BRITISH PHILATELIC

Bulletin

The Royal Mail magazine for stamp collectors

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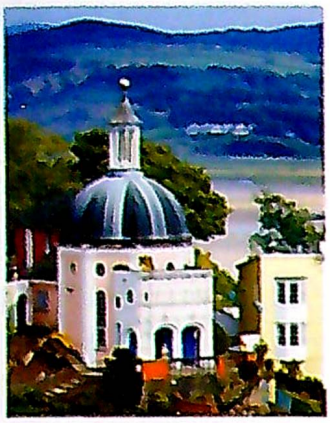
UK A-Z2 • *Titanic* anniversary • New Post & Go Union Flag



W for White Cliffs of Dover: UK A-Z Part 2, out this month

PREVIEWS DIAMOND JUBILEE • GREAT BRITISH FASHION

Issues and withdrawals



Cover Portmeirion is among the 26 stunning UK locations featured in the UK A-Z series Part 2, released this month

1 April	**Issue** London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Sports Cover Collection: Judo and Triathlon
10 April	**Issue** UK A-Z Part 2: Stamps, Presentation Pack, Cards, Composite Souvenir Stamp Sheet
10 April	**Issue** Titanic: Commemorative Sheet
11 April	**Withdrawal** The Royal Shakespeare Company: Stamps, Miniature Sheet, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards
21 April	**Withdrawal** Royal Wedding: Miniature Sheet
24 April	**Issue** Post & Go British Farm Animals 2, Pigs: Stamps
1 May	**Issue** James Bond Commemorative Sheet
4 May	**Withdrawal** Morris & Co: Stamps, Prestige Stamp Book, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards
6 May	**Issue** London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Sports Cover Collection: Wheelchair Rugby and Volleyball
15 May	**Issue** Great British Fashion: Stamps, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards
21 May	**Issue** Post & Go Union Flag: Stamps
31 May	**Issue** The Diamond Jubilee of HM The Queen Elizabeth II: Stamps, Presentation Pack, Prestige Stamp Book, Stamp Cards, Coin Cover with Stamps, Coin Cover with Silver Proof Coin, Coin Cover with Gold Proof Coin

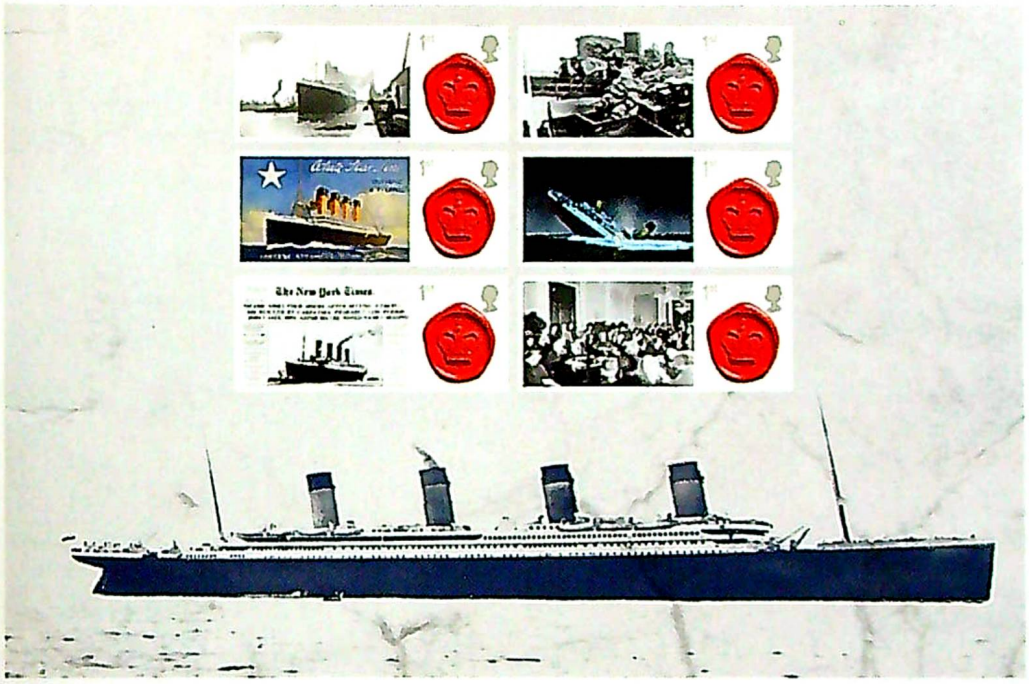
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The ***British Philatelic Bulletin*** is published monthly by Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB ● Editor: William Doherty ● Price £1.20 from Post Office Ltd philatelic outlets (see opposite) ● **Annual subscription** £12.95 UK & Europe, £17.95 elsewhere. Send subscriptions to Royal Mail Tallents House, at the address opposite ● **Binders** to hold 24 issues, £8.50; storage boxes to hold about 30 issues, £9.95. Both available by post from Royal Mail Tallents House ● Royal Mail also 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
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Postbox and inbox



Bon, According to Steve

***Bulletin* readers may be interested to learn that the Bon Accord locomotive, No. 807, has been fully restored. It is now painted in a green livery (shown above), so is a different colour from that shown on the £1 stamp of the Classic Locomotives of Scotland Miniature Sheet.**

The Bon Accord is presently resident, and occasionally in steam, on the Royal Deeside Railway at Milton of Crathes in Aberdeenshire. It is hoped to have her back in full running order later this year.

Steve Fraser, by email

Thanks for the interesting tip, Mr Fraser. We have learned that the Royal Deeside Railway has borrowed a sister engine of the Bon Accord for use on passenger services in 2012, to avoid disappointing customers who would like to see an engine in steam. Both locomotives were originally built by Andrew Barclay & Sons of Kilmarnock.

Readers inspired to visit the Bon Accord might also enjoy the Steam Hauled Easter Egg Specials or the chance to be a 'Driver for a Fiver'. For details visit www.deeside-railway.co.uk or write to the Royal Deeside Railway, Milton of Crathes, Banchory, Kincardineshire AB31 5QH. You can read about the work of the dedicated restoration team who restored the Bon Accord at www.bon-accord.org.uk.

Annual animals

Might I suggest that Royal Mail, having started what could be a fascinating line of issues with the Year of the Dragon sheet, issue one First Class and one Second Class Chinese New Year stamp every year, each showing the appropriate animal. They could also be incorporated into a generic sheet. Many other countries issue Chinese New Year stamps for normal mail, so why not follow suit?

A R Poole, Whitby

We always take readers' suggestions seriously and have passed yours along the Royal Mail stamp-choosing channels. What do other readers think?



Letting off steam: **printer's error?**

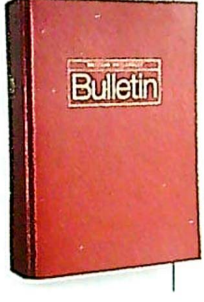
The back of the Morris & Co Prestige Stamp Book, issued 5 May, 2011, states 'All stamp panes printed in lithography by Cartor Security Printing'. This was echoed in the *Bulletin* preview, page 154, Volume 47. Yet all the panes of definitives in my Morris & Co PSBs are printed in photogravure. Was this a mistake or am I very fortunate (unlikely)?

H R House, Nairn

The panes are printed photogravure. 'Of course!' we all cry in consternation at this repeated error. A number of readers have written to us about this, and you might feel somewhat fortunate about your letter being selected to receive more PSBs.

Write to... The Editor, *British Philatelic Bulletin*, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. Or email bulletin.enquiries@royalmail.com.

Readers' letters published will receive a thank-you gift. The sender of the 'First-class letter' receives the *Bulletin* binder.



April update New Union Flag Post & Go stamp, sports covers and framed stamps



Above: the new Post & Go Union Flag stamp.
Below left: alternative pictorial First Day of Issue postmark (FD12 30) and Tallents House, Edinburgh First Day of Issue postmark (FD12 29)

Flagging up new Post & Go stamps The year of the Diamond Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II and the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games is a most appropriate time for Post & Go machines to fly a patriotic flag: 21 May sees the release of the new Post & Go stamp shown above. It features the Union Flag fluttering against a blue background, a design adapted from an original by Dick Davis and printed in gravure by Walsall Security Printers.

The Union Flag stamp, with overprinted 1st Class rate indicator of up to 100g value, is also available in a card carrier, which has been designed by The Chase and carries a brief history of Post & Go stamps, with an explanation of the different elements of overprinting.

A First Day Cover is also available. The First Day envelope carries the stamp with philatelic code overprinted in gravure, alongside the Post & Go motif – a map of the UK. Both the stamp and First Day Cover are available from Tallents House at the Edinburgh address given on page 226.

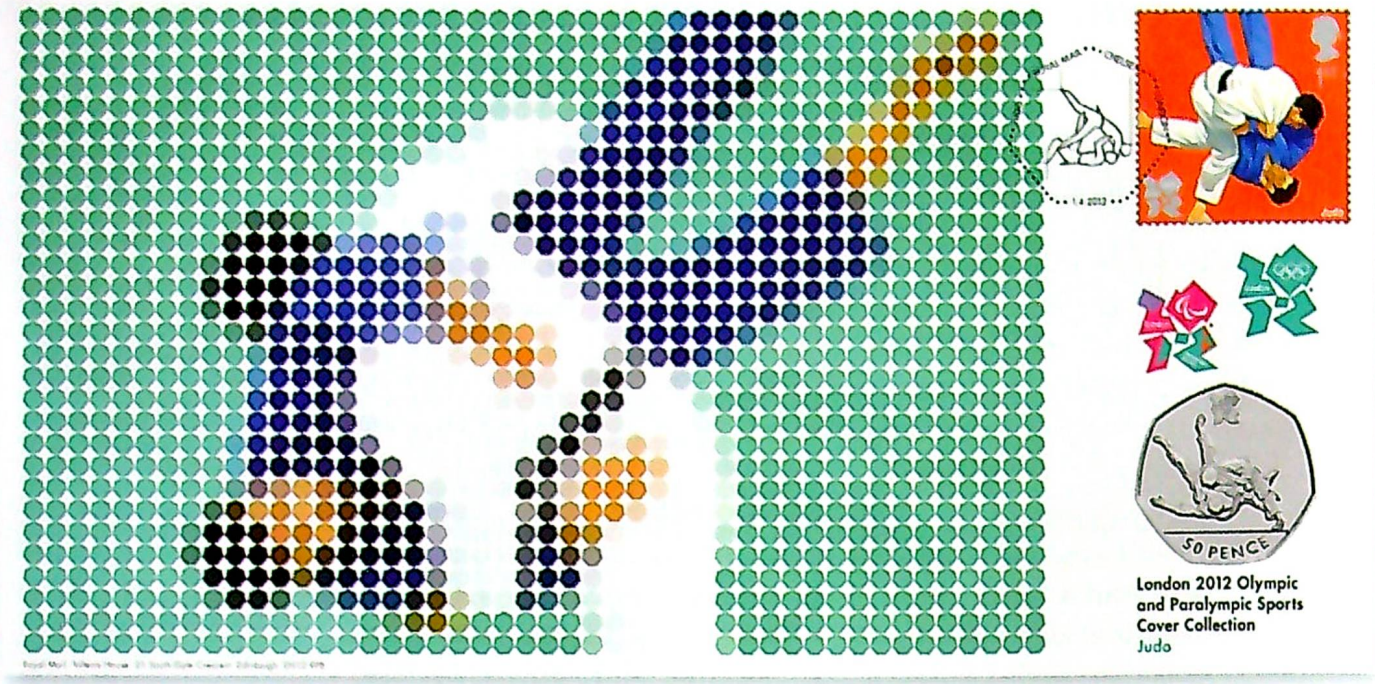
Orders for serviced First Day Covers have to reach the Royal Mail by 21 May 2012. Or you can send stamped envelopes on the day of issue to Royal Mail, Tallents House for the Tallents House, Edinburgh postmark. Customers who hand in or post Post & Go stamped envelopes at main Post Offices® on the day of issue will receive the alternative pictorial first day postmark. Alternatively, customers can send stamped envelopes to any of the Special Handstamp Centres. All Post & Go stamps can be obtained from the machines with six different service indicators, as single stamps or in strips of up to five of the same value or various values • ▸





Post & Go Union Flag – Specifications

Date of issue	21 May
Number of stamps	One
Stamp design	Adapted from a design by Dick Davis
Stamp illustration	Anton Morris
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	56mm x 25mm
Printer	Walsall Security Printers
Print process	Gravure with thermal overprint
Perforations	Die-cut simulated
Phosphor	Bars
Gum	Self-adhesive
First Day Cover design	The Chase



London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Sports Cover Collection
Judo

Above: Judo coin cover, new this month in the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Sports Cover Collection

London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Sports Cover Collection Judo and Triathlon are featured in the latest coin covers issued on 1 April. Each item in the Collection incudes a Royal Mint 50p commemorative coin with a design showing the featured sports. The Triathlon coin, for example, carries a design of three figures depicting running, cycling and swimming.

On the reverse side of the covers, alongside information about the sport illustrated on the coin, is the LOCOG hologram, which confirms the items as officially licensed products. For details of previous issues in the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Sports Cover Collection and other commemorative stamp products, visit www.royalmail.com/bethefirst •

For all to see Royal Mail has mounted selected stamp sets in stylish black frames so they can be hung on the wall for daily enjoyment, rather than hiding away in an album. The Comics issue of ten First Class stamps is available in a smart black box frame, which is made in the UK and measures 32cm by 18.5cm. It carries the Royal Mail details on a label on the reverse and makes an original gift, especially for those who were fans of these great titles from the start. The unique Diamond Jubilee Commemorative Miniature Sheet is also available, in a slightly smaller frame (25.5cm x 18.5cm) •

Below: the nostalgic Comics special stamp issue and the elegant Jubilee Definitive Miniature sheet are now available in frames, priced £25 and £14.95 respectively





New tariffs For many years it has been customary to announce tariff changes in the April issue of *Bulletin*, but this year we are unable to do so because there is no news at the time this edition goes to press. Please also note that, for the same reason, prices given in previews of forthcoming stamp issues are unconfirmed•

Record-breaking generosity The workforce of Royal Mail Group became Guinness World Record title holders earlier this year, when Royal Mail Group was awarded the record for the most registered charities supported by a Payroll Giving Scheme. Employees have supported a total of 975 registered charities and good causes by donating money direct from their pay – around £45 million has been given by employees since the scheme was adopted 23 years ago. Over £2 million has been raised in the last year alone.

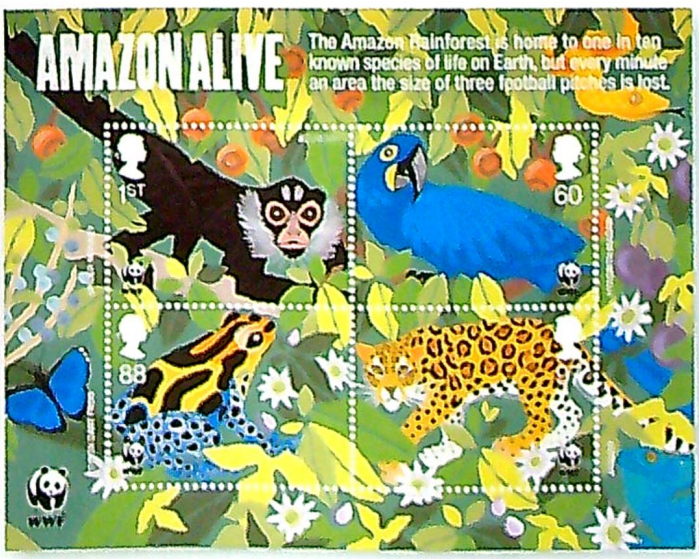
Chief Executive Officer Moya Greene, who accepted the award on behalf of the company's payroll givers at a special ceremony in February, said, 'It's a tremendous honour... Our postmen and women play a vital and trusted role in every community across the UK. I am delighted that they have been recognised as the world's best for donating to charity direct from their pay' •

James Bond Anniversary Sheet On 1 May Royal Mail is marking the 50th anniversary of the James Bond series with a special limited-edition commemorative sheet, featuring ten iconic James Bond movie poster labels alongside ten First Class Union Flag stamps. Full details will appear in the May edition of *Bulletin* •

Award-winning design All the Action for Species issues were withdrawn on 21 March, including Birds, Insects, Plants, Mammals and the WWF set. This was an exceptionally popular series – the Dormouse was voted most popular stamp in the *Bulletin* 2010 Readers Stamp Poll, and the WWF Siberian Tiger and Red Panda voted second and third Favourite Stamp in 2012.

The WWF Amazon Alive Miniature Sheet, designed by collage artist Janice Nicolson, won a place in this year's prestigious US-based Communication Arts Illustration Annual •

Below: the WWF Amazon Alive Miniature Sheet and a detail from the collage design Janice Nicolson







Six royal decades Next month a very special stamp issue marks The Queen's Diamond Jubilee

On 31 May there will be a special eight-stamp issue featuring photographs that portray The Queen performing her official duties at home and abroad over the past 60 years. Her Majesty The Queen Elizabeth II is now the longest living British monarch in history. During her reign Her Majesty has met every world leader, conferred more than 400,000 honours, had two million people to tea, travelled millions of miles and shaken hundreds of thousands of hands. She is without doubt the most famous monarch in the world.

Because this year marks the 60th anniversary of her accession in 1952, an extended weekend of national celebrations is planned: the Diamond Jubilee celebrations will take place around 2 June, the date of the Coronation in 1953. This will be only the second Diamond Jubilee in the whole history of our monarchy (the one other British monarch to have celebrated a Diamond Jubilee was Queen Victoria in 1897).





Above: pictorial design Tallents House First Day postmark and the alternative pictorial 'Windsor, Berkshire' diamond-shaped mark

To mark this momentous anniversary Royal Mail has worked closely with Buckingham Palace to select the archive photography used on the forthcoming stamps. The images portray The Queen performing her official duties at home and abroad from the 1950s to the present day, reflecting her roles as world leader, head of state, Head of the UK's Armed Forces and Head of the Commonwealth.

The Diamond Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II special issue, stamp by stamp: Please not that stamp tariffs for May have not been confirmed at the time *Bulletin* goes to press, so the prices shown on illustrations may change.

Golden Jubilee 2002, First Class The Queen is shown at the Golden Jubilee Thanksgiving Service at St Paul's Cathedral, which was attended by the



Above: these eight stamps designed by Kate Stephens and shown far left on the First Day Cover, reflect different aspects of The Queen's role and capture some of the flavour of every decade of her 60-year reign. NB postage rates for May may be subject to change

entire Royal Family on 4 June 2002. During the year that marked the 50th anniversary of the Accession, The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh travelled 40,000 miles to attend official celebrations.

Trooping the Colour 1967, First Class The Trooping of the Colour celebrates the monarch's official birthday every June. Queen Elizabeth took the salute on horseback until the retirement of Burmese, her favourite charger, in 1986. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police presented Burmese to Her Majesty in April 1969 and The Queen rode her in 18 consecutive birthday parades.

The Royal Welsh, 2007 The Queen is Head of the UK's Armed Forces and is seen here inspecting the 2nd Battalion Royal Welsh at Lucknow Barracks in Tidworth, Wiltshire on 1 March 2007.

First Christmas TV Broadcast 1957 Queen Elizabeth II was the first UK monarch to embrace television – the new technology of the 1950s – by being filmed giving the Christmas address to the nation. The programme was filmed at Sandringham House in Norfolk (and today can be seen and heard on www.youtube.com). The Queen's grandfather had begun the tradition 25 years earlier, by broadcasting the first of such Christmas messages on radio.

Silver Jubilee Walkabout 1977 When the nation celebrated 25 years of the Queen's reign in 1977, Her Majesty made a number of royal walkabouts and the scene on this stamp reflects the enthusiasm of the crowds that gathered to greet her across the UK.

Garter Ceremony 1997 Resplendent in the full robes – including black velvet hat with white plumes – of the Order of the Garter, founded by King Edward III in the early 14th century. ▶

Diamond Jubilee of HM The Queen Elizabeth II – Specifications

Issue date	31 May
Number of stamps	Eight
Designer	Kate Stephens
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	37mm x 35mm
Printer	De La Rue
Print process	Gravure
Number per sheet	30/60
Perforations	14 x 14.5
Phosphor	All over
Gum	PVA



Right: Stamp Book, with two First Class stamps from the new issue, showing The Queen celebrating her Golden Jubilee in 2002, and four First Class Diamond Jubilee definitives

Diamond Jubilee of HM The Queen Elizabeth II – Retail Stamp Book	
Number of stamps	2 x 1st Commemoratives 4 x 1st Diamond Jubilee Definitves
Design	Kate Stephens
Special Stamp Size	37mm x 35mm
Printer	Walsall Security Printing
Print process	Gravure
Gum	Self-adhesive



Above: pictorial postmark for Coin Covers

United Nations Address 1957 Cementing her position as a world statesperson, The Queen addressed the General Assembly of the United Nations, as a young woman in 1957.

Commonwealth Games 1982 The Queen, as Head of the Commonwealth, is featured at the 1992 Commonwealth Games in Brisbane, Australia.

Additional philatelic products Royal Mail is producing a First Day Cover, Presentation Pack, Stamp Book, Prestige Stamp Book, Coin Cover, Silver Proof Coin Cover, Gold Proof Coin Cover, Stamp Cards and special handstamps to accompany the Diamond Jubilee stamp issue. As this edition of *Bulletin* goes to press, new tariff rates remain unconfirmed so we are not able to give accurate prices for stamps issued in May. We suggest that collectors contact Tallents House nearer the date of issue to confirm prices.

The First Day Cover is designed by Silk Pearce and carries an insert with an overview of the 60 years of The Queen's reign, written by *Daily Mail* royal correspondent and journalist Robert Hardman.

The Stamp Book has a distinctive blue cover with cursive script and features two First Class Diamond Jubilee commemorative stamps with four First Class Diamond Jubilee definitives, as shown above.

A beautifully illustrated Presentation Pack contains the eight Diamond Jubilee pictorial stamps. Inside the pack Robert Hardman looks back over 60 years of the Queen's reign. He is one of Britain's best-known observers of the monarchy, having covered royal life for more than 20 years, both as a Fleet Street royal correspondent, and written several internationally acclaimed royal documentaries. The pack was designed by Silk Pearce and printed by Walsall Security Printers.

The Prestige Stamp Book is also written by Robert Hardman and contains four unique stamp panes (as shown on the facing page).

The Diamond Jubilee Coin Cover is available as a strictly limited edition of 15,000. Tastefully designed by Demographik, it carries stunning

Diamond Jubilee of HM The Queen Elizabeth II – Prestige Stamp Book panes

Pane 1 shows The Queen laying a wreath at the Cenotaph, Whitehall, London on Remembrance Day and contains four 1st Class Diamond Machins and four 1st Class Wilding definitives

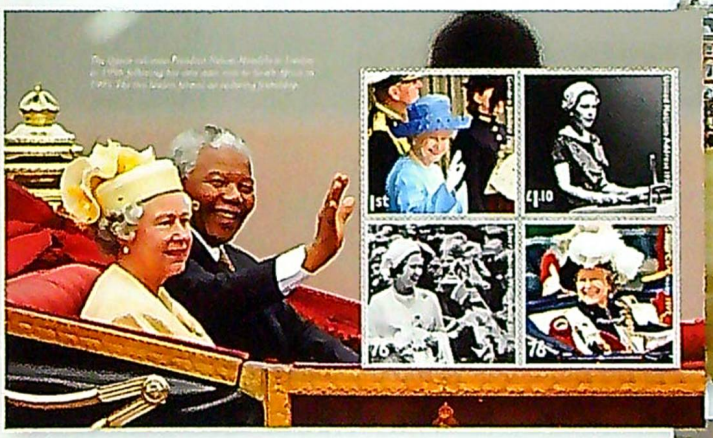
Pane 2 carries an image from 1996, when The Queen welcomed President Nelson Mandela on his visit to London, and includes four Diamond Jubilee Stamps: United Nations Address 1957, Golden Jubilee 2002, Silver Jubilee Walkabout 1977 and Garter Ceremony 1997

Pane 3 has a picture of Trooping the Colour in Horse Guards Parade, London, with two Diamond Jubilee Stamps: Trooping the Colour 1967 and The Royal Welsh 2007

Pane 4 shows Her Majesty at home and carries two Diamond Jubilee Stamps: First Christmas TV Broadcast 1957, Commonwealth Games 1982





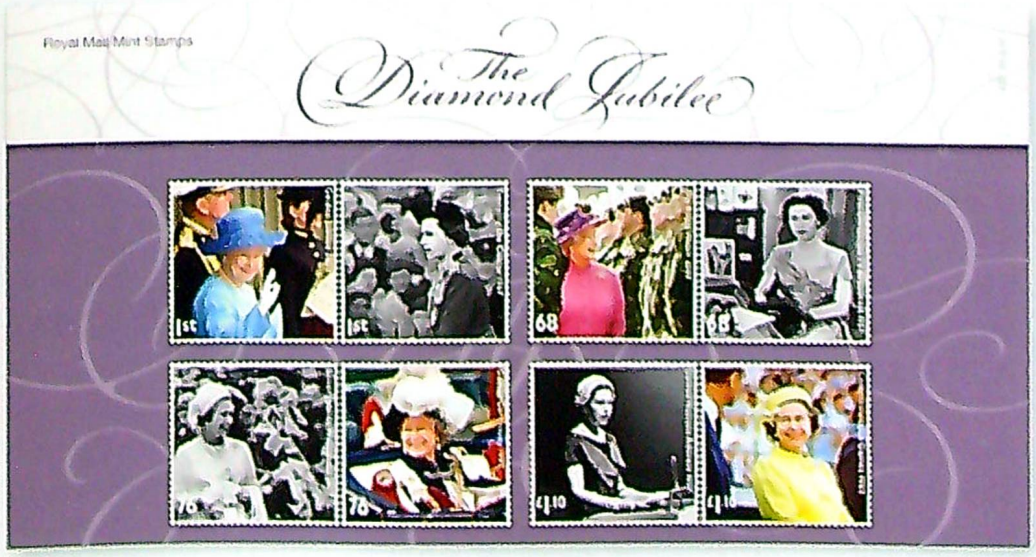






imagery of Queen Elizabeth II in different eras of her reign. All eight mint stamps are cancelled with a unique mark, alongside and the cover incorporates an official £5 Brilliant Uncirculated Commemorative Diamond Jubilee Crown, produced by Royal Mint.

Also part of the Diamond Jubilee issue, a Silver Proof Coin Cover and Gold Proof Coin Cover will also be available in limited editions. Please see next month's *Bulletin* for full details •



Above: the four stamp panes of the Prestige Stamp Book. Left: Presentation Pack Number 472.
Please note, all May values may be subject to tariff changes

Stamp Scene John Holman reports on recent and forthcoming events



Above: the ultra-rare GB Queen Victoria Penny Red, printed from plate 77

Plate 77 on sale An example of one of the world's rarest stamps has been acquired by Stanley Gibbons Ltd and is offered for sale. The stamp is the GB Queen Victoria Penny Red from plate 77. The stamp was printed from plates numbered 71 to 225 but printings from plates 75, 77 and 128 were not satisfactory and were not supposed to have been put on sale.

However a few of the stamps from plate 77 were sold and used, with the number 77 visible in the centre of the border of the left and right sides of the stamp, where all plate numbers were printed at the time. Only seven of these are known and currently accounted for.

The example acquired by Stanley Gibbons, first noticed in 1920, is 'on piece', used with a 4d stamp, both tied by a barred numeral '15' cancellation of the London Registered Letter Branch. The stamp carries a price tag of £550,000, which makes it the most valuable single stamp that Stanley Gibbons has ever offered for sale. The stamp is unpriced in the *2011 GB Concise Catalogue* but was valued at £160,000 used in the *Queen Victoria Specialised Catalogue* (14th edition, 2006).



Vince Cordell, Director of GB Philately at Stanley Gibbons, comments: 'This example has graced some of the finest stamp collections ever formed and is not only a magnificent exhibition piece but one of the great rarities of Great Britain and World philately. To date, four mint and five used examples have been reported, although some have not been seen for so long their authenticity is unconfirmed and often doubted.'

Of four reported mint examples, one is in the Royal Philatelic Collection and another in the Tapling Collection in the British Library. Another was in the Raphael Collection that was stolen in 1965 and has not been seen since. The fourth was in the famous Ferrary Collection that was sold at auction in the 1920s, but its authenticity has never been confirmed and again this one has not been seen since.



Above: a mint example from plate 77, bequeathed to the British Library in 1891 by Thomas Keay Tapling

Of the five reported used examples, two damaged examples were found in the early 20th century, neither of which has been seen on the open market for over 50 years. A third was in the Crocker Collection and lost in the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake, and a fourth example is now in the British Library (Fletcher Collection). The Fletcher Collection example, used on a small piece, bears an indistinct London City type postmark. The fifth is the one currently offered by Stanley Gibbons and said to be the finest used example in existence inside or outside a museum, and is realistically the only one that will ever be available on the open market. Both the unused and used examples in the British Library are currently on permanent display in Case 1 Frame 17 of the Philatelic Exhibition during the Library's normal opening hours (phone 020 7412 7635 for details) •

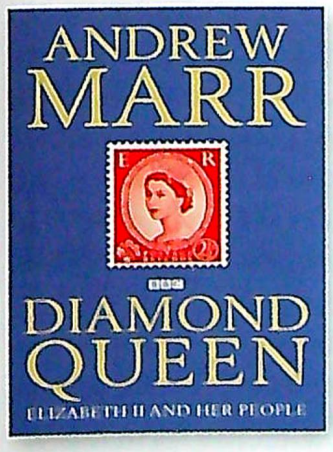
Images courtesy Stanley Gibbons, the British Library, Macmillan

Society meetings The displays at the April meetings of the Royal Philatelic Society London concentrate on the Australian Commonwealth. On 12 April Arthur Gray shows stamps from Federation to the end of George V's reign and on 26 April continues his display with issues of George VI and selected Elizabeth II to 2000. Visitors are welcome at the meetings, at 41 Devonshire Place, London W1, by prior arrangement with the Society's Administration Office on 020 7486 1044.

On 14 April, Maggie Thompson displays 'Triangles – triangular-shaped stamps from Liberia and many other countries' for the National Philatelic Society. The display at 2.45pm is preceded by an auction (for members only) at 12.50pm. NPS meetings are held at the Phoenix Centre, alongside the BPMA in London. A 'country' meeting will be held at the Priory Centre in York on 23 June.

For details of NPS membership and activities write to National Philatelic Society, c/o BPMA, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL, phone 020 7239 2571, or email nps@ukphilately.org.uk.

The GB Philatelic Society, founded in 1955, is the main society for collectors of GB stamps, especially pre-Elizabeth II issues. At its meeting on Saturday, 21 April Ray Simpson will display 'Evolution of British Stamp Perforation 1840-84' and Peter Mellor 'Overseas for a Halfpenny 1879-1949'. The meeting will be at the Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1, starting at 11am. The Society is planning a special George V meeting at Autumn Stampex on 29 September. For GBPS details contact Peter Tanner, 13 St Hubert's Close, Gerrards Cross, Bucks SL9 7EN or visit www.gbps.org.uk •

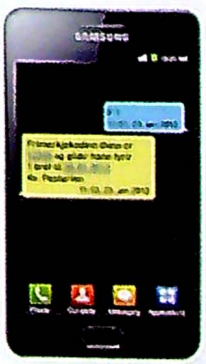


Stamps in the media The First Class gold Machin was shown in the title sequence of Andrew Marr's BBC 1 television series *The Diamond Queen*. The first episode on 6 February included images of unissued stamps for King Edward VIII (1936) from the British Postal Museum and Archive, which was listed in the credits at the end of the programme.

The Wilding 2½d stamp of 1952 graces the dust jacket of Andrew Marr's book *The Diamond Queen* (published by MacMillan) •

Postage by phone Since 1 December, 2011 customers of Iceland Post have been able to buy postage for letter mail, by sending an SMS message from their phone. By texting F[space]1 to the phone number 1900, they receive a five-digit number which is valid as a stamp for a domestic letter weighing up to 50 grammes.

The numeral in the text message defines the number of stamps. The number sent by Iceland Post in the return text message to the purchaser can be written at the top right ▸



Diary dates

APRIL

4 Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, Russell Square, London WC1. Enquiries: 020 8946 4480 or visit www.stampshows.net

12 and **26** Arthur Gray displays Australian Commonwealth at the RPSL. See left.

14 Maggie Thompson displays 'Triangles' at the NPS. See left.

15 The Post Office Vehicle Club's annual Vehicle Gathering, Amberley Museum and Archive (details on page 204, March *Bulletin*).

19-21 Philatex, Royal Horticultural Halls, London SW1 (near Victoria station). For details of society meetings and 80 dealers' stands, contact Kate Puleston on 020 8946 4489.

21 Ray Simpson and Peter Mellor showing at the GBPS, see left.

MAY

9 Strand Stamp Fair.

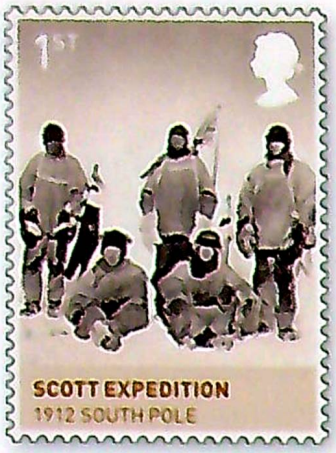
11-12 Scottish Philatelic Congress, Dewar Centre, Perth.

JUNE

8-17 Salon du Timbre, Paris

18-24 Indonesia 2012 International, Jakarta

corner of a cover and it serves as an affixed stamp. During December 2011 about 20,000 domestic letters were posted which had this type of phone-generated five-digit number instead of stamps •



Scott Exhibition The First Class stamp shown left, from the House of Windsor Miniature Sheet issued on 2 February commemorates Captain Robert Scott and his ill-fated Antarctic expedition. Although they reached the South Pole in January 1912, Scott and his team found they had been beaten by a Norwegian team led by Roald Amundsen. Scott and his companions died in March 1912 on their return journey. A service to mark the centenary was held in St Paul's Cathedral on 29 March, and an exhibition entitled 'Scott's Last Expedition' is showing at the Natural History Museum in London until 2 September •

Forthcoming auctions Spink's auction on 11 April includes the 'Temple' collection of GB errors and varieties, as well as collections of Cayman Islands, Newfoundland airmails, Prince Edward Island and Russia. For further details see www.spink.com, phone 020 7563 4072 or e-mail dparsons@spink.com

Grosvenor will hold a GB Stamps & Postal History sale on 25-26 April. It features specialised Wildings and Machins, including the Colin Bowen and Kurt Feyrer collections, and the Jim Mullett collection of British Islands. Enquiries to Grosvenor Philatelic Auctions on 020 7379 8789 or visit www.grosvenorauctions.com •



Above: this stamp from the 1995 Pioneers of Communication issue shows the rudder of the sinking *Titanic* and an SOS message in the background

Titanic anniversary This month marks the centenary of the maiden voyage and sinking of the *Titanic*, with the loss of over 1,500 passengers and crew, among whom were five postal workers (see 'Remembering... RMS *Titanic*' on page 250). On 10 April, Royal Mail issues a *Titanic* Commemorative Sheet (see page 254) and stamps marking the centenary are being issued by a number of other postal bureaux, including Guernsey (Alderney), the Isle of Man, An Post of Ireland, Gibraltar, Canada and Belgium. The last UK stamp to feature the *Titanic* was in the 1995 'Pioneers of Communications' issue – honouring Guglielmo Marconi, whose wireless radio was used to send a message that the *Titanic* had struck an iceberg.

A new 'Titanic Belfast' visitor centre is due to open in the city (where the *Titanic* was built) to coincide with the centenary. Other museums with *Titanic*-related exhibitions this year are listed on page 252. A talk, 'Titanic Lives: Migrants and Millionaires, Conmen and Crew' by award-winning biographer Richard Davenport-Hines, will be given at the British Library in London on 13 April (6.30pm). To book phone 01937 546 546 or visit http://boxoffice.bl.uk •

Island issues Next month Guernsey Post's new issues will be Europa (theme of 'Visit...') and Prince William's 30th birthday, both scheduled for 23 May. On the same day there will be a new set of stamps for Alderney, commemorating the bicentenary of the birth of Charles Dickens. All orders and enquiries to: Guernsey Philatelic Bureau, Envoy House, La Vrangue, St Peter Port, Guernsey GY1 5SS, or see www.guernseystamps.com •

BPMA News The British Postal Museum & Archive (BPMA), located at Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1, near the famous Mount Pleasant sorting office, is open Monday-Friday 10am-5pm (Thursdays until 7pm). It will also be open on Saturday 14 April (10am-5pm), but closed on Monday 16 April. For full information on BPMA services and events, phone 020 7239 2570, email info@postalheritage.org.uk, or visit www.postalheritage.org.uk.

The interesting 'Treasures of the Archive' display at Freeling House currently includes unique material relating to the 1911 Coronation Aerial Post. A brand new exhibition begins in May, featuring the 2012 Diamond Jubilee issues. It will tell the story of how the two special stamp issues (February and May) came about and will include some fascinating items.

The BPMA's popular GPO Walking Tours, led by accredited guides, tell the story of Victorian postal reform, the growth of the GPO, the post underground and the development of post boxes and telephone kiosks. The next two-hour tours will be held on 21 April, 20 May and 23 June, starting at 11am. Cost £6 (£5 concessions, £4 Friends of BPMA). To book, phone 020 7239 2570.

The January 2012 issue of the BPMA's well-produced Newsletter includes features on events during 2012, conservation work on the Post Office underground railway, a review of the BBC programmes *The People's Post*, history of Christmas cards, and the Great Train Robbery. Details are given of a new set of BPMA postcards featuring Mail Rail. Contact the BPMA to be place on the mailing list •



Above: a 1952 plastercast by Mary Gillick will be on display at the BPMA from May, in a new exhibition about the Jubilee issues

This month in history John Holman recalls the demise of the once-familiar CEPT posthorn emblem

Twenty years ago the CEPT posthorn emblem was used for the last time on Europa stamps. Europa stamps began in the six member countries of the European Coal & Steel Community in 1956, and two British stamps marked the first anniversary of the first Conference of European Postal & Telecommunications (CEPT) in 1960. The second British set the following year featured the posthorn logo, the Conference that year being held in Torquay. Britain next used the CEPT logo on its two Europa stamps in the Women Authors issue of 1980 and on all subsequent Europa issues until 1992. In some years the logo was shown on all stamps in the set, in others only on stamps with denominations for UK and European mail.

From 1982 the word 'EUROPA' was positioned underneath the logo. In some years the logo was printed in gold or silver ink. The final use in 1992 was on two stamps in an International Events set of five. The logo was shown on 24p and 39p values marking the 500th anniversary of Columbus's discovery of America and the Grand Regatta Columbus 1992 (see right). Others in the set marked the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Barcelona and EXPO 92 in Seville.

In all some 44 British stamps carried the CEPT posthorn logo from 1961 to 1992. The logo also featured in the Philatelic Bureau 'First Day of Issue' postmark for the 1992 issue. A new logo, a stylised word 'EUROPA', replaced the familiar posthorns from 1993. For more information about Europa stamps see the article 'Going Continental' in the *Bulletin* of August 2010 •

Below: the final use of the CEPT posthorn emblem was 20 years ago – on two stamps from the International Events special issue of 1992





Spring Stampex 2012 report
6,000 stamp collectors descend on Islington

SPRING STAMPEX was well attended – Stampex organiser Graham Childs estimated around 6,000 visitors streamed into Islington's Business Centre over the four days of the exhibition.

Members of the National Philatelic Society manned the information stand at the entrance to the 'Village Green', where the main display area is situated directly opposite the Royal Mail stand. The Thursday of the exhibition saw the launch of the Britons of Distinction stamps (see page 138 and 181), which attracted quite long queues at the Royal Mail counter. Also available from the counter were special Post & Go stamps for the Diamond Jubilee issue, only available at the show. The Post & Go Sheep stamps (see pages 166 and 192) were launched on the Friday, so the show machines issued Birds IV on the first two days, then Sheep stamps on the last two days.

On Saturday, the final day of the exhibition, and after the judging of the displays (see below), the Stamp Active organisation welcomed young collectors to a popular 'fun auction', for which many philatelic items of interest and value had been donated. The auction generated some formidable bidding battles, with junior collectors bidding with the points they had been awarded for completing stamp research challenges and quizzes during the day.

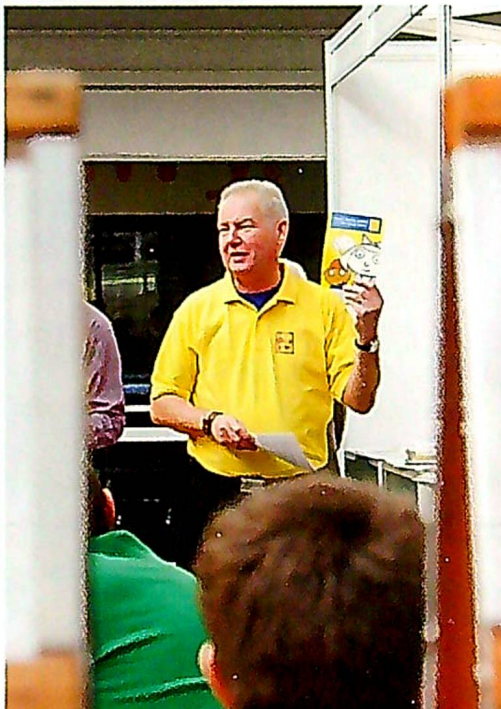
Among the judges of the displayed exhibits was Seija-Riitta Laakso, who had travelled from Finland to be part of the jury for the national exhibition and was particularly conscientious in giving advice to the exhibitors after the judging was complete. The awards comprised four Golds, eight Large Vermeils, six Vermeils, five Large Silvers, two Silvers and one Bronze.

The Best in Show was Richard Wheeler with 'The Evolution of Puppetry', which garnered 88 points. Gold medals also went to Peter Weir for his display on blood and Ron Backhouse for his tennis thematic. Margaret Morris topped the postcard class with 'Greenland Life'.

Large Vermeil award went to Frank Marshall for 'The Life and Times of







Stampex key moments, below, left to right: new issue available from Post & Go machines; judges give their valued comments; Stamp Network auction; Royal Mail stand; Best in Show – Richard Wheeler; acres of stands; and displays, and covers to explore

Photographs: Dan Froude

Ha Buey Hon'; Claire Scott for 'The Wounded Soldier's Story'; John Guldberg Hansen for 'The Birth of a Nation'; Roger Van Laere for 'Atlantic Puffin: The Clown of the Ocean'; Erik Kolmos for 'The Flying Door'; Poul Michael Nielsen for 'No More War'; Trevor Corn for 'Sir Ernest H Shackleton's Antarctic Voyages 1901-1922'; and Wendy Buckle for 'Paper Trail'.

Vermeil awards: Geoffrey Hood for 'Signs of Life'; John Baron for 'The English State Lotteries 1566-1826'; Mark Humfrey for 'Globalisation of Vanilla'; Barry Stagg for 'Parachuting with Dolly Shepherd'; Tony Walker for 'The Battle of the Falkland Islands in 1914'; Anne Stammers for 'From Rocks to Riches'; and Brian Sole for 'The Story of the British Greetings Telegram'.

Large Silver award: Brian Hague for 'Faroe Islands – The British Garrison in World War II'; Graham Booth for 'Mail between Dieppe and the Sussex Coast 1800-1980'; Thomas Fowler for 'Berlin Zentralflughafen Tempelhofer Feld'; Grace Davies for 'Symbols of Peace – The Dove and the Olive Branch'; and Thomas Fowler for 'The Development of British Airports'.

Silver award: Jonathan Spooner for 'The Evolution of the Picture Post Card in Great Britain'; Leif Rasmussen for 'Rulers and Subjects in Bygone Times'.

Bronze award: Angela Reilly for 'London Life through the Centuries'.

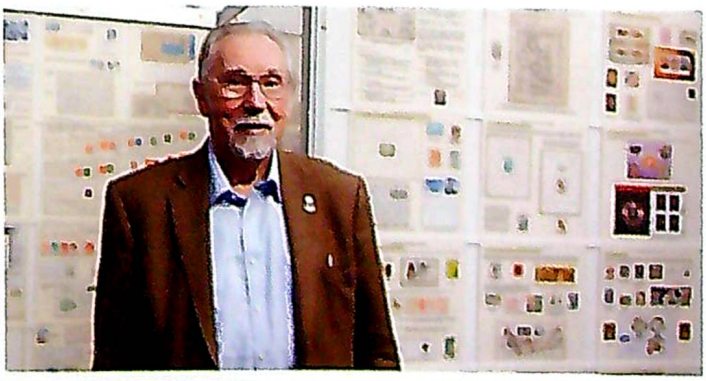
Hors de concours: Wolf Hess for 'The American Indians'; Wolf Hess, 'Venice – Political Rise and Fall'; Birthe King for 'Denmark – Conscience, Conflict and Camps 1932-1949'; Francis Kiddle for 'Goats'; Christine Earle for 'They also Served'; and Seija-Riitta Laakso for 'Paris 1900'.

Gold Class A (14 to 16 years old) Claire Mitchell for 'Let there be Light'.

Silver-gilt Class B (12 and 13 years old) Lynne Mitchell for 'Time Flies'. The Best School entry was judged Runnymede St Edward's School for 'In My Liverpool Home'. Full details of young collectors' awards will be published in a future *Bulletin*.

A number of philatelic societies held meetings, covering a wide variety of specialisms, including the Concorde Study Circle, Great Britain Philatelic Society (at a joint meeting with its sister society from Germany), Wreck and Crash Mail Society, Bechuanaland and Botswana Society, Ceylon Study Circle and Ascension Study Circle •









Great British Fashion Stylish new stamps pay tribute to ten iconic UK designers





In the second half of the 20th century, fashion become a major national industry. Today it employs around a million people and contributes some £21 billion to the UK economy. The international renown of British fashion designers has been built on our centuries-old heritage of bespoke tailoring, shoemaking and millinery crafts, and indigenous fine wool fabrics. However, on their journey to the top, most eminent designers have given tradition a fresh and irreverent kick up the bustle with the kind of distinctive eccentricity and flair that put Britain at the cutting edge of fashion.

A new stamp issue, released next month, celebrates ten innovative fashion houses that have stood as beacons of creativity across the years since World War Two. One key garment has been chosen to represent each designer. Like Mary Quant's daring mini-skirt, which proved to be one of the most popular of the stamps featured in the British Design Classic stamps of 2009, the clothes showcase a key look and line that recalls a certain fashion era but has stood the test of time.

Claire Wilcox, Senior Curator of Fashion at London's Victoria and Albert Museum, helped Royal Mail compile a list of the UK's most influential post-war fashion design houses. The chosen ten names were supplied to designers Johnson Banks, who commissioned photographer Solve Sundsbo to photograph models wearing the vintage designer-label garments, sourced from fashion houses and vintage clothes stores..

Above: Tallents House and alternative pictorial First Day Cover postmarks.
Below: the Presentation Pack, in which Amy de la Haye looks at 70 years of British fashion

Stamp by stamp Because the stamps are printed across two sheets of five se-tenant designs, vertical strips of five stamps of each design are also available.

Hardy Amies was the first major European fashion designer to venture into



Great British Fashion Stamps – Specifications	
Issue date	15 May
Number of stamps	Ten x 1st
Design	Johnson Banks
Stamp format	Portrait
Stamp size	35mm x 37mm
Printer	Cartor Security Printing
Print process	Lithography
Number per sheet	25/50
Perforations	14.5 x 14
Phosphor	Background screen
Gum	PVA
Sheet format	Two x 25.50, each of five se-tenant designs; vertical strips of five of each design

ready-to-wear. In 1955 he received a Royal Warrant as Dressmaker to The Queen.

Norman Hartnell began at 10 Bruton Street, Mayfair, in 1923. He became Dressmaker to HM Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother and Queen Elizabeth II.

Granny Takes a Trip was an idiosyncratic Kings Road boutique, opened in 1965 and has been dubbed London's 'first psychedelic boutique'.

Ossie Clark was a major figure in the Swinging Sixties and he has influenced many other designers. His dress on the stamp is made from fabric designed by Celia Birtwhistle.

Tommy Nutter recreated the Savile Row suit for pop stars of the 1960s. The suit featured on the stamp was originally designed for Ringo Starr.

Jean Muir set up her own label after designing for Jaeger. Her clients include Joanna Lumley, Charlotte Rampling and Maggie Smith.

Zandra Rhodes was one of the 1970s new wave of British designers. Her designs are dramatic yet graceful. She designed for Diana, Princess of Wales, and continues to design for royalty and celebrities.

Vivienne Westwood is largely responsible for bringing punk fashion into the mainstream – starting in the mid-1970s with Malcolm McLaren.

Paul Smith took evening classes in tailoring and worked in Savile Row before setting up his own label, now established worldwide.

Please note: we are unable to list prices of stamps, First Day Cover and Presentation Pack, because the date of the introduction of new tariffs had not been confirmed at the time of April *Bulletin* going to press. We apologise for any inconvenience caused and suggest that readers wising to know the prices contact Tallents House, Edinburgh nearer to the date of issue •



Above: which one is your favourite 'look'? Next month's new issue comprises key pieces from ten top British fashion designers

More travels on stamps

The second leg of the philatelic A-Z tour of the United Kingdom journeys from M for Manchester to Z for London's world-famous zoo

COMPLETING THE UK A-Z STAMP SERIES, Part 2 is released this month and brings together an intriguing set of landmarks from across the nation.



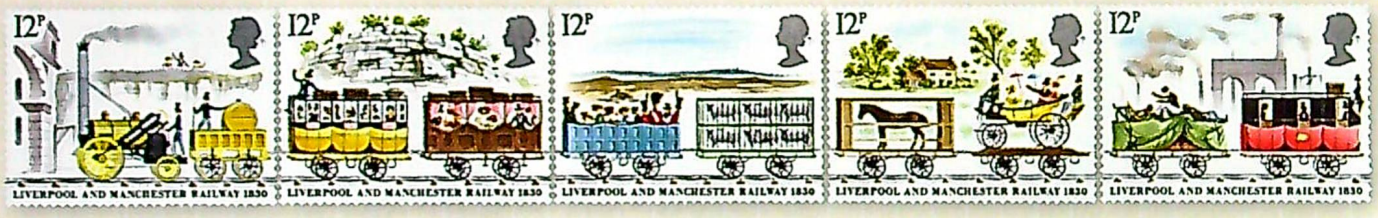




Northern grandeur Manchester Town Hall is regarded as one of the finest interpretations of neogothic architecture in the United Kingdom. Built in 1877 by Alfred Waterhouse, this municipal building functions as the ceremonial headquarters of Manchester City Council. Inside are found imposing murals by the artist Ford Madox Brown, depicting important events in the city's history. John Ruskin, an influential art critic of the day, described the Great Hall as 'the finest Gothic apartment in Europe'. The 280ft-high clock tower houses 24 bells. The eight-ton Great Hour Bell is called Great Abel, named after Abel Heywood, who was mayor at the time of the official opening. The clock bell is inscribed with the initials AH and a line from Tennyson: *Ring out the false, ring in the true.* The clock face bears the inscription *Teach us to number our days*, from Psalm 90:12.

Another inspiring Northern location is the Tyne Bridge, which spans 531ft (162m), linking Newcastle upon Tyne and Gateshead. At the time of its construction it was the world's longest single-span bridge. Mott, Hay and Anderson based its design on the Hell Gate Bridge in New York (which was completed in 1916). The Tyne Bridge was completed on 25 February, 1928 and opened on 10 October by King George V and Queen Mary, who were the first to use the road, travelling in their Ascot landau.

York Minster's formal title is The Cathedral and Metropolitical Church of St Peter in York. The word minster is a rendering of the Latin *monasterium,* which means monastery, and is used as a title for churches established as missionary teaching churches during the Anglo-Saxon period. York's first Minster was built for the baptism of Edwin of Northumbria in 627AD. The Minster as we know it today began to take shape in 1215 and took about 250







Manchester themes on UK stamps include the Liverpool and Manchester Railway 1830 series, the XVII Commonwealth Games stamps and a Lowry painting, inspired by Manchester street scenes

years to build. Over the Lady Chapel is the Great East Window, the largest expanse of medieval stained glass in the world and one of a number of magnificent windows. The Minster attracts around 900,000 visitors a year.



Scenes from the South Station X was a covert World War Two radio interception station located on the Bletchley Park estate in Buckinghamshire. The majority of the 12,000 people who worked there in wartime were women, working in total secrecy and providing a crucial code-breaking service to the Allied war effort. Bletchley Park's Block C, where the Enigma Code was broken by Turing, has been given Grade II listed status. Bletchley Park currently houses the National Codes Centre and the National Museum of Computing.



The Queen's College Oxford is shown on the 'Q' stamp of the new issue. Founded in 1341, it has one of the largest and most diverse collections of rare books in Oxford, comprising around 100,000 volumes. The college was founded by Robert de Eglesfield, chaplain to Queen Philippa of Hainault (the wife of King Edward III of England) – hence its name. Nicholas Hawksmoor designed the impressive frontage during a substantial rebuilding in the 18th century, but the medieval foundations remain beneath the current structure. The famous chapel has stood virtually unchanged since it was consecrated by the Archbishop of York in 1719. Notable former students of The Queen's College include Jeremy Bentham, English philosopher and social reformer, Rowan Atkinson, actor and comedian, Tim Berners-Lee, inventor of the World Wide Web and former cabinet minister Ruth Kelly, MP.



Moving west for the 'R' stamp, the Roman Baths is a site of great historical interest in the city of Bath and attracts more than a million visitors each year. The city was established as a spa by the Romans in AD43, with the Latin name, Aquae Sulis (the waters of Sulis). In the Georgian era it became popular as a spa town and a heritage of exemplary Georgian architecture remains today. The Roman Baths themselves are below street level and have four main features: the Sacred Spring, the Roman Temple, the Roman Bath House and the Museum, which holds finds from Roman times. In 1987 the city of Bath was given World Heritage Site status and is one of only a handful of cities to have been awarded this honour.



The White Cliffs of Dover have great symbolic value. They are often the first landmark British travellers look for when returning home, and their ▸



York Minster, above, in the British Architecture stamp set of 1969. Likenesses of Richard III, the last Yorkist king, and Henry V (left in the Kings and Queens series) can be seen in the Minster's stained glass and Rood Screen

Right: Alan Turing was honoured in the Britons of Distinction issue. His work enabled many ground-breaking decoding projects at Station X, Bletchley Park





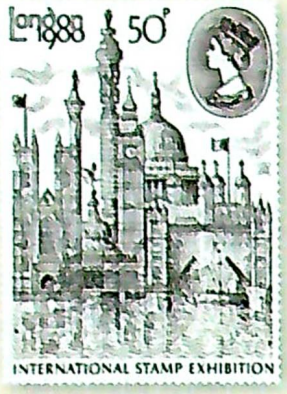


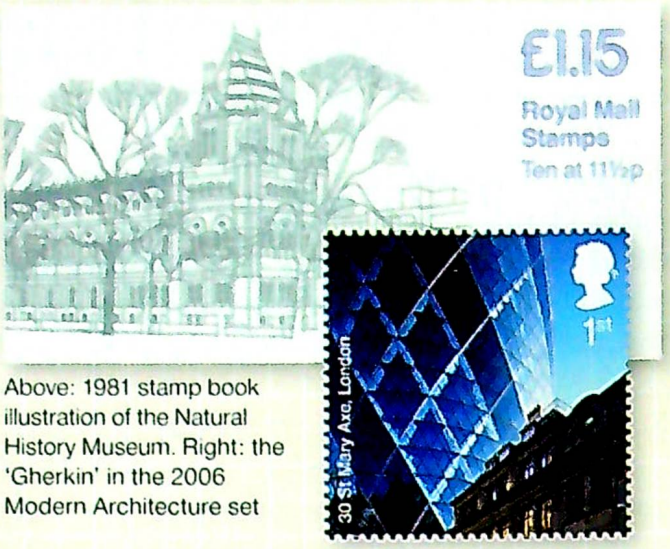


Above right: an attractive Cinderella, issued at the 1935 Philatelic Congress of Great Britain, shows John Palmer of Bath who founded the mail coach system in 1782. Until UK A-Z Part 2 no UK stamp had featured the famous spa town

Below: other stamps featuring famous London buildings: the Albert Memorial in the 1980 London Landmarks set and Jeffery Matthew's design of the London skyline, marking the 1980 London International Stamp Exhibitions







Above: 1981 stamp book illustration of the Natural History Museum. Right: the 'Gherkin' in the 2006 Modern Architecture set







position made them a symbolic guard, long before the age of tourism, as Britain's de facto border with the European mainland. The cliffs face the narrowest part of the English Channel, where invasions have most often threatened. Reaching up to 107m (350ft), the White Cliffs of Dover owe their striking white façade to a composition of chalk, accentuated by streaks of black flint.

Capital city sites The Old Bailey stands about 200 yards northwest of St Paul's Cathedral, just outside the former western wall of the City of London and the street which follows the line of the original fortified wall (or 'bailey'). The initial location of the courthouse close to Newgate Prison was convenient for taking prisoners to and from the courtroom. The court has been rebuilt numerous times, but in its current form was opened on 27 February 1907 by King Edward VII. Above the main entrance is inscribed 'Defend the Children of the Poor & Punish the Wrongdoer'.

The Victoria and Albert Museum (the V&A) was known initially as The Museum of Manufactures. Its first director, Henry Cole, had been involved in the planning of The Great Exhibition of 1851. The V&A is currently the world's largest museum of decorative arts and design, housing a permanent collection of over 4.5 million objects. It was publicly named the Victoria and Albert Museum when Queen Victoria made her last official public appearance to lay the foundation stone on 17 May, 1899.

Founded in 1828 and opened to the public in 1847, ZSL London Zoo is the world's oldest scientific zoo. It houses 755 species of animals. ZLS is an abbreviation of the Zoological Society of London, which is a charity devoted to the worldwide conservation of animals and their habitats.

Since its earliest days ZSL London Zoo has prided itself on appointing leading architects to design its buildings, and today it has two Grade I, and eight Grade II listed structures. Decimus Burton (famous for his work on the Coliseum Theatre and Marble Arch) was the zoo's first architect. Other designers include Sir Peter Chalmers Mitchell, John James Joass, Berthold Lubetkin (his gorilla house was one of the first modernist-style buildings to be built in Britain), Cedric Price, Lord Snowdon, Frank Newby, Sir Hugh Casson and Neville Conder.



Smilers® sheets featuring Castles of Northern Ireland and Castles of Scotland, both issued in 2009



Above: Portmeirion-postmarked First Day Cover of the 2004 Wales stamps in the British Journey series, all featuring beautiful landscape images

Wonder of Wales Portmeirion is a charming Italian-style village, nestled on the scenic Gwynned coast. It attracts over 250,000 visitors a year – thanks to the visionary work of Sir Clough Williams-Ellis, who created the village between 1925 and 1975, inspired by the atmosphere and architecture of Italy. Portmeirion is now owned by a charitable trust, and what makes this lovely place all the more unusual is that the majority of the buildings are used as hotel rooms or self-catering cottages. The village is also well known to collectors of its distinctive pottery and fans of the cult 1960s television series *The Prisoner*, which was filmed there.



Strongholds of Ireland and Scotland Narrow Water Castle is one of the finest 16th-century buildings in Ireland and is situated near Warrenpoint, on the County Down bank of the Clanrye River. Built for military purposes during the 1560s, it is a typical example of the tower houses erected throughout Ireland from the 14th until the early 17th century – rectangular and with at least three storeys housing central chambers, with stairs, closets and latrines skillfully positioned within the walls, which are 1.5m thick in places.



Among Stirling Castle's claims to fame are the crowning of Mary, Queen of Scots in 1543 and the siege of 1746, when Bonnie Prince Charlie unsuccessfully tried to take the castle. It sits at the top of Castle Hill, surrounded on three sides by steep cliffs – a strategic position which guarded what was, until the 1890s, the farthest downstream crossing of the River Forth. The principal buildings of the castle date from the 15th and 16th centuries, but a few structures remain from the 14th century.



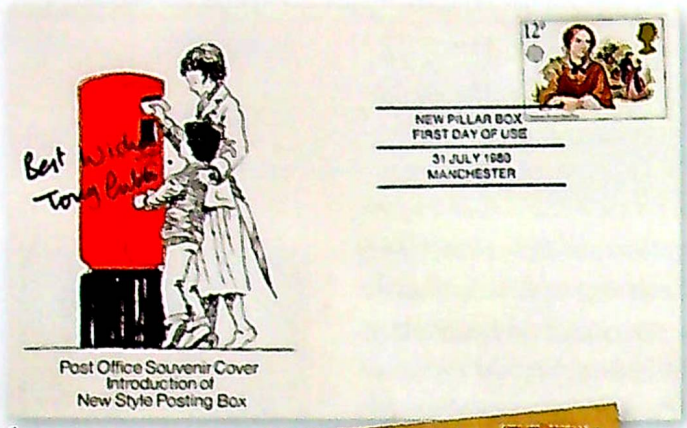
Urquhart Castle sits beside Loch Ness in Scotland between Fort William and Inverness. Records show that a castle has existed on this site since the early 13th century. In 1509, it was given as a gift to the Grants, whose ownership lasted until 1912. Urquhart Castle was almost completely destroyed in 1692 by Williamite troops holding the castle against Jacobite forces. The intention was to ensure that the castle could not become a Jacobite stronghold, which is why it was never repaired and remains as a ruin •



UK A-Z Part 2 is issued on 10 April. For technical specifications, see March Bulletin, *page 202. For details of UK A-Z Part 1, see page 8 and 47 of this volume.*

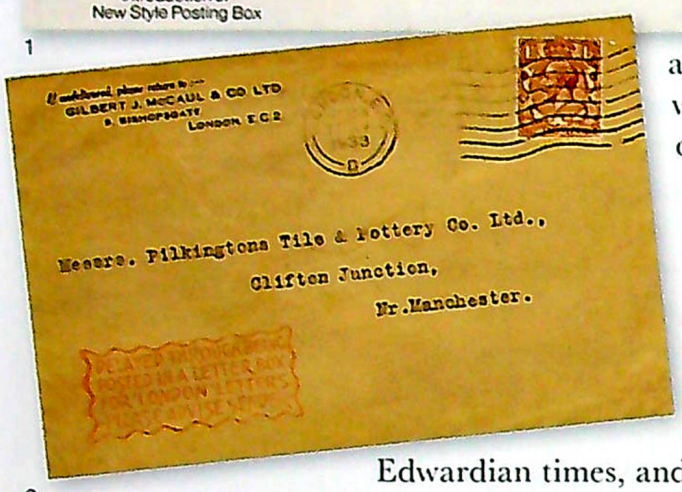
What to collect Martin Robinson with more suggestions for collectors interested in post boxes

LIKE STAMPS, the area of post box-related special handstamps, postmark slogans, cachets (operational and commemorative) and souvenir covers would be worth a whole article. The souvenir cover shown here (1) marked the introduction in 1980 of K Type pillar boxes. It bears a special handstamp, one of 11 used in towns in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland where the first of the new boxes were installed. This cover has the added distinction of being autographed by Tony Gibbs, the box's designer.



1

An example of an operational (as opposed to philatelic) postmark is shown here (2), used on mail posted in the wrong slot of the dual-aperture pillar boxes found in London and other towns, originally used to separate 'town' and 'country' letters, subsequently first and second class and now often 'stamped' and 'franked' mail. Similar machine postmarks can be found from 1927 to the 1950s, and again in the 1980s and 1990s. Handstamps with the wording 'Damaged by fire in pillar box' can be found – often with dates around Bonfire Night.



2

There have been very many unofficial cachets, or rubber handstamps, usually struck on letters and cards posted in post boxes at tourist sites, and some of these mention post boxes, like the one shown from the Glasgow Museum of Transport (3).

Another huge area for collectors is picture postcards, which enjoyed great popularity in Edwardian times, and are still much in evidence at the seaside and other places visited by tourists, although their popularity has declined in the face of competition from text messages and emails. One thing I invariably do when visiting a new place is to look through local postcards on sale, to pick out any street scenes which may show post boxes. In somewhere like Warwick, with its rare and well-known Victorian pillar boxes at the Eastgate and Westgate, one will find cards with the post boxes looming large, but elsewhere post boxes may be just a part of a street scene.

Post boxes on cards There have always been many comic cards featuring post boxes shown with a greater or lesser degree of accuracy (4), and the same applies to Christmas and other greetings cards.

POSTED IN THE OLDEST PILLAR BOX IN SCOTLAND AT THE GLASGOW MUSEUM OF TRANSPORT

3

My collection of Christmas cards is divided into three sections: the accurate representations of post boxes, the reasonable attempts and the downright fantastic. In some of them the most elementary logic seems to have been ignored – for example, in placing the posting aperture half way down the box: what is the use of the upper part of the box in that case? I have a friend who is very keen on church architecture, and each year we



4


6



7

have a bit of fun pointing out the deficiencies of Christmas card designs in our respective areas of interest.

There are also cigarette and other trade cards with their popular series of sportsmen, film stars and a whole host of other topics. Quite a few sets have been devoted to the activities of the Post Office, and some of these show post boxes. The one illustrated (5) is from a set of 50 'Royal Mail' cards issued by Ogden's Cigarettes in 1909. I also collect old photographs, press cuttings and even magazine covers and book dust jackets showing post boxes. Illustrated is a glass plate photo recently acquired and showing children posting letters in a VR pillar box, probably about 100 years ago (6). And who can ever forget the newspaper photos of iconic post boxes still standing amid the devastation caused by terrorist bombs? The archetype of these is surely the famous photo of a postman calmly clearing a pillar box surrounded by the debris left by a World War Two bombing raid. The magazine cover illustrated here, from an 1894 edition of *The Prize*, shows one of the much-loved Penfold pillar boxes (7).



5

Make no mistake, there is a wealth of material to collect relating to post boxes, much of which is inexpensive and would provide a good area to investigate, should you be in search of a new one. And do remember to join the Letter Box Study Group (membership@lbsg.org) to help you along the way •

The first part of Martin Robinson's two-part article on collecting opportunities for post box enthusiasts appeared on page 186 of February 'Bulletin' and looked at real post boxes and associated memorabilia, stamps and miniature models.

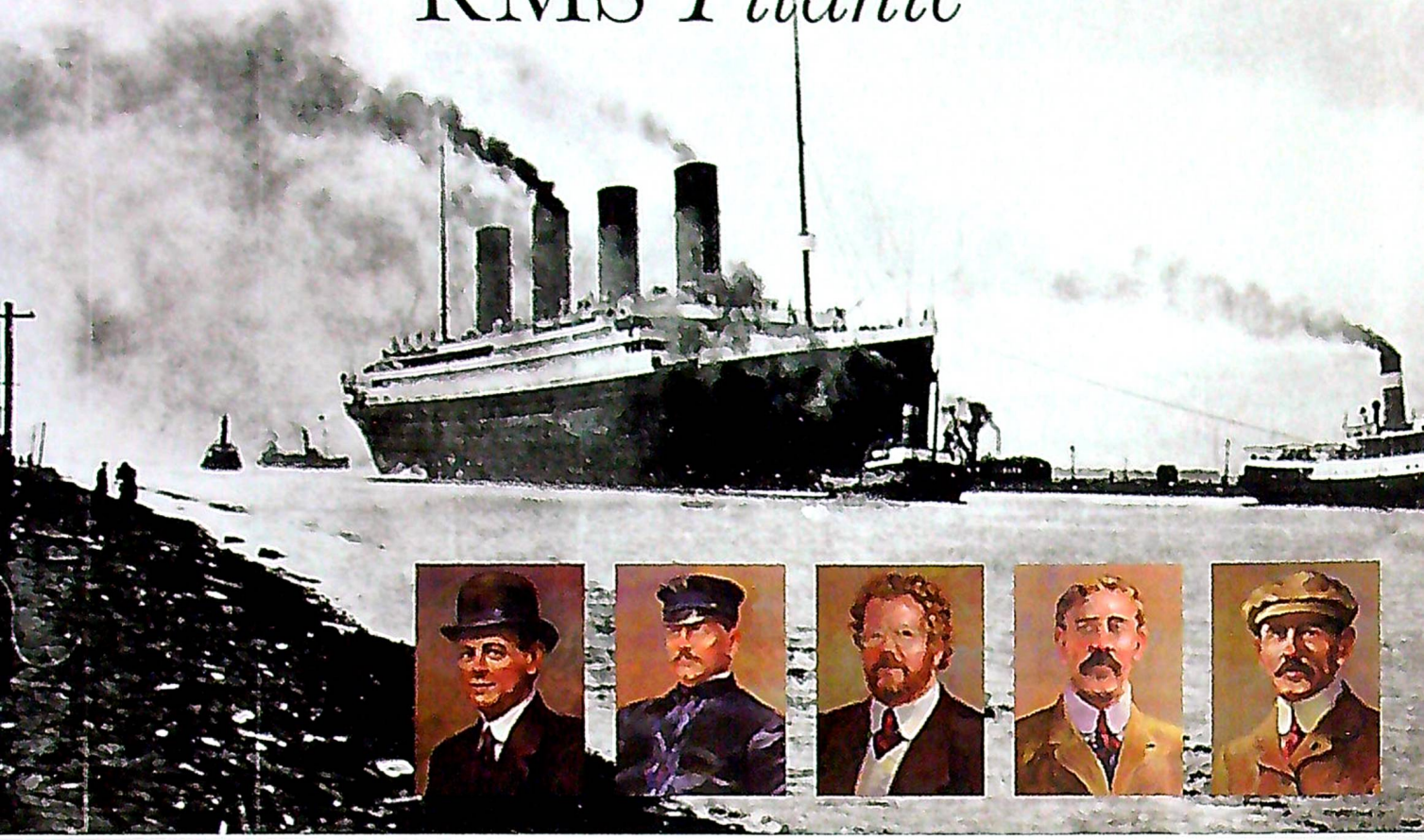
Reader's report As mentioned in this article, unwanted things get into post boxes, such as fireworks, litter and even snails.

Bob Beaumont of Bramford, Ipswich, found this notice (right) attached to a wall box in Rendlesham, near Woodbridge in Suffolk, warning of a snail problem. It has been suggested that snails, often in rural Wales and the South West, crawl into wall boxes and damage mail because they like the taste of the glue on the envelopes!

Please send your photographs to the Editor at the Tallents House address on page 226.



Remembering... RMS *Titanic*



Five postal workers gave their lives to save the mail when the *Titanic* sank 100 years ago this month. James Cooper looks at some of the postal history connected with the tragic maiden voyage

Above: RMS *Titanic* escorted from Southampton Harbour on 10 April 1912. White Star had won a valuable contract to carry mail, hence the name Royal Mail Ship (RMS)

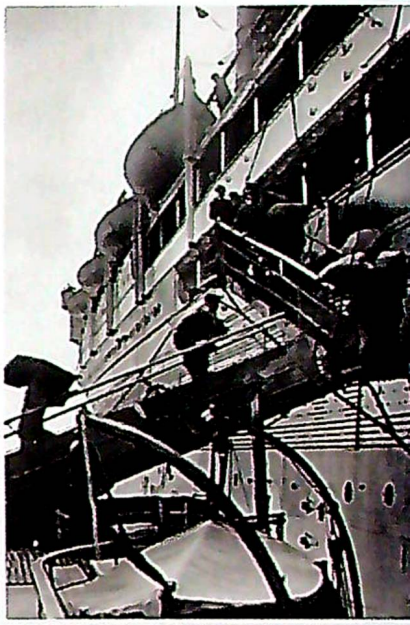
NO SHIP has been more celebrated or more deeply mourned than the RMS *Titanic*. On 10 April, 1912 the world's biggest and most lavishly appointed vessel left Southampton on its much-publicised maiden voyage. Four days into her journey, at around 11pm on 14 April, the ship struck an iceberg in the North Atlantic and sank less than three hours later, with the loss of more than 1,500 passengers and crew. Among those who died were five postal workers, all working in the on-board Sea Post Office. Two of them were British – James B Williamson and John R Jago Smith – and the other three were US citizens, William HL Gwinn, John S March and Oscar S Woody.

Only four days earlier the postal workers would have been enthusiastically organising their work in the on-board post office and mail room, on their first day aboard the luxurious liner. The ship had taken three years to build, at a cost of £3 million, and was famously the first to have a heated swimming pool.

Just before noon on 10 April, the Blue Peter pennant was run up the foremast. As the sonorous triple-valve whistles were heard all across Southampton, crowds

of people on the harbour cheered and waved goodbye to their loved ones. The the tug boats bobbed and heaved until the *Titanic*'s mighty engines turned its propellers and the liner sailed out into open water.

Deep inside the ship, the five postal workers were soon busy with their job of sorting most of the bags that had been brought on board, as well as dealing with letters posted by passengers and crew during the journey. They worked 11-hour shifts, handling tens of thousands of letters a day in the Titanic's Post Office, which was situated on F Deck and above the mail room on G Deck – as can be seen on the blue prints of the ship's design, held by the British Postal Museum and Archive (BPMA).



Above: loading mail from a tender to *RMS Titanic* at Queenstown, Ireland

Revelry on the lower decks

Also among the *Titanic*-related material held at the BPMA is a file containing documents concerning an inspection of the ship on 9 April, 1912, the day before it set sail. It includes a note of concern about noise levels being likely to disrupt the sleep of the postal workers, who had been allocated cabins on the lower decks. The description of the revelry and dancing, even before the ship sailed, is reminiscent of the party scene on the lower decks in James Cameron's film *Titanic*: 'The [sleeping] Cabins are situated among a block of Third Class cabins, and it is stated the occupants of these latter... keep up noisy conversation sometimes throughout the silent hours and even indulge at times in singing and instrumental music... if their [the postal clerks'] work during the day is to be performed efficiently it is essential that they should enjoy a decent sleep at night.'

> 'I urged them to leave their work. They shook their heads and continued...'

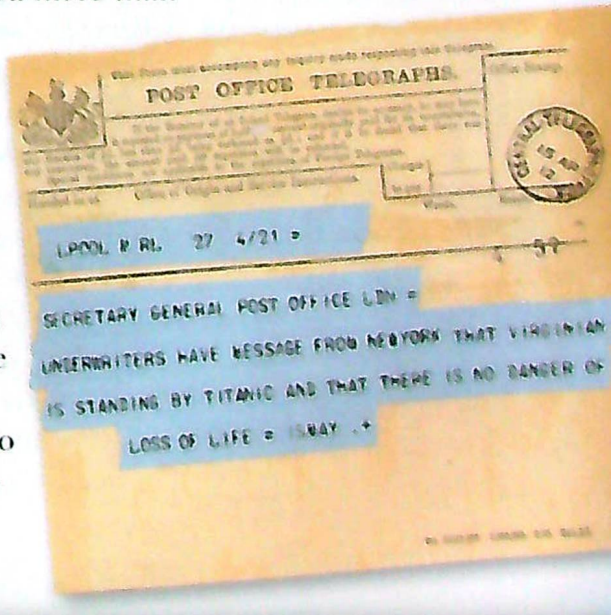
The postal clerks did suffer from lack of sleep at the start of the voyage and they were granted alternative accommodation and permission to dine in a private area. The first port of call and collection of post was at Cherbourg, then the ship sailed on to Queenstown in Ireland. By the time *Titanic* left Queenstown, its mail room was filled with 3,243 mailbags, which each held over 2,000 pieces of post.

When disaster struck

On the evening of 14 April, the postal workers got together to celebrate Oscar Woody's 44th birthday, by which time *Titanic* had travelled more than 1,500 miles out into the Atlantic since leaving Queenstown. It was about 11 o'clock when the celebration was interrupted. The ship had struck an iceberg. The five colleagues soon realised that the mail room was flooding and instinctively began moving sacks of registered mail to the upper decks, in the hope of saving them. They persuaded several stewards to help them, one of whom later recalled: 'I urged them to leave their work. They shook their heads and continued... It might have been an inrush of water later that cut off their escape, or it may have been the explosion. I saw them no more.'

Gwinn, March, Smith, Williamson and Woody were sworn to protect the mail and lost their lives fulfilling this duty. They were ▸

Below: a telegram to the Post Office from New York underwriters, saying there was 'no danger of loss of life'

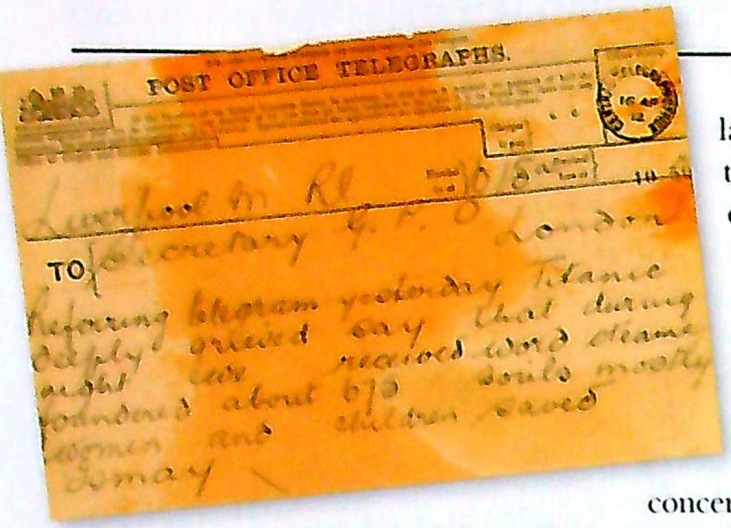

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.

LPOOL P RL 27 4/21 =

SECRETARY GENERAL POST OFFICE LDN =

UNDERWRITERS HAVE MESSAGE FROM NEWYORK THAT VIRGINIAN IS STANDING BY TITANIC AND THAT THERE IS NO DANGER OF LOSS OF LIFE = ISMAY .+

Photographs: Archives Charmet and Fr Browne SJ Collection/UIG, both Bridgeman Art Library. Portraits: Smithsonian National Postal Museum. Telegrams BPMA


POST OFFICE TELEGRAPHS.

TO

The third telegram to the Secretary of the GPO reports the tragedy

last seen dragging sacks from the mail room up into the post office in a bid to save the mail, with complete disregard for their personal safety and presumably believing in the 'unsinkability' of the ship. *Titanic* finally sank at 2.20am on 15 April.

Telegrams and anger

Back on land in London, the Post Office had received word that the ship was in danger and became concerned for the wellbeing of the workers and the mail. Three telegrams relating to the matter were sent to the Secretary of the GPO by Ismay Imrie & Co (owners of the White Star Line, which had built the *Titanic* and had a contract with the British government to carry mail). These telegrams are held by the BPMA. They were sent very soon after the disaster and the first two understandably contain information which would later turn out to be inaccurate: the first conveyed a message from New York stating that the *Virginian* was standing by the *Titanic* and that there was no danger of loss of life; the second that the *Titanic* was proceeding to Cape Race and all passengers were presumed to have been transferred to the *Virginian*; and the third reported about 675 souls saved. In the final reckoning 706 survivors were accounted for, out of a total of 2,228 passengers and crew.

A typewritten insurance claim for $193.50 from the widow of William L Gwinn survives in the archive of the National Postal Museum in Washington DC (see right).

Titanic facts

Building cost: £3,000,000+
Length: 882ft (268m)
Weight: 46,328 tons, fully loaded
Capacity: 3,547 passengers
People on voyage: over 2,200
Passengers: 1,316
Working crew: about 911
Clergymen who missed the boat: 4
Boilers: 29
Coal used per day: 825 tons
Speed: 22 knots
Minimum mail-ship speed: 17 knots
First-class ticket: £870
Second-class ticket: £12
Third-class ticket: £3 to £8
Eggs taken on voyage: 40,000
Fresh meat: 75,000lb
Wine: 1,000 bottles
Lifeboats: 20 (enough for 1,178 people), 16 wooden, 4 collapsible
Deaths including crew: 1,517
Passenger deaths: 832
Bodies recovered: 339
Survivors: about 710

Steadfast in peril

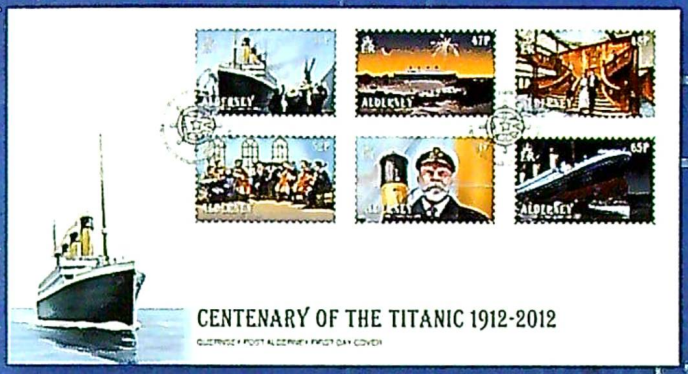
Following the disaster, a memorial plaque to the lost postal workers was put up in Southampton and can be seen on the town's Titanic Tour. Beneath the five names are the words 'Steadfast in peril'. This plaque was cast from a reserve propeller blade, donated by the *Titanic*'s builders Harland and Wolff of Belfast – where a new 'Titanic Belfast' visitor centre is due to open this month.

An exhibition 'Titanica' is on show at the Ulster Folk & Transport Museum, Holywood, Co Down. This includes a 'Ballycultra' Post Office where tickets for ships like the *Titanic* were on sale. The Museum is part of the National Museums of Northern Ireland – phone 0845 608 0000 or visit www.nmni.com for details.

Since the *Titanic*'s rediscovery in 1985, thousands of artefacts have been recovered from the sea bed and displayed at museums around the world. Many maritime museums are marking the centenary with special exhibitions, including 'Titanic Remembered' at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich; 'Titanic and Liverpool, the Untold Story' at Merseyside Maritime Museum; and 'Retracing the Unsinkable; The Titanic Centenary' at Southampton City Art Gallery •

This article is based on material at the BPMA and research by William B Roka at the National Postal Museum in Washington DC

National Postal Museum, Washington, USA; Southampton City Council Arts & Heritage





Above: a special issue from Gibraltar (www.gibraltar-stamps.com) tells the story of *Titanic* from her building to her final hour. Above left: First Day Cover of the *Titanic* issue from Guernsey Post (www.guernseystamps.com) for Alderney. The liner passed Alderney on the way from Cherbourg to Ireland

Twelfth:- That among the said baggage and personal effects which the said decedent, William L. Gwinn, deceased, had with him upon said Steamship Titanic and which the petitioning Company ageed to transport with him as aforesaid to New York were the following pieces of property, which were of the respective values following, namely:

PERSONAL PROPERTY	VALUE
Gold Scarf Pin	$5.00
Gold Cuff Links	8.00
Gold Tie Clasp	6.50
Gold Watch	75.00
71st Regiment Veteran Pin	8.00
Suit of Clothes	20.00
Extra Suit of Clothes	30.00
Uniform	25.00
Suit case	6.00
Gladstone Bag	10.00
Total	$193.50

Above: a detail from the insurance claim made by Florence Gwinn, the widow of William L Gwinn.
Right: plaque commemorating postal workers on the *Titanic*





Above: this stamp set will be issued on 5 April by Canada Post (www.canadapost.ca). The handsome issue commemorates links between the *Titanic* and Halifax, Nova Scotia, which was the closest major port to the 1912 sinking. Three rescue ships were sent out from Halifax and the town laid to rest 150 victims of the disaster

Below: people associated with the *Titanic* feature in these stamps from An Post (www.irishstamps.ie). They include a self-portrait of Father Browne, who survived with his camera intact and an amazing collection of photographs, one of which is shown on page 251



Titanic Commemorative sheets

Orders and enquiries

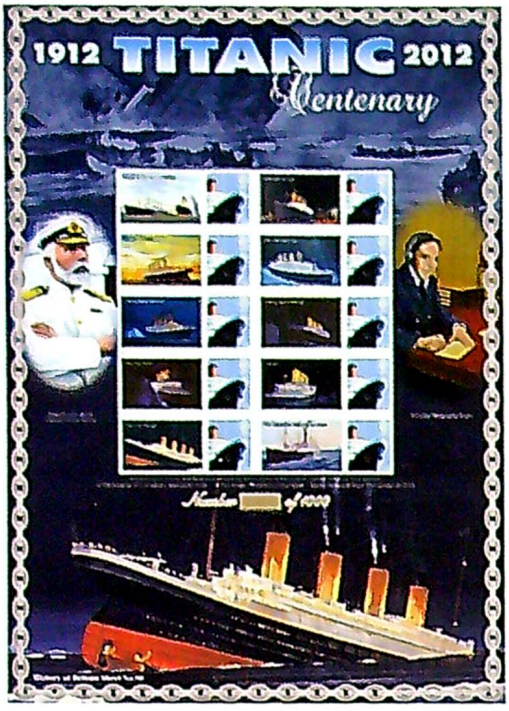
Adrian Bradbury
BFDC Ltd
3 Link Road
Leicester
LE2 3RA
E-mail brad@bfdc.co.uk
www.bfdc.co.uk
Phone 0116 270 5367

Buckingham Covers
Warren House
Shearway Road,
Folkestone,
Kent
CT19 4BF
www.buckinghamcovers.com/titanic
Phone 0130 327 8137

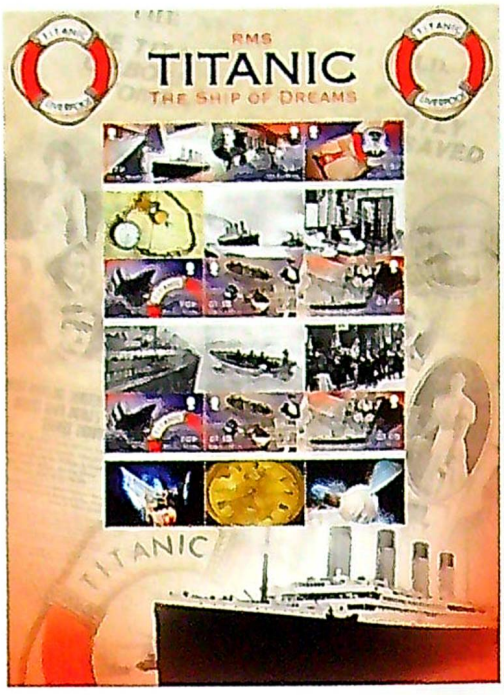
Isle of Man Stamps
IOM Post office
Douglas
IM99 1PB
Isle of Man
E-mail: stamps@iompost.com
www.iomstamps.com/stamps
Phone 0162 469 8430

Royal Mail
Tallents House
21 South Gyle Crescent
Edinburgh
EH12 9PB
Phone 0131 316 7483

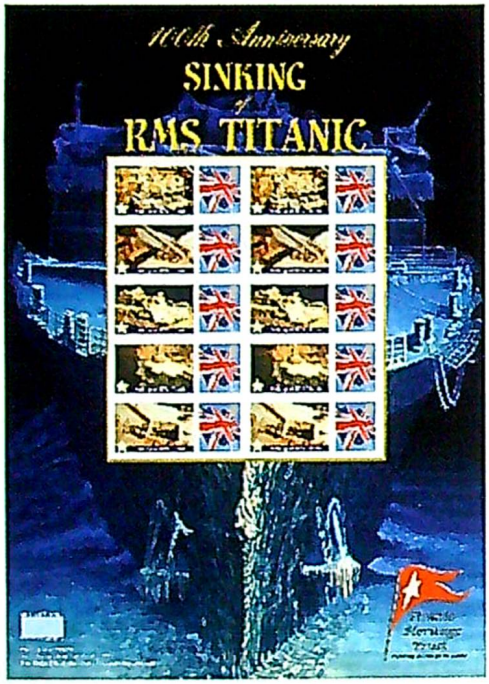
Cover producers wishing to announce recent or forthcoming covers and sheets should submit an image and up to 75 words. Announcements are published on a first-come-first-served basis or around a theme, at the discretion of the Editor. Please send submissions for June *Bulletin* to the Editor at the address on page 228, to arrive by 20 April.



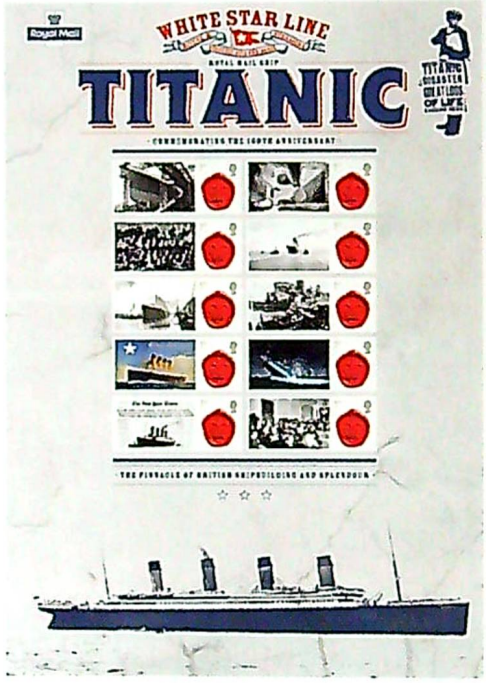
Designed by Adrian Bradbury this sheet features 12 different paintings by maritime artist Simon Fisher. They tell the story of the *Titanic* from its building in the Belfast shipyards to its tragic end in the Atlantic and the arrival of the *Carpathia* to rescue survivors. **Price**: £35, including worldwide p&p ●



Three Isle of Man Titanic stamp sheets are available on 10 April. This Smilers® sheet features nine archive photographs interspersed with labels showing various artefacts rescued from the wreck. **Price**: £8.55, including p&p. Two other pictorial sheets cost £24.95 each ●



Working with the *Titanic* Heritage Trust, Buckingham Covers has designed a striking mint stamp sheet which features artwork showing Stuart Williamson's stunning award-winning model of the wreck. **Price**: £26.95, including p&p ●

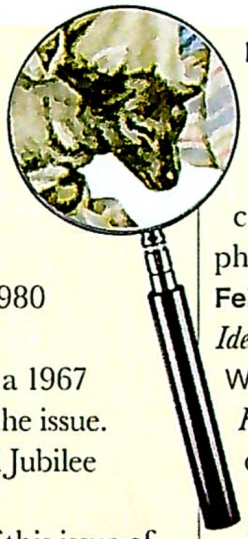


Royal Mail issues a commemorative sheet on 10 April. Beneath the White Star Line logo are ten crown seal Smiler® stamps with labels featuring images of the *Titanic* story, from her construction to the public enquiry that followed the tragedy. **Price**: £13.95, including p&p ●

Prize draws Puzzles to test your philatelic prowess

1 Identify

From the detail shown right, can you name the stamp and year of issue?



2 Knowledge

a) What building appears tallest on the London skyline portrayed in the stamp commemorating the London 1980 International Stamp Exhibition?

b) An L S Lowry painting featured in a 1967 special issue. Name the painting and the issue.

c) Name the designer of the Diamond Jubilee stamps issued next month.

Clue: find the answers on the pages of this issue of your *British Philatelic Bulletin*.

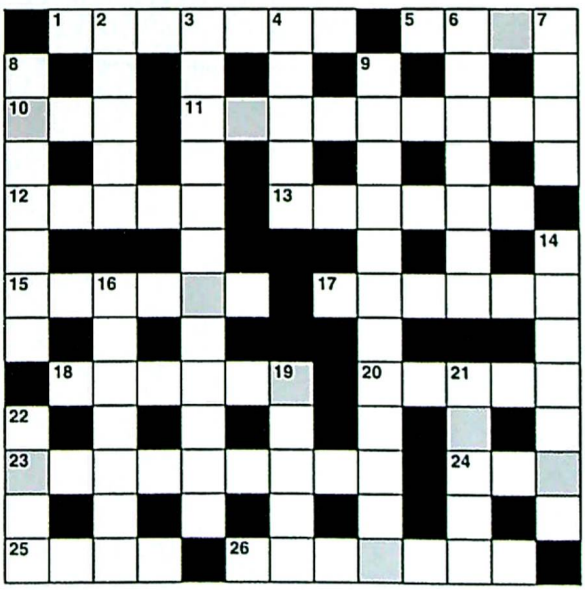
How to enter Send your answers, marked 'April Identify' and/or 'April Knowledge' to: *Bulletin* Prize Draws, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. The first ten correct entries drawn after the closing date win philatelic delights. **Closing date:** 4 May 2012 •

February solutions and winners

Identify: Rodin's The Kiss, Greetings in Art, 1995.
Winner: Mr Peter Wood of Southampton.

Knowledge: a) 2009. b) Meter Maid (traffic warden). c) Alloway is the birthplace of Robert Burns. d) The 300th anniversary of British Gibraltar. e) *La danse à la campagne* (Country Dance). f) Beta-blockers.
Winner: Mr P Constantine of Beaconsfield.

Cryptic Crossword Complete the puzzle below, then rearrange the letters in the grey squares to form a stamp-related word. Send that word, with your name and address, to 'April Crossword' at the address above. The first three correct entries drawn after 4 May win the complete Diamond Jubilee special issue.



CLUES ACROSS

1 Clues or confusion lead to shut-down (7)
5 Piece left over however small taken back (4)
10 Fish is awful, having turned (3)
11 If patient, one might get a ride in this (9)
12 Rubbish time, hasty (5)
13 Demand from some twin sisters (6)
15 Is in the band, on the up (6)
17 Outsize vehicles at Hollywood ceremony (6)
18 Henley's first crew's peak (6)
20 Wise man finding a plant (5)
23 Captivates on the ways in (9)
24 Litter container found in cabinet (3)
25 Pour with rain during Harrogate emergency (4)
26 Diffusion of moss is nothing to worry about (7)

CLUES DOWN

2 One alongside in the foreign country (5)
3 Grandma's bash unfortunately brings sort of raid (5,3,4)
4 Religious leader docking tail from burrowing animal (5)
6 Country – is one into fish? (7)
7 Complain about the meat (4)
8 Steroid prepared for pressmen (7)
9 Ready to blast off – as happens under anarchy? (3,7,2)
14 Sinatra perplexed Russian empress (7)
16 Phantom crept round in Home Counties (7)
19 Levy suggested for small nails (5)
21 Give a name to major road to Arab state (5)
22 In case learner is French (4)

Prize draw rules and regulations

1 The closing date is 4 May 2012. 2 Promotions are open to all readers aged 18 and over, except employees of Royal Mail Group Ltd, their business associates and immediate families. 3 Responsibility cannot be accepted for entries which are incomplete, damaged or not received for any reason. Proof of posting is not proof of receipt. Prizes must be accepted as offered. They are not transferable and there are no cash alternatives. 4 Winners are notified within 28 days of closing date. 5 For prize draws where readers must answer a question or solve a crossword, 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.



National splendours

An inspiring journey across the four countries of the United Kingdom has been portrayed through the delightful images of buildings and landscapes in the UK A-Z stamp series.

Bulletin readers voted UK A-Z Part 1 among their favourite stamps sets of 2011. With the release of Part 2 on 10 April, all the letters of the alphabet are brought together in a sheet that makes a stunning souvenir for collectors and a unique gift for visitors to the UK.

- 26 stamps are arranged in A to Z order, from the Angel of the North to ZSL London Zoo. At the corners are four labels featuring the seats of government in each country of the UK, bordered by a view of green and pleasant hills.
- The UK A-Z Composite Souvenir Stamp Sheet is available from Tallents House at the address on page 226.

Royal Mail

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