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Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 59 No.5

It's only rock 'n' roll



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The Rolling Stones stamp issue: 20.1.22

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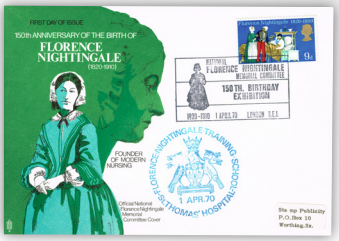
Royal Mail celebrates 60 years of legendary performances by the 'greatest rock and roll band in the world' – The Rolling Stones **132**





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Editor Chloe Tuck, Royal Mail, 185 Farringdon Road, Floor MP-03, London EC1A 1AA ● **Design and content creation** Ian Boardman, Adesso Creative Ltd ● Price £2.45 from Post Office Ltd philatelic outlets or by order from Post Office branches ● **12 months' subscriptions** £22.95 UK and Europe; £29.50 rest of the world. Send subscriptions to Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles, PO Box 1373, Sunderland SR5 9PG, UK or subscribe online at royalmail.com/bulletin ● **Binders** (to hold 24 issues) are priced at £4.99 and are available by post or online ● Copyright and editorial rights are reserved by Royal Mail Group Ltd ● All rights reserved ● Reproduction in whole or part is prohibited without prior permission of Royal Mail Group Ltd ● **Printed** in Great Britain by Zenith Print & Packaging Ltd ● **ISSN** 2633 2310 ● Royal Mail is a trading name and registered trade mark of Royal Mail Group Ltd. Registered in England and Wales, number 4138203. Registered office: 185 Farringdon Road, London, EC1A 1AA ● Stamp images © Royal Mail Group Ltd.

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The Rolling

The Rolling Stones – Stamp Specifications	
Date of issue	20 January
Number of stamps	Eight (4 x 1st Class, 4 x £1.70)
Design	Baxter & Bailey
Stamp format	Landscape
Number per sheet	24/48
Stamp size	50mm x 30mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	14 x 14
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA

Can't get no satisfaction? Then this smash hit of a stamp set will cheer you up in a Jumpin' Jack Flash. The Rolling Stones issue should rock 'n' roll any fan's boat, telling the incredible tale of the music legends on and off stage. The eight-stamp set, out on 20 January, showcases some of the Stones' finest performances, from London and Oslo to New York and Tokyo – a tribute to their status as the world's greatest and most enduring live band. A Miniature Sheet features iconic posters promoting the Stones' tours. Accompanying the issue, celebrating the group's 60th anniversary, are a Presentation Pack



London, UK, July 1969 – *1st Class*



East Rutherford, New Jersey, USA, August 2019 – *1st Class*



New York City, USA, July 1972 – *£1.70*



Oslo, Norway, May 2014 – *£1.70*

Stones



(which offers a fascinating Stones history), Stamp Souvenir, Stamp Sheet Souvenir, Postcards, Prestige Stamp Books, Medal Covers and Collectors Sheets.

Since they exploded onto the music scene in 1962, the Stones have notched up a wealth of achievements and accolades. Their 2006 gig on Rio's Copacabana Beach was one of the world's biggest, with an audience of 1.5 million. They have sold around 250 million records, including more than 10 million singles, and produced 13 Number 1 albums (including two reissues) such as like *Let It Bleed* (1969), *Exile on Main St* (1972) and *Voodoo Lounge* (1994). The Rolling Stones were the first band in chart history to have a Number 1 LP across six different decades. They have also been voted in the World Music Awards as the greatest touring band in history. And behind these extraordinary numbers is an even more extraordinary story of how the boys got together; how they got their name; the fascinating inspirations for their songs and that infamously raunchy lips and tongue logo; how, with their sexy, sassy, outrageous attitude, they took on the prudish British Establishment; and the crazy lives they have led, with excess and drugs busts a regular ►



Rotterdam, Netherlands, August 1995 – *1st Class*



Tokyo, Japan, March 1995 – *1st Class*



Hertfordshire, UK, August 1976 – *£1.70*



Düsseldorf, Germany, October 2017 – *£1.70*



The Rolling Stones in the US 2005 – *1st Class*
Synchronous with the A Bigger Bang Tour which commenced in August 2005



UK Tour 1971 and American Tour 81 – *£1.70*



The Rolling Stones in Paris 2017 – *1st Class*
Synchronous with the No Filter Tour which commenced in September 2017



Urban Jungle, Europe 1990 Tour and Tour of the Americas 75 – *£1.70*

The Rolling Stones Miniature Sheet contains four stamps featuring shots of the band together and a selection of some of the posters which have promoted their worldwide tours over the years



The Rolling Stones logo and typography
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The Rolling Stones	Miniature Sheet Specifications
Date of issue	20 January
Number of stamps	Four (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.70)
Design	Baxter & Bailey
Miniature Sheet size	192mm x 74mm
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	60mm x 30mm
Perforations	14.5 x 14.5
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA

feature. A blue plaque on platform two of Dartford train station records the historic moment, on 17 October 1961, when teenagers Mick Jagger and Keith Richards, who had been school pals until Keith's family moved to another part of town, bumped into each other again and realised they shared musical tastes. R&B fan Keith, electric guitar in hand, was on his way to class at Sidcup Art College. He was excited to see that Mick – off to LSE where he was a student – had *The Best of Muddy Waters* album under his arm. The pair got talking, and soon they were playing together in Mick's band Little Boy Blue & the Blue Boys. In 1962 they met Brian Jones at the Ealing Club





FD2201-TH



FD2201-PL



FD2201-NP

First Day Cover with Tallents House postmark. Below: the First Day Cover with alternative handstamp with the location of Dartford where Mick Jagger and Keith Richards first met in 1961, setting into motion the formation of The Rolling Stones



in west London, where Mick sometimes performed with Alexis Korner (as did drummer Charlie Watts). The Rolling Stones were gradually coming together, and by 1963 the band – with the classic early line-up of Jones, Jagger and Richards (who would emerge as the band's songwriting team), Watts and Bill Wyman – were in business. Muddy Waters can claim credit for the band's name, as well as for bringing together Mick and Keith. Brian had rung up *Jazz News* to place an advert for the band, and he was asked what the group was called. It didn't yet have a name, and Brian panicked, blurting out 'The Rolling Stones' after glancing at a Waters album on the floor – and seeing one of the song titles: *Rollin' Stone*.

For such an enduring outfit, the Stones were a mixed bunch, from different backgrounds and with contrasting personalities. Middle-class Mick was the son of a PE teacher; troubled Brian, also middle-class, hailed from Cheltenham; he hated the genteel Cotswolds town, choosing to seek thrills ►



Miniature Sheet First Day Cover with Tallents House handstamp. All of the First Day Covers in this stamp issue contain an information card which includes an overview of the band's glittering career and specifications for the stamp issue



Prestige Stamp Book Pane First Day Cover with the alternative handstamp. The pane comprises eight Machin Definitives: 2 x 10p, 2 x 20p, 2 x 50p and 2 x £1





Prestige Stamp Book: pane one (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.70 Special Stamps)



Pane two: (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.70 Special Stamps)



Presentation Pack

The Pack contains the eight Special Stamps in the main set plus the Miniature Sheet in a separate carrier. The pack is written by head rock and pop critic at *The Guardian*, Alexis Petridis, who takes an eye-opening look back at the journey of The Rolling Stones, from a chance meeting at Dartford railway station in 1961 between classmates Mick Jagger and Keith Richards to becoming the acclaimed greatest Rock and Roll band in the world

through LSD rather than settle down to a life in the suburbs. Keith predicted he'd never live past 30 – sadly, Jones drowned in the swimming pool of his luxury country home at the age of 27. Council estate lad and lead guitarist Keith would become the ultimate hell-raiser whilst Ronnie Wood battled alcohol addiction (which led him to seek solace through stamp collecting as part of his rehab). Bassist Bill in contrast was relatively conventional: this son of a bricklayer already had a wife, Diane, when he joined the Stones, and had to keep his marriage quiet as it was considered uncool for the band's rebellious image. He also wasn't keen on the band swearing in front of Diane. Legend has it that the Stones recruited Bill primarily because he owned a high-quality Vox AC30 amplifier, better than the gear the boys possessed.

Drummer Charlie, like Wyman a quiet soul, may have been in the rock band of the moment, but his great love was jazz, and from the age of 13 had dreamt of playing with Charlie Parker. Yet as a group they gelled ►



Presentation Pack Inner



Pane three: (eight Machin Definitives: 2 x 10p, 2 x 20p, 2 x 50p and 2 x £1)



Pane four: (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.70 – stamps as Miniature Sheet)



First Day Medal Cover – Bridges to Babylon Tour. The tour, named after the album it was promoting, began in Toronto, Ontario, Canada on 9 September 1997 and concluded with its 97th concert on 19 September 1998 in Istanbul, Turkey



into a raunchy, devil-may-care bunch of 'outlaws' determined to defy the dusty, monochrome conventions of a post-war Britain. On stage, Jagger's self-confident strutting and preening seemed to symbolise the youthful outsider posing a threat to the status quo. His abilities as a showman front-man earned him the praise of Charlie, who died last year. Charlie once said that Mick's stage moves had only been bettered by Michael Jackson in his *Thriller* heyday.

The Stones logo, designed by Royal College of Art student John Pasche, was a sexy take on Jagger's sensuous mouth, with the glossy tongue joyfully mocking polite society. As a briefing reference for the design, Jagger showed Pasche a picture of Kali, the Hindu goddess of death, which somehow adds a delicious undertone of anti-societal menace to the Stones' persona. The Rolling Stones' rebelliousness was also a deliberate marketing move to give them a unique position in the UK music scene: their manager, Andrew Loog Oldham, avoided the temptation of making the Stones the London version of The Beatles, with their matching suits, endearing mop haircuts, stage smiles and boyish charm; instead the Stones were the 'anti-Beatles', growing out their hair, dressing individually, just how they liked, and snarling and pouting (well, Mick at least) through performances. Some of The Rolling Stones' most famous songs, stalwarts of their gig playlists, have some surprising origins. Mick was stirred to write *Sympathy for the Devil* by the Soviet novel *The Master and Margarita*, which tells the story of a visit to the USSR by the Devil, after girlfriend Marianne Faithfull read it and passed it to him. And his lyrics for *Jumpin' Jack Flash* were inspired by none other than Jack Dyer, a gardener at Richards' rambling Sussex estate Redlands – scene of the infamous police raid of 1967, in which Richards and Jagger were arrested on drugs charges, for which they narrowly avoided jail. Jack's clumping boots pounding on the drive one morning woke up Mick when he was a



First Day Medal Cover – Licks Tour. The global tour which began in 2002 and concluded the following year was in support of their 40th anniversary compilation album *Forty Licks*. Grossing over $300 million it was the second highest grossing tour at that time, behind their own Voodoo Lounge Tour of 1994–1995



guest at Redlands, and the gardener was quickly dubbed 'Jumpin' Jack'. Mick and Keith soon got to work creating the famous track. Incidentally, the Stones song *We Love You*, written as a thank-you to fans for supporting Mick and Keith during their drugs trial, has sound effects of cell doors closing, to suggest the pair walking free…

Other tracks have simply created controversy – most notably *Let's Spend the Night Together*. Legendary American TV host Ed Sullivan insisted that when the Stones performed the song on his eponymous show in 1967, Mick would have to sing 'Let's spend some time together'. Jagger very obviously rolled his eyes when he sang 'some time' and even put in 'the night' every now and then. Perhaps the man who most typifies the Stones' non-conformist image is Keith, who even as a Boy Scout was a hard-living rebel, getting into trouble for smuggling bottles of whisky into a jamboree trip. Yet this evergreen rocker also personifies the enduring energy and appeal of The Rolling Stones as the ultimate live band, who once vowed, when asked about retirement: 'I'd like to croak magnificently, on stage.' Typical Richards jesting this may be, but there's no doubt that after 60 years, all The Rolling Stones, like Keith, are determined to keep on rocking 'n' rolling…

Article by Andrew Neish



Collector's Sheet – On Tour



Collector's Sheet – Hyde Park

The Rolling Stones	Prices
Set of 8 Special Stamps	£10.20
Miniature Sheet	£5.10
Presentation Pack	£16.20
First Day Cover Stamps	£12.90
First Day Cover Miniature Sheet	£6.80
First Day Cover Prestige Stamp Pane	£5.00
Stamp Souvenir	£12.90
Stamp Sheet Souvenir	£6.80
First Day Envelope	£0.30
Prestige Stamp Book	£20.85
Limited Edition Prestige Stamp Book	£49.99
Postcards (13 in set)	£5.85
Press Sheet	£84.15
Half Stamp Sheet (24 x 1st Class)	£20.40
Full Stamp Sheet (48 x 1st Class)	£40.80
Half Stamp Sheet (24 x £1.70)	£40.80
Full Stamp Sheet (48 x £1.70)	£81.60
Collector's Sheet – Hyde Park	£13.80
Collector's Sheet – On Tour	£13.80
Fan Sheet – Hyde Park	£7.00
Fan Sheet – Voodoo Lounge	£7.00
Souvenir Folder	£24.99
Medal Cover – Bridges to Babylon Tour	£19.99
Medal Cover – Licks Tour	£19.99
Gold Stamp Set	£149.99
Silver Stamp Ingot – The Rolling Stones	£99.99
Silver Stamp Ingot – Mick and Keith	£99.99
Framed Stamps	£39.99
Framed Collector's Sheet	£29.99
Framed Print – The Rolling Stones	£79.99
Framed Print – Keith and Ronnie	£79.99
Framed Print – Keith Richards	£79.99
Bundle	£55.84
Medal Covers Bundle	£34.98

Rolling Stones Quiz



1 How many UK No.1 albums have the Stones had?
a) 10 b) 12 c) 13

2 In what year was *Exile on Main St* released?
a) 1970 b) 1972 c) 1974

3 Where did Keith Richards go to Art College?
a) Bath b) Sidcup
c) South Kensington

4 A blue plaque honouring the band is at which train station?
a) Dartford b) Grays
c) Stratford

5 Lyrics for *Jumpin' Jack Flash* were inspired by Jagger's.....?
a) Electrician b) Plumber
c) Gardener

How to enter Please send your answers, with your contact address or phone number, marked 'Rolling Stones Quiz', to: Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. Or by email to chloe.tuck@royalmail.com.

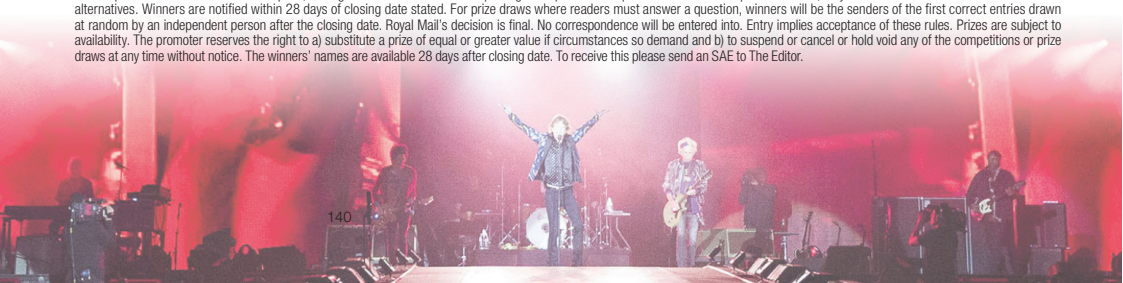
Prizes The first five correct entries drawn after the closing date win The Rolling Stones Presentation Pack.

Closing Date 15 February 2022.

October solutions Rugby Union Quiz 1) a 2) c 3) b 4) b 5) c 6) c 7) a

Winners Mr Sidaway, Kirkcudbrightshire; Assan Jamil, London; Mr Kenneth Bishop, Solihull; M Burfield, Kirkbride; David Duley, Haywards Heath.

Terms and conditions Promotions are open to any reader aged 18 or over, except employees of Royal Mail Group Ltd, their business associates and immediate families. Responsibility cannot be accepted for entries which are incomplete, damaged or not received. Proof of posting is not proof of receipt. Prizes must be accepted as offered; they are not transferable and there are no cash alternatives. Winners are notified within 28 days of closing date stated. 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. Royal Mail's decision is final. No correspondence will be entered into. Entry implies acceptance of these rules. Prizes are subject to availability. The promoter reserves the right to a) substitute a prize of equal or greater value if circumstances so demand and b) to suspend or cancel or hold void any of the competitions or prize draws at any time without notice. The winners' names are available 28 days after closing date. To receive this please send an SAE to The Editor.



2022 – a vintage year in prospect

We have been fortunate for many years that Royal Mail and its predecessors have given much thought to producing an annual stamp programme that features items of culture, history, sport, and notable anniversaries. This began in earnest from the 1960s and a collection of stamp issues from that time to the present day has a wealth of colour, design and information that can match any other issuing country. A great amount of planning takes place annually well in advance so that the special stamp issues are wide-ranging both in subject and design. For 2022, Royal Mail has ensured that the issues will be suitable and well-received by the British public generally, as well as by stamp collectors who look forward to new designs and new subjects.

As we emerge in stages from the pandemic, we can look back on the time spent in lockdown with the knowledge that we used the time wisely, didn't we! We were able to return to tasks uncompleted and within our stamp collections, review and decide what and where to collect and study next. A revival took place for many of us with more time at home with our families, and with our hobbies. However, there is no substitute for in-person exchanges and direct association within the philatelic community – and that we have truly missed. Looking forward with optimism and enthusiasm, we will welcome the London 2022 exhibition in mid-February.

Before that not-to-be-missed exhibition, the first Royal Mail Special Stamps will be issued, and so here we will preview the year's upcoming issues complemented with philatelic items that have an association with them – which may act as a stimulus for new thematic collections. The stamps issued on 20 January feature the popular music group, 'The Rolling Stones', who achieved international fame. This is a musical, art and anniversary issue in respect of arguably the most well-known group after 'The Beatles' of the 1960s and '70s musical era. Those of us of mature years may not know or recall all the names of the members, but that of the lead singer and front man is known to all – Mick Jagger. Still very much alive and active at an age of 78 years, and now knighted for services to popular music, his career has been as a songwriter, actor, and film producer from 1960 to the present day. Keith Richards and Mick Jagger met in February 1961 and went on to form 'The Rolling Stones' the following year, one of the most successful rock bands of all time. The anniversary is now 60 years, to be marked by this special stamp issue. However, their music will 'not fade away'.

There are four stamp issues during the year where the full details are to be announced nearer the time, and so these can be considered at present as surprises! The dates for these are shown on the list in this review, and so we will continue with the 18 February special stamps celebrating the ►



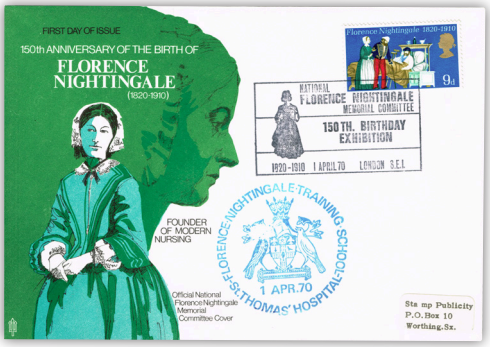
9 January 2007: Abbey Road, 64p, designed by Johnson Banks



14 November 1962: Units of Productivity, 2½d, designed by David Gentleman



5 May 1973: Handstamp marking the 50th anniversary of the FA Cup final being played at Wembley



1 April 1970: Florence Nightingale attending Patients, 9d, in recognition of the 150th anniversary of her birth. The stamp is cancelled with a 'NATIONAL FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEMORIAL COMMITTEE' rectangular handstamp



2 March 1999: Patient on Trolley (nursing care), 26p

stamp designs of David Gentleman, the artist who has been successfully prolific with a large number of British special stamps. Not just stamps either, having worked in watercolour, lithography and wood engraving, the scales of his endeavours range from platform-length murals for Charing Cross Underground Station in London, to postage stamps and logos. Between 1962 and 2000, David Gentleman designed 103 stamps, making him the most prolific stamp designer in Britain at that time. These include sets for Shakespeare, Churchill, British Ships, The Twelve Days of Christmas, and the Millennium – and many more. He won the Phillips Gold Medal for postage stamp design in both 1969 and 1979. What we are about to see in February will certainly be an excellent set of stamps – perhaps not designed by him on this occasion!

Early March – the 8th – will bring us 'The FA Cup', a stamp set concerning a sporting trophy familiar to all due to the publicity generated through the autumn, winter and spring months up to the Cup Final played at Wembley Stadium. In recent years there have been a handful of teams that are continually the most successful, but occasionally and unusually there is a new winner who has struggled for decades without final success, and that occurred last year in 2021 for Leicester City F.C. Correctly called The Football Association Challenge Cup, the annual knockout competition with the trophy dates from Victorian times in the 1871-72 season, which is now 150 years ago and an appropriate anniversary for a special stamp issue. The FA Cup is only loaned to the winning team each season, and has to be returned by 1 March in the following year in readiness for the next Cup Final. There have been two designs of trophy in use, but five physical trophies have been presented. A fascinating story that will be told with this issue.

And then we move to the subject that has affected each and everyone of us, with a 23rd March special stamp set entitled 'Heroes of the COVID-19 Pandemic'. There have been very many thousands – nurses, doctors, care home workers, and others – who have treated, assisted, guided and generally been so supportive of those who became ill with this terrible worldwide disease. All of them are so worthy of our gratitude, and this will be long remembered. During these two years of turmoil, one name became synonymous with support, and known to millions. An elderly man nearly 100 years old known as Captain Tom Moore. Deciding that he could do something by inspiring others, as he surely did, he decided to raise money for charity by walking 100 lengths of his garden to raise £1,000 by his 100th birthday.

The nation took him to their heart for by the morning of his hundredth birthday the total raised was over £30 million, later increasing to over £32.79 million.

In April the Special Stamp set will be issued on the 7th and entitled 'Migratory Birds'. A vast subject that includes the reasons for the regular seasonal movement between breeding and wintering grounds, driven primarily by the availability of food. Approximately 1,800 of the world's 10,000 bird species are long-distance migrants. Many birds, if not most, migrate in flocks. For larger birds, flying in flocks reduces the energy cost as they fly in a V-formation. However, we look forward to seeing which of the British species are included in the stamp set. Most names will be known to us all, such as storks, turtle doves and swallows, but if we add others that we might expect to see in our skies that are migratory, we have cuckoo, dunlin, osprey, redwing, starling, swift and wheatear. You'll have watched starlings and swifts, heard the cuckoo, but not necessarily seen a dunlin or a wheatear. They may well feature in this special stamp issue.

The following month of May will bring us 'Unsung Heroes – Women of WWII'. And where to begin with this vast subject where women served so successfully in so many roles, such as stenographers, clerks, radio operators, messengers, truck drivers, mechanics, cryptographers? This is to mention just a few. Others that are also so worthy of recall and admiration are those women carrying out a wide range of jobs directly in support of the Army, Royal Air Force and Royal Navy. In Britain women were essential to the war effort, both on what became known as the Home Front, and alongside men in military roles. Many a man on a British airfield was surprised to see a fighter or bomber aircraft delivered by a lone woman pilot. Nursing orderlies were selected to fly on air-ambulance duties to France towards the end of the conflict, and women had equality with men in the vital work of interpreting aerial photographs. We know that our monarch is an excellent driver and mechanic, and as Princess Elizabeth she joined the Women's Auxiliary Territorial Service as a driver. In 2005, as The Queen, she dedicated a new monument in Whitehall, London, to 'The Women of World War II'. We look forward with interest to seeing what this stamp issue will describe and illustrate.

Something much closer to home will be brought to us on 2 June 2022 – a Special Stamp issue entitled 'Cats'. What this will entail cannot be guessed at, but certainly it is expected to include the domestic cat which is so called ►



16 January 1980: Common Kingfisher, 10p



13 May 2010: Women in Factories, 67p



13 May 2010: Land Girls, 1st Class



7 February 1995: 50th Anniversary of End of Second World War Booklet featuring Special Operations Executive, Violette Szabo (1921-1945)



17 January 1995: Sophie (black cat), 19p



13 February 2001: Cat at Window, 1st Class

to distinguish it from the wild members of the family. These include those known by name, if not by confrontation (only at a zoo, hopefully) as lion, leopard, tiger, jaguar - the four that are only truly able to roar. The family of cats is especially diverse in size, the largest being the tiger at a length up to around 390 cm (150 ins) and the smallest of cat species, around 40 cm (15.7 ins). These are the rusty-spotted cat and the black-footed cat.

Moving now to the height of summer when outdoor events can be enjoyed in sunshine (mostly), and to sport that keeps us fit with activity and competition, the special stamp set to be issued on 28 July will feature 'The Commonwealth Games', an international multi-sport involving athletes from the Commonwealth of Nations. The event was first held in 1930, and with the exception of 1942 and 1946, has taken place every four years since then with slightly different titles in the early years to reflect the transition from Empire to Commonwealth. The next event is due to be held in Birmingham, England, from 28 July to 8 August as the 2022 Commonwealth Games, officially known as the XXII Commonwealth Games, and commonly known as Birmingham 2022. This is the third time that England has hosted the Games, after London in 1934 and Manchester in 2002. This special stamp set will be issued on the inaugural day, and first day covers postmarked in Birmingham will be sought.



15 July 1970: Ninth British Commonwealth Games Presentation pack

The special stamp issue on 29 September will feature the Royal Marines, whose history began as far back as 1664 when they were formed as the 'first official' unit of English naval infantry. Their involvement through the centuries and decades in various military engagements gives much scope for stamp design, which we shall see. They were involved in the capture of Gibraltar in 1704, still a country fiercely loyal to the United Kingdom. Later, Royal Marines landed at Antwerp in Belgium in 1914 in the city's defence, were fighting at Gallipoli in the following year, and saw extensive action on D-Day in 1944. In more recent times and in our memories are Royal Marines landing at San Carlos Water in East Falkland in June 1982, and then proceeding to the recapture of the capital, Port Stanley. So much history and events that can, and no doubt will, feature in the special stamps to be issued.



17 September 2009: Royal Marine 1805, 90p

Since as far back as 1966 when the first Christmas stamps were issued, there has been this annual event to look forward to. The issue date, or even two dates in an issue, has been reviewed and considered as the years pass, and have included as early as mid-October, dates in November, and in December. But, not too late, as the public will wait for the issue to be placed on their Christmas cards to be posted, and if mid-December, would cause a large amount of postage over a few days that would be impossible for the postal authorities to sort, direct and deliver by Christmas Eve. The issue this year on 3 November will give time for all of us to make our purchases and post our cards to family and friends. As for the designs, that we await with interest. Through the years we've had religious themes – the most appropriate – children's toys, British paintings, and much else. However, this year the Christmas issue will not be the last in the calendar.

That honour will fall to a 100 year anniversary. In November 1922, the most splendid archaeological find ever took place in Egypt where the tomb of Pharaoh Tutankhamun was discovered. He had been buried with all his earthly treasures some 3,000 years ago, and although there had been some removal of items before the tomb had been originally sealed, much was there to see – 'Yes, wonderful things!' – as spoken by Howard Carter, the archaeologist who made the find of the century, if not of three millennium. Many of the artefacts came on a visit to the UK in 1972 and again in late 2019. The showpiece in 1972 was the gold and bejewelled face mask. We look forward to the 24 November issue of this special stamps set, and the British postage stamp that portrays this iconic golden image.

So there we have it, a brief description and window into the 2022 special stamp issues of Royal Mail, together with four surprise sets to be announced nearer the times of issue. As for the philatelic life we lead, it has been severely hampered by the worldwide pandemic that includes the lack of stamp shows and meetings which caused us to suspend Stamp Scene. All being well, it will return in the Spring when the show calendar begins to return to the normality of numbers and variety that we enjoyed two years ago ●

Article by Dane Garrod FRPSL



26 April 1972: Statuette of Tutankhamun, 3p



Posters advertising the upcoming Christmas 1969 stamp issue and First Day Cover

2022 Special Stamps

20	Jan	The Rolling Stones
4	Feb	To be announced
18	Feb	The Stamp Designs of David Gentleman
8	Mar	The FA Cup
23	Mar	Heroes of the Covid Pandemic
7	Apr	Migratory Birds
5	May	Unsung Heroes – Women of WWII
2	Jun	Cats
1	Jul	To be announced
28	Jul	Commonwealth Games
1	Sep	To be announced
29	Sep	Royal Marines
19	Oct	To be announced
3	Nov	Christmas 2022
24	Nov	Tutankhamun

London 2022 Exhibition Sheet

The sheet has been created to mark Royal Mail's attendance at the International Stamp Exhibition, London 2022 – at the Business Design Centre in Islington from 19 to 26 February. It features 20 First Class Aircraft Sky-writing 'hello' stamps from the Smilers® range. Alongside the stamps are labels that depict the workings of the Royal Mail's very own 'Mail Rail', the subterranean railway system which transported mail under the streets of London from 1927 to 2003 ●



The London 2022 Exhibition Sheet

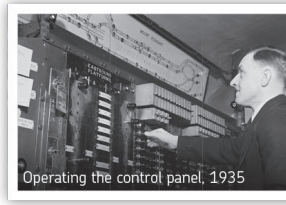


The First Class Aircraft Sky-writing 'hello' stamp from the Smilers® range – 20 of which feature on the London 2022 Exhibition Sheet

London 2022 Exhibition Sheet Specifications	
Date of issue	19 February
Number of stamps	20 x 1st Class ('hello' stamp from the Smilers® range)
Design	Studio Up
Sheet format	Landscape
Stamp format	Portrait
Stamp size	20mm x 24mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	15 x 14
Phosphor	Bars
Gum	Self-adhesive


Poster art by Edward Bawden, c.1935


Poster art by Lili Réthi, 1937


Operating the control panel, 1935


Mail chutes at Paddington Station, 1928


Loading wagons into a lift, 1927

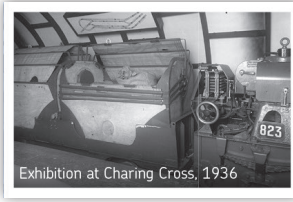

Poster art of a switch cabin, c.1939

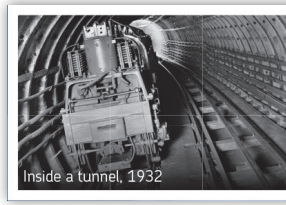

Sorting letters at Mount Pleasant, 1934

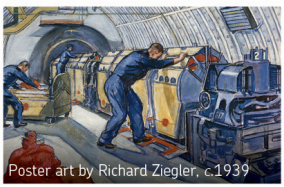

Unloading a mail train, 1962

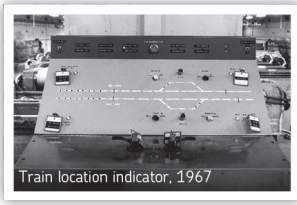

Western District Office station, 1966

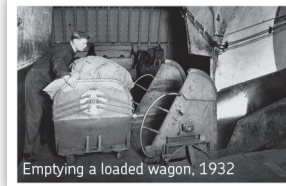

Pushing a mail bag container, 1928

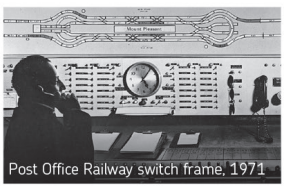

Exhibition at Charing Cross, 1936

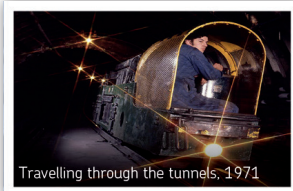

Inside a tunnel, 1932


Poster art by Richard Ziegler, c.1939


Train location indicator, 1967


Emptying a loaded wagon, 1932


Post Office Railway switch frame, 1971


Travelling through the tunnels, 1971


Post Office Railway route map, c.1984

All ‘hello’ stamps have an adjoining label

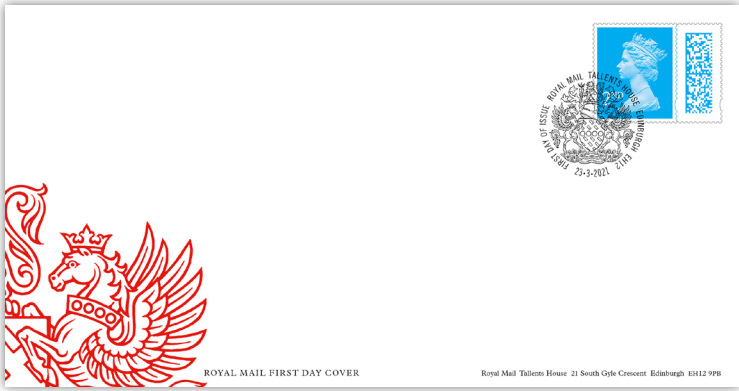

Sorting table at Charing Cross, c.1948


Post Office Railway, 1935

LONDON
2022
19 TO 26 FEBRUARY

Machin Checklist 2021

First Day Cover with Royal Mail's first barcoded stamp – an initiative that forms part of Royal Mail's ongoing modernisation drive aimed at bringing even greater convenience to its customers



Low-value Stamp

23 March
2nd Class Barcoded (DS1199).
ISP, Gravure



The barcoded Machin is almost 50 per cent larger than the traditional Machin. A simulated perforation line separates the stamp's image from the barcode. Each stamp's barcode is printed in the same colour by a secondary digital print process

Prestige Stamp Book Panes

16 February
Only Fools and Horses (YB095) Pane 2: Machins – 3 x 20p, 2 x 2nd Class, 3 x 1st Class.
ISP, Lithography



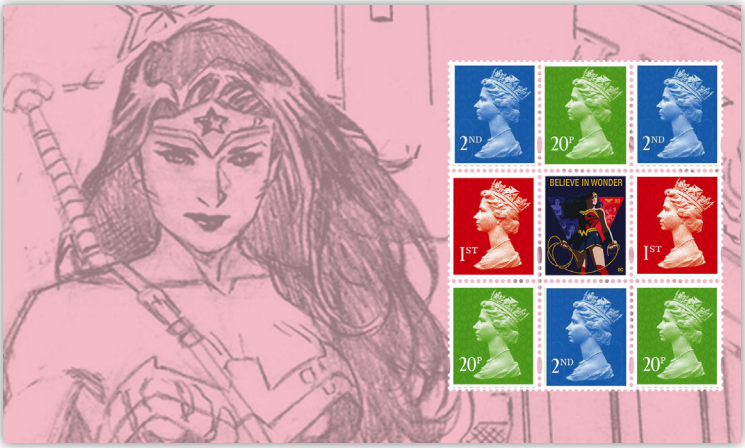
Royal Mail order numbers (prefixed DS, YB etc) as given on Tallents House stock lists.



28 May
Paul McCartney
(YB097) Pane 4: Machins – 2 x 2p, 2 x 10p, 2 x 50p, 2 x 1st Class.
ISP, Lithography



12 August
Industrial Revolutions
(YB099) Pane 4: Machins – 2 x 5p, 3 x 10p, 2 x 20p, 1 x £1.70.
ISP, Lithography



17 September
DC Collection
(YB100) Pane 5: Machins – 3 x 20p, 3 x 2nd Class, 2 x 1st Class.
ISP, Lithography

Retail Stamp Books

14 January
National Parks
(UB440) 4 x 1st Class Machins, 2 x 1st Class Special Stamps.
ISP, Gravure



16 February
Only Fools and Horses
(UB441) 4 x 1st Class Machins, 2 x 1st Class Special Stamps.
ISP, Gravure



28 May
Paul McCartney
(UB443) 4 x 1st Class Machins, 2 x 1st Class Special Stamps.
ISP, Gravure



1 July
Dennis & Gnasher
(UB444) 4 x 1st Class Machins, 2 x 1st Class Special Stamps.
ISP, Gravure





22 July
Wild Coasts
(UB445) 4 x 1st Class Machins, 2 x 1st Class Special Stamps.
ISP, Gravure



17 September
DC Collection
(UB446) 4 x 1st Class Machins, 2 x 1st Class Special Stamps.
ISP, Gravure



17 September
DC Collection
(UB447) 4 x 1st Class Machins, 2 x 1st Class Special Stamps.
ISP, Gravure

Part one

Our Philatelic Treasures

Douglas N Muir, The Postal Museum's Senior Curator of Philately presents some of its gems

The philatelic collections of The Postal Museum are amongst the greatest in the world. Certainly, they are the most important of British stamps, which are arguably also the most important in the world. They range from unique sheets of every British stamp issued, until recently all imperforate, through stamp artwork, accepted and unadopted, the various design stages of essays (trial stamps) and proofs, to a remarkable array of unissued material. Methods of production are evidenced by an abundance of metal artefacts in the form of dies, transfer rollers and printing plates. So, through the collections we can tell the story of each stamp issue, from its inception through all the various design and production stages. Added to which are many thousands of postal items sent, from the 16th century to the present day. It is impossible to describe everything in the philatelic collections in one article or even one book; it is certainly impossible to cover every facet fully. The collections are vast. This is merely an attempt to give an overview, starting with the earliest items.

Postal History The history of the posts is a fascinating if huge subject. Our earliest documents are warrants for royal messengers, held in the Frank Staff collection. The earliest dates from 1567 signed by Elizabeth's first Lord High Treasurer, William Paulet (Marquess of Winchester). Actual letters carried, by their very nature, tend to be held by institutions such as The National Archives. On the other hand, there are a large number of merchants' letters from the same period carried from the European continent by the Merchant Adventurers Post or the (Merchant) Strangers' Post. These come from the Corsini correspondence sold and dispersed in the mid-1980s. The Corsini family were wealthy Florentine merchants trading with London, where two brothers took up residence. Letters date from the 1590s and some bear rates. Later all private courier services were suppressed. The royal posts were eventually opened to the public in 1635 with a proclamation by King Charles I – 'for the settling of the Letter office of England and Scotland'. Unfortunately, no example of this proclamation resides in either the philatelic collections, or in the archive. But there are examples of mail carried in the first year, sent by a Treasury official to Henry de Vic, French Secretary of the King in Paris, most of which bear manuscript charge marks.

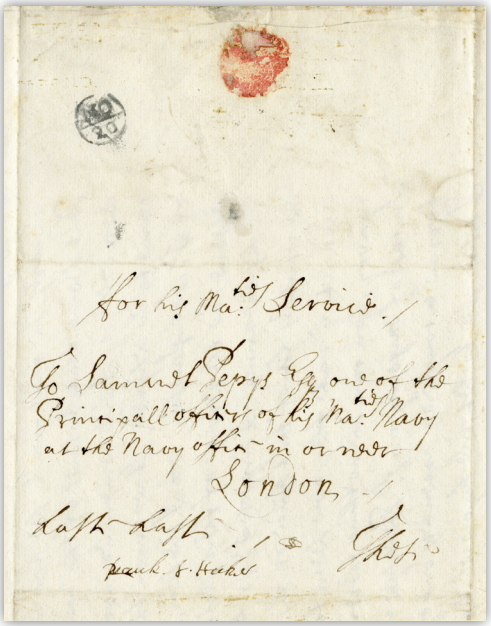
1597. Letter to London from the Corsini correspondence carried by the Merchant Adventurers Post



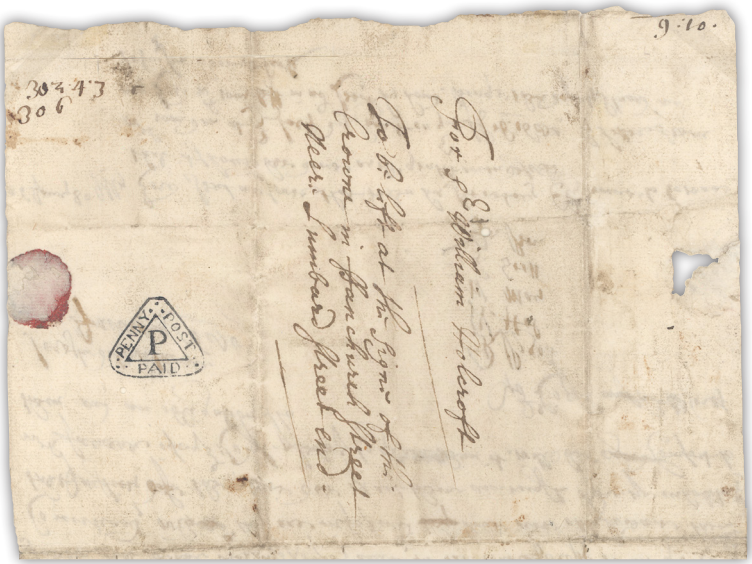
After the interregnum of the Commonwealth period (1649 – 1660) came the Restoration and the world's first postmark – the 'Bishopmark' of Henry Bishop, Postmaster General. Examples are not rare but we do have one of the first printed announcements of the introduction and use of the mark, in *Mercurius Publicus* published in August 1661,

as well as an example on a 1665 letter to Samuel Pepys. Similar 'Bishopmarks' were also used in other cities in Britain but what is often forgotten is that the American Colonies, under their postmaster Benjamin Franklin, also introduced them, slightly different in format. We have two examples from New York and Boston from the early 1770s.

Much rarer are the so-called 'Dockwras', items sent through the independent, illegal London Penny Post between 1680 and 1682. Although set up by Robert Murray, William Dockwra and others, this local delivery system is better known by the term 'Dockwra'. Triangular paid markings were originally introduced by Murray but later developed by Dockwra and all are extremely rare because of the short period of use. This system was illegal because it infringed the royal monopoly but highly desirable as it provided a necessary service. So, when it was shut down in November 1682 it was almost immediately reinstated as a government service. The new postmarks, termed 'Government Dockwras', were very similar in appearance to the old but the word 'Penny' was now spelt 'Peny'. Developments in the posts during the 18th century are well represented in the postal history collections: the introduction of town handstamps at the beginning from the time of Ralph Allen, and mileage marks at the end. Then, with Francis Freeling as Secretary, came a vast expansion of local Penny Posts, lasting up till the 1830s. In the collection there are over 1,700 examples of markings, ranging ►



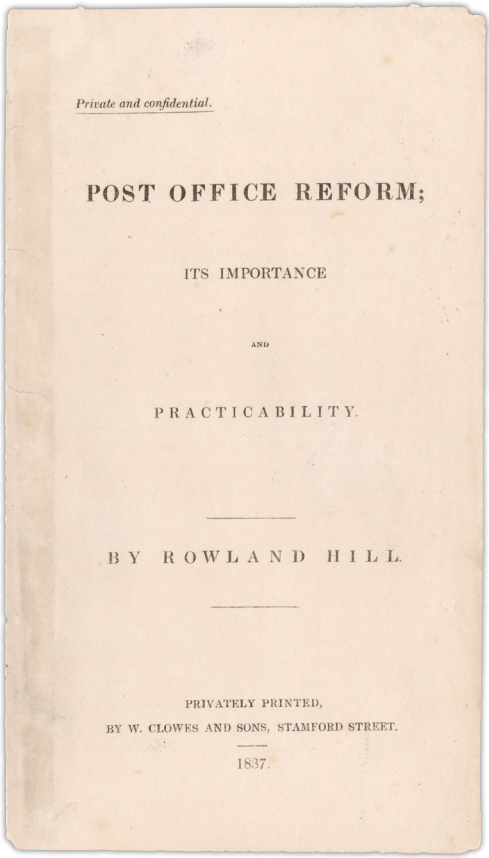
November 1665. Letter to Samuel Pepys bearing a Bishopmark



January 1681. London Penny Post letter ('Dockwra') from the St Pauls office



March 1840. Die proofs of the Penny Black with wording and crosses added (Phillips Collection)


Private and confidential.

POST OFFICE REFORM;

ITS IMPORTANCE

AND

PRACTICABILITY.

BY ROWLAND HILL.

PRIVATELY PRINTED,
BY W. CLOWES AND SONS, STAMFORD STREET.
1837.

January 1837. Frontispiece of the first edition of Hill's pamphlet *Post Office Reform: Its Importance and Practicability.*

from the early private system of Peter Williamson in Edinburgh up to the latest from some of the extensive official systems in and around British towns and cities.

Postal Reform By the 1830s the postal system had become highly complicated and very expensive. During the Napoleonic wars the Post Office had been an instrument of government taxation to pay for them, but afterwards the rates did not come down again. Charges were based on distance and the number of sheets in a letter and were normally paid by the recipient. But there were many additional charges, such as when a letter was delivered through a local penny post; and then a large number of letters were carried free, largely to or from members of parliament – a system open to wide abuse.

Among the many cries for postal reform those of Robert Wallace MP and Rowland Hill were foremost. Their campaigns are represented in our collections by some of the most important items. One is a first edition of Hill's pamphlet – *Post Office Reform: Its Importance & Practicability*. Another is an 1838 printed circular letter created by Wallace detailing some of the iniquities of the system as exemplified by what actually happened to the circular when it was sent. Then there is the original suggestion from James Chalmers for 'stamped slips' to prepay postage (not the origin of the adhesive label as many have suggested, some Scots in particular, but very important nevertheless), again dating from 1838. The subsequent Treasury Competition has more suggestions from Chalmers and others and we have several examples, most of those in existence outside the Royal Philatelic Collection. Some of these are in the Reginald Phillips collection, an outstanding source of material from the Victorian era.

Furthermore, we also have a complete set of the propaganda papers of the Mercantile Committee for Postage which includes an entire run of *The Post Circular*, the campaigning newspaper edited by Henry Cole, and several bold campaign posters. With the success of postal reform, there is a representative collection of rare Fourpenny Post and Uniform Penny Post markings to document its first implementation.

Then, of course, comes the Penny Black and some of the most important items in the collection. In the Phillips Collection are unrivalled proofs showing how the world's first adhesive postage stamp came about. Reginald Phillips was particularly interested in this, that most important of all philatelic stories. The greatest treasure of the Museum – which someone once described as the *Mona Lisa* of the philatelic world – is the proof sheet of the Penny Black, the only complete sheet in existence, but each stamp having the corner letters missing. But then, in addition, we have all the sheets of Penny Blacks in existence – eight in fact, plus two sheets of the official VR Penny Black, though none is complete. Every postal museum in the world, and many other museums, would like to be able to boast they had even one. Strangely, there are no sheets of the first Twopence Blue in existence. Nevertheless, we have those from plate 3 onwards, and unique imperforate sheets of virtually all plates of all stamps from then until the end of Victoria's reign, albeit all have had some stamps removed in the 19th century.

The Influence of the Monarch Since the very first stamp, designs have been shown to the monarch for her or his approval. This is not just a matter of courtesy but rather because the stamp features the monarch's portrait and represents the nation at home and abroad. From time to time, they have commented on those designs, more so in the now distant past than recently. Seldom, however, are the designs personally annotated, which is of course a pity. Nevertheless, there are a number of delightful items in the collection with manuscript additions in the monarch's own hand. Edward VII insisted on his portrait by Emil Fuchs being used and to have a crown above his head. George V, the philatelist king, was heavily involved in all stamp designs, but especially the Downey and Profile Head definitives and, of course, the Seahorses (where he even suggested the printing method) through his friendship with Bertram Mackennal. Nearly all the signed artwork approved by George V, however, is in the Royal Philatelic Collection (understandably) but we have some proofs initialled as approved. One of the gems of this era is the Royal Mint Proof Book where the progress of all dies from 1911 till about 1940 is recorded. ►



1 April 1840. Proof sheet of the Penny Black, complete without lettering. Below: the 'Old Original' die



28 January 1913. Colour proofs of the GV Seahorse dies in the Royal Mint Proof Book



The reign of George V also saw Britain's first commemorative stamps. Here, although he chose the designs for the Empire Exhibition and the £1 PUC, George V's influence was largely negative, especially with his Silver Jubilee designs where he insisted on the standard Mackennal profile portrait being used, although designed for letterpress, rather than a later uniformed photograph which suited the new photogravure printing method better. Nothing was signed by Edward VIII but his influence is clear. While the Post Office and Harrisons the printers worked long and hard on portraits of him in uniform for his Accession definitives he instead chose a simple photograph with no decoration which reflected his own more modern views. On his abdication his brother deliberately reverted to a more conservative style, redolent of his father. He asked for more ornamentation, which provoked the designer Eric Gill into one of his typical outbursts against 'curlywigs' as he dismissively called them. Nevertheless, Gill proceeded to design the

November 1934. Essays of a rejected GV Silver Jubilee design with the Vandyk photographic portrait



May 1936. Rejected essays of King Edward VIII in the uniform of the Seaforth Highlanders for his Accession issue





1948. Olympic Games essay of a design by Abram Games, annotated by the King

frames for the new definitives, complete with more decoration, surrounding a portrait of the King based on a plaster model by Edmund Dulac – again harking back to the well-known image of George V. That cast is also held in the collection, our earliest. There are also several pieces of artwork signed by either Gill or Dulac, both having beautiful, sometimes tiny handwriting. One aspect which particularly interested George VI was the appearance of the crown on stamps. Although stylised, it was the version drawn by Gill which he preferred. This becomes evident in essays for the 1948 Olympic Games stamps where he pointed out which crown should be used in rather childish handwriting, though it had also occurred before with proposed stamps for the Anglo-French Union in 1940.

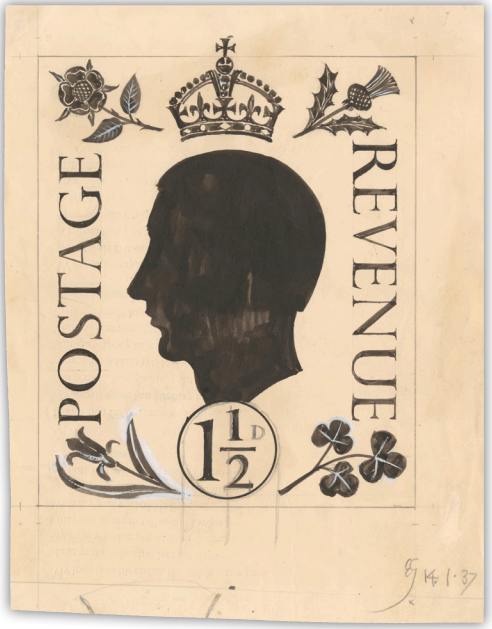
At the beginning of the present reign The Queen was heavily involved in the design of stamps, coins and stationery, as might be expected. She sat twice for photographs by Dorothy Wilding in early 1952 and specified that the diadem worn in the second sitting should be brought forward before the photograph was used. Shortly afterwards, designs were submitted to The Queen for an embossed stamp on postal stationery envelopes. Here, her ►



Plaster cast of George VI head by Edmund Dulac



Sketches annotated by Edmund Dulac for low value George VI definitives. Below: Eric Gill's first sketch for his floral George VI definitive design, signed by him





1953. Proposed design by Cecil Thomas for registered embossed stamps – 'too many roses'

Topics in this article, and many more, are covered in much greater detail in a new book by Douglas N Muir published next month. It's lavishly illustrated with new or unfamiliar images and information about several aspects of GB philately and postal history. There are 300 packed pages and the cost is only £25 + postage – details will be on The Postal Museum website (also available for purchase at the Museum or the London 2022 International Philatelic Exhibition).

views were forthright and detailed. Two designs by Cecil Thomas were proposed and she chose that featuring an emblematic Tudor Rose, described as 'very attractive' by the Postmaster General. However, she had a comment and suggestions and her views were conveyed by her new Assistant Private Secretary, Martin Charteris. Her Majesty liked the design, but made one comment. I cannot do better than to give you Her Majesty's own words, which were 'too many roses'. The Queen suggests that the inner rose design surrounding her head should be made into a black circle leaving no white between it and the present black strip on which the lettering appears. I have indicated this on the larger design for a proportion of the circumference. This was, of course, implemented and for once she initialled the final proof as approved.

Perhaps The Queen's greatest influence came in the mid-1960s with the proposal to omit her head entirely from commemorative stamps and at the same time replace the Wilding definitives. Clearly, her head remained – if only as a cameo. But in the work leading up to the Machin definitives a long series of photographs of her was taken by John Hedgecoe. Remarkably, she annotated each one of these (60 in total) with 'yes', 'good' or occasionally an emphatic 'NO'. She regarded the final Machin effigy as 'a work of real quality' and efforts to replace it came to naught ●

In next month's issue of the *Bulletin*, Douglas N Muir will be offering insight into some of the Museum's postal stationery, printing materials, stamp artwork, and stamps that never were...



November 1953. Amended registered stamp approved by The Queen



August 1966. Photograph of The Queen wearing the diadem by John Hedgecoe, annotated 'NO' by The Queen

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BRITISH RAILWAYS BFDC ON FIRST DAY COVERS



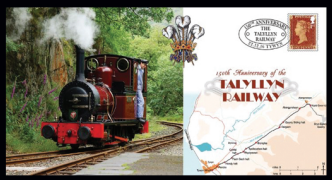


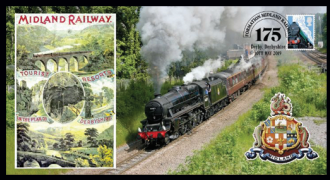














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New Issues and Withdrawals

Information correct at the time of going to press

1 January — **Withdrawal** The Gruffalo: Stamps. Miniature Sheet. Presentation Pack. Press Sheet. Coin Cover. Framed Products.



Withdrawal Star Wars: Stamps. Miniature Sheet. Presentation Pack. Press Sheet. Stamp Books. Stamp Set Souvenir. Prestige Stamp Book. Collector's Sheet. Postcards. Souvenir Pack. Medal Covers. Bundles. Framed Products.

19 January — **Withdrawal** Rugby Union: Stamp Souvenir. Stamp Sheet Souvenir.

20 January — **Issue** The Rolling Stones: Stamps (4 x 1st Class, 4 x £1.70). Miniature Sheet (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.70). Stamp Pack. Miniature Sheet Pack. Presentation Pack. Stamp Souvenir. Stamp Sheet Souvenir. First Day Envelope. First Day Cover Stamps. First Day Cover Miniature Sheet. First Day Cover Prestige Stamp Book Pane. Prestige Stamp Book (pane one: 2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.70, pane two: 2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.70, pane three: 2 x 10p, 2 x 20p, 2 x 50p, 2 x £1, pane four: 2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.70).



Limited Edition Prestige Stamp Book. Press Sheet. Collector's Sheet (Hyde Park/On Tour). Postcards (13 in set). Stamp Sheets. Fan Sheets. Framed Stamps. Framed Collector's Sheet. Souvenir Folder. Medal Covers. Medal Covers Bundle. Gold Stamp Set. Silver Stamp Ingot. Framed Prints. Bundle.

2 February — **Withdrawal** Christmas 2021: Stamp Souvenir. Stamp Sheet Souvenir.



18 February — **Issue** The Stamp Designs of David Gentleman: Miniature Sheet (2 x 2nd Class, 2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.70). Presentation Pack. First Day Cover. First Day Envelope. Stamp Souvenir. Postcards (7 in set). Press Sheet. London 2022 Souvenir Miniature Sheet.

19 February — **Issue** The London 2022 Exhibition Sheet: Stamps (20 x 1st Class Smilers®Stamps)

You can order any of the Royal Mail stamp products listed above, by visiting **www.royalmail.com/shop** or from Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles, PO Box 1373, Sunderland SR5 9PG, UK. (Overseas subscribers will need to use a stamp.) Or use the Royal Mail telephone order service on 03457 641 641 (08.30 – 17.00 Monday to Friday). For overseas customers: +44 3457 641 641. Minimum handling charge UK £1.45, Europe £1.55, rest of world (airmail) £2.15.

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