. 'They'd send their dog Shot to the German lines with a message saying they wanted to collect wounded, and the Germans gave them safe passage,' explains Diane. 'They also warned Elsie and Mairi when artillery attacks were coming.'

In 1917, the nurses were awarded the Military Medal for their courage. 'And they thoroughly deserved it,' says Diane. 'They were, and still are, an inspiration' •



Dry Docked for Scaling and Painting, E Wadsworth



Gareth Howat
Stamp designer
Painting 'dazzle' on warships was a huge design challenge, depicted in this woodcut by Edward Wadsworth

A jumble of tiny figures tend an immense British merchant ship, dwarfed by the zebra-like leviathan in its livery of 'dazzle' camouflage. This is one of several woodcuts of dazzle ships made by artist Edward Wadsworth as he supervised the camouflaging of merchantmen in Liverpool docks to protect them against marauding German U-boats. For stamp designer Gareth Howat, the sheer size of the endeavour makes Wadsworth's picture so impressive: 'The effort being made by the crew here is on an epic, industrial scale, which seems even more powerful thanks to the contrast between the massive ship and the minute figures,' he explains. 'It also reflects the huge challenge of the times, at the height of the war, and the need to keep pushing on when nothing seemed certain.'

The idea of dazzle was not to hide the ship, but to deceive German U-boat commanders as to its size, type and direction of travel. British boffinism at its best, perhaps? 'Well,' says Gareth, 'when you think that dazzle's intention was to confuse, Wadsworth's work shows the power of art and design to make people think differently' •



Private Lemuel Thomas Rees's life-saving Bible



Sarah Larkin
Pastor, Abide Church, London and *Bulletin* contributor
The book that acted as a shield in the 1917 Battle of Passchendaele

'Part open, this Bible invites us in – there are tales of battles, suffering, death, loss and grief inside it, but also stories of courage, hope, faith, love and tremendous sacrifice. It is a book that does not promise happy endings, but it does say that for those who endure to the end, or overcome, there will be redemption and reward. For me, its message that death is not the end and that ultimately love will conquer all is an important one to hold onto when war, suffering and early death are still the fate of so many today.

'Private Lemuel Thomas Rees's life-saving Bible saved him for a short time only. He died on 13 November 1918, only two days after the Armistice was signed, from bronchial pneumonia and the effects of gas. He is buried at Terlincthun British Cemetery in France' •



Tyne Cot Cemetery, Belgium



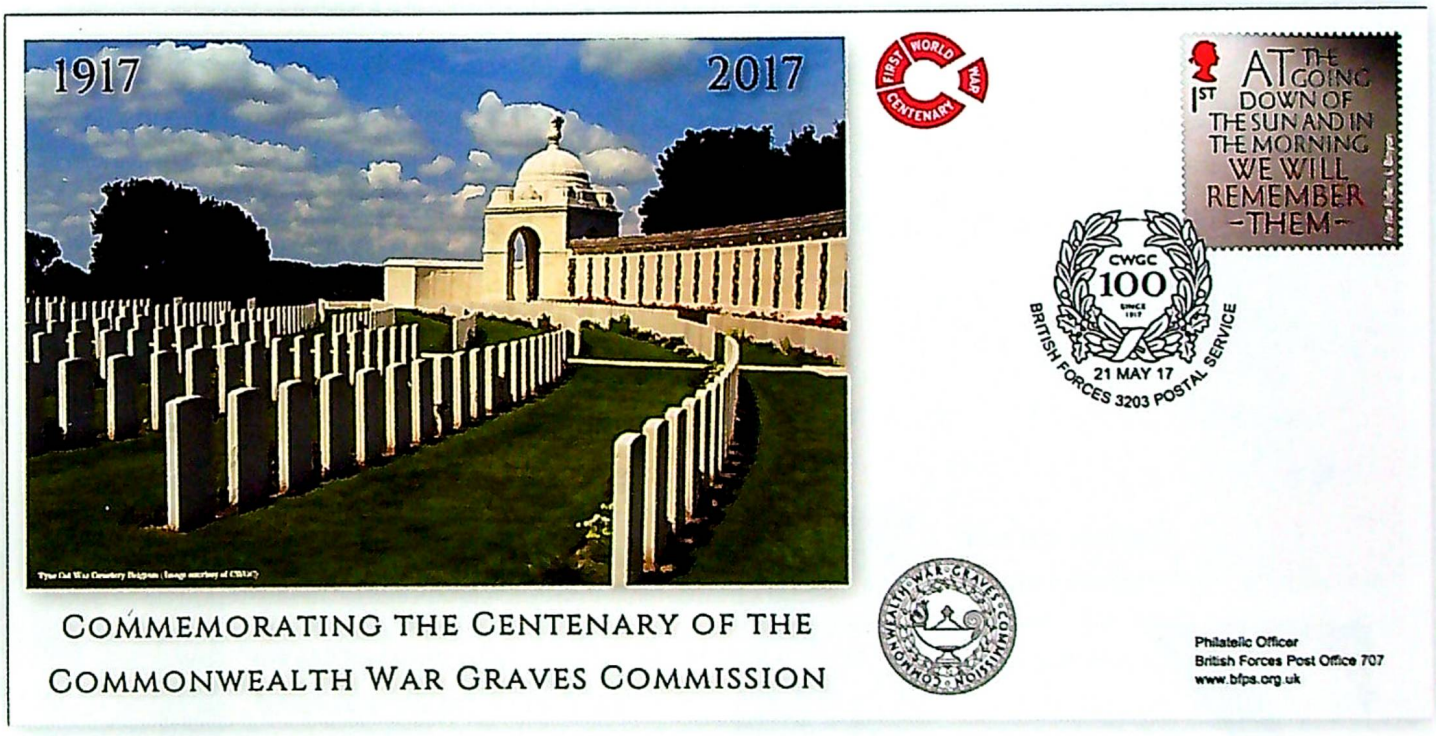
William Doherty
Royal Mail Marketing Manager and *British Philatelic Bulletin* Editor
A total of 11,961 Commonwealth servicemen are buried or commemorated at Tyne Cot Cemetery

'If a graveyard can be beautiful then in this snow-shrouded shot Tyne Cot Cemetery has a mournful splendour. The headstones stand hopefully on silent parade, row upon row fading into the oblivion of a misty winter day, with bare, sad trees standing sentinel. How very sad that we do not know the names of some 8,000 of the Commonwealth servicemen buried here.

'I like to think that this commemorative Special Stamp series goes some way to encourage remembrance. The design of this stamp, the stillness of Tyne Cot and the way the lines of gravestones swell towards the viewer, encourages me to pause a while and consider the mind-boggling mathematics of war – especially the First World War, where the final, dreadful sum totalled millions •

First World War 1917 stamps – acknowledgements: Shattered Poppy by John Ross, 2017 © Royal Mail Group Ltd 2017; 'Dead Man's Dump' by Isaac Rosenberg, quotation used by permission of the Estate of Isaac Rosenberg, typography by Kelvyn Laurence Smith © Royal Mail Group Ltd 2017; Nurses Elsie Knocker and Mairi Chisholm, photograph © National Library of Scotland/ Leabharlann Nàiseanta na h-Alba; Dry Docked for Scaling and Painting by Edward Wadsworth, reference IWM (ART 16380) © Estate of Edward Wadsworth. All rights reserved, DACS 2017; Tyne Cot Cemetery, Belgium, photograph © Mike Sheil/westernfrontphotography.com/Mary Evans Picture Library; Private Lemuel Thomas Rees's life-saving Bible, used with the kind permission of Mr Eurof Rees, photography by John Ross © Royal Mail Group Ltd 2017.





We shall remember A new cover pays tribute to the work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to ensure that the sacrifice of the fallen is never forgotten

This smart new cover marking the centenary of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission demonstrates the dedicated care it takes to preserve the memory of those who fell in two World Wars. Created by the British Forces Philatelic Service (BFPS), the cover features Tyne Cot Cemetery in Belgium.

The neatly tended rows of headstones reflect the diligence and commitment of the War Graves Commission in ensuring that 1.7 million Commonwealth forces war dead are honoured with a fitting final resting place: established since 1917, the Commission cares for cemeteries and memorials at 23,000 locations in 154 countries. The cover has one First Class stamp from the First World War 1914 issue, cancelled using a unique British Forces Postal Service special handstamp (No. 3203) that shows the Commission's centenery logo.

To order your cover, visit www.bfps.org.uk/shop. The price is just £6 for the standard version and £12 for limited-edition covers signed by Director General CWGC (UK/BFPO p&p free). You can also order the cover by post by sending a cheque payable to 'BFPS CIC' to the address shown on the right •

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Fig 1

Z ...is for Zululand and other overprints

The last letter in Colin Baker's A-Z of Postal Stationery series takes us to Zululand for a look at the collecting niche of overprints

Towards the end of the 19th century a number of smaller countries in Africa were governed by Britain, which also meant running a postal service. The Universal Postal Union rules of the time stated that items of postal stationery should be made available as well as a range of adhesive stamps. But in many cases few indigenous people could read and write and it was mainly foreigners and their companies who used the post. So the demand was small. Designing and producing new stationery would have been expensive, and the solution was to use British postal stationery, overprinted with the country's name, and to revalue the item where necessary into the local currency.

In southern Africa, Zululand and Bechuanaland were the only countries where the use of overprinted British postal stationery was necessary. In West Africa both Gold Coast (now Ghana) and Oil Rivers, later called Niger Coast

Fig 1 1d Queen Victoria postcard overprinted for use in Zululand

Fig 2 British Bechuanaland 1½d postcard, used

Fig 3 British Bechuanaland 1d postcard used to Kimberley, South Africa

Fig 4 British Levant King Edward VII registration envelope, used



Fig 2

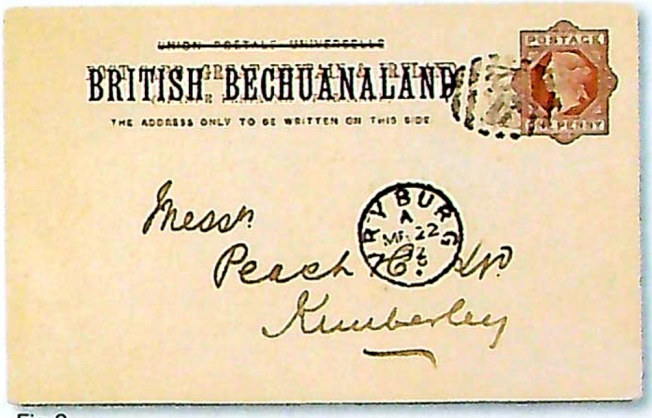


Fig 3

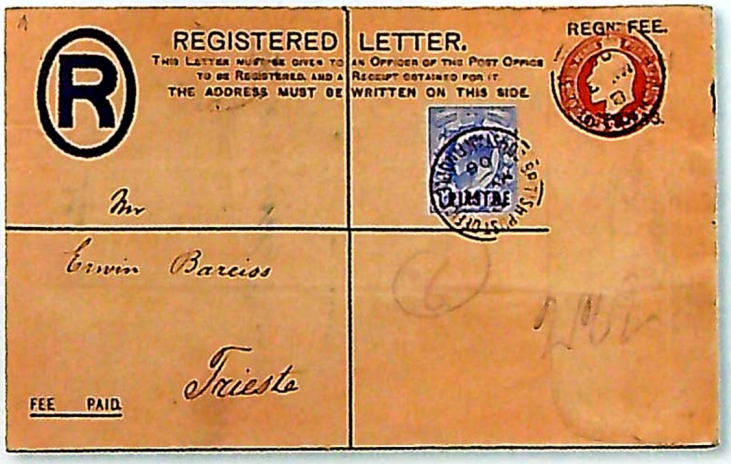


Fig 4

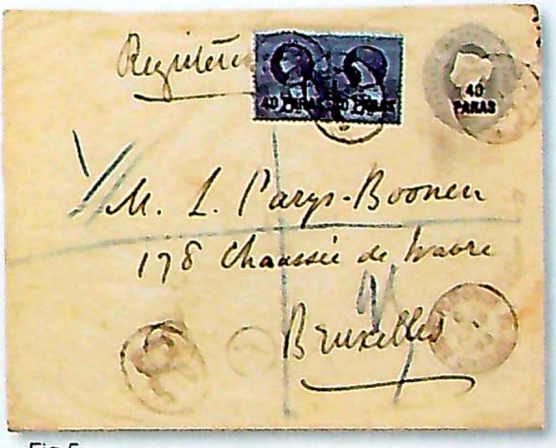


Fig 5

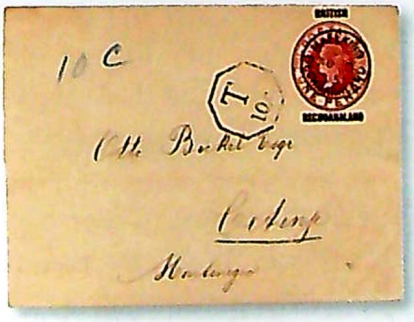


Fig 6

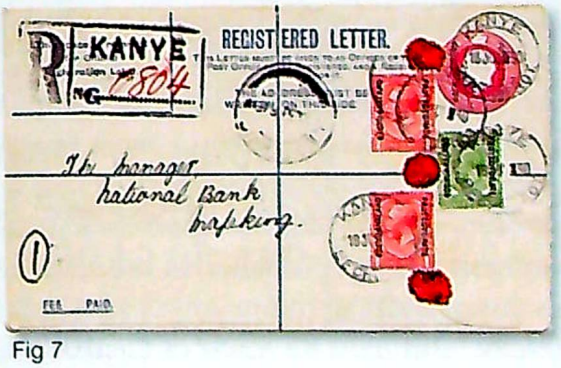


Fig 7



Fig 8

and now Nigeria, were similarly treated. The different types of stationery made available varied from country to country. For example, in Zululand only postcards were produced; in Gold Coast only registration envelopes and a telegraph form were available. British Bechuanaland had the largest range of overprinted stationery in a British colony, but this did not include envelopes.

In a few other countries, and with their agreement, Britain set up its own post offices to handle the mail, as the local postal services were often slow and erratic. Businesses needed a reliable postal service to help with trade and exports; they expected the same high service that they were used to back home. Although British stamps and postal stationery were sometimes used without being changed at all, it was necessary on occasions to overprint them with the country's name and a new value in local currency. One such area was British Levant, in the Ottoman Empire at the eastern end of the Mediterranean. Britain established post offices in Salonica in Greece, ▸

Fig 5 British Levant Queen Victoria 2½d envelope, used

Fig 6 British Bechuanaland 1d wrapper

Fig 7 British Bechuanaland Queen Victoria registration envelope

Fig 8 Gold Coast Queen Victoria registration envelope



Fig 9



Fig 10

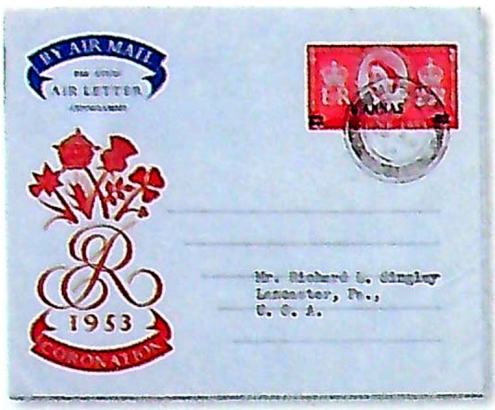


Fig 11

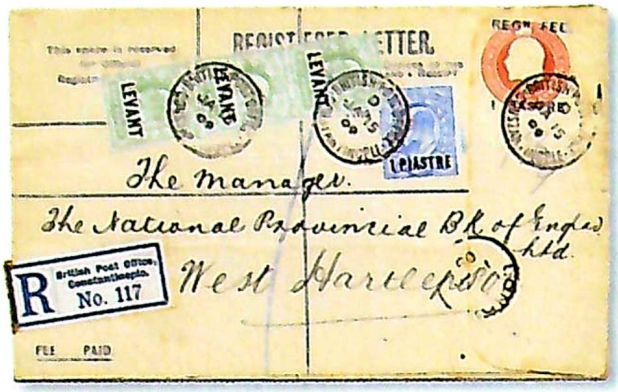


Fig 12

Fig 9 Oil Rivers ½d postcard uprated to 1d for use to Great Britain

Fig 10 Morocco Agencies ½d King Edward VII newspaper wrapper

Fig 11 Coronation air letter overprinted for use in any British post office in the Gulf States

Fig 12 British Levant King Edward VII registration envelope

several towns in Turkey and in Beirut in Lebanon. Non-overprinted stationery was used in the beginning. The Turkish piastre originally equalled 2½d but the currency gradually dropped in value; it therefore became necessary to revalue the stamps and stationery in the Turkish currency to prevent anyone buying items at a reduced price in Levant and bringing them back to Britain to use in the postal system here. This would have cheated the Post Office of some of its revenue.

Morocco was the other country where overprinted stationery, together with adhesive stamps, was used in British post offices established in the major towns throughout the country.

Mention also must be made of Cyprus. In the Victorian era, plans were put in place to use overprinted British postal stationery on the island, and the printing went ahead. But at the last minute there was a change of plan and new Cyprus stationery was produced. The overprinted British material was therefore not needed so that today only mint examples are available for collectors, apart from a very few overprinted items that somehow managed to get through the post in Cyprus.

Gradually the use of British overprinted stationery declined as each country was given its own stationery and British post offices abroad were closed down. But this was not the end of the overprint story. During the Second World War registration envelopes were overprinted for use by both the British Army and civilians in Somalia, and during the 1950s air letters were also overprinted for a number of countries in the Arabian Gulf where Britain had once again set up postal agencies. To discover more about overprinted British postal stationery, visit www.gbos.org.uk, the website of the Great Britain Overprint Society •

For further inspiration about collecting postal stationery see www.postalstationery.org.uk. The Postal Stationery Society welcomes enquiries by email at pps.secretary@gmail.com

Correspondence



Perforation perturbation

I wish to complain about two matters involving the *Bulletin*. Firstly, your publicity for the Machin Golden Anniversary Miniature Sheet showed pictures of elliptical perforations on the 5p and 20p and, having bought several of these sheets, I can see that this is not thecase. No expression of regret for the change was enclosed with my order.

Secondly, also in the May *Bulletin* on page 286, reference was made to the special Scottish Congress Thistle Post & Go strip but I now discover that this is also not available to order. The previous exhibition strips for the Hong Kong and Singapore stamp shows were made available by Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles, so why not the Thistle strip? I am a long-standing customer of Stamps and Collectibles and would therefore be pleased to have an explanation.

Colin R Wright, by email

Although we request sight of all stamps before publishing details, this is rarely possible owing to factors of security,embargo and scheduling. We have informed our digital imagery supplier to look further into this question of erroneous perforations.

About your Post & Go question, I am sorry you were given the impression that these were available from Tallents House but this was not the case on this occasion. Strips are sometimes available for international exhibitions but rarely for UK ones. You may be able to get these from the Lanarkshire Philatelic Society who hosted the event. Please contact Miss Elsie Miller pressofficer@lanarkshireps.co.uk

William Doherty, Royal Mail Editor

Vive la Bulletin

I find the *British Philatelic Bulletin* more and more interesting and now read it from cover to cover, often in queues and in waiting rooms! I particularly like articles on the artists and designers, and the stories behind the events depicted on Special Stamp issues, such as the fascinating story of the Shackleton expedition.

So please keep up the good work. Now I have stopped collecting actual stamps on a regular basis, I depend entirely on the *British Philatelic Bulletin* to keep up my interest in philately.

I was pleased to see the annual readers' Favourite Stamp Poll available online last time, but I have a question to ask: why do you no longer ask us to vote for our favourite stamp set? British stamp design is outstanding, in my opinion, and some series are exceptionally original – for example, Animail, Agatha Christie and, above all recently, The Great Fire of London. In addition, the use of black and white photography on some stamps and sometimes the use of large text display have been, to my eye, most successful experiments and resulted in very distinctive Special Stamp sets.

E Meuret, Lons le Saunier, France

Thank you for your kind letter. We stopped the voting for favourite stamp sets because we felt it skewed the results for the favourite stamp. Often one's favourite stamp is part of one's favourite set, so some voters tend to vote for a favourite individual stamp from another set rather than vote for a stamp from their favourite set, which seemed like voting for the same stamp twice. The statisticians who helped create the online poll agreed with this change.

Kate Shaw, Publishing Editor

It's good to hear from you...

The Editor welcomes your correspondence either by email to rmbulletin@rocketmail.com or by post to Tallents House (see address on page 323). The senders of letters published will receive one of the latest Royal Mail Presentation Pack as a thank-you.



Museum pieces



WIN
LANDMARK BUILDINGS PACK AND FAMILY TICKETS FOR IWM NORTH

Answer these four questions about the stamps above celebrating Britain's museums and galleries and you could win the Landmark Buildings Presentation Pack and a family ticket to Manchester's national war museum.

a Identify this museum, named after a 19th century royal couple and opened in 1893.

b This stamp shows IWM North in Manchester. What does IWM stand for?

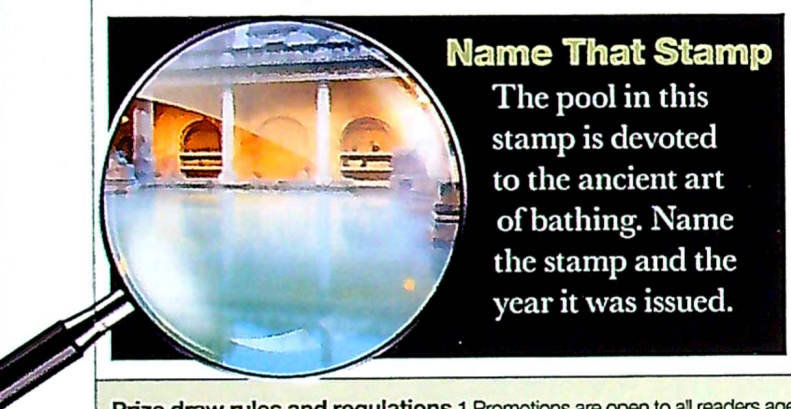
c This towering art gallery soars above the River Thames. How many storeys does it have?

d This was a top-secret Second World War base – now it is a cracking museum dedicated to the science of deception in warfare. What is it called?

How to enter Send your answers, marked 'Museum Pieces Puzzle' and/or 'July Name That Stamp', to Bulletin Draws, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB or by email to rmbulletin@rocketmail.com.

Closing date 9 August 2017.

Prizes Five entries drawn in each section after the closing date win the Landmark Buildings Presentation Pack and one winner in each section wins a family entry ticket to IWM North. Manchester.



Name That Stamp

The pool in this stamp is devoted to the ancient art of bathing. Name the stamp and the year it was issued.

Solutions and winners...

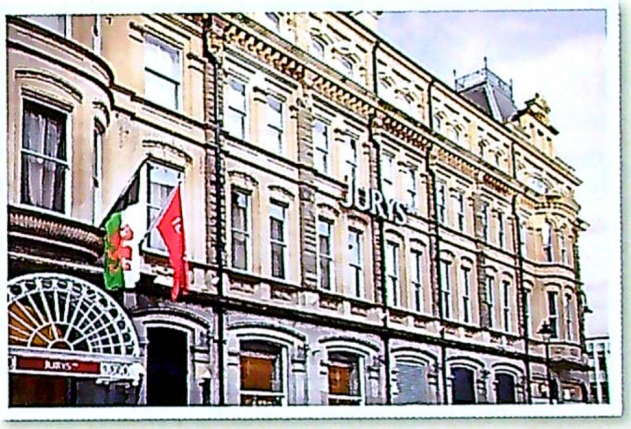
April Whinny *Solutions* 1b, 2a, 3c, 4a, 5a, 6a. *Winners* E Emery, Portchester; J Lamont, Nottingham; G Derbyshire, Clitheroe; M Phillips, Chippenham; J C Rennie, Kew Victoria, Australia.

Name That Stamp *Solutions* 2014 Working Horses (The King's Troop Ceremonial Horses);= 1979 Horseracing Paintings & The Bicentenary of The Derby (The Liverpool Great National Steeple Chase 1839). *Winners*: G Young, Dundee; P Clutton, Newport Pagnell; K W Hatch, Maidenhead; A Perry, Taunton; D Ward, Lowestoft.

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.

Cardiff Congress calling...









Above: the Jurys Inn hotel, Cardiff
Far left: Glorious Wales, Society Stamp Sheet of Newport and Gwent Philatelic Society

Left: Cardiff City Hall, where the RDP ceremony takes place this month

27 to 30 July 2017

The Philatelic Congress of Great Britain is organised annually by the Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS). This year's 99th Congress is hosted in Cardiff by the Newport and Gwent Philatelic Society and the Cardiff Philatelic Society. It offers a unique opportunity to meet fellow collectors, newcomers and experts in an informal atmosphere with a busy programme of talks, convivial dinners and a wide range of displays.

There is still time to book your place. The Congress is to be held at the Jurys Inn hotel, Park Pace, Cardiff CF10 3UD, beginning on Thursday 27 July. The Jurys Inn is just a 15-minute walk from Cardiff railway station and the terminus of the Cardiff airport bus.

Find out more about the Congress programme of events on page 300 and at www.gbcongress.uk. For booking and details of day visitor charges, contact Gerald.Marriner@gmail.com •

Royal Mail stamp Issues and Withdrawals

30 June — **Issue** Celebrating Canada Commemorative Sheet. See page 328.



13 July — **Issue** Landmark Buildings: Stamps (10 x 1st Class), Presentation Pack, Stamp Souvenir, Postcards (10 in set), Framed Stamp Set. Preview: page 292. Background: page 334.



28 July — **Withdrawal** Beatrix Potter™: Stamps (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.33, 2 x £1.52), Miniature Sheet, Presentation Pack, Postcards, Stamp Book, Prestige Stamp Book. Details: Vol 53, page 340.

31 July — **Issue** First World War 1917: Stamps (3 x 1st Class, 3 x £1.57), Presentation Pack, Stamp Souvenir, Prestige Stamp Book (4 panes – 4 x Poppy 1st Class, 3 x 1st Class Specials, 3 x £1.57 Specials, 8 x 1st Class 'Barbed Wire' Poppies), Postcards (6 in set), Coin Cover with Brilliant, Silver Proof and Gold Proof, Framed Stamp Set. Preview: page 294. Feature: page 340.

15 August — **Withdrawal** Eddie Stobart: Stamp Sheet and Presentation Folder.



16 August — **Withdrawal** Landscape Gardens: Stamps (2 x 2nd Class, 2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.05, 2 x £1.33 in 4 x horizontal se-tenant strips of 2), Presentation Pack, Stamp Souvenir, Stamp Book (2 x 1st Class Specials, 4 x Definitives), Postcards (6 in set). Details: Vol 53, page 324.

22 August — **Issue** Classic Toys: Stamps (10 x 1st Class in 2 x se-tenant strips of 5), Presentation Pack, Stamp Souvenir, Postcards (10 in set), Framed Set of Stamps. Preview: page 324.

Order all philatelic items, including the stamp products listed above, at **www.royalmail.com/stamps** or from **Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles** PO Box 1373, Sunderland SR5 9PG, UK. (Overseas subscribers will need to use a stamp.) 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. Please quote **17BUL07**, the *Bulletin* media code. Selected items are available at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets at main post offices.

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Royal Mail

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