BRITISH PHILATELIC

Bulletin

The magazine for collectors of UK stamps

VOLUME 52 NUMBER 9 | MAY 2015 | £1.50

London 2015 Special issues • Howard Brown: Designer Profile • Preview: Magna Carta



175 years

PENNY BLACK & TWO PENNY BLUE

PLUS J HOLMAN STAMP SCENE • C BAKER HARRY FURNISS • WIN A PENNY BLACK

Issues and withdrawals



Front page: Royal Mail marks the 175th anniversary of the Penny Black, the world's first adhesive postage stamp, with a Special Stamp issue on 6 May. A list of exhibition items is on page 261. Philatelic specifications appeared on page 229 of April *Bulletin*.

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

Royal Mail is not responsible for opinions and information provided by independent feature writers in this publication.

FSC
www.fsc.org
MIX
Board from responsible sources
FSC® C019670

The use of the FSC logo identifies the product which contains wood from well-managed forests certified in accordance with the Forest Stewardship Council.

Royal Mail

Royal Mail, the cruciform and the colour red are registered trade marks of Royal Mail Group Ltd. © Royal Mail Group Ltd 2015. All rights reserved.

6 May	**Issue** 175th Anniversary of the Penny Black: Miniature Sheet (2 x 1st Class Penny Black Stamps, 2 x 1st Class Twopenny Blue Stamps), Press Sheet, Generic Sheet (10 x 1st Class Penny Black Stamps, 10 x 1st Class Twopenny Blue Stamps), Smilers® Sheet of 20, Smilers® Half Sheet of 10, Stamp Book (6 x Penny Black Stamps), Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards (3), Medal Cover.
13 May	**Issue** 175th Anniversary of the Penny Black: Limited Edition Penny Black Miniature Sheet (2 x 1st Class Penny Black Stamps, 2 x 1st Class Twopenny Blue Stamps) with Europhilex overprint and Pack; Stamp Card featuring Limited-edition Penny Black Miniature Sheet, only available at London 2015 Europhilex exhibition.
13 May	**Issue** London 2015 Europhilex: Exhibition Sheet (20 x 1st Class Hello Stamps).
13 May	**Issue** Post & Go Heraldic Beasts: 6 designs overprinted.
13 May	**Withdrawal** Great British Film: Stamps (3 x 1st Class se-tenant, 3 x £1.28 se-tenant), Miniature Sheet (4 x 1st Class), Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards (11).
14 May	**Issue** First World War 1915: Stamps (3 x 1st Class, 3 x £1.52), Presentation Pack, Prestige Stamp Book, Stamp Cards (6), 3 x Coin Covers.
2 June	**Issue** Magna Carta: Stamps (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.33, 2 x £1.52), Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards (6), Coin Cover.
5 June	**Withdrawal** Sustainable Fish: Stamps (10 x 1st Class in 2 se-tenant strips of 5), Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards (10 in set).
18 June	**Issue** Battle of Waterloo: Stamps (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1, 2 x £1.52), Miniature Sheet (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.33p), Presentation Pack, Prestige Stamp Book, Stamp Cards (11), Coin Cover.

To order philatelic items, including those listed above, contact Royal Mail online at www.royalmail.com/stamps or at Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. We would advise you to quote 15CDD, the *Bulletin* media code. Telephone order line (08.30 to 17.00 Monday to Friday): 03457 641 641. From overseas: +44 131 316 7483. Minimum handling charge UK £1.45, Europe £1.55, rest of world (airmail) £2.15.

Contents



Mr B Graham
20 Marton Avenue
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

Royal Mail Post & Go Cover

Animal magnetism The Heraldic Beasts Post & Go issue will drive collectors wild when it launches at London 2015 Europhilex this month **261**



Issues and withdrawals Upcoming stamp sets revealed and a last chance to buy current issues before they exit the shelves **258**

Correspondence You have your say on UK philately today **260**

Royal Mail Update The Battle of Waterloo issue charts the end of Napoleon's empire **262**



Get Carta The historic Magna Carta set is out next month and a must-have addition to your collection **263**

Stamp Scene John Holman looks forward to Europhilex **266**



Island news Stamp releases fresh in from the Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Lundy **271**

Golden Brown Leading creative Howard Brown explains how he became the golden boy of British philatelic design **272**

War stories Sharing thoughts and stories around the making of the First World War 1915 Special Stamps, out this month **277**



Postal vote Unveiled: *Bulletin* readers' favourite Special Stamps of 2014 **280**

This Month In History John Holman on the the 100th anniversary of the Penny Black **282**

Baker's A-Z Colin Baker on the history of the 'Furniss envelope' parody protest **284**

Penny for your thoughts Test your knowledge with our Penny Black brainteasers – and win your very own! **287**

● **Royal Mail Editor** William Doherty, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB ● **Publishing Editor** Kate Shaw, HMS President (1918), Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0HJ ● Price £1.50 from Post Office Ltd philatelic outlets or by order from Post Office branches ● **Annual subscription** £12.95 UK & Europe; £17.95 rest of world. Send subscriptions to Royal Mail Tallents House (address above) ● **Binders** (to hold 24 issues) £8.50, storage boxes (about 30 copies) £9.95, available by post from Royal Mail Tallents House ● Royal Mail publishes the fortnightly *British Postmark Bulletin*, giving details of forthcoming special handstamps – available on annual subscription from Royal Mail Tallents House: £12.25 UK and Europe; £24.95 rest of the world ● Stamp images © Royal Mail. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or parts is prohibited without prior permission of the Editors ● **Printed** in Great Britain by Zenith Print & Packaging Ltd ● **ISSN** 0953 8119 ● Royal Mail is a trading name of Royal Mail Group Ltd. Registered in England and Wales, number 4138203. Registered office: 100 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0HQ

Correspondence

Keep Smiling...

I read the 'Sheet Shocker' letter from Maike D Drummond in my March *Bulletin*, and as a fellow collector I fully understand her disappointment at being unable to obtain the Smilers® sheet previewed in your publication. However, I have a few of these sheets in my collection and I am happy to offer her one. Ms Drummond can email me to arrange delivery.
J Farrukh, by email

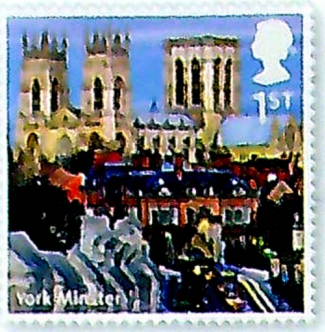
Thank you for your thoughtful offer, Mr Farrukh. The '2015 Refresh' Smilers® Sheet (AT084) sold out very quickly indeed.



... or stop Smiling?

On receiving the recent Smilers® stamps I thought I really must write. These Smilers® are not stamps at all. They look like labels. I have long felt that the Special Stamps, which are being produced more than once a month these days, are only there to make money from collectors. Unless the number is reduced, I will really have to think twice about continuing to collect them.
Angela Bellwood, London

Smilers® stamps offer a popular collecting niche which may be regarded as separate from Special Stamps. The subjects of pictorial Special Stamps are determined in part by our annual survey of the preferences of *Bulletin* readers, whose tastes in stamp themes vary widely. Did you know about the different category options available when ordering Special Stamps in advance? You can elect to order the number of issues that suits your budget and/or only issues that appeal to your thematic interest. For details, contact Tallents House Customer Services at the address shown on the right.
Kate Shaw, Publishing Editor



North and south

Further to Isabel Lunn's letter commenting on the fact that all national exhibitions are in London, might I remind your readers of the national-level competition for postal history exhibits during the two-day York fair on 17 and 18 July 2015.

Regarding 'Diary Dates' (page 237), could I ask you to clarify in future editions that not all meetings held at the premises of the Royal Philatelic Society London (RPSL) are meetings of the 'Royal'. On 25 April and 30 May 2015 the meetings advertised are of the Great Britain Philatelic Society (GBPS), not of the RPSL. I am sure that while the GBPS would be delighted that you are publicising their events, they would quite like their name mentioned!
Frank Walton, Vice-President RPSL

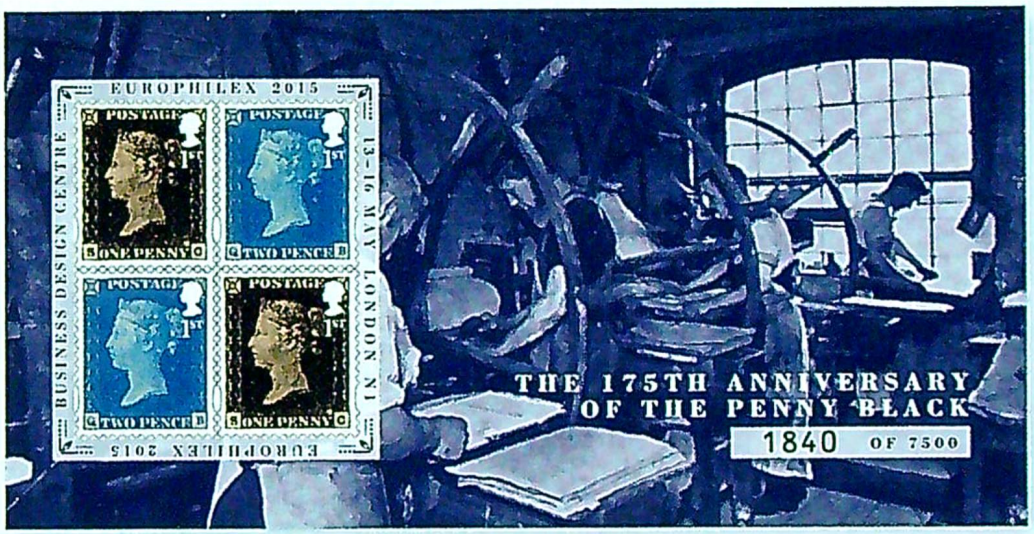
Jubilee colours

The recently issued Machin definitives feature rich colours selected from the Jubilee colour palette introduced in 2013 and briefly mentioned in an article by Douglas Myall in Volume 51, June 2014. Is it possible for details of the palette to be given in a future edition of the *Bulletin* – for example, a colour chart similar to that published for the previous Jeffery Matthews palette?
Malcolm Reynolds, by email

Thank you for your interest; we are happy to publish details in a future edition. Please note in advance, however, that while *Bulletin* editors take care to match stamp colours closely, there may be slight differences in tones rendered on glossy paper and in the magazine printing process.
William Doherty, Royal Mail Editor

Keep the mail coming...

The Editor welcomes your letters and the senders of those published will receive a Comedy Greats Presentation Pack and a Royal Mail Presentation Pack album as a thank-you. Send your letters to: The Editor, *British Philatelic Bulletin*, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. You can also email: bulletin.enquiries@royalmail.com.



Clockwise from top: the Penny Black Exhibition Pack, Heraldic Beasts Europhilex postmark, Post & Go Heraldic Beasts issue and Penny Black Stamp Book with the Europhilex logo



Showstoppers A special edition of the Penny Black set and the Heraldic Beasts Post & Gos will impress at London 2015 Europhilex this month



Back to Black The world's first postage stamp makes a spectacular comeback at London 2015 Europhilex this month with a limited edition of Royal Mail's 175th Anniversary of the Penny Black Miniature Sheet. This Exhibition Pack, numbered and with a special exhibition overprint, is available only at Europhilex. The Exhibition Pack features a history of international stamp shows written by John Holman. A Stamp Card showing the Penny Black Miniature Sheet with Europhilex overprint is also on sale during London 2015, and a number of special Europhilex postmarks will be available (see page 267).

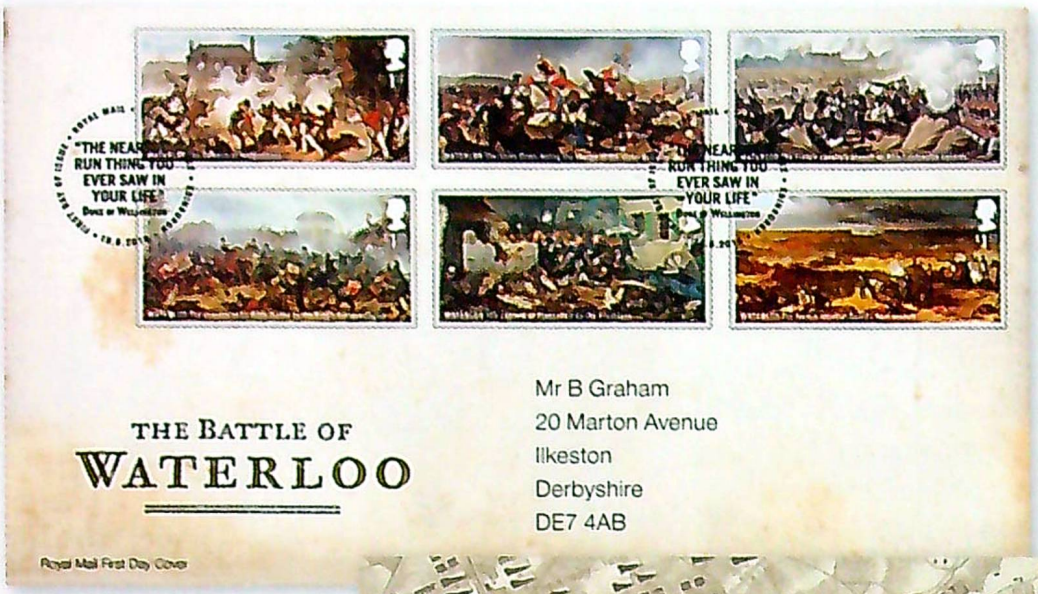
Six of the Beasts Europhilex visitors will leap at the six-stamp Heraldic Beasts issue unleashed at Europhilex. The Post & Gos are released on 13 May, the first day of London 2015. The stamps feature a lion, unicorn, yale, dragon, falcon and griffin.

For further details and philatelic specifications of these May issues, see Previews in April *Bulletin* •



Fight to the end The Battle of Waterloo issue recalls the final defeat of Napoleon Bonaparte

Waterloo sunset The 200th anniversary of the world-changing confrontation that brought the sun down on Napoleon's empire is marked in The Battle of Waterloo issue out on 18 June. It shows key stages in the battle and a Miniature Sheet features units that took part. There is also a Presentation Pack, Prestige Stamp Book and Stamp Cards. See next month's *Bulletin* for full preview •

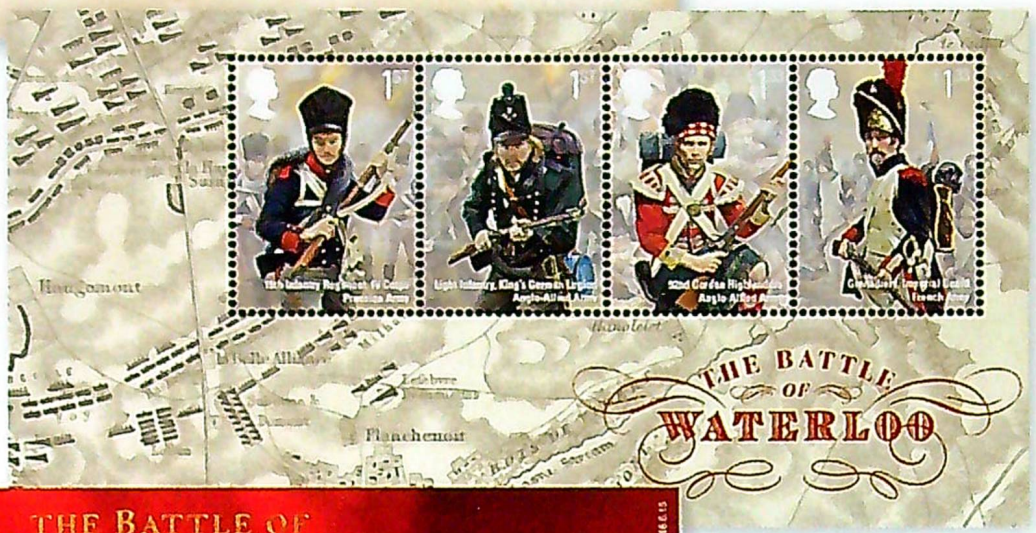


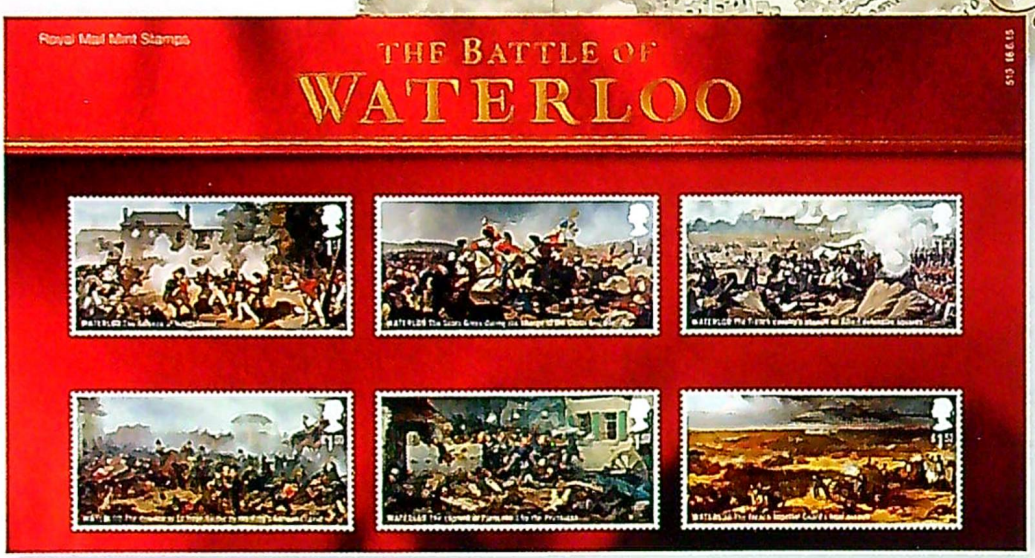


FD1518-PL

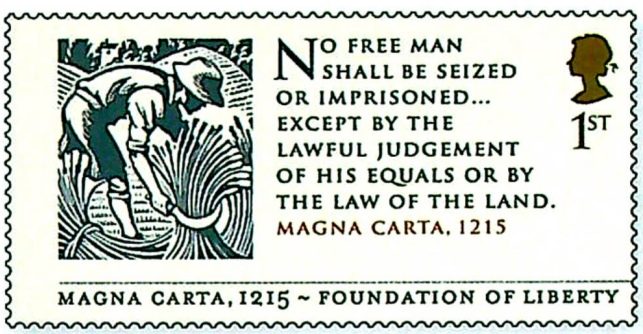


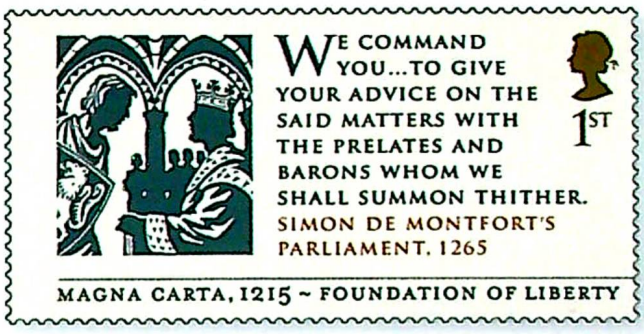
FD1518-TH

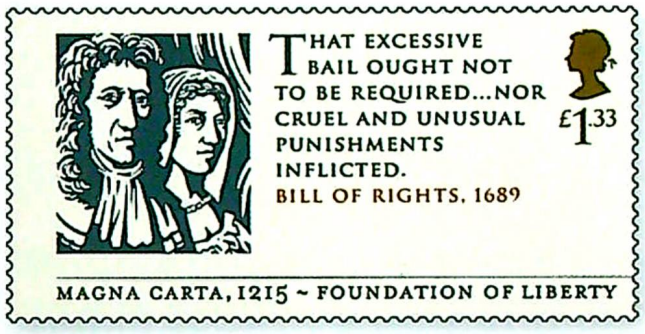


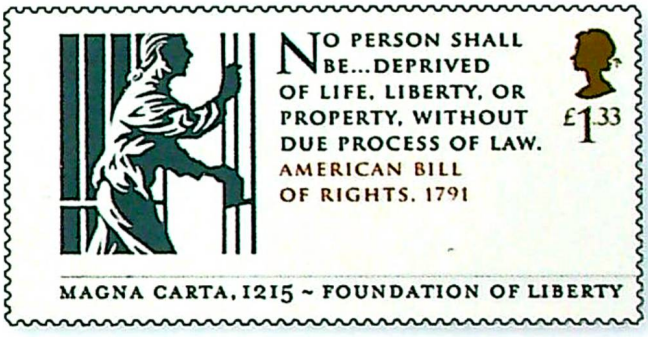


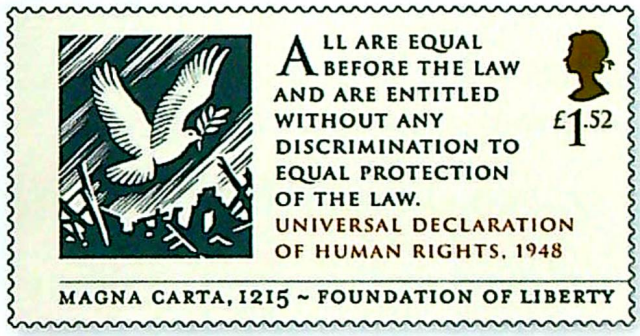
From top: The Battle of Waterloo First Day Cover, alternative postmark, Tallents House postmark, the Miniature Sheet and Presentation Pack

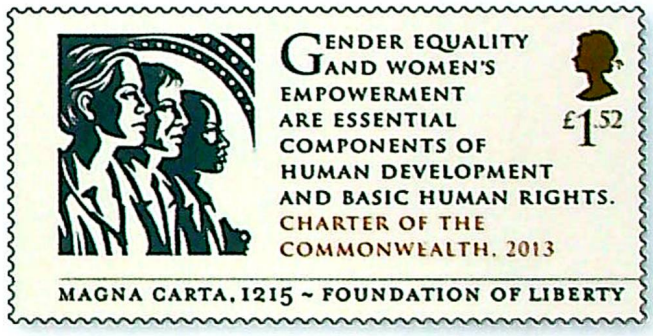












Get Carta Next month's Magna Carta set is the must-have memento for the 800th anniversary of history's most influential human rights declaration

THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS declaration of freedom is celebrated in Royal Mail's Magna Carta issue out on 2 June. The six-stamp set marks the 800th anniversary of that historic meeting in a Windsor meadow, when a tyrannical King John of England finally bowed to his barons' demands for guarantees of civil liberties.

The Magna Carta inspired rights declarations and agreements which appear on the other stamps: Simon De Montfort's Parliament, our Bill of Rights, the American Bill of Rights, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Charter of the Commonwealth. Accompanying the new issue is a Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards and Coin Cover.

Stamp by stamp The issue is a mix of First Class, £1.33 and £1.52 values. Each stamp pays tribute to the influence of Magna Carta with the legend 'Magna Carta, 1215 – Foundation of Liberty'. ▸

Magna Carta Stamps – Specifications

Date of issue	2 June
Number of stamps	Six
Stamp design	Howard Brown
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	60mm x 30mm
Sheet size	321mm x 341mm
Number per sheet	25/50
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	14.5 x 14.5
Phosphor	All over
Gum	PVA

Magna Carta 1215 Written in Latin on a single piece of parchment and sealed at Runnymede on 15 June 1215, the 'Great Charter' established for the first time that the king was subject to the law rather than above it. Among its 63 clauses were guarantees that no man would be imprisoned or have his land taken away unless by the law of the land and judged by his peers. *First Class*

Simon De Montfort's Parliament 1265 The leader of the baronial opposition to King Henry III, French political adventurer Simon De Montfort arrived in England in 1253. In January 1265 De Montfort set up the first parliament to which the burgesses, the representatives of towns, were summoned. *First Class*

Bill of Rights 1689 The Bill of Rights made parliament a branch of government superior to the monarch. Several articles from the Bill still remain relevant even today, particularly the elements relating to the freedom of election and the freedom of speech. *£1.33*

American Bill of Rights 1791 This is a collective name given to the first ten amendments to the American Constitution. These amendments guaranteed freedom of religion, speech and the press, the right to petition and carry arms, and immunity against arbitrary search and arrest as well as excessive punishment. *£1.33*

Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948 Drawn up by the United Nations in response to the horrors wrought by the Second World





Above and right: the Magna Carta Presentation Pack – inside and out

Facing page: Magna Carta First Day Cover with the Tallents House postmark



War, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is the first global expression of rights to which all human beings are entitled. *£1.52*

Charter of the Commonwealth 2013 Adopted in December 2012 and officially signed by The Queen the following March, the Charter brings together the values and aspirations that unite the Commonwealth – democracy, human rights and the rule of law. *£1.52*

Also in the issue is a Presentation Pack that gives a fascinating insight into the political situation which led to the creation of the Magna Carta. Written by Medieval England expert Professor Nigel Saul, it examines the aftermath of the Magna Carta, with the emergence of parliament in the reign of King John's successor Henry III.

The Coin Cover features the stamp set and a Royal Mint-struck £2 coin showing John ratifying the Magna Carta. The stamps are cancelled with a Windsor postmark, reflecting the location of the signing of the document at Runnymede. Also included is a facsimile of the Magna Carta parchment in the original Latin and with an English translation.

Orders for Serviced First Day Covers should reach Royal Mail at Tallents House (address on page 258) by 2 June, quoting the *Bulletin* code 15CDD. The Tallents House postmark depicts King John mounted on horseback and wielding a sword. This image is inspired by the reverse side of the Royal Seal.

Two alternative postmarks feature the London NW1 code – the location of the British Library where two copies of the Magna Carta are kept. The pictorial version of the alternative mark shows three lions from King John's Royal Arms •



FD1517-TH



FD1517-PL

Magna Carta Stamps – Prices

Stamp set	£6.96
Presentation Pack	£7.52
First Day Cover Stamps/overseas	£8.83/£7.35
Stamp Cards (set of 6)	£2.70
Coin Cover	£15.95



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

UK diary dates

9 May Worpex Stamp & Postcard Fair, Tudor Grange Academy, Bilford Road, Worcester WR3 8HN. 45 dealers, car parking, refreshments. Details: www.worpex.com.

12 May FISA Aerophilately Congress, Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1, 10am to 5pm. Details: billtrower@aol.com. See also below.

13-16 May London 2015 Europhilex, Business Design Centre, London N1. Open 13 May 10am to 7pm, 14 to 15 May 10am to 6pm, 16 May 10am to 5pm. Admission £10 on first day, free thereafter. See also below.

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

23 May Spring StampEssex, Thomas Gainsborough School, Head Lane, Great Cornard, Sudbury CO10 0JU.

26 May Federation of South Wales Philatelic Societies Convention, Princess Royal Theatre, Civic Centre, Port Talbot SA13 1PJ, 10am to 4.30pm. Admission 50p. 15 dealers, annual competition entries, light refreshments and limited car parking. Details: N Prior, 01656 740520.

30 May GB Philatelic Society displays: College Posts by Chris Harman and Postal Mechanisation by Keith Downing, RPSL, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1.

5 June Strand Stamp Fair – for details see above.

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

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

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

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

Exhibitions

London 2015 Europhilex – the biggest philatelic event in Europe this year – is on from 13 to 16 May at London's Business Design Centre, home of Stampex and venue for the international exhibition in 2010. It commemorates 175 years of adhesive postage stamps, 150 years of Stanley Gibbons catalogues, and 125 years of international exhibitions in London. Admission on the first day will cost £10, payable at the door or by prebooked ticket. Visit the Europhilex website – www.london2015.net – or send a sterling cheque payable to 'SWE London 2015' to Mrs Deborah Gooch, London 2015 Europhilex, Greystones, Green Lane, Crowborough, East Sussex TN6 2BX. There will be a free show guide and an exhibition catalogue (price £5). Present at the show will be around 120 leading dealers and postal administrations, an international

auction, demonstrations of stamp forger Jean De Sperati's printing press, a reading room where visitors can study over 100 literature exhibits, seminars, society meetings and tables.

There will be 377 competitive exhibits in Traditional, Postal History, Aerophilately, Revenues, Postal Stationery, Open, Youth and Literature classes from entrants in 34 European countries. These include 31 exhibits of British stamps, postal history and literature relating to British material. Eight are in the Traditional (ie stamps) class, nine in Postal History, one in Revenues, two in Open, one in Postal Stationery, and ten in Literature. A full listing of the exhibits and exhibitors is at www.london2015.net.

The European Championship for Thematic Philately (in Essen, Germany from 7 to 9 May) forms the thematic arm of Europhilex. For details of the Essen exhibition visit www.ectp.de. The thematic exhibits will be judged to international standards in eight sections, and the winning entry in each, plus the best entry in the Champions Class, will be shown at Europhilex.

Europhilex highlights include the Club de Monte-Carlo's Special Display, Philatelic Events that Changed the World – in 20 Frames, which brings together some great philatelic rarities (see April *Bulletin* page 246), and the Confederate Stamp Alliance's display of gems of Confederate philately. The BPMA's display gives visitors interactive access to 3D scans of the old original die that printed the Penny Black.













Visitors to London 2015 can also participate in a full programme of seminars at the Royal Mail stand:

Wednesday 13, Thursday 14 and Friday 15 May

• 11.30am – Head of Production, Martyn Fry will talk about the production process for Royal Mail Special Stamps.

• 2pm – International Security Printers will talk about the print process for Royal Mail Special Stamps.

• 4pm – The British Museum and Archive will present on the recent changes to their organisation.

Wednesday 13 May only

• 12pm – Head of Design at Royal Mail, Marcus James will lead a group of our key designers on the design and approvals process of Special Stamps.

• 3-4pm Chris Wormall will be signing philatelic products from the Royal Mail Heraldic Beasts Post & Go stamp issue.



Thursday 14 May only

• 12.30 to 1.30pm – Martin Mörck will be signing philatelic products from the Jersey Post Victory and Liberation stamp issue.

Friday 15 May only

•12.30 to 1pm – Head of Customer Marketing, Fraser Chisholm presents '50 years of special stamps'.

Four seminars, organised by the Federation of European Philatelic Associations (FEPA) for the Wednesday and Thursday of the show, will look at ▸

developing exhibits of postal history, and traditional, open and thematic philately. On Thursday, Hugh Jefferies presents 150 years of the Stanley Gibbons catalogue and Wolfgang Maassen will talk about forgeries of philatelic literature.

The copper printing plate used for the famous 1847 'POST OFFICE' 1d and 2d stamps of Mauritius has been found after 80 years and will be displayed at the exhibition. These Mauritius stamps were the first colonial issues of the British Empire and rank among the world's greatest rarities.

To mark the 150th anniversary of Stanley Gibbons catalogues, Editor Hugh Jefferies has written a feature for the exhibition handbook. Three display cases of heritage material will be shown in the Europhilex reading room. It includes early catalogues and an editor's copy of the Part One catalogue from 1906-1907 (18th edition).

The popular *Midpex* show takes place at the Warwickshire Exhibition Centre, Leamington Spa CV31 1XN on 4 July from 10am to 4pm. This biennial exhibition, first held in 1995, is attended by collectors from across the UK, and brings together specialist societies with local, national and international dealers covering all aspects of philately. It provides a shop window for specialist societies to show off their sphere of interest to other collectors, to recruit members, identify common ground with members of other societies, and to promote publications and research projects.

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



The Philatelic Congress of Great Britain takes place at the Queen Hotel, Leeds LS1 1PJ from 6 to 9 August. The theme is '1890', this being the centenary of the Leeds Philatelic Society, the 125th anniversary of *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, and the centenary of the Uniform Penny Post Jubilee of 1890. Among the events planned for the Congress are talks about the city of Leeds (combined with displays from Leeds Philatelic Society), the Royal Armouries in Leeds, early years of Stanley Gibbons and *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, and postal services in 1890. For details of the Congress see www.gbcongress.org. Contact Paul Gaywood on gaywood@hotmail.co.uk to book your place and hotel accommodation •

Stamp-related exhibitions



2015 is a year of many anniversaries commemorated by exhibitions and events. The 800th anniversary of the Magna Carta is the subject of an exhibition called Law Liberty Legacy at the British Library in London until 1 September (there is an admission charge. Visit www.bl.uk/magna-carta for information. For other Magna Carta events, see www.magnacarta800th.com. Stamps marking the Magna Carta anniversary go on sale on 2 June.

This year is also the bicentenary of the birth of Anthony Trollope – novelist, travel writer and Post Office employee who introduced the pillar box. A British Library display, focusing on Trollope's approach to authorship, runs until 7 June and admission is free. A Trollope Commemorative Sheet was issued on 24 April, and in February stamps with commemorative inscription were available from the Post & Go machine at the BPMA.

The 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo will be celebrated on 18 June with six stamps. At Windsor Castle, Waterloo at Windsor is a themed trail through the state apartments with a display of prints, drawings and archive material that explores the battle and its aftermath. Objects on show include a beautiful red cloak belonging to Napoleon, presented to King George IV, and letters written to the future King by the Duke of Wellington and Napoleon proclaiming victory and admitting defeat.

The 50th anniversary of the death of Sir Winston Churchill is recalled in an exhibition called The Death of a Hero at Chartwell, his country home in Kent. Included are plans for his state funeral, messages of sympathy from the US Senate and House of Representatives and the silent typewriter used by his secretaries so he could dictate without distraction. The exhibition is on until 1 November. Visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/churchill.

The 150th anniversary of the publication of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* was commemorated by stamps in January. An exhibition, The Alice Look, examining how Alice has influenced style and fashion over the past 150 years, can be seen at the Victoria & Albert Museum of Childhood, Bethnal Green, London E2 from 2 May until 26 September •



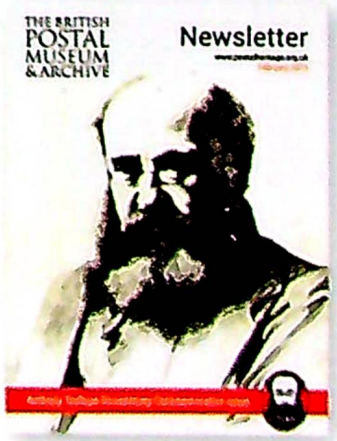
BPMA news

The British Post Museum & Archive, located at Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1, near the famous Mount Pleasant sorting office, is open Monday to Friday, 10am to 5pm (Thursdays until 7pm) and on Saturday, 9 May and 13 June (10am to 5pm, but closed the following Mondays). The Archive will be closed from 1 to 12 June for stocktaking.

On show at Freeling House from 6 May until 7 August is an exhibition marking the 175th anniversary of the Penny Black. This will include the registration sheet of the Penny Black and other items of great philatelic importance. The BPMA will have a stand at the Europhilex exhibition where details will be available of the new Postal Museum due to open in 2016.

Also see the BPMA website for details of the Archive tour (17 June, 3pm); tour of the BPMA Museum Store (Debden, Essex, 6 May at 10am and 1pm, 1 June at 6pm, and 3 June at 1pm); 'Pillar to Post' London walking tours (23 May and 21 June at 11am), and a talk, Letters from a Long Road (Phoenix Centre, 4 June at 7pm). An event entitled The Post Office Went to War will be held at Debden on 9 May from 10am to 4pm, with an evening talk and refreshments from 4pm to 5pm. A charge applies to some events. Contact the BPMA for a copy of its Events Guide: phone 020 7239 2570 or email info@postalheritage.org.uk.

The February 2015 issue of the *BPMA Newsletter* featured novelist Anthony Trollope on the front cover, and contains two features about him to mark the 200th anniversary of his birth. Trollope spent much of his life as a Post Office employee and introduced post boxes to Britain in the 1850s •

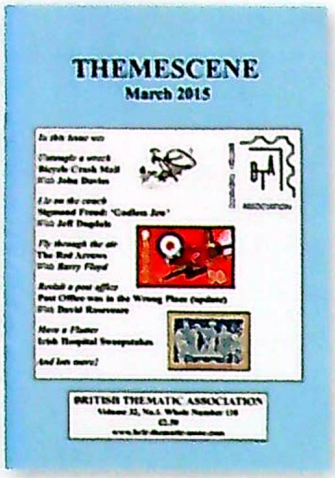


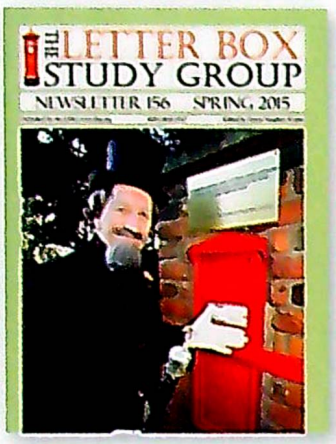
RPSL open day

The Royal Philatelic Society London will be holding an open day during the London 2015 Europhilex exhibition. Non-members as well as fellows and members of the Society are welcome. The event on 14 May, from 11am to 4pm, will include tours of the building, including rarely seen parts of the ▸

experts' area, museum store, Council Chamber and storage stacks. Rarities from the Society's collections, museum, archive and library will be on display. The Society is at 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY. For further information phone 020 7486 0803 or visit www.rpsl.org.uk.

Society news





The March 2015 issue of the British Thematic Association's *Themescene* includes articles on Bicycle Crash Mail, Sigmund Freud, the Red Arrows, and the story behind an unissued United Nations stamp. The Association will hold a meeting at Europhilex on 15 May. For details of the Association visit www.brit-thematic-assoc.com.

The March 2015 issue of *Eastern Angle*, published by the East Anglian Postal History Society, includes a fine 13-page illustrated report of post office openings, closures and moves in the region, together with features on postal history material and recent Royal Mail packet handstamps used in Stevenage and Watford. See www.eaphsc.webs.com for Society details.

The Winter 2014/15 *Newsletter* of the British Royal Portraits Stamp Group (BRPSG) lists new stamps featuring British and overseas royalty, including definitives depicting the new King of Spain. Romania has honoured its still-living former monarch, King Michael I, with a miniature sheet (King Michael is a third cousin of our Queen). For details contact Allan Rendle: 23 More Close, St Paul's Court, London W14 9BN or email allanrendle@gmail.com.

The Spring 2015 edition of the *Letter Box Study Group Newsletter* is, as always, a bumper 52-page glossy A4 magazine with high-quality colour illustrations and interesting articles, reports and news. This issue includes a lengthy feature – 'Charles Dickens the letter writer and the local postal service' – linked to the recent restoration of a VR posting box outside Dickens' house at Gad's Hill in Kent. There are features to interest those who collect miniature letter boxes as well as study the real thing. For information about the Group, go to www.lbsg.org or email Val Scott at membership@lbsg.org •

New catalogue



Stanley Gibbons has published a new 6th edition of its Ireland catalogue listing stamps and booklets from the Provisional Government overprints of February 1922 to the Cats issue of September 2014. New varieties added since the 5th edition include further inverted watermarks on earlier issues and missing colours on more recent stamps. Prices have been extensively revised, with a number of increases to earlier issues in particular. On covers 'multipliers' are provided for all stamps to 1945. The catalogue costs £16.95. The 2015 edition of the GB Concise catalogue will be published in May. All SG catalogues are available from the Stanley Gibbons shop at 399 Strand, London WC2, and by mail order from Stanley Gibbons Publications, 7 Parkside, Ringwood, Hants BH24 3SH. Phone 0800 611 622 (UK only) or email orders@stanleygibbons.com •

May auction

Spink is holding 'The Philatelic Collector's Series Sale' auctions in London on 7 and 8 May and in Hong Kong on 16 May. An auction of Western Australia from the Vestey Collection will be held in London on 19 May, followed by Specialised GB stamps and postal history on 20 May. See www.spink.com, phone 020 7563 4073, or email nstartup@spink.com •

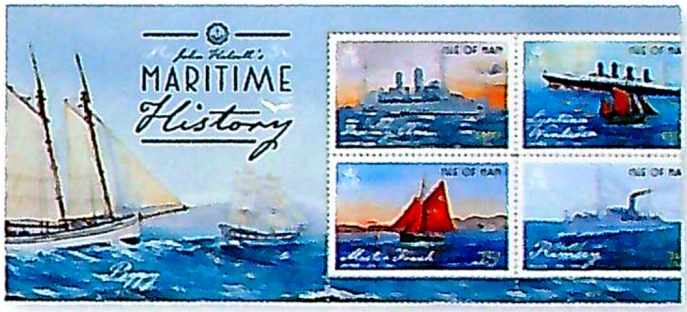
New from the islands

Guernsey On 1 May Guernsey releases a six-stamp Old Toys set featuring two Europa designs, 175th Anniversary of the Penny Black issue and 70th Anniversary of Liberation stamps. On the same day **Alderney** will issue its Flora and Fauna set. Details: Guernsey Philatelic Bureau, Freepost GU267, Envoy House, La Vrangue, Guernsey GY1 5SS or philatelic@guernseypost.com.

Jersey releases Victory & Liberation – Sir Winston Churchill on 9 May, followed by Magna Carta and Island Games sets on 15 and 27 June. Details: Jersey Philatelic Bureau, Freepost JE793, Jersey Post, Jersey JE1 1AF or www.jerseystamps.com.



The Isle of Man Post Office issues its four-stamp Maritime History miniature sheet on 1 May and eight stamps commemorating the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo on 8 May. Details: Isle of Man Stamps & Coins, PO Box 10M, Douglas, Isle of Man IM99 1PB or www.iomstamps.com.

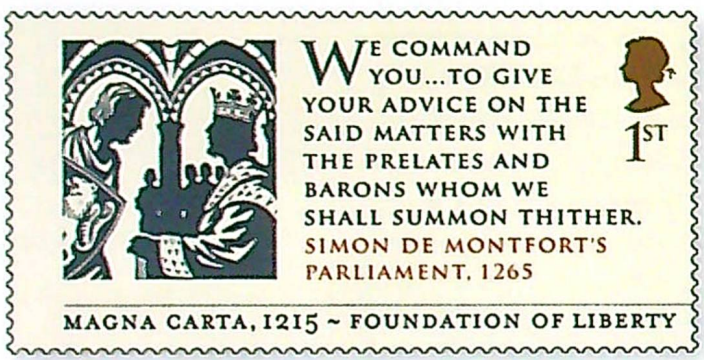


Lundy, a small island in the Bristol Channel, has issued local stamps (local carriage labels) since 1929. Since 1969 the island has been owned by the National Trust and administered by the Landmark Trust, which preserves historic buildings available for holiday lets. To mark the 50th anniversary of the Landmark Trust, on 16 May Lundy issues a miniature sheet of three 62 'puffin' (pence) and six 49p stamps depicting Landmark Trust buildings on Lundy and elsewhere, and Trust founder Sir John Smith. The sheet, designed by Lars Liwendahl and Jan-Erik Wellerfors, was printed by Cartor. Prices: £4.80 set of stamps, first day cover and presentation packs £5.40 each, plus postage of £2.30 UK, £3 Europe and £4 rest of world. From Lundy Stamps, Lundy, Bideford, Devon EX39 6LY •





Golden Brown



Award-winning stamp designer Howard Brown has created classic Royal Mail stamp issues for more than two decades. Andrew Neish talks to the golden boy of philatelic art

Top: Howard Brown in his Yorkshire studio

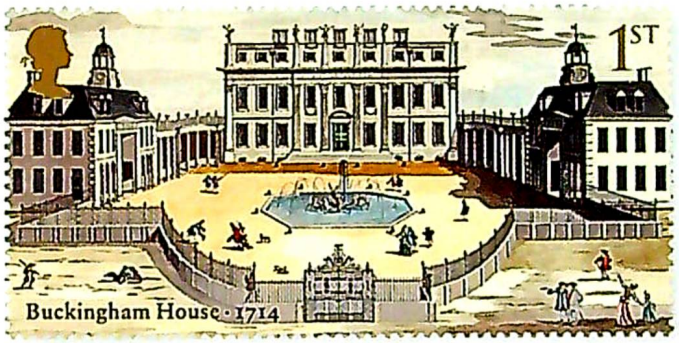
Above: a stamp from the Magna Carta issue, the latest set by Howard. See Preview on page 263 for details

AT THE END OF A COUNTRY LANE in a pin drop-quiet Yorkshire village, a stamp design legend is still belting out stunning stamp sets after 20 starry years in the business. Meet Howard Brown, mastermind behind some 15 Royal Mail issues, including next month's Magna Carta collection and last year's happy and glorious Buckingham Palace stamps (my personal favourites of 2014).

He has also created presentation packs and first day covers for eight stamp issues, and has won a brace of stamp design awards since producing his first set, the Ordnance Survey Bicentenary of 1991.

Look at his pedigree and you can see why Howard remains on top of his game at the age of 69. A Sixties alumnus of famously cool Maidstone College of Art, taught by celebrated stamp designer Collis Clements and John McConnell, creator of the Biba logo and partner at design gurus Pentagram. (Celia Philo, art director of the iconic cover for David Bowie's

Photograph: Pauline Brown. All stamp images © Royal Mail Group





Above: two stamps from the Buckingham Palace issue

Below: gems from the Charles Dickens and Cathedrals sets

Aladdin Sane album, was also a contemporary of Howard's at Maidstone.) A penchant for poster art led to Howard working on film posters for Alan Parker, David Puttnam and Richard Attenborough – he once bombed down to Cannes to personally deliver *Cry Freedom* visuals to Dickie's people.

He was a Seventies front cover designer for the original hipster's bible *Time Out*, where he practised the artistic mantra he still uses today with stamps: that the best design is simple, unique and surprising. Encapsulating this creed was a witty cover showing Elvis Presley for a piece inside called 'Elvis – Mugging of the Myth'. Howard cheekily blacked out one of Presley's teeth.

'Readers got quite upset about their copies of *Time Out* being defaced – they blamed the delivery boys for blacking out Elvis's tooth before putting the magazine through the door,' Howard recalls, chuckling.

The designer's soft-spoken reminiscences ripple around his sexy, wooden-floored, white-walled studio with man-high windows giving you a view of fields, hedgerows and North Yorkshire's Pennine hills. The studio is neatly bolted onto the side of the architect-built house he shares with wife Pauline.

Here, with a cinematically proportioned Apple computer and a weapons-grade A3 printer to test his designs in hard copy, Howard creates miniature masterpieces for Royal Mail and, of course, for you.





Award-winning approach Howard's masterpieces have won him prestigious awards, including Il Francobollo d'Oro in 1992, for his Ordnance Survey issue, and the 1994 Phillips Gold Medal Award for his contribution to British postage stamp design.

His artistic skills apart, Howard's secret is research. Armed with a design brief from Catharine Brandy or Dean Price, Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles' Design Managers, he delves deep into the subject areas behind the stamps. Therein lies visual magic: 'My inspiration comes from lots of research and lots of thinking. And I put that into every job,' he explains. 'With stamp designs I have to immerse myself in the subject of the issue, to know as much as I can. The research triggers off ideas. With it you can find the key to telling the story of your stamps.'

The four-stamp Ordnance Survey issue, his debut and still his favourite, was a triumph of research. Howard discovered that the Kent village of Hamstreet was the first area mapped by Ordnance Survey, as part of the government's plan in the 1790s to create military maps of England's vulnerable south coast to facilitate a defence against a potential French invasion. So he decided to tell the story of the organisation through the filter ▸



Above: this set marking the Ordnance Survey Bicentenary of 1991 was Howard's first stamp commission – and it remains his favourite

of this one quintessential English settlement – each of the four stamps shows the same map view of Hamstreet, but represented by a map of a different era on the Ordnance Survey's 1791-1991 timeline.

Each map's unique aesthetic, with the font style of the age, blends with the others to create a historical sequence. It is a brilliant graphical treatment that tells its story at a glance, while at the same time drawing the eye into the detail.

'I had this idea of taking this one patch of land, like a map square, as the size of the stamps resembled the style of the old maps, an inch to the mile,' says Howard. 'I liked the way I could change the typeface of the stamp values to suit the type style of each map. I was also pleased with the distance bar at the bottom, forming a kind of visual timeline with the dates 1791-1991.'

While Howard may beaver away furiously – putting in 12-hour days is not uncommon – and alone on an issue in the depths of rural Yorkshire, he liaises with Catharine and Dean throughout the project. The interaction pays dividends. For example, Royal Mail wanted a purely typographical approach for the Magna Carta issue, which features other historic



Brown on...

The perfect stamp
'It's one with a simple yet wonderful image, but has to have a magical, half-hidden idea. For me it must be the poppy stamps with the "hidden" images of the First World War blended in with the flowers. That was supreme, my favourite set of all time.'

The Stamp Advisory Committee 'I've always wanted to be a fly on the wall when the Stamp Advisory Committee are discussing my stamps – especially when you're up against rivals for a job! But it's one secret you never discover. They've got all your work on the wall – I like to give them nice prints – and they've got all your competitors' stuff up too, which you never see. I'd love to know what they're saying.'

Presentation packs 'You spend ages researching the stamps and find lots of brilliant material you'd love to use but can't because you only need enough for, say, half a dozen stamps. But if you're doing a presentation pack then you've got much more room to use all those gems you've found. As a designer that's very satisfying, as you are adding to the visual story you've created.'

Designer's block 'If I reach an impasse when I'm designing a stamp issue, I can walk out of the studio and straight into the garden where I grow salady things in a plot at the bottom. You can forget your problem for a bit when you're digging around, then go back refreshed.'

Design technology 'I rarely use paper – a machine is much more time-efficient and what you create on a Mac looks so much more real than a drawing. You can quickly put together what looks like a proper stamp, which helps when you're developing your ideas because you can change and improve things fast. But if you're no good, a machine is a very quick way of producing rubbish.'



Above and right: the Medical Breakthroughs Presentation Pack and First Day Cover

documents, 'bills of rights', and events associated with the quest for freedom: Simon de Montfort's Parliament of 1264, the Bill of Rights 1689, the American Bill of Rights of 1791, 1948's Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the 2013 Charter of the Commonwealth. Each stamp in the Magna Carta issue – out on 2 June – has a key quotation from the relevant document (see page 263).

Howard did not think the words-only approach was working, and suggested using the illustrator Andrew Davidson. Howard explains: 'Without illustration the stamps just looked a bit flat, and there wasn't much distinction between them. So I asked Andrew to come up with these little wooden engraved images, wood cuts, which give the stamps more life and more individuality. But they do also work together as a set because of the common colour palette – this being a grey for the illustrations, with black for the main type and red for the name of the particular bill.' ▶



Above: a stamp from Howard's colourful Weather set of 2001, with illustrations by Tony Meeuwissen



Above: action, power and grace in the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games stamp issue

Recent favourites In last year's Buckingham Palace issue, Howard had sourced beautiful paintings of the Palace through the ages, but for the final stamp had a photograph of the building as it is today. A member of the Stamp Advisory Committee suggested this should be a painting also. 'And that's just what happened,' says Howard. 'We had a painting commissioned and the Buckingham Palace set was visually complete.'

Visually complete, that is, when Howard Brown the perfectionist gave the stamps some final Photoshop treatment, to adjust the balance and contrast of each image so the stamps, while being individual mini-masterpieces, shared a cohesive tone that made them a true set. The result is stunning. The colours are rich but not overbearing, the images have an understated majesty.

Howard's clever knack of making a brace of independent images into the cohesive collage of an issue is also apparent in last year's Glasgow Commonwealth Games stamps. His big challenge was to make six very different photos packed with contrasting colours and busy backgrounds work together. His solution was neat. Howard hired the illustrator Nanette Hoogslag – 'I like the way Nanette handles photographs and really makes interesting things happen,' he says.

Howard is right. Her swirls and lines showing movement and action add power to the pictures and lend them a cohesive look and feel.

Howard deals with the 'busy issue' by virtually knocking out the backgrounds and giving each stamp a one-colour wash. The result is a visually smooth, seamless issue.

This veteran designer's touch is subtle, deft, perfectly pitched by the experience of years. But does he still feel nervous when an essay proof comes back from the printer?

'No, no – I feel excited!' He grins. 'Yes, you will look at a proof and perhaps think of a way to improve things for the final printing. But often I look at the proof and see how beautifully the printer has handled it all. There's your design, preserved in miniature, and that's always a good feeling' ●

Star stamp CV

The following Royal Mail stamp issues are all designed by Howard Brown:

1991 Bicentenary of the Ordnance Survey*

1993 300th Birth Anniversary of John Harrison (Marine Timekeeper No.4)*

1996 Football Legends*

2001 Christmas Robins*

2001 The Weather*

2003 Extreme Endeavours

2006 Ice Age Animals

2007 Bicentenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade*



2008 Cathedrals

2008 Birth Bicentenary of Charles Darwin Prestige Stamp Book

2008 Birth Bicentenary of Charles Darwin Miniature Sheet

2010 Medical Breakthroughs*

2012 Birth Bicentenary of Charles Dickens

2014 Buckingham Palace

2014 Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games

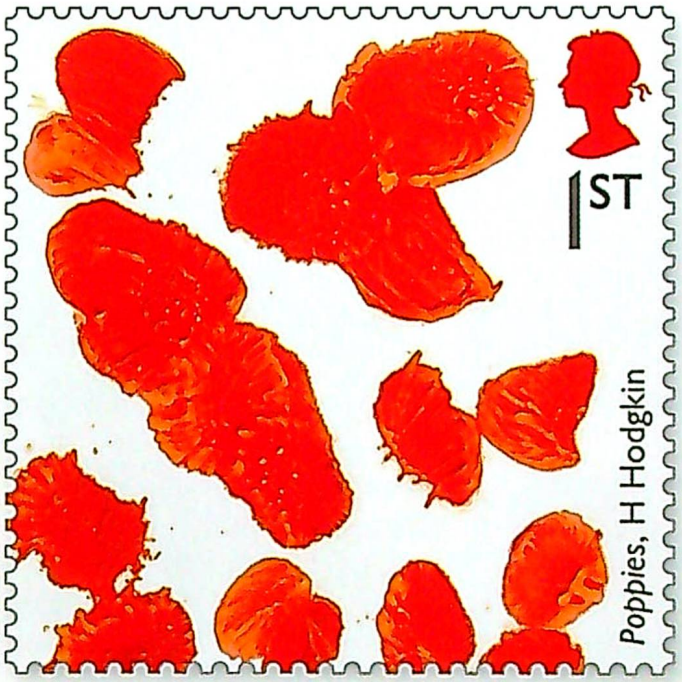
2015 Magna Carta



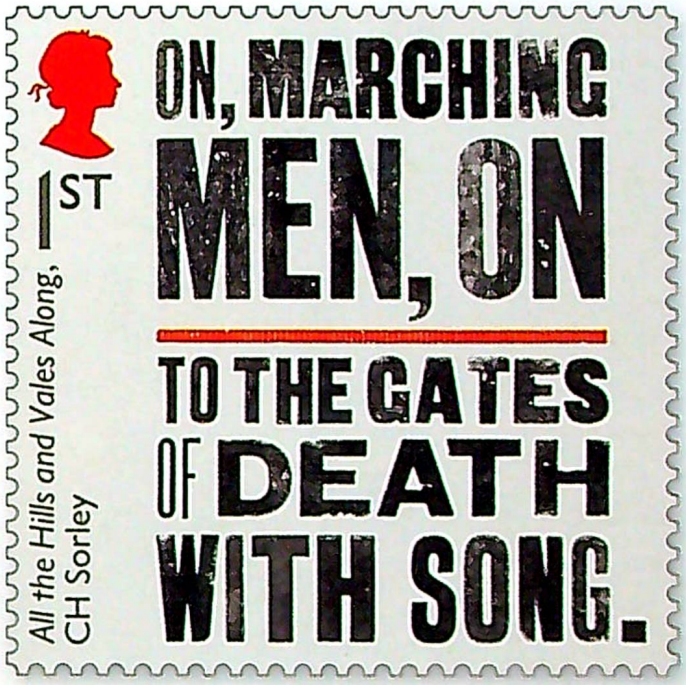
**Howard Brown also designed the issue's first day cover and presentation pack*

Lest we forget...

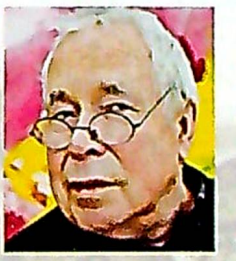
Rest your eyes on these stamps and share six very different personal reactions to World War One 1915, the second stamp set in Royal Mail's five-year series commemorating the conflict



Poppies, H Hodgkin



All the Hills and Vales Along, by CH Sorley



Sir Howard Hodgkin CBE
Turner Prize-winning painter and printmaker

A powerful interpretation of the remembrance poppy

Hodgkin's multilayered scarlet shapes perfectly evoke the wrinkled paper texture of poppy petals. But the viscous splotches might just as easily articulate coagulated blood pools of trench wounds.

The artist, famously reticent about discussing his work, will not be drawn on the significance of these symbols of sacrifice. He sticks instead to his tecnhnique: 'I used real poppies in Normandy. I used different thicknesses of paint, printing in vermillion, cadmium and natural, red oil-based inks.'

In fact, Hodgkin's usual answer to questions about the meaning of his art is: 'Look, just look!' And with the help of this stamp we are surely compelled to look and look again at the remembrance poppy, and be reminded of the images of suffering and sacrifice that it embodies •



Kelvyn Smith
Typographical artist and printmaker

Charles Sorley's poetic tribute to a doomed generation is articulated in a poignant picture of words

It is like a recruitment poster from Death himself. In these 11 words from Sorley's poem young men are invited to march to glory, but in truth their destination is disaster. Sorley's treatise on the reality of war (Sorley was killed aged 20 by a German sniper in 1915), where troops sing happily along country lanes to a front haunted by death, is beautifully captured by typographical artist Kelvyn Smith.

Using worn wood type over 50 years old lends his work the character of a vintage Kitchener flyer, but one that confesses to the 'old lie' of Wilfred Owen (deftly exposed by Smith's red-ruled bisection of the paragraph). 'I'd like people to see this and feel pride for those men who went and fought,' says Smith, 47, who handprinted his letterpress composition at his south London studio. 'Men like them gave us our freedom. We're very lucky' • ▸

Stamp designs © Royal Mail Group Ltd

Portrait photograph by Emma Lewis



Rifleman Kulbir Thapa



Joanna Lumley

Actress and Gurkha rights activist

The courage of Victoria Cross holder Thapa reminds Joanna of a Gurkha hero she discovered as a child

Looking at the stamp of VC winner Kulbir Thapa took Joanna Lumley back to the age of seven when her army officer father introduced her to another Gurkha hero. Major James Lumley of the 6th Gurkha Rifles showed Joanna a photo of an old comrade, Rifleman Tulbahadur Pun, and said simply: 'Here's one of the bravest blokes you'll ever see.' Thapa and Pun shared the courageous Gurkha DNA: Pun won a VC in Burma in 1944, capturing a Japanese machinegun bunker single-handed through clouds of bullets and saving pinned-down comrades.

Thapa won his rescuing wounded men under savage German fire at the Battle of Loos in 1915. 'In Pun's photo I saw a bright, happy, handsome face. It was the same looking at Thapa,' says Joanna, who led a successful campaign to grant retired Gurkhas UK citizenship in 2009. 'Both men remind me of Gurkhas' incredible cheerfulness in war. There's no time for gloom or terror. They are so bold.

'In the First World War Ghurkas ended up far away from their homeland, men used to crisp mountain air found themselves stuck in muddy trenches in Flanders. But they faced everything with fortitude. So I am glad a Gurkha is being recognised on this stamp, just as our citizenship campaign recognised the loyalty and sacrifice Gurkhas have given and still give to Britain' •

Stamp designs © Royal Mail Group Ltd 2015.
Rifleman Kulbir Thapa VC, photograph used with permission of The Gurkha Museum



The Kensingtons at Laventie by E Kennington



Rory Brady

Stamp designer

Studying the artist, sculptor and soldier, Kennington has given Rory new insights into 20th century art

When Eric Kennington was invalided out of the army in 1915, having been injured on the Western Front, he painted this picture of his battle-weary comrades in the 13th Battalion London Regiment, popularly know as The Kensingtons. The names of all the men in the painting are known and the artist included a self-portrait – Kennington is at top left, wearing a balaclava.

A hundred years later, in the offices of Hat Trick design in London, creating a stamp from from this painting has involved Rory Brady in an interesting design challenge. 'It is never easy to reduce artwork to a 35mm square format and this painting is not only big – five feet wide – but also unusual in that it is reverse painted on glass.' Rory explains. 'This technique gives the oil paint a clarity that we wanted to come through on the printed stamp.'

Rory's research led him to explore Kennington's life and later works and to consider the lives of young artists a century ago: 'When working on such a historical and rich subject, the research plays a huge part. We spent a day in the art archive store at the IWM, looking at all the First World War art they have in their collection. This ranged from huge canvases to tiny lithograph prints and you got a real sense of the impact and significance the War had within art' •

The Kensingtons at Laventie by Eric Kennington, 1915 © IWM (ART 15661).



London Irish Rifles' football from Loos



Sue Harris
Granddaughter of 'Loos footballer' Frank Edwards of the London Irish

The football symbolising the bravery of an extraordinary young soldier

On 25 September 1915 young Frank Edwards booted a football out of his trench and dribbled it with his mates towards the enemy as the London Irish Rifles attacked in the Battle of Loos. Half cheeky pluck, half distraction to take his pals' minds off the terror of the German fire, Frank's defiant gesture earned him huge respect – not least from his granddaughter Sue. 'I have absolute admiration for him and those young men facing death who didn't think twice about fighting for their country,' says Sue. 'I'm so glad he and his comrades are remembered by this beautiful stamp.'

But Rifleman Edwards' football cock-a-snook to the enemy almost did not happen: officers worried troops would repeat the Christmas 1914 truces and play football with the enemy – so had balls forcibly deflated by bayonet. 'But Frank hid a deflated ball under his tunic, then inflated it for the attack,' chuckles Sue.

In the assault Frank, 21, was shot in the hand and thigh and gassed but he and the ball survived the war. The hero was dubbed the 'Footballer of Loos'; the ball was forgotten for decades, but has now been restored and is proudly displayed at the Rifles' London museum. Both Frank and that old yet treasured lump of leather also, of course, have pride of place in Sue's heart •



Cape Helles, Gallipoli, Turkey



Hilary Roberts
Research Curator of Photography at the Imperial War Museum

Ernest Brooks' photograph uses posed silhouettes to convey the complex message of Gallipoli

'Young press photographers currently exhibiting images of Afghanistan are on the job because of what Ernest Brooks achieved,' says Hilary Roberts. 'Before the First World War photographers in the front lines had been considered a potential hindrance to the war effort, but Brooks' work helped establish the profession of press photography.

'He had worked as a court photographer before joining the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve in January 1915. So when the Admiralty decided they wanted an official photographer to accompany the expedition to the Gallipoli Peninsula, Brooks was the obvious candidate – a photographer of some standing and already in uniform.'

British forces began landings at Cape Helles on 25 April 1915, as part of the amphibious invasion aiming to establish a strong war front in what was considered an area of weak defences. When the last British troops left Helles on 8 January 1916, 44,000 men had been lost. How could an official photograph record this bloodbath?

'Brooks went on to produce several thousand images between 1915 and 1918, but at Cape Helles he was obliged to make up the job as he went along,' Hilary explains. 'Working to the style of pre-war press demands, he staged this shot with simple but eloquent silhouettes that speak of endurance, sacrifice and service' •

Loos football stamp image used with the kind permission of The London Irish Rifles Regimental Association, photography by John Ross.

Portrait photograph by Geraint Lewis

TOP TEN FAVOURITE SETS 2014	Poll position	Votes
First World War	1st	105
Buckingham Palace	2nd	81
Classic Children's TV	3rd	79
Seaside Architecture	4th	56
Post & Go Spring Blooms	5th	29
Remarkable Lives	6th=	28
Sustainable Fish	6th=	28
Prime Ministers	7th	24
Locomotives of Wales	8th	21
Working Horses	9th	18
Commonwealth Games	10th=	16
Post & Go Symbolic Flowers	10th=	16

Results of 2014 readers' poll

Thank you to all who took part in the poll to reveal your favourite Royal Mail Special Stamps and Stamp Sets of 2014. Your votes left no doubt as to the outstanding 'UK stamp stars' of the year: the First World War 1914 issue is the clear winner, as the favourite 2014 set and with the top three favourite individual stamps – the Poppy, the Portrait and the Poetry themes – which you chose from 115 Specials!

Remarkable characters No stamp year would be complete without a cuddly animal. And 2014's triumphant cutie is Paddington Bear, your third favourite individual stamp. Paddington is one of the eight-stamp Classic Children's TV issue, which you voted third favourite set. The handsome Working Horses came ninth and Sustainable Fish landed joint sixth place with Remarkable Lives.

A broad spread of votes for individual stamps in the Remarkable Lives set meant that none appeared in the top six, but your favourite was Dylan Thomas. Similarly, you voted the Prime



75



77



76



Ministers set seventh favourite, with Winston Churchill pipping the rest.

Themes of royalty and architecture are always popular among collectors, so it was no surprise that the stunning Buckingham Palace stamps got a lot of votes, with two among your top six invidual stamps.

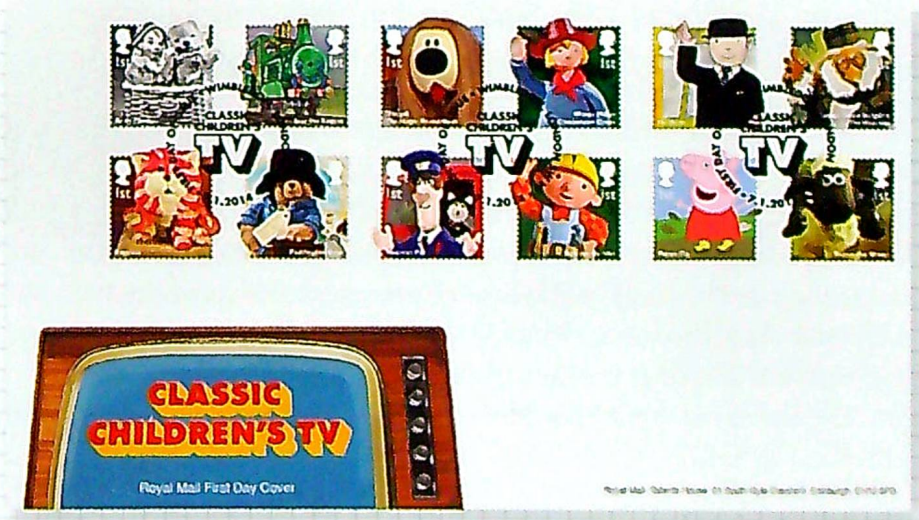
Locations and locomotives The evocative Seaside Architecture set also did well, as fourth most popular set, with its Southwold Lighthouse stamp in joint sixth place among individual stamps.

Trains, sport and flowers are perennially popular themes: among your favourite sets are Locomotives of Wales (8th), Commonwealth Games (joint 10th), Spring Blooms (5th) and Symbolic Flowers (joint 10th). And if looking back to last year's favourites revives some thematic interests, remember that at www.rmspecialstamps.com you can see every single Special Stamp of the past 50 years! ●

SIX FAVOURITE STAMPS 2014

	Poll position	Votes
First World War 1914, Poppy (75)	1st	65
First World War 1914, Private Tickle (77)	2nd	34
First World War 1914, For The Fallen (76)	3rd	29
Classic Children's TV, Paddington Bear (8)	4th	25
Buckingham Palace 2014 (44)	5th	23
Buckingham Palace 1846 (42)	6th=	14
Seaside Architecture, Southwold (90)	6th=	14

Numbers in brackets after stamp names above and by the stamps shown below indicate key numbers on the voting form





8



33



90



19



100



81



26



Penny Black centenary

John Holman explores the 1940 issue that marked the centenary of the world's first adhesive postage stamps

On 6 May 1940 the Post Office issued six stamps marking the centenary of the first adhesive postage stamps – the Penny Black and Twopence Blue. Early in 1938, Sir John Wilson of the Royal Philatelic Society London suggested a miniature sheet for the occasion, and the idea was not immediately ruled out by the Post Office. However, enthusiasm waned after Stanley Gibbons Ltd heavily criticised such issues from overseas postal administrations and stated it would not deal in any future issues.

Bi-coloured definitives were considered for the centenary, as was a Post Office exhibition in addition to that of the Royal Philatelic Society. Work on centenary stamps ceased abruptly when the Second World War began, but three months later the Postmaster General insisted the stamps should go ahead. Of the 20 artists invited to submit designs, 44 submissions were received from all but one. The designs by 34-year-old H L Palmer found favour; similar vertical format designs were reproduced on a souvenir sheet for the London 1990 international stamp exhibition.

Palmer's stamps feature the Wyon head of Queen Victoria (as used on stamps throughout her reign) and the Edmund Dulac head of George VI as used on stamps of his reign. At the top of the stamps the names VICTORIA and GEORGE were separated by a crown; the dates 1840 1940 appear at the bottom either side of the value. The obligatory inscription POSTAGE REVENUE was positioned on the left and right sides of the stamps. They were printed at one and a half times definitive size in the colours of the respective definitives: ½d green, 1d scarlet, 1½d red-brown, 2d orange, 2½d ultramarine, and 3d violet. H L Palmer, who worked for stamp printers Harrisons, designed the 2½d Victory stamp of 1946.

The stamps were printed by Harrisons in sheets of 160, with Multiple Block GviR Cypher watermark. The 3d value was printed from a single







From far left to right: first day cover of the 1940 Centenary issue, in aid of the Red Cross and St John Fund; five essays; an unusual cover with bisected stamp

Left: a Morocco Agencies overprint

cylinder (number 5). Two were required for the 1½d (2 and 3), three each for ½d (1, 3 and 6) and 2d (1, 2 and 3), four for the 1d (1, 2, 3 and 5), and five for the 2½d, the basic UK letter rate (2, 3, 4, 5 and 7). The scarcest is the 2½d from cylinders 4. The total cost of printing amounted to £8,900.

Significant constant varieties on the ½d and 2½d stamps are listed in the Stanley Gibbons GB Specialised Catalogue. All six stamps are listed with 'Specimen' overprint, and exist imperforate as imprimaturs from the National Postal Museum Archives sale.

A major stamp exhibition was planned for 1940 but cancelled owing to the war. A smaller event organised by the Royal Philatelic Society London was held at Lancaster House, London, from 6 to 14 May, in aid of the Red Cross. Many first day covers of the stamps were cancelled with the exhibition handstamp applied in red, also by handstamps at the Philatelic Congress and Stamp Centenary Exhibition in Bournemouth. Shown here is a cover posted at the London exhibition on the second day, 7 May, addressed to John Samuel Dodd, one of two MPs for Oldham.

The Stamp Centenary stamps were used in large numbers, with quantities supplied to post offices ranging from 22.2 million of the 3d to nearly 313 million of the 2½d. They remained on sale until 18 December 1940. Relatively few of the 1½d were sold as this had ceased to be the basic UK letter rate a few days before issue.

The 2d stamp is noted for being used bisected during a stamp shortage in Guernsey from December 1940 until February 1941; on Sark bisected stamps continued until 31 May 1941. Bisected George V and George VI 2d definitive stamps were also used. The Stamp Centenary stamps were also overprinted for use in Tangier and Morocco Agencies •

F is for Furniss

Colin Baker reveals how a leading *Punch* cartoonist illustrated stationery in support of striking postmen

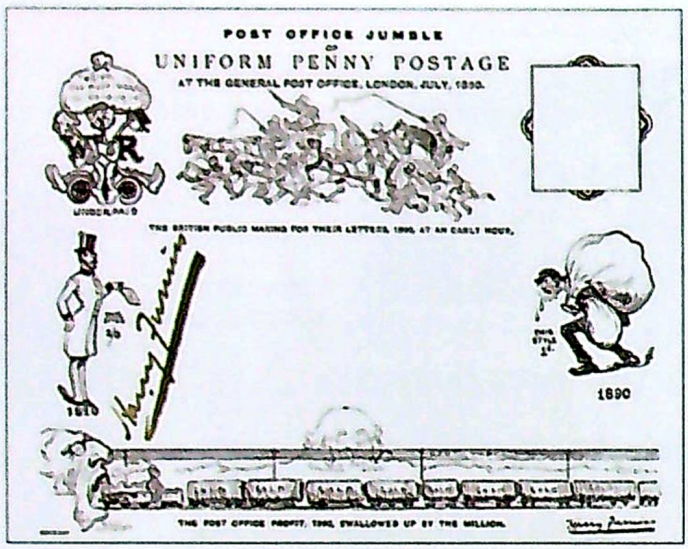


Fig 1

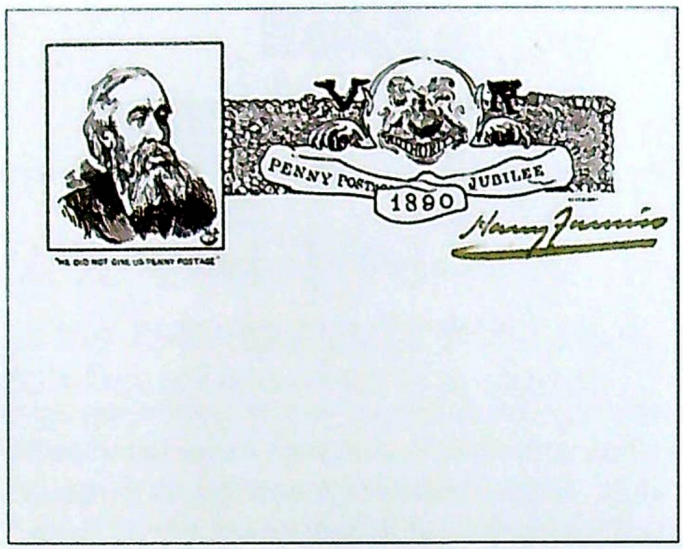


Fig 2

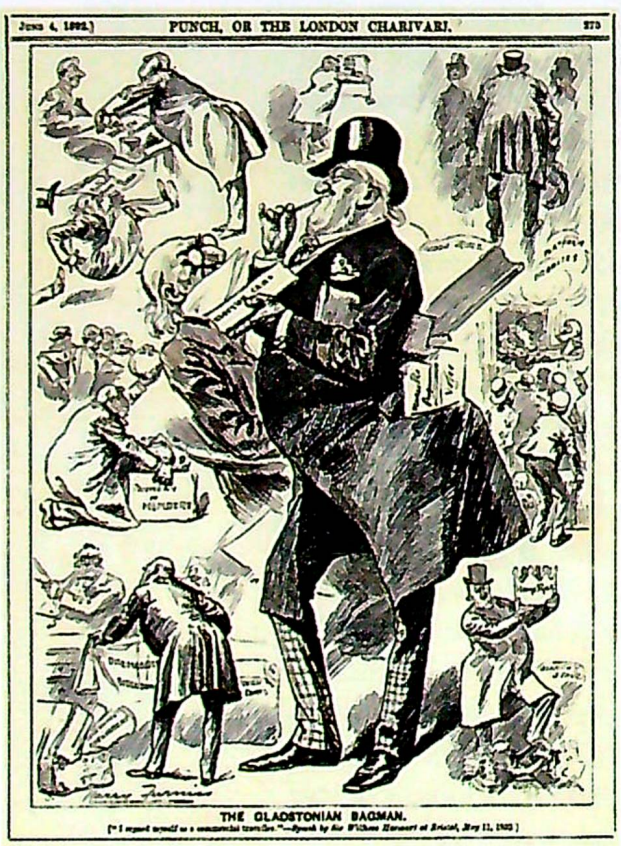


Fig 4

When the Uniform Penny Post was introduced in 1840 it dramatically cut the cost of sending a letter anywhere in the British Isles to just one penny. The 50th anniversary of this major reform was celebrated in 1890 with two exhibitions and two special items of postal stationery carrying a 1d stamp.

The first was a postcard with a fancy heading sold for 6d at the Guildhall in London, the second was a commemorative 1d envelope and insert card sold at the other show in South Kensington for one shilling. All the profits from the sale of these items were given to a fund for postmen and their families who had fallen on hard times.

At this time, however, some postmen were unhappy about pay and conditions, and objected to extensive working hours. Some even went on strike. A handbill given out to crowds attending the exhibitions claimed London postal workers received less than 20 shillings a week and that because their work hours could stretch to a 16-hour day, they had no time for a second job to supplement their income. Soon the well-known *Punch* political cartoonist ▸



Fig 3

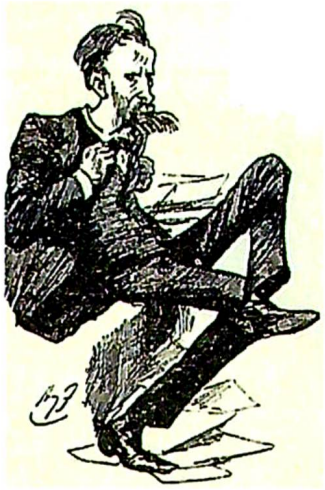


Fig 5



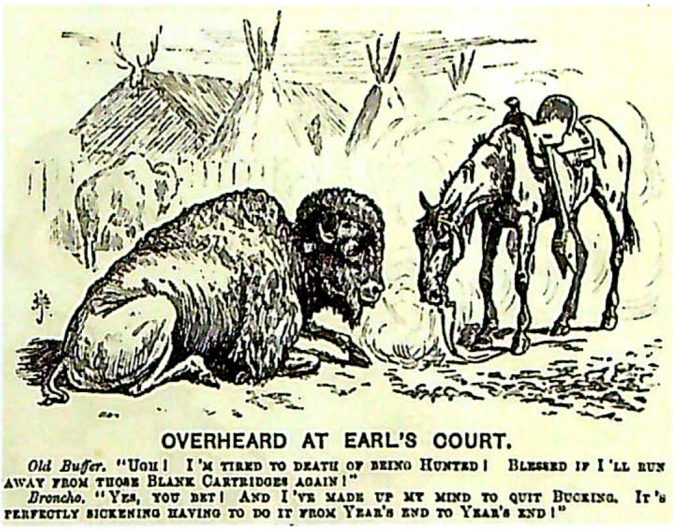
Fig 6

Fig 1 and Fig 2: printer's proofs of the envelope and insert card designed by Furniss in support of striking postmen

Fig 3: Cecil Raikes, the Postmaster General in 1890, a frequent subject of Furniss cartoons

Fig 8: a Furniss card showing Raikes, used as a Christmas card

Fig 9: example of a used Furniss envelope



OVERHEARD AT EARL'S COURT.

Old Buffer. "Ugh! I'm tired to death of being Hunted! Blessed if I'll run away from those Blank Cartridges again!"

Broncho. "Yes, you bet! And I've made up my mind to quit Bucking. It's perfectly sickening having to do it from Year's end to Year's end!"

Fig 7

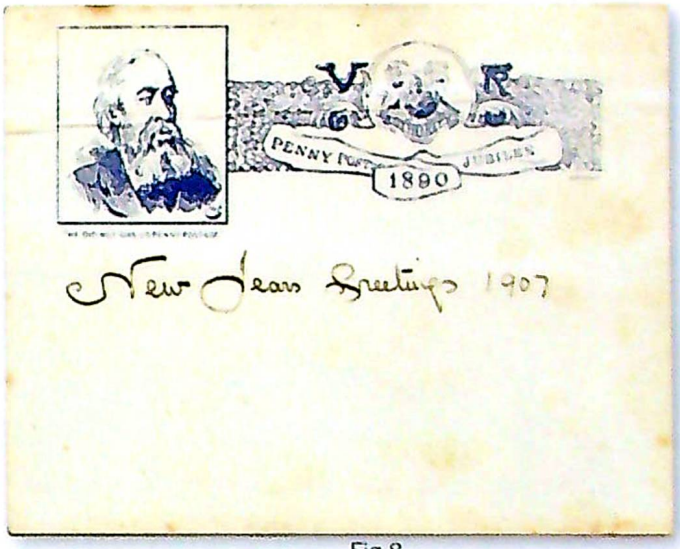
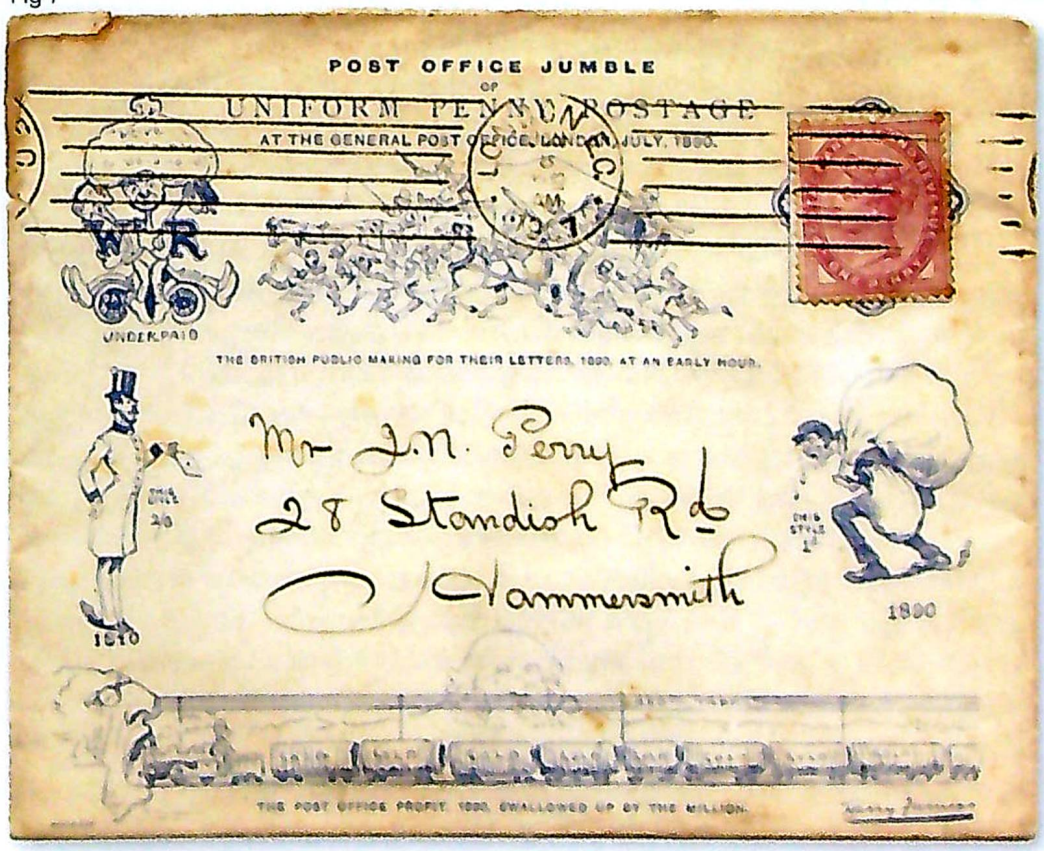


Fig 8



Figs 4, 5, 6 and 7: contemporary cartoons by Harry Furniss of *Punch*

Fig 9



Fig 10

Fig 11

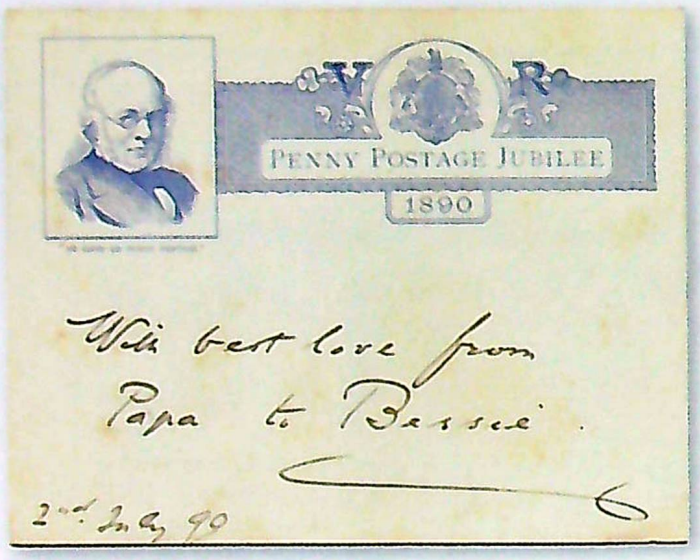


Fig 10: Post Office envelope which showed how the postal service had improved over the previous 100 years

Fig 11: the Post Office's insert card

Harry Furniss stepped in to help the postal workers' cause, and created an envelope that parodied the Post Office's own issue.

The so-called 'Furniss envelope' was issued on 23 July 1890, three weeks after the one-day South Kensington exhibition. This was the second envelope and insert card to be privately produced, and many were distributed to postmasters and Post Office officials. Some were also sold to the public to help boost the postmen's strike fund.

The design of the Post Office envelope showed two postmen, one of 1840 and one of 1890, with the North Mail train speeding towards Carlisle at 48mph. The Furniss caricature transformed this to show a contemporary postman overloaded with mail, while the train rushed profits from the Post Office into the open mouth of the Treasury.

The correspondence card was also skilfully changed to show the Postmaster General, and the pointed statement below him: 'He did not give us the penny post.' (Not surprising, really, as Postmaster General Cecil Raikes was just one year old in 1840 when the Uniform Penny Post was introduced.)

About 9,800 of the Harry Furniss caricature envelopes and correspondence cards are believed to have been produced, together with 100 proofs of both items in black, signed by the artist himself and sold at half a guinea each (about £65 today) to financially support the strike •

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



WIN a historic Penny Black stamp

Our quiz marks the 175th anniversary of the first stamp – and the big prize is an original Penny Black



Collectors' quiz Correctly answer these questions on history's most famous stamp and the first prize of a genuine Penny Black could be yours. In addition the winner receives Royal Mail's stunning new Miniature Sheet showing Penny Blacks and Twopenny Blues, First Day Cover, Presentation Pack and Medal Cover. One runner-up also wins our Royal Mail goodies.

1 What is the value of the Penny Black stamp on Royal Mail's 175th Anniversary of the Penny Black Miniature Sheet?
a First Class **b** Second Class **c** £1.33

2 What is the location on the alternative postmark for the 175th Anniversary of the Penny Black First Day Cover?
a Bristol **b** Bedford **c** Bath

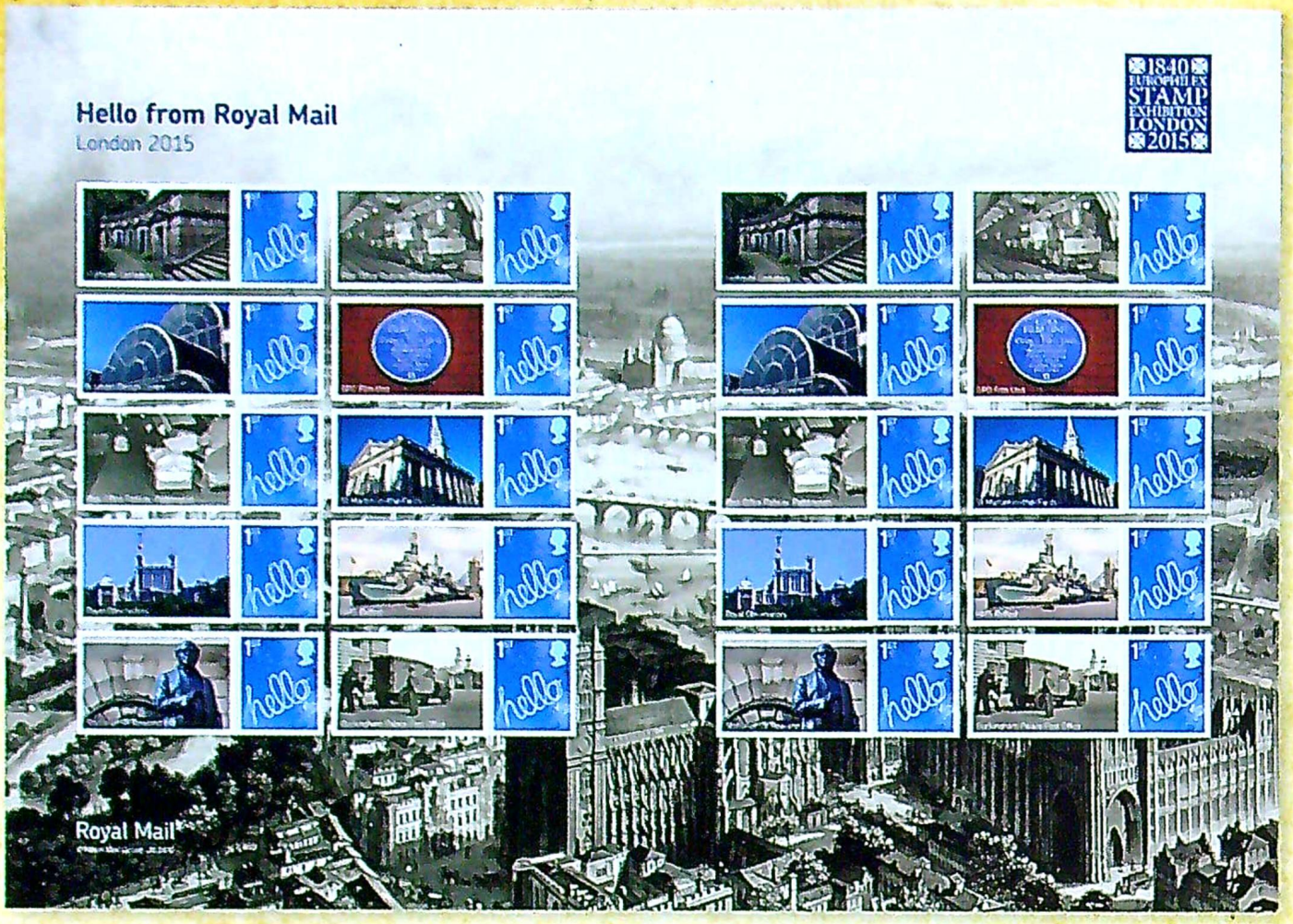
3 In 1840 what weight of postage did a Penny Black stamp pay for?
a Half an ounce **b** One ounce **c** One pound

How to enter Send your answers, marked 'Penny Black Quiz', to Bulletin Prize Draws, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB, or email them to: rmbulletin@rocketmail.com.
Closing date 12 June 2015. Answers and winners for February's Lab Test quiz and Name That Stamp will be appearing in next month's *Bulletin*.

Prize draw rules and regulations 1 Promotions are open to all readers aged 18 and over, except employees of Royal Mail Group Ltd, their business associates and immediate families. 2 Responsibility cannot be accepted for entries which are incomplete, damaged or not received for any reason. Proof of posting is not proof of receipt. 3 Prizes must be accepted as offered; they are not transferable and there are no cash alternatives. The cost of transport to and from a prize venue, where applicable, is not included. 4 Winners are notified within 28 days of closing date stated. 5 For prize draws where readers must answer a question, winners will be the senders of the first correct entries drawn at random by an independent person after the closing date. 6 Promoter's decision on any aspect of the promotions is final. No correspondence will be entered into. 7 Entry implies acceptance of these rules. 8 Prizes are subject to suitability and availability. The promoter reserves the right to a) substitute a prize of equal or greater value if circumstances so demand and b) suspend or cancel or hold void any of the competitions or prize draws at any time without notice. 9 Winners' names are available 28 days after closing date; send an SAE to The Editor, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. The promoter is Royal Mail Group Ltd, 100 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0HQ.

Stamp images © Royal Mail Group Ltd

Hello London 2015!



This Royal Mail Exhibition Sheet issued on 13 May marks the opening of London 2015 Europhilex, the international stamp exhibition held at Islington's Business Design Centre.

• The new sheet comprises 20 duotone labels alongside 'Hello' stamps and showing famous London sights associated with the exhibition. These include an image of the statue of Rowland Hill in Edward Street EC4 and a photo of London's underground Mail Rail, which is about to be opened up as part of the new national postal museum coming to central London in 2016.

• Price: £13.10, excluding postage and packing. To order this stunning sheet, visit www.royalmail.com/pennyblack or phone 08457 641 641, quoting Bulletin media code 15CDD.

• *See page 246 and 266 for more details of London 2015 and times of expert seminars on philately at the Royal Mail stand.*

09
9 770953 811008