

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The ROYAL MAIL magazine for stamp collectors

Volume 44 Number 1

SEPTEMBER 2005 £1.20

Bulletin

Christmas • GPO logo • NPM
cards • Victoria Cross issue

The King has awarded the Victoria Cross to Serjeant A. J. Knight of the Post Office Rifles, for the acts of distinguished bravery explained below. In civilian life Mr. Knight is a Clerical Assistant in the North Midland Engineering Department. The report in the London Gazette is as follows:—

“For most conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty during the operations against the enemy positions.



‘His several single-handed actions showed exceptional bravery, and saved a great number of casualties in the Company’
London Gazette, 8 November 1917



Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



Cover Alfred Joseph Knight, a Sergeant in the Post Office Rifles, won the Victoria Cross in 1917. With Royal Mail's VC stamps released this month, Derek Hunt tells the stories of the men on the stamps (p18). Detail from *Sergeant Alfred Knight VC* by Terence Cuneo (bottom right) reproduced by kind permission of the Cuneo Estate. Photograph by Geoff Dann.

Issues All items are available from Royal Mail Tallents House (address below); selected items are available at Post Office branches and Post Office philatelic outlets at main post offices in Bath, Birmingham, Brighton, Bristol, Cambridge, Canterbury, Cardiff, Chester, Colchester, Coventry, Croydon, Durham, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Grimsby, Harrogate, Leicester, London (Trafalgar Square & Eastcheap), Newcastle upon Tyne, Norwich, Nottingham, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Southampton, Southend-on-Sea, Stevenage, Stratford-on-Avon, Stroud, Truro, Windsor and York.

Royal Mail Tallents House 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB, UK. Telephone order line (08.30–17.00 Monday to Friday): 08457 641 641; from overseas +44 131 316 7483. Minimum handling charge UK £1.45, Europe £1.55, rest of world (airmail) £2.15. Some products can be ordered on Royal Mail's website: www.royalmail.com/stamps

31 August

Issue Year of Three Kings miniature sheet (£3 Machin definitive and reproductions of George V, Edward VIII and George VI 1d stamps).

12 September

Issue Stamp books: 6 × 1st, 12 × 1st, 12 × 2nd; Business sheets 100 × 1st, 100 × 2nd, standard-size definitives (PIP design).

14 September

Issue Victoria Cross stamp cards.

14 September

Withdrawal Classic ITV stamps, presentation pack, generic Smilers sheet, and stamp cards.

21 September

Issue Victoria Cross stamps, miniature sheet, presentation pack, prestige book, coin cover, miniature sheet authentic press sheet.

26 September

Issue Sounds of Britain stamp cards.

29 September

Withdrawal Pillar to Post stamp ingot covers (five covers).

2 October

Issue Stamp book 6 × 1st standard definitive (PIP design) with label promoting stamp collecting on inside front cover.

3 October

Issue Sounds of Britain stamps and presentation pack; rolls of 1000 of 1st and 2nd class standard-size definitives in revised (PIP) design.

17 October

Issue Stamp book 6 × 1st class new Smilers stamps (definitive size); Generic sheet containing new design.

17 October

Withdrawal Trafalgar stamps, miniature sheet, pack and stamp cards (prestige book, coin, ingot & cachet covers to remain on sale).

24 October

Issue Stamp ingot – Edward VIII 1d stamp.

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The British Philatelic Bulletin is published monthly by Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ • **Editor** J R Holman • **Price** £1.20 single copies from Post Office Ltd philatelic outlets • **Annual subscription** £12.95 UK & Europe; £17.95 elsewhere. Send subscriptions to Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB • **Binders** (to hold 24 issues) £8.50, storage boxes (about 30 copies) £9.95 available by post from Royal Mail (Edinburgh address, above) • Royal Mail also publishes the fortnightly *British Postmark Bulletin*, giving 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 specified author. All requests to reproduce any article should be addressed to the Editor, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ • **Design** Robert Maude • **Printed** in Great Britain by Beacon Press • **ISSN** 0953 8119 • Royal Mail is a trading name of Royal Mail Group plc. Registered in England and Wales no 4138203 registered office 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ

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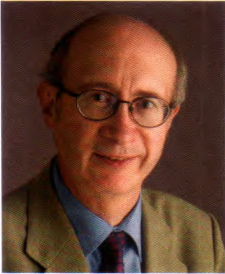
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This month The Editor previews this issue



John Holman, Editor

THIS MONTH'S stamp issue marks the 150th anniversary of the Victoria Cross and should prove popular as this is a very worthy commemoration. I am pleased to include in this *Bulletin* an article on the VC by Derek Hunt, the author of a book about one of the brave men who received the award at the end of the First World War. This leads me to mention the miniature sheet to be issued in November to mark the 90th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme and the Remembrance Day ceremonies. The Somme was perhaps the most dreadful battle of the Great War, and reminds us of the waste of life in all such conflicts. Most families have relatives or ancestors who served in the First World War; let us remember and thank them when we see the poppy stamp on the miniature sheet. JOHN HOLMAN, EDITOR ●

Stamp scene News and upcoming events, by Glenn Morgan and John Holman

Glenn Morgan Glenn took over this column in June last year. This month's offering has been written partly by Glenn and completed by the Editor after Glenn needed emergency eye surgery. We are pleased to hear he is progressing well and hopes to resume work on October's Stamp Scene ●



Autumn Stampex will be at the Business Design Centre, Upper Street, Islington, London N1, 20-24 September. Opening hours are 12.00-19.00 on Wednesday, 10.30-18.00 Thursday and Friday, 10.00-18.00 on Saturday, and 10.00-15.00 on Sunday. Many dealers (about 20% from overseas) will offer everything from the classic stamps to new issues, postal history to philatelic accessories. The National Youth Stamp Group caters for younger visitors by providing a host of activities, including the ever-popular Saturday afternoon auction. The British Forces Post Office and Bletchley Park Post Office will have stands offering their colourful covers for sale. There will be a joint stand for the Association of British Philatelic Societies and National Philatelic Society, where visitors can go for information. A number of societies will hold meetings at Stampex, including the GB Philatelic Society. A Stampex cover will be on sale at the information stand, where visitors can also obtain a Stampex business customised stamp sheet (as shown at left) and the exhibition catalogue which contains the customary free Stampex postcard –

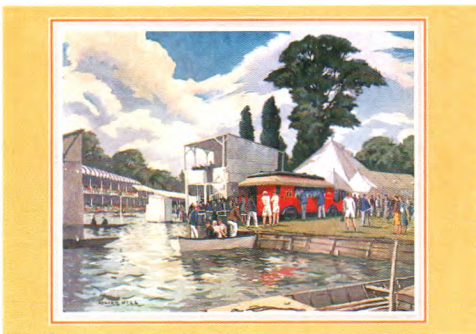
these cards are now building up into a rather attractive and interesting series. The Stampex business customised sheet features the Union Jack stamp with adjoining labels depicting a vc medal. The design of the postcard will relate to the forthcoming vc stamp issue.

The Royal Mail stand will have the full range of current stamps and other products, with two extra tills to help speed up queues at busy times. There will be a new Instant Smilers booth for collectors to obtain Smilers sheets, and a Stampex inscription will be printed in the sheet margin. The vc stamps, miniature sheet and PSB go on sale on the second day of the show, and a Stampex First Day of Issue postmark will be available. Royal Mail's new Stamps & Collecting community website will also be introduced ●

Stampex enquiries Mike Czuczman on 01252 628006 or email him: info@philatelic-traders-society.co.uk

The Business Design Centre is a short walk from Angel underground station (Northern line) and there are plenty of eating places nearby.

British Postal Museum & Archive A BPMA exhibition, 'Moving the Mail: Horses to Horsepower', is on show at the Coventry Transport Museum, Hales Street, Coventry CV1 1PN until 24 October. The postal service has always been at the forefront of advances in technology and Moving the Mail is a reflection and celebration of this. After the First World War, the postal service introduced its own motorised fleet, and stopped relying on contractors. Postal service vehicles were purposefully designed and manufactured by famous and innovative car manufacturers such as Morris and Daimler. The classic Morris Minor and Morris Commercial can both be seen in this unique exhibition. The star of the show is the original 1930s Mobile Post Office, which used to be a popular attraction at county shows, fairs, race meetings and other events. The exhibition is open daily 10.00-17.00, admission free. Enquiries: +44(0)24 7623 4270 ●



The Mobile Post Office at Henley Royal Regatta c1937 (NPM postcard 1988).

Torquay 2006 The sixth National Philatelic Exhibition takes place at the Riviera International Centre, Torquay, 24-25 November. This follows successful exhibitions in Newcastle, Hove, Glasgow, Chester, and Basildon (1996-2004). Over 40 dealers will be present, and the national philatelic competitions, previously at Stampex, will be held as part of the show with exhibits in the following classes: Traditional, Aerophilatelic, Cinderella, Open, Postal History, Postal Stationery, Thematic, Social Philately, Special Studies, Revenue, Literature, and One Frame. In addition there will be competitive exhibits in Inter-Federation and Youth sections.

Amongst the main attractions will be a display from the Royal Philatelic Collection of Great Barrier Island Pigeon Mail and Falkland Islands Centenary issue, part of the Rotary International Display, and sponsored displays by the British Thematic Association, Cinderella Stamp Club, and Revenue Society of GB. The following societies will have stands: Channel Islands, Faroe Islands, GB Overprints, German & Colonies, and West of England Thematic. A special postmark will be used on mail posted at the exhibition and a souvenir sheet and 'Smilers' sheet are planned ●

Torquay enquiries ABPS Torquay 2006, 29 Bowhay Lane, Exeter EX4 1PE or see website www.torquay2006

International exhibitions The next international will be España 06 in Malaga, Spain (7-13 October) and Belgica in Brussels (16-20 November). Richard West, the UK Commissioner for Belgica, will be writing about the show and youth stamp exhibitions in the November *Bulletin*. Royal Mail will issue on 14 November a generic sheet for Belgica, containing 20 1st class Hello stamps with illustrations relating to thematic collecting on the adjoining labels. The exhibition logo features in the top sheet margin ●

For competition entry forms and more details of the British Youth Stamp Championships see www.planetstamp.co.uk

British Youth Stamp Championships Stamp Active Network is delighted that Stanley Gibbons will again sponsor the national youth competition. The British Youth Stamp Championships at the 'Torquay 2006' exhibition. They thank the ABPs and organisers of 'Torquay 2006' for their assistance and support in staging this competition. For Spring Stampex Stamp Active Competition winners, here's a chance to advance by entering your exhibit in the Championships. You can expand your Stamp Active entry and improve it by adding better items, or developing your theme. Your club leaders will help, and you could win a Championship ribbon or medal!

For tips on collecting, running junior clubs, new stamp releases (including World Cup stamps) and much more, go to www.planetstamp.co.uk ●

The new coupon is available at main Post Office branches in the UK, price 95p. (Details from UPU press release).

New IRC The Universal Postal Union has produced a new design international reply coupon. The design (see August *Bulletin*, p000), inspired by the famous Michelangelo work in the Sistine Chapel, results from a competition in which 15 postal administrations participated. The winning entry was from the Ukrainian artist Volodymyr Taran, who illustrates children's books, paints and redesigns interiors and furniture. His recent illustrations for coins earned him prizes from the International Coin Design Competition in Japan. The new coupon is referred to by the UPU as 'Beijing model 2' and will be sold at post offices in over 70 countries. It is valid for exchange for the appropriate rate stamps until 31 December 2009. Reply coupons were first issued in October 2007, and to mark the centenary countries will be able to overprint a special inscription on the coupon: '1907-2007 100 years of IRCs'. Some 2.2 million coupons are sold each year ●

Museum of London The Museum is fundraising for a major redevelopment which will commence in February 2007. The project will see the creation of new 'Modern London Galleries' and a new Learning Centre to cater to the approximately 70,000 schoolchildren who visit the Museum each year. There will also be a new information zone and resource centre. To raise funds, the Museum has launched 'The Great Sale of London', where for £5000 the public and businesses are able to buy a favourite London year and 'claim' it as their own. Buyers will be able to have their very own plaque display in the new gallery space to commemorate their year. One of the buyers has been Royal Mail, who claimed 1840 to commemorate the first adhesive stamp, the Penny Black. The scheme has already raised £100,000 with great input from the public interested in identifying the years they feel as being important to the evolution of London ●

Auctions Sotheby's continue their auctions of the Sir Gawaine Baillie collection this month with his Rhodesia material. This includes a fully comprehensive study of the 1910-13 'Double Head' issue featuring portraits of George V and Queen Mary. The issue comprises just 18 values, each collected in great detail and printed from numerous plates and combinations which resulted in unusual printing combinations and a fantastic variety of shades. This will be followed by the sale of British Empire stamps in November and December; of particular interest are studies of Cook Islands, Fiji, New Guinea and New Zealand Dependencies •

The latest in Harmers popular Lots and Collections sales (24 May) included more than 370 bulky lots, with a total realisation of over £210,000. An enormous duplicated selection in albums, packets, etc, estimated at £4250, realised £7058. In the One Country section, a two-volume GB collection went for £18,820 – over £6000 more than the estimate •

Spink's auction programme to the end of 2006 comprises: 4-5 October, British West Indies, Peter Jaffe Collection; 26 October, subject to be advised; 8 November, British Empire Stamps & Covers; 9 November, Barbados, Peter Jaffe Collection; 7 December Stamps & Covers of the World •

Cavendish's auction on 8-9 June included some 460 GB lots, both sought-after stamps and postal history. In the Robert Johnson collection of 2d blue plate numbers on cover, the 1859 Parliamentary notice with Cork spoons made £1380, the 'Royal Flush' cover bearing a full set of line-engraved values (1½d, 1d red, 1½d & 2d) achieved £2760 (est £500) and a cover bearing 17 examples of the Plate 9 2d reached £3220. A London 'Ship Letter' cancelling a 1d red on 1858 cover achieved £2530. Cavendish's 28-29 September sale includes Scottish Steamer Mail •

Sothebys 020 7293 6000, www.sothebys.com

For further information on Sir Gawaine and his collection see September 2004 *Bulletin*.

Harmers 020 8747 6100, www.harmers.com

Spink 020 7563 4000, www.spink.com

Cavendish 01332 250970, www.cavendish-auctions.com

Thematica The main awards at the exhibition (24-25 June) were as follows. Judged to the same standard as thematic entries at national level, the winner of the British Thematic Association Trophy was Peter Denly with 'The Mariner's World'; the Inter-Federation competition for the Healey and Wise Salver went to Sussex with Jim Etherington's entry of '1940: Debauchery in Europe'. Visitors to Thematica choose the winner of the John Fosbery Thematic Trophy, awarded to Stafford May for 'Man's Measurement of Time'.

Visitors were given a free souvenir sheet featuring an alternative design submitted by Jeffery Mathews for The Queen's 60th birthday issue, reproduced by permission of the British Postal Museum and Archive. The sheet was printed in an edition of 5000 by Cartor. Two Thematica Smilers sheets were also available, with the small-size Hello stamp and two of the 1969 Concorde stamps (4d & 9d) reproduced on the labels with Thematica logo superimposed. These sheets are still available, priced £24.95 each, (£49.50 for the pair) from Thematic Exhibitions, PO Box 8843, London N3 1HL. A third sheet, reproducing the 1s6d Concorde stamp on the labels, will be available at the next Thematica at Carisbrooke Hall, Seymour Street, London W2 (close to Marble Arch), 18-19 November. The exhibits and souvenir sheet were arranged by The Friends of Thematica •

Friends of Thematica

For details contact Brian Sole, 3 Stockfield Road, Claygate, Esher KT10 0QG. Membership is £20 a year.

Royal Mail news New issues and products

• 2007 special issues • Definitives update



Lest We Forget The 1st class poppy stamp measures 35 × 37mm, perforation gauge 14 × 14.5. The sheet measures 124 × 71mm.

Opposite page, from top: the first day cover, first day postmarks, presentation pack and the generic sheet.

Lest We Forget A miniature sheet containing a new 1st class stamp, showing Flanders poppies, and four 72p country stamps, will be issued on 9 November in time for Remembrance Day (11 November), price £3.20. The sheet marks the 90th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme. Similar sheets in 2007 and 2008 will mark the Battle of Passchendaele and the Armistice. The 2006 sheet (and poppy stamp), was designed by Hat-trick Design and printed in gravure by De La Rue Security Print. This will be the first time the Northern Ireland 72p country stamp has been produced in gravure.

The sheet will also be sold in a presentation pack (£3.70) written by military historian Richard Holmes, giving details of the Battle of the Somme and of the 'Accrington Pals' (11th Bn The East Lancashire Regiment). The battle, which lasted from July to November 1916, inflicted over 1 million casualties. The well-designed pack contains some poignant images of the First World War including the famous 'Your Country Needs You' recruitment poster of Lord Kitchener by Alfred Leete; the image was originally designed for a magazine cover before being put to its better-known use.

The first day cover envelope (30p each), shows British Empire soldiers on the Western Front. Serviced covers with Tallents House or London SW1 (Cenotaph) first day postmarks can be ordered from Tallents House by the day of issue, price (each) £4.24 for UK customers and £3.61 for overseas.

A generic sheet containing 20 of the 1st class poppy stamp will be available, price £6.95, printed in litho by Cartor. Twelve of the labels adjoining the stamps feature sculptures on the Cenotaph, and other memorials, with details of these on the other eight labels •

LEST WE FORGET

ROYAL MAIL MINT DAY COVER



ROYAL MAIL TALLENTS HOUSE
EDINBURGH
IN
FLANDERS FIELDS
THE POPPIES
BLOW
JOHN MCCRAE
9.11.2006
FIRST DAY OF ISSUE



WE WILL
REMEMBER
THEM
LAURENCE BINYON
9.11.2006
FIRST DAY OF ISSUE LONDON SW1



LEST WE FORGET
ROYAL MAIL MINT STAMPS



• AGE SHALL NOT WEARY THEM, NOR THE YEARS CONDEMN • AT THE GOING DOWN OF THE

THEY SHALL GROW NOT OLD, AS WE THAT ARE LEFT GROW OLD

SUN AND IN THE MORNING • WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Royal Mail®

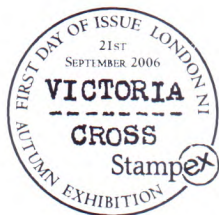
© Royal Mail Group plc 2006

THE CENOTAPH
A cenotaph is a symbolically empty tomb. The concept was widely used for memorials after the First World War, but the best known example stands in Whitehall in London. The present cenotaph made of Portland Stone, was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens and was unveiled in 1920. It replicates an identical version in wood and plaster that had originally been reserved for the Allied victory parade of 1919.
It is an uncensored escape for carved warriors at either end and the words 'The Glorious Dead'. On either side stand 'Poppy' representing the Royal Air Force and the Phoenix representing the Army and the Merchant Navy. By tradition uniformed service personnel always salute the cenotaph as they pass.

BUTION STATION
WAR MEMORIAL
The station is a memorial commemorating the dead of the London and North Western Railway and the London, Midland and Scottish Railway stands in front of the main entrance to Brompton Station. It was designed by Reginald Phipps, Chief Architect for the railways, and is responsible for other aspects of the station building, which were repaired to the present structure in the 1960s.
As to have stand four figures representing an infantryman, a garrison soldier and an airman. The soldier, clad in a garrison, holds his rifle upright-down in the position known as 'Rats on your arms reversed', used in token of respect, at military funerals since the early 1900s.

ROYAL ARTILLERY
MEMORIAL
For this prominent memorial in London's Hyde Park Corner the architect Lionel Pearson designed a massive stone base for a heavy howitzer angled, symbolically in the direction of the Somme. The interior Charles I Statue had arrived in the Western Front in the First World War but had added relief panels and the bronze figures whose braiding pattern makes the top of the country's most notable memorial.
The inscription pays tribute to the 95,076 members of the Royal Artillery who died during the First World War. The three bronze panels commemorating members of the Regiment killed in the Second World War were added in 1945.

RAF MEMORIAL
The base of the RAF Memorial, designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield, draws quite heavily on Lutyens' cenotaph design. It is supported by a gilded bronze eagle standing on a globe, the work of the famous sculptor Sir William Reid Dick.
The preferred site was near Westminster Abbey but the memorial was built on the Embankment in 1923. The eagle was first intended to face the road but Blomfield decided that it should look towards France. It commemorates all ranks of the Royal Naval Air Service, Royal Flying Corps, Royal Air Force and Home Air Force from every part of the British Empire who gave their lives in the First World War. An inscription for the Second World War was added in 1946.



Postmark available for FDCs posted at Stampex or sent on day of issue to the Royal Mail Special Handstamp Centre.

Special issues Six stamps, a miniature sheet, a PSB and a coin cover will be issued on 21 September to mark the 150th anniversary of the Victoria Cross. The issue date is the second day of Autumn Stampex and a special Stampex First Day of Issue postmark will be available for FDCs posted at the Royal Mail stand or sent on the day of issue to Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Mount Pleasant, London EC1A 1BB requesting Stampex First Day of Issue postmark. The VC stamps were previewed in the July *Bulletin*, and a feature on the VC winners shown on the stamps is published in this issue (p18). One of the VC stamps features John Cornwell, who was posthumously awarded the medal in 1916. Readers who keep back issues of the *Bulletin* may like to know that a feature on Cornwell, illustrated by a postcard showing him as 'The Boy Hero of the Battle of Jutland', was published in the *Bulletin* in October 1983 (p32).

The special stamp programme continues on 3 October with five stamps on the theme 'Sounds of Britain' – previewed in last month's *Bulletin*. This is this year's Europa issue with the EUROPA symbol included on two stamps.

The annual Christmas issue (7 November) is previewed in this *Bulletin* (p16) as is the miniature sheet entitled 'Lest We Forget' (p8) •

2007 issues Dates of issue and number of stamps per issue are as follows. Note some changes of dates since previous listings, also some additional issues. Miniature sheets are denoted MS, and prestige stamp books PSB •

09.01 The Beatles: 2 × 1st, 2 × 64p, 2 × 72p, MS (4 × 1st)	05.06 40th Anniversary of the Machin: MS
01.02 Sea Life: 10 × 1st	03.07 Grand Prix: 6 stamps & MS
13.02 The Sky at Night: 2 × 1st, 2 × 50p, 2 × 72p	26.07 Scouts: 6 stamps
01.03 World of Invention: 2 × 1st, 2 × 64p, 2 × 72p, MS & PSB	20.09 British Army Uniforms: 6 stamps & PSB
22.03 Abolition of the Slave Trade: 2 × 1st, 2 × 50p, 2 × 72p	16.10 Queen's 60th Wedding Anniversary: 6 stamps & MS
10.04 Endangered Species – Birds: 10 × 1st	06.11 Christmas: 6 stamps & MS
23.04 Celebrating England: MS	08.11 Lest We Forget: MS
15.05 Beside the Seaside: 6 stamps	

Ingot orders and enquiries

Royal Mail Tallents House,
21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. Order line: 08457 641 641 (UK), or +44 131 316 7483 (overseas).

Handling charge on all ingots and ingot covers: £1.45 UK, £1.55 Europe, £2.15 Rest of World.

Stamp ingots The ingots featuring stamps of the reigns of Victoria, Edward VII and George V proved popular, and we are continuing the series with six ingots reproducing Edward VIII and George VI stamps. The first of these, featuring the Edward VIII 1d stamp, will be available from 24 October, price £27.95.

The six Victorian ingots (Penny Black, Embossed Green Shilling, Half-penny Red, Penny Lilac, £5 Orange, and Jubilee Shilling) are all still available, price £26.95 each or £161.70 for the set including storage box. The Edward VII/George ingots are also available (Edward VII Penny and Pound, George V Mackennal Penny, Seahorse Ten Shillings, Empire Exhibition, and Postal Union Congress £1) at the same prices.

The stamp ingot covers bearing the 2002 Pillar to Post stamps and relevant ingot will be withdrawn from sale on 29 September. The covers, bearing the 2nd class, 1st, E (European rate), 47p, and 68p stamps cancelled by special postmarks, cost £29.95 each or £149.75 for set with storage box •

The first GPO logo Douglas Muir describes the background to the 'monogram' of 1935

PUBLICITY, public relations, logos and branding are all things taken for granted today. Yet it was not until the 1930s that the Post Office had its own logo (called at the time a 'monogram' or 'badge'), the inspiration of Sir Stephen Tallents, a civil servant, who was an early, remarkably skilful, enthusiast for publicity and managing public opinion. Tallents House in Edinburgh is named after him.

Tallents began his civil service career in 1909, at the Board of Trade. Badly wounded serving in the Irish Guards during the First World War, he went on to work in various government ministries. From 1920 he was in Ireland, at a critical period in Anglo-Irish history, becoming Imperial Secretary for Northern Ireland from 1922 until 1926.

It was then that Leo Amery, Secretary of State for the Colonies, selected Tallents to be the first Secretary of the Empire Marketing Board, due to his reputation for 'initiative, vision and great driving power'. The Empire Marketing Board, or EMB, was established in May 1926 to develop and market the food and goods produced by Empire countries, and to promote the idea of the Empire. It was Tallents' enthusiasm for selling the idea of Empire that formed the rest of his career. He organised press and poster campaigns, exhibitions, Empire shops, radio talks etc, but perhaps most famous was the creation of the EMB Film Unit led by John Grierson.

From 1931 Tallents also served on the Telephone Publicity Committee of the Post Office, and when the Empire Marketing Board came to an end in 1933 the Postmaster General, Sir H Kingsley Wood, immediately wanted his services. The high-level post of Public Relations Officer was established for him and when he transferred to the Post Office he took Grierson and the Film Unit with him, to create the GPO Film Unit, later to become world-famous for experimental documentaries and, of course, *Night Mail*.

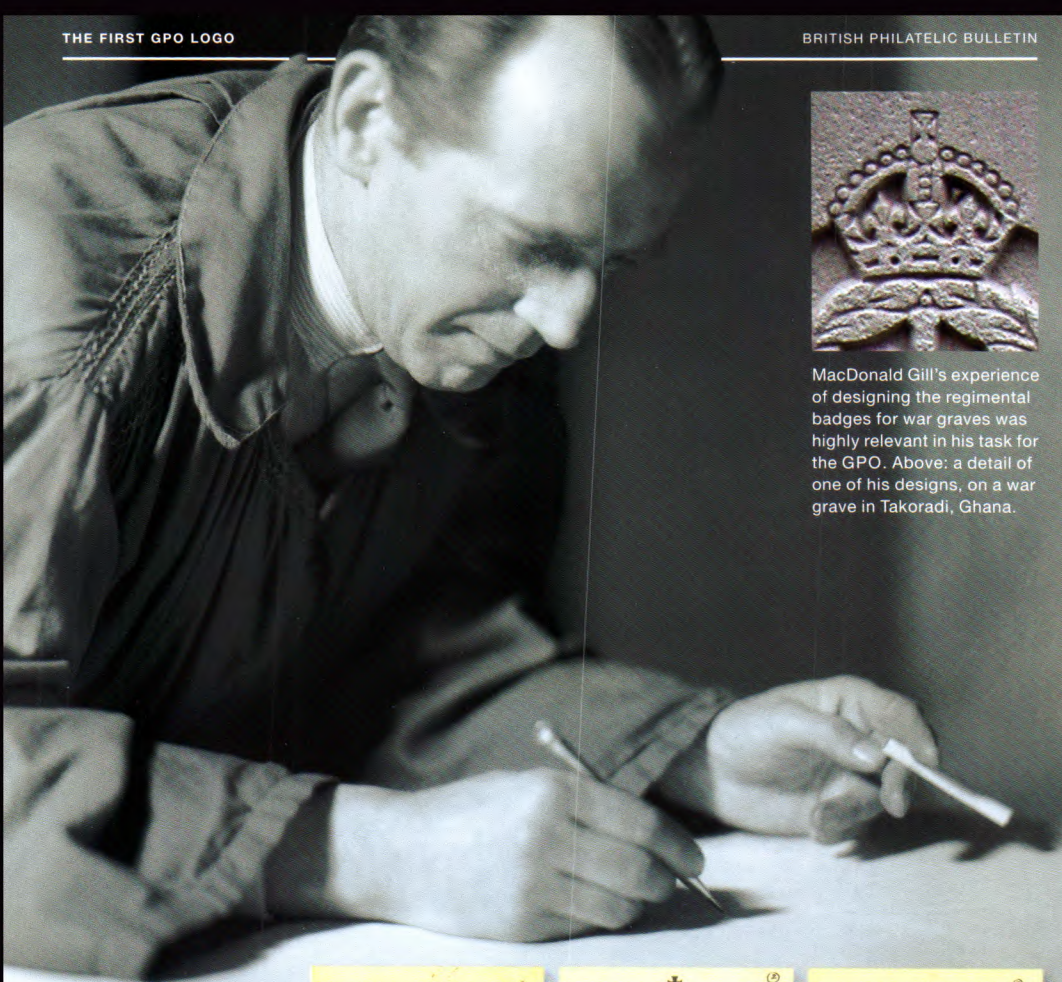
Development of the first GPO logo While still at the Empire Marketing Board, Tallents wrote to G H Taylor of the Post Office Telephone Publicity Department saying he felt 'the need for a single dignified design, which could be used throughout your telephone publicity in the same way as we use our emblem of the Crown and the initials "EMB"'. He suggested as an artist MacDonald Gill, who had prepared several maps for the EMB. This was agreed at a fee of approximately £20. Shortly before taking up his GPO post, Tallents wrote to confirm that Gill was willing to accept the work. ►



Sir Stephen Tallents, first Secretary of the Empire Marketing Board and later Public Relations Officer at the GPO. The GPO logotype was his inspiration.



The Empire Marketing Board logo. Tallents suggested that the Post Office should have an 'emblem' of their own, for use in publicity.



MacDonald Gill's experience of designing the regimental badges for war graves was highly relevant in his task for the GPO. Above: a detail of one of his designs, on a war grave in Takoradi, Ghana.

Above: MacDonald Gill, by Howard Coster, 1930. Right: the six proposals submitted by Gill in January 1934. The accepted version (number 6) is at bottom right.





Artwork developed from Gill's design no6 was supplied on 1 February 1934. This was used in publicity and advertising (as left). The typeface, Gill Sans, was designed by MacDonald Gill's brother, Eric.

MacDonald (Max) Gill was the architect and designer brother of the more famous Eric Gill, whose typeface (Gill Sans) he was to use in his design. Well-known for his Empire posters, in the early 1920s he had also drawn various maps of the London Underground. Less well-known, but highly relevant, was his experience in designing the badges for war graves.

In January 1934 Gill submitted six designs on tracing paper for what was described as a GPO 'monogram' or 'badge' (shown opposite). Most of these incorporated stylised birds' wings, with the letters GPO surmounted by a crown. The accepted version (no 6) had no wings, but only a crown (with eight pearls on either side) over the letters GPO within a double circle. Type was in Gill Sans, unlike the other designs which used a serif font. Artwork was supplied on 1 February, and this was then used in publicity such as press advertisements. However, it was felt it could be improved. Tallents wrote to Gill on 30 April: 'Such criticisms as I have heard, and they have not been numerous, have been (1) that the crown seemed a little to overweight the lettering, and (2) that the adjustment of the inner circle to the outside letters might be improved – perhaps that a single circle would be more effective.'

In Gill's preliminary sketch (no 6) he had suggested alternatives or variants of the bounding lines. He now tried out a number of variations omitting the inner or outer line. The newly appointed Director General of the Post Office, Col T M Banks, suggested that a post-horn be included and this was passed on to Gill in June. (This post-horn was that used in the jack, or standard, flying on mail ships and aircraft.)

At the beginning of July Gill submitted 'a design...for the GPO Badge incorporating the bugle.' On the original artwork he noted that the 'p' should be better centralised (see illustrations overleaf). For the sake of legibility he thought it best to limit the number of pearls to seven a side: 'In the many cases in which I have designed crowns for the War Graves Commission I have varied the number of pearls in deference to the size and the demands of the material. These designs have received the King's assent and approval.' ►



Refining the crown: details of the original logo of 1934, top, and the final version of 1935. Changes included a reduction in the number of pearls.

The design incorporating a post-horn (left) was prepared at the suggestion of the new Director General of the Post Office, and later simplified (centre). It was subsequently rejected in favour of Gill's final design (right), which followed advice from the Poster Group.



References BPMA files:

POST 69/1,2,7 Post Office Board papers & proceedings. 1934, 1935, 1937

POST 109/925 Artwork for the redesign of the GPO logo

POST 121/431 Sir Stephen Tallents, Public Relations Officer: appointment papers

POST 122/8388 GPO Monogram. Suggestion from Sir Stephen Tallents

POST 122/8391 GPO Monogram. PO emblem used for publicity posters

This 'bugle' design was intended for a Post Office Board meeting in July, which was postponed until October. In the meantime, the drawing of the strap and horn was simplified. Nevertheless, the design 'did not altogether commend itself' to members. Tallents, a member of the Board, was asked to consult the 'Poster Group' and come back with a revised drawing.

The 'Poster Group' had been set up in April 1934 to advise on subjects and artists for Post Office posters, especially for schools. It consisted of: Kenneth Clark, Director of the National Gallery and Keeper of the King's Pictures; Clive Bell, a writer on art and literature; and J L Beddington, Publicity Officer for Shell-Mex. As a result of their advice Gill produced a drawing on 19 November based on the original no 6 sketch but without the outer circle or post-horn. This was approved by the 'Poster Group' and Tallents submitted it to the Post Office Board where it was also approved on 5 February 1935. It gradually came into use through 1935 and the beginning of 1936, when it was first used on the *Post Office Magazine*.

Tallents sent out a memo to the Heads of the various Post Office departments to announce the new 'monogram', but he wanted to control its use. 'The General Post Office monogram... has been approved for all publicity purposes. Cases may occur in which its use for more general purposes seems appropriate. Such cases require special sanction, and should be referred in the first instance to the Public Relations Department.' This rule was partly ignored and resulted in a series of requests, some of which were refused. The Gill monogram continued to be used until May 1953, when it was replaced with a new design embodying the St Edward's Crown.

Shortly after the logo's introduction, Tallents went to the BBC as a Controller (in October 1935) and later returned as a civil servant to government work. Subsequently he was twice President of the Institute of Public Relations and died in 1958. (His papers are held at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies.)

National Stamp Day postmark 2006 When the BPMA was considering having a postmark for National Stamp Day on 6 May this year, we decided to use the 1935 first GPO logo as its basis. Serviced covers (left) with a specially printed insert illustrating the development of the logo are available at £2.95 + P&P, and may be ordered through the BPMA direct on 020 7239 5125 or online at www.postalheritage.org.uk/shop •



Philately online Ron Negus visits a revamped Machin site

MachinMania.com
A division of GBStamps.com

GBStamps.com Great Britain Collectors Club MachinMania.com
Album News Quiz FAQ Retrospective Stamp Show 2000 Editorials Clubs Links



WHEN I reviewed the Great Britain Collectors Club (GBCC) website in the August 2001 *Bulletin*, I mentioned that it incorporated a section dealing with the Machin definitives. Since that time, these Machin details have been consolidated into a site of their own (address above), and more information has been added. The site contains a number of excellent images of stamps from the Machin series, including enlargements.

For an introductory background the site starts with a 'Virtual Machin Album', which is being added to on an ad-hoc basis; currently it has four chapters. The first chapter describes the history of the Machins, under the heading 'The Machin Story'. The chapter entitled 'Profile on Print' explains the background behind the special Machin prestige stamp book issued for The Stamp Show 2000, which contained examples of five different printing methods for the stamps.

A chapter under the title 'Designer Machins' describes variations on the Machin theme that have been used by Royal Mail for special occasions in order to keep such a long-running series fresh. Finally, the latest chapter to be added contains a review of some of the Machin 'High Values'. This section is a part of the wider 'Virtual Great Britain Album' that can be found on the main GBCC site.

Some sections regarding Machins have been transferred directly from the other site, because of their continued significance. These include a report on Machin exhibits at The Stamp Show 2000 and information on an exhibition of Arnold Machin's work which was on display at the Royal

www.MachinMania.com This site is described as a 'division of GBStamps.com', which is based in USA and offers detailed information about all aspects of GB material. It is the home site for the Great Britain Collectors Club, who also produce a quarterly printed magazine called *GBCC Chronicle*.

Academy Schools in 2001. This reproduces the Exhibition Catalogue that contained an illustrated review of his design work in different media.

General news stories about Machin developments are given on the site, and there is a light-hearted Machin Quiz. The previous 'Frequently Answered Questions' section about collecting the Machins has been expanded, and the new part covers information about identifying Machins. This includes a discussion on how to tell whether a given stamp originated from a sheet, a coil or a booklet, which is of significance to the specialised Machin collector. An interesting topic covered here is how to identify the famous 1/2p single left-hand phosphor band which comes from the 1972 Wedgwood booklet and is amongst the rarities in Machin collecting.

The identification questions, in part 2, give an answer on how to identify screened values, and explain how these varieties occur. Finally, details are given here about EME (electromechanical engraving) and how this gravure process is used for printing Machin issues. This will be of interest to any collector who wishes to know more about stamp production methods generally.

For background reading, the site includes five articles of thoughts and opinions on the Machins and Machin collecting. To complete the subject, details of various clubs that cater for Machin collectors are given, and a links page provides information on other sites that may be of interest to them. One of these links takes users to the obituary of Arnold Machin which was written by Dr Chris Ryall and published in the *Daily Telegraph* in 1999.

The popularity of the Machin series remains very high amongst collectors world-wide. These collectors will find this remodelled American site well worthy of being bookmarked on their computers, and regular visits are recommended ●

Christmas This year's festive stamps offer a



Technical details

Printer De La Rue

Process Gravure

Stamp size 20 x 24mm and
30 x 24mm ('Large')

Sheets 50

Perforation 15 x 14 die-cut

Phosphor 2nd class standard
size: one band. Others: two
bands

Gum Self-adhesive

Gutter pairs Vertical

Miniature sheet size 115 x
102mm

Miniature sheet perforation
To be advised

Cylinders and colours

Definitive-size stamps D1
pearlescence ● D1 magenta ●
D1 yellow ● D1 cyan ● D1
black

Large stamps As above plus
D1 blue (2nd) and D1 gold (1st)

Phosphor D1 all values.

ROYAL MAIL has issued Christmas stamps annually since 1966. This year's Christmas stamps – the 41st issue – go on sale at Post Office branches, Tallents House and Post Office philatelic outlets on 7 November. As for the past five years, they are printed on self-adhesive paper, the stamps have die-cut perforations and can be removed from sheets by rouletting which surrounds the 'perforations'. There will also be a miniature sheet containing the same stamps but in a conventional gummed format. They were designed by CDT Design using illustrations by Tatsuro Kiuchi featuring: 2nd class (standard & Large) snowman, 1st class (standard and Large) Father Christmas, 72p reindeer, and £1.19 Christmas tree. Four of the stamps will be the standard definitive size; the other two will be bigger and inscribed 'Large' for larger-size UK letters as part of the new 'Pricing in Proportion' letter pricing structure. The standard 1st and 2nd class stamps will cost 32p and 23p, the Large versions 44p and 37p. The year of issue (2006) is included on each stamp, reversed out of the phosphor bands.

MINIATURE SHEET For the third year, Christmas stamps will also be issued in a miniature sheet containing one of each stamp. The stamps are traditionally gummed, not self-adhesive.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES The FDC envelope, designed by Tatsuro Kiuchi, features a robin perched on the antlers of a deer, set in mountain scenery. Orders for serviced FDCs must reach Tallents House (address below) by the day of issue.

Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (for Tallents House postmark), or to one of Royal Mail's Special Handstamp Centres (Bethlehem postmark), marking the outer envelope 'F0639' (Tallents House), or 'F0640' (Bethlehem). For details of other special postmarks see the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House (£12.25 UK/Europe; £24.95 elsewhere). For a sample copy write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ.

STAMP BOOKS Two Christmas self-adhesive stamp books will be available from 7 November – 12 x 1st class stamps (£3.84) and 12 x 2nd class stamps (£2.76). The books, which contain the standard (definitive) size stamps, are printed in gravure by De La Rue ●

new look at some favourite Christmas images



Set of stamps or miniature sheet	£3.27
Presentation Pack	£3.80
FDC envelope	£0.30
Serviced FDC (UK) stamps/MS	£4.32
Serviced FDC (overseas) stamps/MS	£3.68
Set of 7 stamp cards (6 stamps + MS)	£2.10

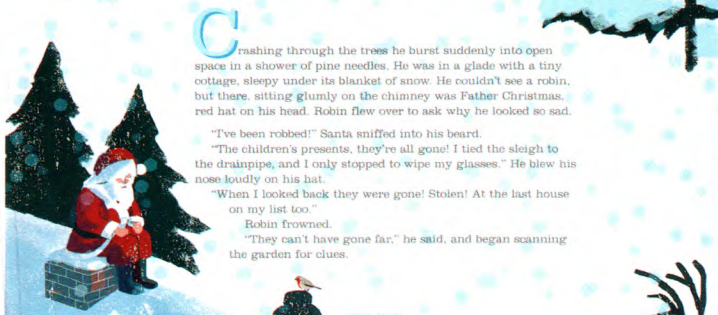


Christmas 2006

Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB



Left: the first day cover. The presentation pack (below left), written by Leah Moore, was designed by Godfrey Design using illustrations by Tatsuro Kiuchi of Father Christmas, robins, Christmas trees and snow scenes.



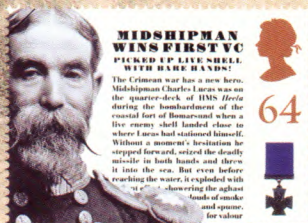
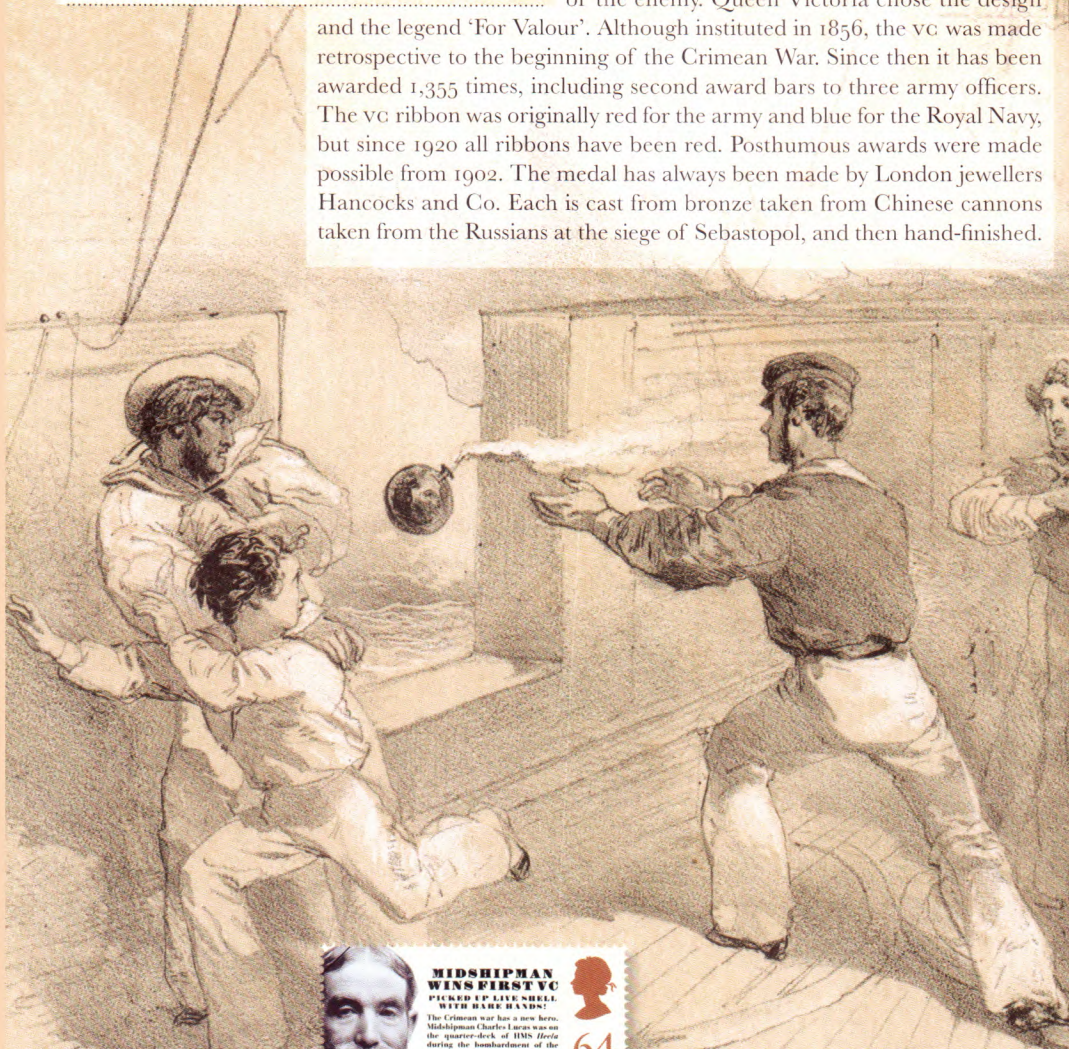
Above: 12 x 1st and 12 x 2nd class stamp books.

150th anniversary of the Victoria Cross

When the Crimean War had drawn attention to the inadequacies of the existing methods of rewarding bravery in action, it became clear that a new award was required; the Victoria Cross was instituted by Royal Warrant on 29 January 1856.

UNLIKE previous decorations the VC was open to all ranks – the only qualification being that they should have ‘performed some signal act of valour or devotion to their country’ in the presence of the enemy. Queen Victoria chose the design

and the legend ‘For Valour’. Although instituted in 1856, the VC was made retrospective to the beginning of the Crimean War. Since then it has been awarded 1,355 times, including second award bars to three army officers. The VC ribbon was originally red for the army and blue for the Royal Navy, but since 1920 all ribbons have been red. Posthumous awards were made possible from 1902. The medal has always been made by London jewellers Hancocks and Co. Each is cast from bronze taken from Chinese cannons taken from the Russians at the siege of Sebastopol, and then hand-finished.



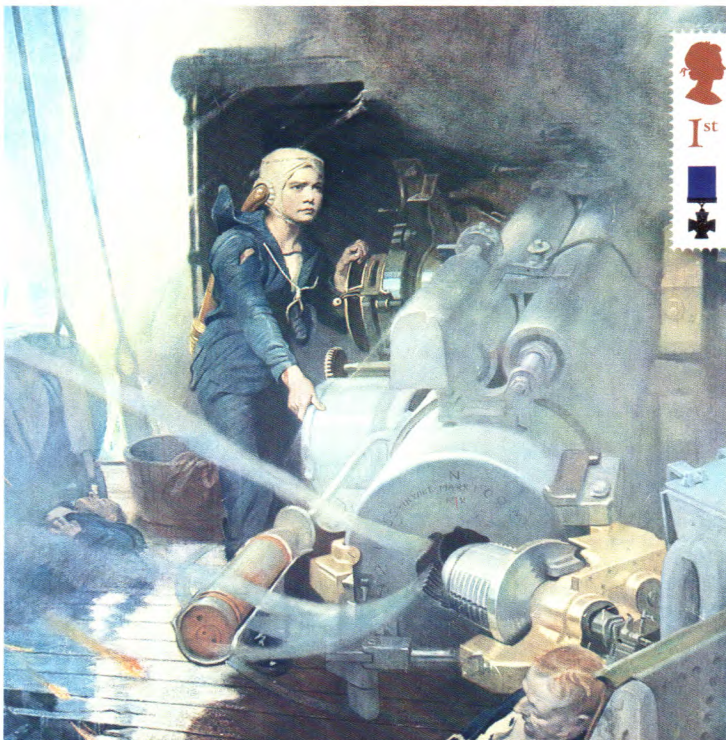
64

For his heroism at Bomarsund, Charles Lucas was decorated by Queen Victoria at the first VC investiture, on 26 June 1857. He retired as a Rear Admiral, and died in August 1914.

The story behind the stamps, by Derek Hunt

CHARLES LUCAS (64p) performed the earliest act of valour to be rewarded with a Victoria Cross. On 21 June 1854, during the Crimean War, the Royal Navy attacked the Russian fortifications at Bomarsund, in the Baltic Sea. Furious fire was returned by the Russian guns, and one shell landed on the deck of HMS *Hecle*, rolling to a stop near where midshipman Lucas stood directing his men. Ignoring all calls to take cover, Lucas ran forward and seized the shell, with its fuse still hissing, and threw it overboard. It exploded just before it hit the sea, without causing any casualties. For this heroic action, Lucas received immediate promotion to Lieutenant and was decorated by Queen Victoria at the first VC investiture on 26 June 1857.

JOHN TRAVERS (JACK) CORNWELL (1st) joined the Royal Navy as a Boy Seaman in July 1915 and after training joined the crew of the cruiser HMS *Chester*. His ship was part of the British fleet which met the German fleet at the Battle of Jutland on 31 May 1916. Cornwell, recently promoted to Boy First Class, was a sight-setter on one of *Chester*'s guns, receiving instructions from the gunnery officer and adjusting the gun's range. *Chester* was severely damaged by gunfire early in the action and casualties were heavy. Cornwell, mortally wounded, remained standing at his gun in the most exposed position, awaiting orders which never came. Around him lay the gun's crew, all dead or wounded. With the other casualties from his ship, he was taken to Grimsby Hospital, where he died from his wounds on 2 June 1916. He was 16 years old, and one of the youngest recipients of the VC. ►



BOY VC, 16
MORTALLY WOUNDED
BUT STUCK TO HIS POST



Ist
Though barely 16 years of age, Jack Cornwell – a member of a gun crew aboard HMS *Chester* – has been awarded the Victoria Cross. One of the opening salvos of the Battle of Jutland had knocked out Cornwell's gun and caused many serious casualties to its crew. Badly wounded himself, he remained at his station, awaiting orders. Young Cornwell stood firm despite heavy shelling.



Jack Cornwell's devotion to duty caught the imagination of the public, and became an inspiration to the nation. This image, by Court painter Frank Salisbury, became famous as a popular print and was to be widely reproduced for many years after the event.



BAR TO VC FOR ARMY DOCTOR

RESCUED WOUNDED
FROM NO-MAN'S LAND

64

Captain Noel Chavasse, RAMC, has been posthumously awarded a second Victoria Cross in recognition of his gallantry in tending British casualties at Passchendaele.

"SELF-SACRIFICE BEYOND PRAISE"
Capt Chavasse, an accomplished athlete, won his first VC on the Somme. He ignored the constant bombardment of machine guns and artillery, helping the injured and the threat of poison gas and



MISSING IN FRANCE CAPTAIN BALL FEARED LOST

THE most famous of all British airmen, Captain Albert Ball DSO, MC, has failed to return to his airfield. He was last seen at dusk over enemy lines. Unconfirmed reports in German papers claim his plane was brought down by Le-vue Richthofen. Barely 30 years old, Capt. Ball has already accounted for nearly 70 enemy aircraft. Sometimes he has engaged in single-handed combat with four or more enemy planes at once, without a moment's thought for his own safety, but invariably emerging victorious. And yet he is a shy religious man, who derives pleasure from tending a small garden he has made



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DOUBLE VC FOR COLDITZ HERO

A VC-winning officer who had been given up for dead, but was later liberated from Colditz, has been awarded a second Victoria Cross. CAPTAIN CHARLES UPHAM, an unassuming New Zealander, is only the third man in history to achieve this double honour.

OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP

Upham's first VC was in recognition of sustained bravery during rearguard fighting in Crete in 1941. A year later, confronting Kommand's tanks in the Western Desert, his courageous leadership earned a second VC, though badly wounded, he led a



NOEL CHAVASSE (64p) joined the Royal Army Medical Corps in 1913 with the rank of surgeon-lieutenant, and was promoted to Captain the following year. He was the only person to be awarded two VCs during the First World War. His first VC was awarded for bravery at Guillemont, France on 9 August 1916. He attended to the wounded all day whilst under heavy fire, frequently in view of the enemy, and during the night he continued searching for the wounded in front of the enemy's lines. Next day, he and a stretcher bearer carried an urgent case 500 yards to safety, and he was badly wounded during the journey. That night, with 20 volunteers, he rescued three wounded men from a shell-hole in front of the enemy trenches. The bar to the VC was awarded for outstanding service at Wietje, Belgium during the period 31 July to 2 August 1917. Although he was wounded early in the action, whilst carrying a wounded soldier to the dressing station, he refused to leave his post, and for two days went out repeatedly under heavy fire to search for, and attend to, the wounded. During this time, although practically without food, and faint from his wounds, he helped to carry in badly wounded men, over difficult terrain. Captain Chavasse died of his wounds on 4 August 1917.

ALBERT BALL (72p) was one of the top British flying aces of the First World War. At the start of the war he enlisted in a local regiment, but later he transferred to the Royal Flying Corps and was posted to a squadron in France in 1916. On 7 May 1917, whilst leading eleven aircraft on an offensive sweep over the Cambrai area, Captain Ball encountered a formation of German aircraft, and a dogfight ensued. Ball chased one of the enemy aircraft behind a cloud, never to be seen again. He crashed behind enemy lines and was given a military funeral at Annuellin Cemetery. His VC was announced in June 1917, a month after he had been killed in action. It was awarded for conspicuous bravery from 26 April to 6 May 1917, during which period he took part in 26 aerial combats, destroying eleven enemy aircraft and forcing many others to land. In these combats he flew alone, and often fought groups of German aircraft and, in all, destroyed 43 enemy aeroplanes and one balloon.

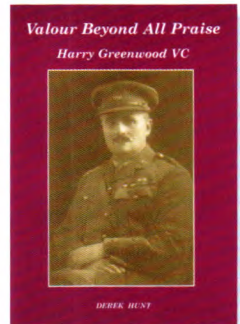
CHARLES UPHAM (72p) is the second of the two double VC recipients in this set. He was born in Christchurch, New Zealand and in 1939 he joined the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. In May 1941 Lieutenant Upham's unit was part of the Allied force defending Crete from German invasion. His first VC was awarded for his outstanding leadership and courage in close fighting during the enemy attack on Maleme airfield on 22-30 May.

Despite being wounded by mortar shells and suffering from dysentery, he refused medical attention. He led his men in attacks on two machine-gun posts, which he destroyed virtually single-handed, and he later destroyed several more enemy machine-guns. The British and Commonwealth troops were outnumbered, however, and were forced to withdraw from the island. The following year Upham was awarded the Bar to his vc. At El Ruweisat Ridge in Egypt, on 14-15 July 1942, he was in command of a company of New Zealand troops. In spite of being wounded, he insisted on staying with his men, and led them in an attack on the enemy, capturing the objective after some fierce fighting. He himself destroyed an enemy tank, four machine-guns and a number of vehicles, despite a broken arm. After being wounded in the leg he stopped to have his wounds dressed before returning to his unit, where he was wounded again. He was captured when the enemy made a counter-attack, and spent the rest of the war in POW camps. After the war he returned to New Zealand where he died in November 1994.

AGANSING RAI (1st class) was born in Nepal and enlisted in the 2nd Battalion, 5th Royal Gurkha Rifles (Frontier Force) in 1941. He was promoted to the rank of Naik (Corporal) two years later. On 26 June 1944 his company was ordered to capture two Japanese positions, 'Water Piquet' and 'Mortar Bluff', which dominated an important supply track in Burma. Naik Agansing Rai, seeing that a delay would result in heavier casualties, led his section in a charge on 'Mortar Bluff'. He killed a machine-gun crew and, inspired by his bravery, the company surged forward and captured the entire outpost. He then led his men in a charge on a large gun which was firing on them from the nearby jungle, and afterwards the company returned to 'Mortar Bluff' for the final assault on 'Water Piquet'. Covered by his Bren gunner, Agansing Rai went forward alone and killed the gun crew. 'Water Piquet' was captured, and he was awarded the vc. After independence, he remained with the Indian Army and he died in Kathmandu in May 2000.

VC holders on stamps Many vc holders have been featured on stamps, but it would take a further article to detail them all. Just a few of these issues are shown on the following page.

Although he has not featured on a stamp, Sergeant Alfred Knight vc was the subject of a painting by Terence Cunco, reproduced on a National Postal Museum postcard (a detail is shown on the cover of this *Bulletin*, at bottom right). Knight served in the 2/8th (City of London) Battalion, The London Regiment (Post Office Rifles), a unit recruited entirely from postal workers. On 29 September 1917 at Ypres, Belgium, when his platoon came under heavy fire from an enemy machine-gun, Sergeant Knight rushed the position and captured it single-handed. He performed several other acts of conspicuous bravery, all under heavy machine-gun fire, and was the only member of the Post Office Rifles to be awarded the vc. His vc and other medals are held by the British Postal Museum & Archive. ►



Special offer Derek Hunt is the author of *Valour Beyond All Praise*, the biography of Harry Greenwood, awarded the VC in 1918. He is offering *Bulletin* readers copies of the 160-page book at a special price of £9.95 postpaid in UK (overseas +£3). Send orders to: Derek Hunt, 9 Harrington Close, Windsor SL4 4AD.



Charles Lucas and George Ingouville feature on a 2006 Jersey miniature sheet (March *Bulletin* p196), and earlier Jersey issues feature Ingouville (Huguenot Heritage) and Jack Counter (British Legion, left). Guernsey sets have featured Herbert Le Patourel (top left) and the VC's 150th anniversary (top right). Major Robert Cain (above left) has appeared on two separate Isle of Man sets. New Zealand issues include General Bernard Freyberg and Charles Upham (top centre). A 1995 Australia set included Tom Derrick (above centre), and a 2000 set honoured Australia's first recipient and the last three surviving VC holders: Arthur Roden Cutler (above, died 2002), Edward Kenna and Keith Payne.

On the cards Richard West looks at postcards of the NPM

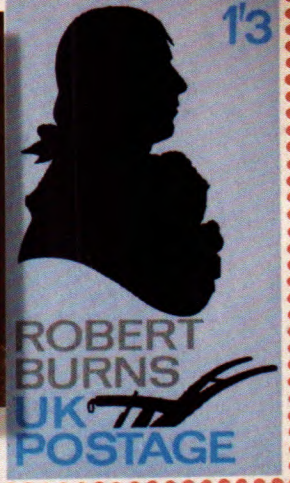
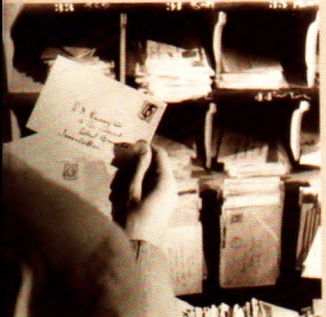
IT IS PERHAPS ironic, but one of the most popular features of the National Postal Museum when it was open to the public at King Edward Street, was the regular issue of special postcards. When the museum closed its doors in 1998, a branch of collecting drew to an end – although the British Postal Museum & Archive (BPMA) is now producing postcards, so perhaps there is a new chapter for collectors to explore.

It is understandable why the cards had such a strong following, for they provided much fascinating background, based on material from the collection. Soon after the official opening by The Queen in 1969 (the museum had opened in 'temporary' accommodation in 1966), the first sets of cards were being issued. As is widely known, the basis for the museum was the collection of 19th century Great Britain issues formed by Reginald

M Phillips, which he gave to the nation on the understanding that a National Postal Museum would be created. It is not surprising therefore, that the first NPM cards concentrated on the formative years of British stamps.

Five sets were issued in November 1969, each comprising six cards within an envelope. These first sets focused on those who had been closely involved with the development of the first adhesive postage stamp, the creation of the design for the Penny Black, the Mulready stationery, and the later work by De La Rue, including the so-called 'Jubilee' issue. Each of these sets had to be re-printed, reflecting their popularity.

Ten years later, on 22 August 1979, to coincide with the issue marking the centenary of the death of Sir Rowland Hill, a series of five cards focused on the man and his postal reforms. ►



This is the night mail crossing the border.
Bringing the cheque and the postal order.
Letters for the rich, letters for the poor.
The shop at the corner and the girl next door.

W H Auden



POLAR EXPEDITION

DESPATCH OF MAILS FOR.

MAILS for the Polar Ships "Alert" and "Discovery" will be made up for conveyance from Portsmouth on or about the 29th May by the Steam Yacht "Pandora," Captain Allen Young having kindly consented to convey letters for the officers and crews of the Polar Ships, to be deposited at the depots.

All letters should be sent through the Post Office prepaid the inland rate of postage, and addressed "Arctic Yacht Pandora, Portsmouth."

It should be understood that these letters will be deposited at the depots on the chance of Captain Nares being able to communicate with the entrance of Smith's Sound by means of a small sledge party in the autumn of the present year, and that there is, therefore, some uncertainty whether the letters will reach their destination.



The idea of providing a 'potted history' of British stamp design was continued in the 1980s, with sets that focused on the reigns of King Edward VII, George V (one set for the definitives, another for the commemoratives) and King Edward VIII. These designs included such subject matter as a proposed Memorial issue for George V and the intended Coronation of Edward VIII, designs for which most collectors were then unaware.

One point worth noting is that over the years, many of the NPM cards were first put on sale on 6 May. The museum was a firm supporter of the idea of celebrating the day on which the Penny Black was first officially valid for postage, trying to establish 6 May as 'National Stamp Day'. A special handstamp was often used for the day of issue of new postcards and if appropriate these included the 'National Stamp Day' (NSD) legend. Over the past two years, the idea of a 6 May NSD handstamp has been re-established by the BPMA.

In 1971 the NPM produced a card to publicise its existence, featuring the Penny Black. On the initial card the stamp had the corner letters of P and M; subsequent versions saw the corner letters changed, first to N and J, and then to L and B. This last card was issued on 6 May 1989, and is one clearly recalled by Douglas Muir. The previous year Douglas had been appointed Curator, Philately of the NPM, maintaining the same role at the BPMA today. He was concerned that the reproduction of the Penny Black was as accurate as possible, appreciating it was not simply a black stamp on cream paper. He visited the printers to see that the colour was right, the stamp having a touch of deep blue. To achieve the background 'paper' colour, the printer began with off-white, and then gradually added yellow, a spoonful at a time, to the printing ink until, by comparing it to an original stamp, Douglas was satisfied that as close a match as possible had been achieved.

Similar publicity postcards featured the bust as developed by Arnold Machin for the British definitives (this can be seen at the BPMA). This Machin head was first shown in red, then in blue, green and black. A later card on the Machin head appeared in 1992. There was also a card depicting the 16p 'Frama' postage label.

Over the years, the museum often linked a new card with the release of a special issue by Royal Mail, illustrating appropriate material from the collections. Examples of these include essays for the Coronation in 1953, produced in conjunction with the stamps marking the 40th anniversary of the accession; a set of four in 1996 showing essays of the 1966 Robert Burns stamps; and essays for the 1972 Royal Silver Wedding stamps, issued for the Golden Wedding in 1997. Others recalled significant stamp issues such as the £5 orange and Seahorse design, and the proposed, but unissued, Anglo-French design. However, perhaps of more interest were the cards that invariably accompanied special exhibitions staged by the museum. The display cabinets at the museum, or in later years in the former 'banking hall' of the London Chief Office in King Edward Building, were used to good effect, with specially created exhibitions which were well worth visiting. (Similar, albeit by necessity smaller, exhibitions are still held in the BPMA's Search Room.) Cards, whether a single design or a set, invariably accompanied these exhibitions, naturally drawing on items within the museum.

However, most of the NPM cards, not linked with any exhibition or stamp issue, were quite simply of great interest thanks to their contents. The themes that were covered included ways of carrying and sorting the mail, with not only mail coaches and later postal vehicles, but by air, Packet or rail, including the underground PO railway, to the local post office and postman, items used by mail carriers such as timepieces, letter boxes, stamp boxes, postal notices, individuals involved in the development of postal services, cancelling machines, postal maps, Christmas cards, Valentines, postal uniforms, Post Office posters, even post office cats and pages from the Freddie Mercury stamp collection.

This brief survey hopefully indicates just how useful these cards were over the years not only in revealing the wealth of material to be found in the museum's collections, but also in adding to one's personal knowledge and interest. Perhaps the baton will be grasped by the BPMA, and a new generation of postcards will emerge ●

Memories on mail Personalised Smilers, by Glenn Morgan

THE introduction of Royal Mail Smilers (*Gwenau* in Welsh language literature) at The Stamp Show 2000 is well documented. It started a fascinating series of unique sheet formats, still rarely seen by many collectors despite their wide availability via normal Royal Mail channels such as post offices, Tallents House and the internet, at special events and through photo booths in supermarkets, post offices and shopping malls up and down the land. Some national newspaper competitions have also promoted the service by offering sheets as prizes and these have, for example, included images of glamour model Katy Price (Jordan) on labels for *Daily Star* winners.

There have been over 50 sheet combinations so far, and they have often commanded a much lesser price than perhaps their real scarcity would warrant when they have come up for sale in on-line auctions, although they are now catching up and sometimes exceeding Generic Smilers prices, especially in recent months. It has not been possible to even guess at prices for each sheet listed here, as they vary wildly from just a few pounds to many hundreds, and are sold so infrequently once they are no longer available at new-issue price from Royal Mail.

Periods of sale have been difficult to verify and, while an issue date is generally made available to collectors, a withdrawal date is rarely announced. Some sheets are available for personalising for only a few weeks, while others have already been available for around four years. Regular calls to the help line for updates on availability mean that this listing is probably as accurate as is feasible.

The mail-order personalisation service operated intermittently at first from October 2000, customers posting images to either Edinburgh or, for a brief period, Coventry. From 29 November 2002, images could be submitted online in digital form via a website (at www.royalmail.com/smilers). Self-adhesive stamps in pictorial definitive format have been available from October 2005 by post and from January 2006 online, with the few remaining larger-format stamps only being available by mail order after the latter date.

New trend There is a new collecting trend where dealers, philatelic societies and individuals use self-adhesive personalised Smilers to create limited edition commemorative sheets (as few as 25 copies) for selling to collectors. Philatelic events such as the Washington, Torquay and Belgica exhibitions, plus Derby 150 commemoration, 400th anniversary of the Union Flag, 90th anniversary of the Sopwith Camel, etc are typical of the many that have appeared. They have attracted a strong following and appear to be prevailing over BCS sheets, especially now Royal Mail can personalise the margins with unique imagery and text, rather than just personalising the labels.

Understandably, no sheets have been available on Tallents House stock lists and will not be listed in the *Bulletin*, because they are created by the same service that lets you have a picture of Rover the dog on them, and nobody would expect those to be listed! Look out for these sheets in online auctions and stamp dealer listings if interested. They are an attractive way of obtaining recent sheets listed on the following pages, such as the private Fifth Anniversary of Smilers, which used the 'A Bear called Paddington' sheet.

I must express my thanks to Mike Shepherd for making this article possible. Mike has specialised in these issues for some time now, and his extensive records were kindly put at my disposal to act as the basis for its contents. This information has been cross-checked and merged with my records, *Bulletins* that have appeared since the scheme was first launched and Royal Mail publicity literature (Caution should be exercised in using these as a source, because perforation types, border colours used, se-tenant combinations, etc are sometimes different to the issued versions, due to mock-ups being utilised prior to proof approval and printing of stamp stocks.)

This is believed to be the first complete published list of this material and, despite extensive checking, there is always the chance that readers can add to, correct or expand upon the information and your input is encouraged. ►

Catalogue listing

Year	No	Stamp issue	Stamp(s)	Format	Issued	W/drawn	Gum	Printer	Process
2000	P1	The Stamp Show 2000 ¹	Mixed x 10 different Smiles	10P	22.05.00	26.06.00	WA	Q	G
	P2	Christmas (Post Office ©)	1st Christmas cracker	10L	03.10.00	29.12.00	WA	Q	G
	P3		19p Robin in post box	20L	03.10.00	29.12.00	WA	Q	G
2001	P4	Occasions: hallmarks	New Baby	20L	01.05.01	late 01?	WA	Q	L
	P5		New Home	20L	01.05.01	late 01?	WA	Q	L
	P6		Love and Romance	20L	01.05.01	late 01?	WA	Q	L
	P7		10 Cheers & 10 Thanks	20L	01.05.01	sold out ⁵	WA	Q	L
	P7a		Reprint (light grey, not silver)	20L	?	.12.04	WA	W?	L
	P8	Smiles (Royal Mail logo)	Mixed x 10 different Smiles	10P	03.07.01	early 02	WA	Q	L
	P9		Laughing Policeman	10P	03.07.01	late 01?	WA	Q	L
	P10		Mona Lisa	10P	03.07.01	late 01?	WA	Q	L
	P11		Clown	10P	03.07.01	late 01?	WA	Q	L
	P12		Dennis the Menace	10P	03.07.01	.10.02?	WA	Q	L
	P13		Teddy Bear	10P	03.07.01	.10.02?	WA	Q	L
	P14	Christmas (Consignia ©)	1st Christmas cracker	10L	09.10.01	11.01.02	WA	Q	G
	P15		19p Robin in post box	20L	09.10.01	11.01.02	WA	Q	L
2002	P16	Occasions	New Baby (Consignia)	20L	23.04.02	on sale ⁶	WA	Q	L
	P17		Moving Home (Consignia)	20L	23.04.02	on sale ⁶	WA	Q	L
	P18		Love: (Consignia)	20L	23.04.02	sold out ⁵	WA	Q	L
	P18a		(RMG plc © 2002)	20L	late 02	sold out ⁵	WA	W?	L
	P18b		(RMG different screen)	20L	04/05	31.03.06 ²	WA	W?	L
	P19		Hello: (Consignia)	20L	23.04.02	sold out ⁵	WA	Q	L
	P19a		(RMG plc © 2002)	20L	late 02	sold out ⁵	WA	W?	L
	P19b		(RMG different shade)	20L	?	31.03.06	WA	W?	L
	P20		Best Wishes (Consignia)	20L	23.04.02	sold out ⁵	WA	Q	L
	P20a		(RMG plc © 2003)	20L	.03	on sale ⁶	WA	W?	L
	P21	Football World Cup	St George's Flag & football	20L	21.05.02	20.05.03?	WA	Q	L
	P22	Knock, Knock!	Dennis the Menace	20L	01.10.02	late 05	WA	Q	L
	P23		Teddy Bear	20L	01.10.02	31.03.06 ²	WA	Q	L
	P24	Christmas	1st Christmas cracker	20L	01.10.02	.12.04 ³	WA	Q	L
2003	P25	Flower paintings	Flowers x 10 (two sets)	20L	21.01.03	sold out ⁵	WA	Q	L
	P25a		Reprint (diff screen/shades)	20L	04/05	31.03.06	WA	W?	L
	P26	Occasions: Multiple choice	Mixed tick box stamps	20L	04.02.03	.12.04	WA	Q	L
	P27	Crosswords	Cartoons x 10 (two sets)	20L	29.07.03	late 05	WA	Q	L
	P28	Christmas	1st Winter Robins	20L	30.09.03	.12.04	SA	D	L
	P29		1st Spiral ice sculpture	20L	04.11.03	.12.04 ⁴	SA	D	L
	P30		2nd Star ice sculpture	20L	04.11.03	.12.04 ⁴	SA	D	L
	P31	Occasions: Envelopes	12 Aeroplane & 8 Postman	20L	03.02.04	on sale ⁶	WA	D	L
	P32		8 Kissing, 8 Duck & 4 Baby	20L	03.02.04	on sale ⁶	WA	D	L
	P33	RHS bicentenary	Dahlia	20L	25.05.04	24.05.05?	WA	W	L
2004	P34	Rule Britannia!	Union Flag	20L	27.07.04	31.03.06	WA	W	L
	P35	Christmas	1st Christmas Delivery	20L	02.11.04	01.11.05	SA	D	L
	P36		2nd Christmas Delivery	20L	02.11.04	01.11.05	SA	D	L
	P37	Farm Animals	Farm Animals x 10 (two sets)	20L	11.01.05	10.01.06	WA	W	L

Catalogue listing continued

Year	No	Stamp issue	Stamp(s)	Format	Issued	W/drawn	Gum	Printer	Process
2005	P38	Magic!	Heads or Tails Magic	20L	15.03.05	14.03.06	WA	W	L
	P39	White Ensign	White Ensign	20L	21.06.05	20.06.06	WA	C	L
	P40	Classic ITV 1955-2005	Emmerdale	20L	15.09.05	14.09.06	WA	C	L
	P41	For Life's Special Moments	Red, white & blue definitive	20L	04.10.05	on sale ⁶	SA	C	L
	P42		With Love definitive	20L	04.10.05	on sale ⁶	SA	C	L
	P43		Flying High definitive	20L	04.10.05	on sale ⁶	SA	C	L
	P44		Ready Teddy definitive	20L	04.10.05	on sale ⁶	SA	C	L
	P45		Sunshine definitive	20L	04.10.05	on sale ⁶	SA	C	L
	P46		In the Post definitive	20L	04.10.05	on sale ⁶	SA	C	L
2006	P47	Christmas	1st Christmas Robins	20L	01.11.05	.12.05?	SA	C	L
	P48		2nd Christmas Robins	20L	01.11.05	.12.05?	SA	C	L
	P49	A Bear Called Paddington	Paddington Bear	20L	10.01.06	on sale ⁶	SA	C	L
	P50	Fun Fruit and Veg	Fruit and Veg x 10 (two sets)	20L	07.03.06	on sale ⁶	SA	C	L

Notes and abbreviations

Every stamp is 1st class, except Christmas where a 2nd class is also produced, although not in 2002.

1 Sheets were sold in a red folder at the show. Available from Philatelic Bureau for a further two months after the show. The sheet check code and font is likely to be different on sheets emanating from Edinburgh, but none have been seen.

2 Official withdrawal date as reported in the *Bulletin*, but stock was exhausted at least a month prior to this.

3 These remained available for 'seasonal' personalisation between October and December until the end of 2004. In the

intervening periods blank sheets were returned to the supplier. Availability was not publicised in the following two years; In November 2004 Mike was told by the helpline there was 'no demand' for them.

4 The first class sheet was available continuously over this period, but the second class sheet was 'seasonal', being withdrawn at the end of December 2003 and re-appearing briefly in September 2004.

5 It may be assumed that as the sheets annotated 'Sold out' were all reprinted, stocks of the original printing would have been exhausted prior to introduction of the reprint.

6 Still available for personalised orders. Most now appear to be available for 12 months, except for pictorial definitives, which presumably are intended for long-term use, and the Christmas issues.

Format 10P/10L: 10 stamps in portrait or landscape A4 sheet. 20L: 20 stamps in a landscape A4 sheet.

Gum Water Activated (WA) or Self-Adhesive (SA).

Printer C Cartor, D De La Rue, Q Questa, W Walsall.

Process G (photo)Gravure or L Litho.

RMG Royal Mail Group plc.



Opening of the NPM Martin Robinson looks back 40 years

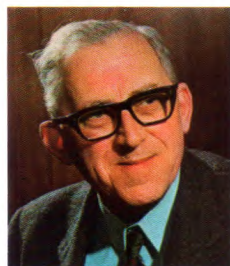


Reginald M Phillips, founder of the National Postal Museum.



The essay for adhesive stamps submitted by James Chalmers of Dundee in 1838, included in the opening display at the NPM.

DUNDEE,
Oct. 7, 39.



F Marcus Arman, the NPM's first curator.

AS RICHARD WEST reported in the July *Bulletin*, 1966 was an exciting year for philatelists: the year of a meeting, chaired by the Postmaster General the Rt Hon Anthony Wedgwood Benn, of British stamp designers, the Stamp Advisory Committee, stamp printers, national philatelic organisations and philatelic and art correspondents of the press, at which the development of British stamp design was discussed and David Gentleman's album of experimental designs was displayed; the year of the furore caused by the issue of World Cup Winners stamps ('World Cup stamps start a stampede'); and of Christmas stamps designed by young children as a result of a competition. Sandwiched between these last two items in the national press was a smaller and less sensational announcement.

'The National Postal Museum, set up at the instigation of Mr Reginald Phillips, a Brighton business man who last year gave stamps worth £275,000 to the nation and another £50,000 to maintain the collection, was opened in London yesterday [12 September] by the Postmaster General, Mr Edward Short [Benn's successor as PMG, now Lord Glenamara]. A plaque was unveiled in the King Edward building in King Edward Street – part of the main GPO complex in St Martin's le Grand – where the small temporary museum is housed. In two years, Mr Short announced, the museum would move upstairs in the same building and spread over 2,000 sq ft. The opening display contains the first essay for adhesive stamps submitted by James Chalmers of Dundee in 1838 with pages from Rowland Hill's draft letter to the

Chancellor of the Exchequer the following year. There is biographical information about Rowland Hill, items concerning the Treasury competition of 1839, and the die proofs, sketches and registration sheet of the Penny Black.'

The October GPO *Philatelic Bulletin* reported that priceless documents and stamps from one of the world's greatest philatelic collections were on show when the NPM was opened in the London Chief Office, King Edward Street, EC1 – a stone's throw from the site of the old General Post Office, where the world's first adhesive postage stamps were put on sale in 1840.

At the opening ceremony, Reginald M Phillips, the Museum's founder, presented his philatelic library and proofs of the first British Telegraph stamps to the Postmaster General.

In converting rooms in the Chief Post Office to house a new Museum, everything possible had been done to ensure that its stamps, essays, drawings and official documents would be preserved in peak condition. The exhibits were kept in an air-conditioned, temperature-controlled environment, with special lighting to prevent fading, and humidity control to check mould formation and paper deterioration. The accommodation provided was only the first stage; the next would be the opening in King Edward Building of a greatly expanded area in two years' time.

The prime mover behind the setting-up of the Museum was Mr Phillips, who was concerned to ensure that his irreplaceable collection should remain intact – and in Britain. Comprising 46 volumes assembled during 40 years of painstaking

to a notable day for collectors

work, the Phillips collection would now retain its supreme international importance. It documented the conception, planning and issuing of the world's first postage stamps, and traced the subsequent manufacturing and design developments in the production of British stamps during the 19th century.

To this was added the Post Office collection of registration sheets, representing virtually every issue of British stamps for the past 126 years, and later the 'Berne collection' of stamps issued by the members of the Universal Postal Union since 1974, and much more. Because these collections could not be shown in their entirety, the Museum displayed a series of changing exhibitions, each centred on a selected theme and lasting for about two months; the first of these traced the general history of 19th century adhesive postage stamps. I am not aware that there was any official souvenir of the opening, but I should be happy to be proved wrong!

The National Postal Museum's first curator was F Marcus Arman, a postal official of wide experience, whose father had been Head Postmaster of Monmouth and Cromer. Over the following months he contributed regularly to the *Philatelic Bulletin*, describing various aspects of the Museum's collection. The first of these, in December 1966, was about Victorian attitudes to stamp design ('Look, Sir, at the adhesive stamp; it is a libel upon the fair countenance of our Queen'); and he reported that the Museum had already had over 10,000 visitors. In January 1967 he reported on the current exhibition devoted to endeavours to prevent forgeries in the early days of postage stamps; in February 1967 he wrote about Jacob Perkins, the American who came to London to seek an outlet for his talents as a security printer; in March about the development of the design of the Penny Black; in April about the origin of prepaid postal stationery and the Mulready envelope; and in May about the relationship between the first adhesive postage stamp and the new definitives based on the Arnold Machin bas-relief portrait of the Queen •

Posting boxes



THIS MONTH'S BOX, submitted by Phillip Clough, is an Edward VII box on a wall of a large old farm house in Copmanthorpe, near York. It is now a private one for mail deliveries to Copmanthorpe Grange, a name associated with a large mansion, once a hotel and once, too, an older farmhouse •

For details of the activities and publications of the Letter Box Study Group write to Mrs V Scott, 38 Leopold Ave, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham B20 1ES.

Prize draw A PIP collection

THE WINNER of this month's draw will be sent blocks of four of the new Pricing in Proportion definitive stamps (2nd, 2nd Large, 1st, 1st Large, 12p, 14p), new self-adhesive stamp books, and a FDC and a presentation pack of the 1 August stamps. Five runners-up will receive the presentation pack. For a chance to win, simply write your name and address on the back of a postcard and send it to: PIP Draw, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ, to arrive by 29 September •

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



June identify The detail was from the Modern Architecture 44p stamp (Selfridges, Birmingham). The winner was G Gilmurray of Merseyside.

June knowledge Answers: 1) 1995; 2) Alexandra Palace, London; 3) Six shillings (30p). The winner was Ms R Hanson of Spain.

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

- 1 Who opened the National Postal Museum on 12 September 1966?
- 2 In which year did Biggles feature on a stamp?
- 3 Which company printed the stamps for The Queen's 80th birthday issue?

Send your answer (addressed to either September *Identify* competition or September *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 13 October will each receive £100. Runner-up prizes of presentation packs, first day covers or stamp cards will be awarded for each competition. The competitions are not open to Royal Mail employees ●

Events

Until Spring 2007 'Elizabeth: Queen & Icon' exhibition at BPMA. **Enquiries** 020 7239 2570.

Until 24 October 'Moving the Mail: Horses to Horsepower' BPMA exhibition. See page 5.

30 August - 20 September BPMA 'Brunel Speeding the Mail' exhibition at Steam Museum of the GWR.

2 September City of Preston PS Annual Stamp and Card Fair, Barton Village Hall. **Enquiries** P Gaywood, 2 Fairways, Fulwood, Preston PR2 8FX.

5 September BPMA Lecture – Proclamation (1635) to Penny Black, by Mike Bament, at BPMA, 19.00. **Enquiries** 020 7239 2570.

16 September Royal Mail Archive Open Day, at BPMA, 10.00-16.00. **Enquiries** 020 7239 2570.

20-24 September Autumn Stampex. See page 4.

21 September BPMA talk, 'Phillips: Behind the Catalogue (R M Phillips collection of Victorian stamps), at Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1, 19.00. **Enquiries** 020 7239 2570.

21 September BPMA 'Brunel Speeding the Mail' exhibition at Winter Gardens, Weston super Mare.

30 September Portadown Stampex & Collectors Fair at Portadown Town Hall, 10.00-16.30. Stamps, postcards, FDCs, postal history, coins, medals, etc. Free admission. **Enquiries** Des Quail, 028 406 22022.

11-14 October Picture Postcard Show at Lawrence Hall, Royal Horticultural Halls, Greycoat St, London SW1. **Enquiries** 020 8886 0469. Note change of dates from 30 August - 2 September ●

Late news

Revised stamp book The book of six 1st class definitive stamps (PIP design) has been reprinted and now has an announcement regarding collecting stamps on the label on the inside front cover. The label features one of the special stamps marking The Queen's 80th birthday. The book will be available from Tallents House and at selected Post Office philatelic outlets from 2 October, and from major retailers as stocks of the earlier books are used up •

New Smilers stamps A new series of definitive-size Smilers stamps will be issued on 17 October 2006. This will comprise a book of six 1st class stamps to replace that issued in October 2005. The book will cost £1.92. The stamps will also be available in a Generic sheet (£6.95), and presentation pack (£2.45). A set of 12 stamp cards will reproduce these and last year's Smilers stamps (£3.60 set). There will be a first day cover envelope (30p), and serviced FDCs can be ordered from Tallents House, price £2.73 for UK customers, or £2.33 for overseas. Please state if Tallents House or Grinshill, Shrewsbury postmark is required. Further details next month •

Victoria Cross press sheet Royal Mail will be selling an 'authentic press sheet' of the VC miniature sheet. This comprises an uncut printers' sheet of 10 miniature sheets with special embossed cachet in the top margin. Limited edition of 2006, each sheet numbered. The sheets, which measure 510 × 499mm, will be supplied, rolled, in a cardboard tube. Available from 21 September from Tallents House and from the Royal Mail stand at Stampex, priced at £71.20. Tallents House handling charges for this item are £2.95 UK, £5 Europe, £14 rest of world •

Northern Ireland stamps The four country stamps are being reprinted in gravure instead of litho, and the new printings will go on philatelic sale from 9 November and will be supplied to Post Office branches in the Province as supplies of litho stamps are used up •

Changed dates The Beatles stamps will now be issued on 9 January, not 16 January, and the Sea Life (Sea Animals) stamps announced for issue in April 2007 will now be issued on 1 February. The six Beatles stamps feature the sleeves of some of the group's most popular records. A miniature sheet includes an additional four stamps showing Beatles memorabilia. Two stamps are shown (at reduced size) below – full preview next month •

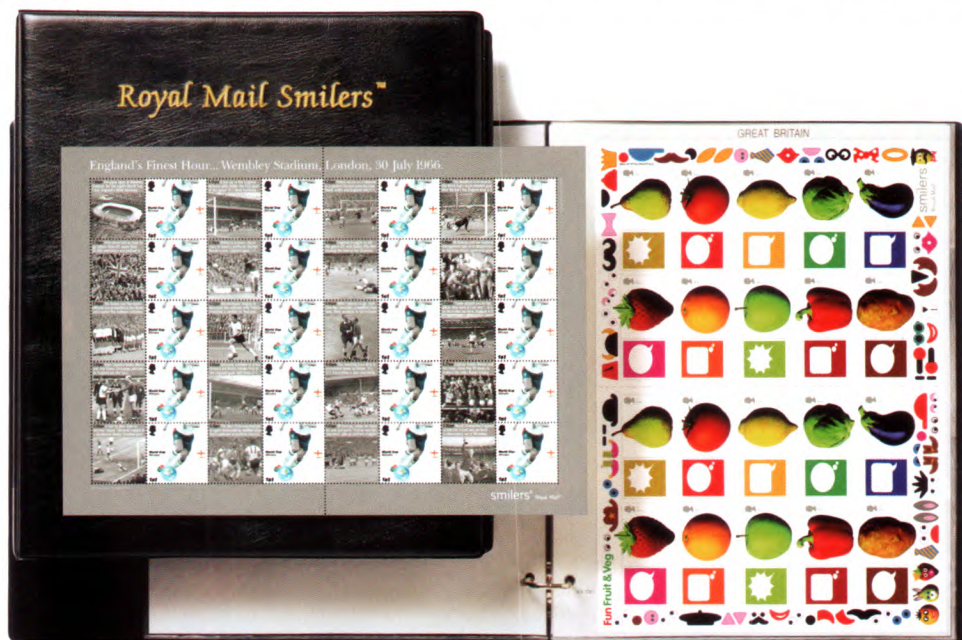


New series of miniature sheets The first in a new series of 'The Four Countries' miniature sheets will go on sale on 30 November, entitled 'Celebrating Scotland'. A sheet for England is scheduled for issue on 23 April 2007, and the series will be completed in 2008/09. The sheets will include a minimum of four stamps mixing definitives and specials. Further details to be announced •

Airletters Discount packs of airletters, reprinted on white paper, are now available from Tallents House, price £2.60 per pack. The packs will be available at Post Office branches as the existing stocks are used up •

Obituary We are sad to announce the death on 3 August of Sylvia Goaman who, along with her husband Michael, designed a number of British stamps in the 1960s – 1964 Botanical Congress, 1967 Sir Francis Chichester, 1969 Concorde 4d, and 1969 Anniversaries 9d & 15gd. With her long experience and knowledge of botanical art forms, Sylvia provided the drawings for the 1964 issue, with Michael responsible for the colour-work and layouts. Their archive of drawings, essays, trials, etc were auctioned by Harmers two years ago – one of the designs for their Botanical issue was shown here in October 2004 (p36) •

Royal Mail generic Smilers sheets and album



Royal Mail commemorated England's 1966 World Cup victory with a new generic sheet on 6 June. It comprises 20 of the 2006 1st class World Cup stamp, with labels depicting scenes from the 1966 final. Price £6.95. Other generic sheets remaining on sale are: Classic ITV (until 14 September), Animal Tales, Fun Fruit & Veg, and Washington 2006, all £6.95 each, and 2005 Christmas, price £6.

An attractive album is available to house your generic sheets collection (2000-2005), price £44.99, slipcase £7.50. Continuation pages for 2006 will be available early 2007.

Handling charges: album and slipcase £2.95 UK, £5 Europe, £14 elsewhere; generic sheets £1.45 UK, £1.55 Europe, £2.15 elsewhere. Buy the album and any other product and pay only one handling charge of £2.95 (UK only).



5 014721 103112

Royal Mail

Tallents House, 21 South Gyle
Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB
Telephone orders: UK 08457
641 641; overseas +44 131 316
7483

