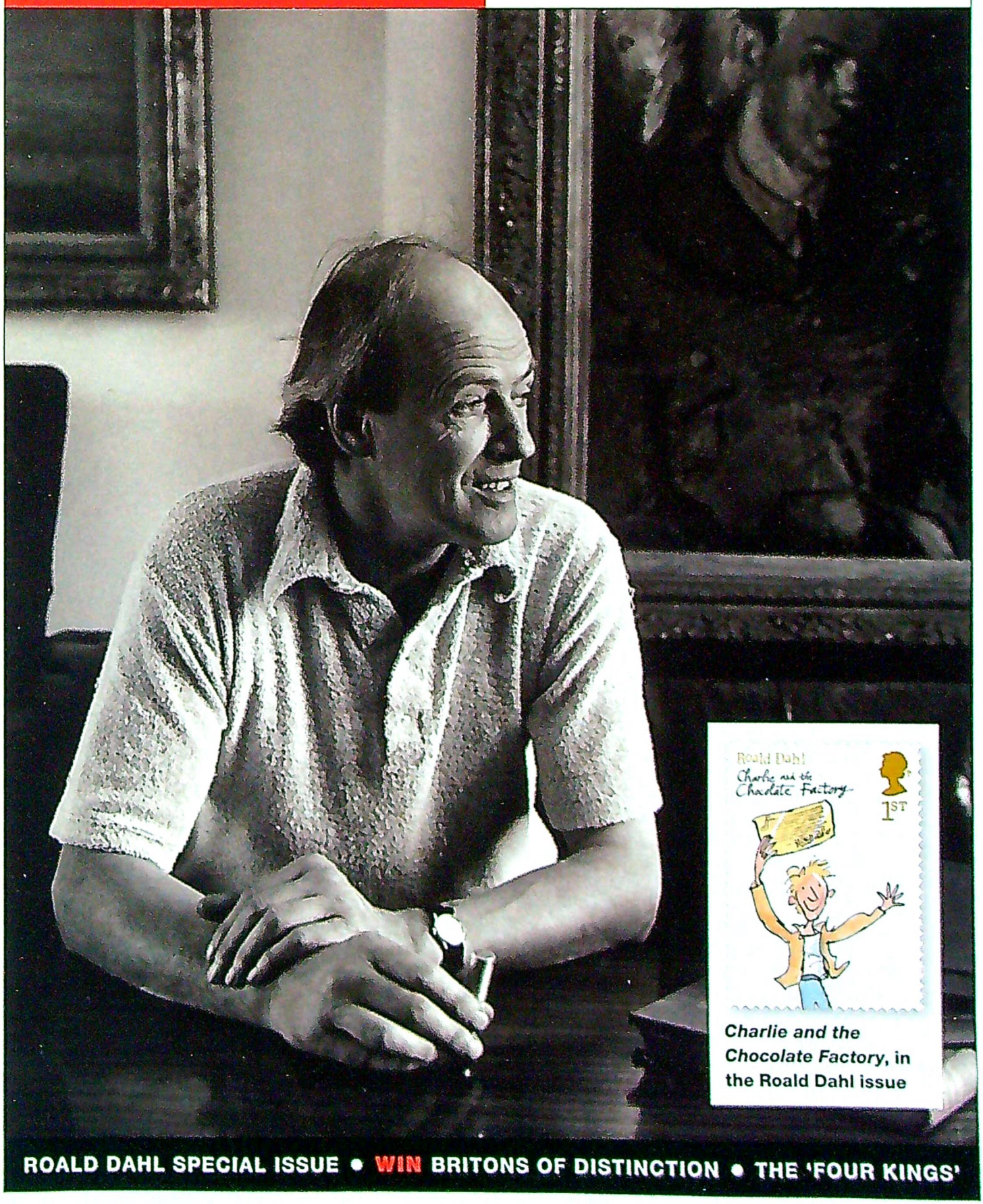
BRITISH PHILATELIC

Bulletin

The Royal Mail magazine for stamp collectors

Volume 49 Number 5 | JANUARY 2012 £1.20

New Year previews • Machins of 2011 • Jubilee definitives



***Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, in the Roald Dahl issue**

ROALD DAHL SPECIAL ISSUE • WIN BRITONS OF DISTINCTION • THE 'FOUR KINGS'

Issues and withdrawals



Cover photograph by Mark Gerson – portrait of Roald Dahl, whose children's stories are celebrated in the first special issue of 2012. Digital image courtesy of The National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth

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5 January	**Issue** The Olympic and Paralympic Games Definitive Stamps: Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards, Stamp Books, Coin Covers **Issue** London 1948 Heritage Cover
10 January	**Issue** Roald Dahl: Stamps, Miniature Sheet, Prestige Stamp Book, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards
	Withdrawal FAB The Genius of Gerry Anderson: Stamps, Miniature Sheet, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards, Stamp Book, Medal Cover
12 January	**Issue** Olympic and Paralympic Sports Cover Collection: Aquatics Coin Cover, Rowing Coin Cover
20 January	**Issue** Lunar New Year – Year of the Dragon Generic Sheet
2 February	**Issue** The House of Windsor and Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, Kings & Queens 6: Stamps, Miniature Sheet, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards, Cachet Cover, Miniature Sheet Press Sheet
6 February	**Issue** The Diamond Jubilee Definitives: Miniature Sheet, 1 x 1st Class, Miniature Sheet Press Sheet, Stamp Book 12 x 1st, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards, Commemorative Document
11 February	**Withdrawal** Indipex Exhibition Sheet
23 February	**Issue** Britons of Distinction: Stamps, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards
	Withdrawal Musicals: Stamps, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards, Stamp Book **Withdrawal** British Heart Foundation Stamp Book
24 February	**Issue** Post & Go British Farm Animals 1, Sheep: Stamps
28 February	**Issue** Olympic and Paralympic Sports Cover Collection: Sailing Coin Cover, Badminton Coin Cover

Roald Dahl stamp on cover: *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* © Roald Dahl Nominee Ltd; artwork © Quentin Blake

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The ***British Philatelic Bulletin*** is published monthly by Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ ● Editor: Melanie Williams ● 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 (address opposite) ● **Binders** (to hold 24 issues) £8.50, storage boxes (about 30 copies) £9.95 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 ● ©Royal Mail. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or parts is prohibited without prior permission of the Editor ● **Printed** in Great Britain by St Ives Group ● **ISSN** 0953 8119 ● Royal Mail is a trading name of Royal Mail Group Ltd. Registered in England & Wales, number 4138203. Registered office: 100 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0HQ.

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Postbox and inbox

In the words of Benn

I enjoyed the article in December *Bulletin* about the changes in British stamp design brought about by Tony Benn and David Gentleman. However, Benn is not telling the whole story when he says that stamp design was his only consideration.

In his autobiography entitled *Out of the Wilderness: Diaries 1963-67* Benn discusses a speech he gave in 1963, based on a paper he wrote to Harold Wilson on strategy for the upcoming election. Benn writes, 'I added a section on the first things a new Labour Government should do.' His suggestions included: '... postage stamps without the Queen's head on them. This last suggestion was the most popular thing in the speech. Republicanism is on the increase.'

The autobiography makes it clear that Benn's goals for stamp reform were both artistic and political.

Larry Rosenblum. Sunnyvale, California, USA

Very good to hear from you Mr Rosenblum. You cite an interesting quotation from Tony Benn, although one could argue that it is hard to judge the level of irony in his written words here. This may have been a significant step for stamps at the time, but in the greater scheme of things only a very slight stirring Republicanism.

First-class letter



Jewels in a re-made crown

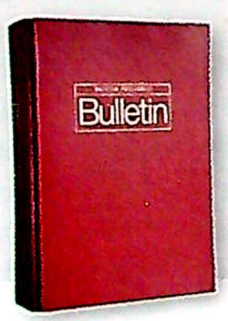
In articles on the Crown Jewels stamps in June and August *Bulletin* of the current volume, the Imperial State Crown is referred to as having been made for King George VI, whereas in fact it was made for Queen Victoria and subsequently used by King Edward VII and King George V. It was *re-made* for George VI on a new frame, incorporating the jewels from the old crown, the shape of which it retained. The Imperial State Crown was originally made for Queen Victoria because the St Edward's Crown (at nearly five pounds avoirdupois weight) was too heavy to be used for lengthy state occasions.

David G MacDougall, Regina, Saskatchewan

Thank you. We are happy to print these clarifying details about the Imperial State Crown, which were indeed omitted from the information we tried to squeeze into the June and August articles on the Crown Jewels issue. How apt that you live in Regina!

Keep the mail coming...

The Editor of the *British Philatelic Bulletin* welcomes your letters and the senders of those published will receive philatelic delights as a thank-you. The sender of the 'First Class letter' award will also receive the *Bulletin* binder. Please note that Royal Mail cannot reply to all correspondence and reserves the right to edit for length. Send your letters to: The Editor, *British Philatelic Bulletin*, Royal Mail Stamps & Collectibles, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ. Remember you can drop us an email too, to bulletin.enquiries@royalmail.com



At sixes and sevens – and eights

On page 70 of the November *Bulletin* you state that the first Year Book was issued in 1964 – surely you mean 1984.

James A Welsh, by email

You are right. The first Year Book appeared in 1984; it was the Presentation Pack that first appeared in 1964.

David Vaughan also wrote to point this out and led us to wonder if readers might enjoy an article about early Presentation Packs.



New Year ahoy Dahl PSB, dragons, definitives and... sheep



Roald Dahl Prestige Stamp Book To accompany the Roald Dahl issues released on 10 January (previewed December *Bulletin*, on page 106,), Royal Mail is producing a Prestige Stamp Book. Its cover shows the spines of a varied selection of Dahl's books – he wrote more than 40 books between 1943 and 1990. Inside the PSB is a biography of Roald Dahl by Donald Sturrock, Dahl's biographer. The first stamp pane includes eight mixed-value definitives with a portrait sketch of the young Dahl, by Quentin Blake, at the centre, beside an image of a letter written by the young. The second and third panes each carry three stamps from the special issue, and the fourth pane features the four stamps from the Miniature Sheet •

Above: the four panes from the Roald Dahl PSB. The definitives pane is printed in gravure by Walsall Security Printers and the other panes are printed in litho by Cartor Security Printing

2012 promises to be a great year for philatelists, opening with two commemorative definitive issues: first comes the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games definitives (previewed in November *Bulletin*, page 72), to be available all year. Collectors can look forward to more new definitives on 2 February, when the Diamond Jubilee Miniature Sheet is issued. Marking Elizabeth II's 60th year on the throne, it will include six definitives featuring iconic portraits of The Queen, sourced from stamps, coins and banknotes (see page 136 for preview details). The Diamond Jubilee Machin definitive from the Miniature Sheet will be available as a self-adhesive version, replacing the gold definitive in general circulation •



Above: this new Diamond Jubilee Machin definitive is available next month in the appropriately named colour of Diamond Blue

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Right: the Lunar New Year – Year of the Dragon Generic Sheet, released on 20 January



Lunar New Year – Year of the Dragon Generic Sheet Specifications

Date of issue	20 January
Number of stamps	20
Stamp design	NB Studio
Stamp illustration	Kam Tang
Stamp format	Portrait
Stamp size	20mm x 24mm
Sheet design	Hat-trick Design
Sheet illustration	Rebecca Sutherland
Printer	Cartor Security Printing
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	15 x 14
Phosphor	Bars
Gum	Self-adhesive

Year of the Dragon On 20 January Royal Mail issues a Smilers® Generic Sheet marking the Lunar New Year, which begins on 23 January. The sheet features 20 stamps surrounded by dragon illustrations by Rebecca Sutherland. It costs £13.95.

In Asian culture, each lunar year is 'ruled' by a different animal, each bestowing their distinctive characteristics to those born in that year. This year marks the reign of the Dragon, the fifth animal in a cyclical series of 12. Associated with royalty, wisdom and fearsome strength, the legendary dragon is said to live in the clouds nearest to heaven and ranks highest of all the animals.

Other European postal bureaux issuing stamps to celebrate the Year of the Dragon include Liechtenstein and France, as well as the USA and more obvious contenders such as Hong Kong, Macau, Japan, Singapore and Taiwan •

Historic Cachet Cover The House of Windsor and Saxe-Coburg Gotha Cachet Cover is the sixth and last of the limited-edition cachet covers which have accompanied each stamp set in the Kings and Queens series. The cover bears a special Buckingham Palace cachet, as well as a special first-day postmark for 2 February and the stamps that feature the monarchs: Edward VII, George V, Edward VIII, George VI and Queen Elizabeth II (see December *Bulletin* page 108 for more details).

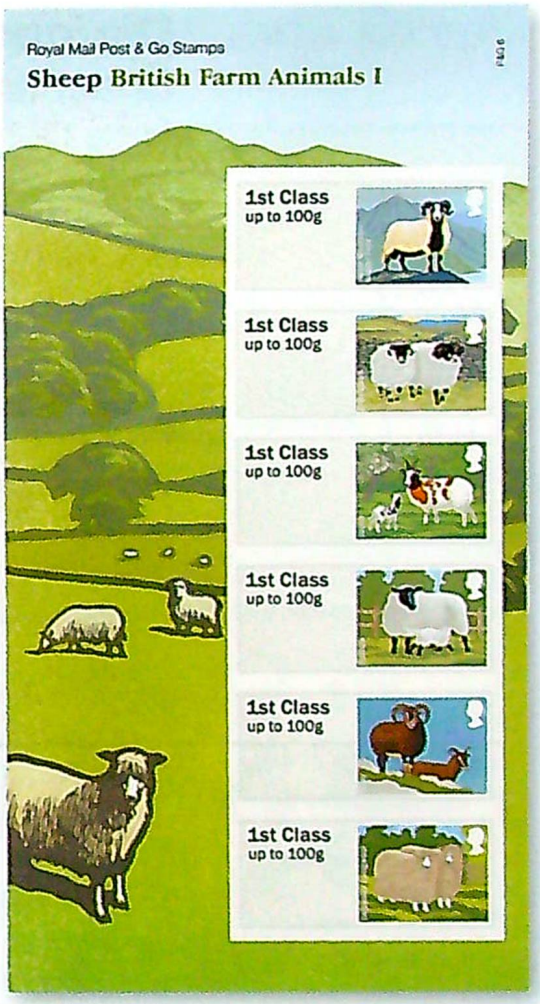
An illustrated information card inside the cachet cover describes each of the featured monarchs of the House of Windsor and Saxe-Coburg Gotha, with a timeline showing significant moments in their reigns. The cover is issued in a limited edition of 5,000 and priced £9.99 •

Award from France The French government recently bestowed upon Royal Mail one of its highest cultural honours – the Vase de Sèvres – in acknowledgement of our contribution to philately. Andrew Hammond, Director of Royal Mail, received the award from Monsieur Benjamin Gallezot (technical adviser to President Nicolas Sarkozy) at the Salon Philatelique d'Automne in Paris, which is organised by the Chambre Syndicale Française des Negotiants et Experts en Philatélie (CNEP). Our representataive at the Royal Mail stand was Theodore Champion •

New Post & Go Pictorial Stamps For 2012 Royal Mail is going down on the farm with a new series of Post & Go stamps entitled British Farm Animals. The series will feature some traditional UK breeds of sheep, cattle and pigs and the first issue is released next month, on 24 February.

Illustrator Robert Gillmor and designer Kate Stephens, both of whom worked on the Post & Go Birds of Britain series, have created a series that captures in stamp-size the distinctive characteristics of six breeds of sheep: Welsh Mountain Badger Face, Dalesbred, Jacob, Suffolk, Soay and Leicester Longwool.

Post & Go stamps are dispensed from Post & Go machines in selected post offices, to the value requested. The new issue is also available as a stamp set in sheetlet form, in a card carrier with information about each breed written by Jack Byard. Your February *Bulletin* will contain full details and specifications •



Above: the card carrier for next month's new Post & Go stamp set – British Farm Animals 1: Sheep.
Below: the 'moving' Miniature Sheet goes off sale this month with the rest of the FAB: The Genius of Gerry Anderson issue

End of an era The Royal Mail Postbus services at Northallerton, North Yorkshire and at Lutterworth, Leicestershire were withdrawn last October. There is now one service left in England, at Malton in North Yorkshire, and a few in the Scottish Highlands and Islands. The Postbus service was begun by Royal Mail in 1967 to offer a combined service of public transport and mail delivery in isolated rural areas where a normal bus service was uneconomic.

A useful listing of Postbus services, compiled by Martin Robinson, was published in the *Bulletin* in May and June 2007, and Martin's photograph of the Lutterworth bus appeared in May 2008 (page 268) •

Coming off this month On 10 January we wave a sad goodbye to the *Thunderbirds* and all who adventured in space and beneath the ocean on the FAB: The Genius of Gerry Anderson issue. The unique Miniature Sheet was printed using a microlenticular process to give the impression of the spacecraft taking off •



Diamond Jubilee Details of the new Miniature Sheet and definitive released next month





IN CELEBRATION of the Queen's sixtieth year on the throne, Royal Mail will issue six new definitive stamps in a special Miniature Sheet (above) comprising portraits of HM the Queen from the coins, banknotes and stamps of her reign. The Miniature Sheet, printed in gravure by Walsall Security Printers, is released on 6 February, a date which carries great significance for Elizabeth II: it was on the same date in 1952 that she acceded to the throne on the death of her father, her father King George VI of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.He had died in his sleep after a long illness, at the royal estate at Sandringham. Princess Elizabeth, the oldest of the King's two daughters and next in line to succeed him, heard the sad news while in Kenya with Prince Philip.

Stamp by stamp The Miniature Sheet brings together five different portraits of the Queen and also a new Diamond Blue Machin definitive, on six 1st Class stamps. The first stamp is inspired by the Wilding definitives first issued in 1952, featuring a photograph taken by Dorothy Wilding and a decorative frame inspired by the early frame designs of Edmund Dulac.

The second 1st Class stamp shows a banknote portrait by Robert Austin, who designed the first Bank of England notes to bear the monarch's head. The engraving was based on a pencil sketch taken from a photographic portrait of Queen Elizabeth II, the first monarch to be depicted on Bank of England notes. The first such note, £1, appeared in 1960.

The third stamp bears a banknote portrait by Harry Eccleston, whose new banknote designs began to appear in 1971. His portrait of the

Diamond Jubilee Miniature Sheet Specifications	
Issue date	6 February
Number of stamps	6 x 1st Class
Miniature Sheet size	147mm x 74mm
Design	Sedley Place
Coin photography	David Burton
Stamp format	Portrait
Stamp size	20mm x 24mm
Printer	Walsall Security Printers
Print process	Gravure, with techniques for metallic and iridescent inks and foil blocking
Number per sheet	6
Perforations	15 x 14
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA

Queen on the £5 note showed her wearing the robes of the Order of the Garter, as on the subsequent £1 in 1978.

On the fourth stamp is a coinage portrait by Mary Gillick. Coins with her design were first issued in 1953 (and it is still used on Maundy Money).

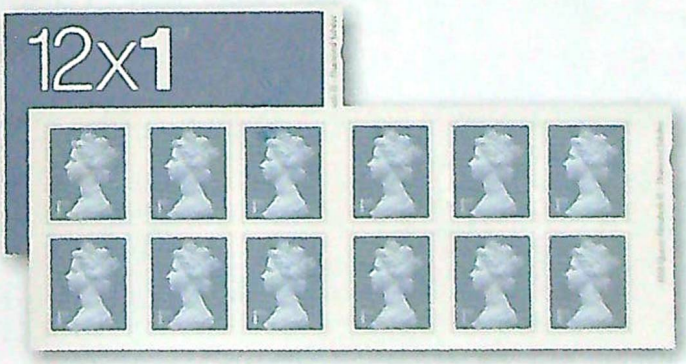
Arnold Machin's design for the new decimal currency, first issued in 1968, features on the fourth stamp. This design subsequently provided the basis for the definitive stamp image and is printed next to the final stamp in the Miniature Sheet – the classic definitive Machin, issued in the new colour of Diamond Blue – specifically for the Diamond Jubilee Year. Highlighted in iridescent ink are the words 'Diamond Jubilee'.

To celebrate the Jubilee year, a self-adhesive version of this stamp will replace the gold definitive in general circulation. It is printed by De La Rue in gravure and the Diamond Jubilee stamp book (shown below) is printed by Walsall Security Printers.



Above and facing page: special postmarks for the Diamond Jubilee Definitives issue feature the numeral 60 and 'Long to reign over us' in cursive script

Presentation Pack The illustrated Diamond Jubilee Presentation Pack was designed at Studio Dempsey and contains a description of the history and iconography of Queen Elizabeth II portraiture on stamps, coins and banknotes. The text is written by Douglas Muir, Curator, Philately, of The British Postal Museum and Archive. The First Day Cover is shown below, with pictorial alternative postmark.The filler card contains an brief overview of the portraiture of the portraits featured on the stamps •



Diamond Jubilee Miniature Sheet Prices	
Miniature Sheet	£2.76
Presentation Pack	£3.30
First Day Envelope	30p
First Day Cover inland	£3.79
First Day Cover overseas	£3.16
Stamp Cards (7 in set)	£3.15
Press Sheet, 12 x uncut Miniature Sheets	£36.43
1st Class Diamond Blue Jubilee Definitive	46p
12 x 1st Class Stamp Book	£5.52
Commemorative Document	£7.49



Above: the new stamp book contains 12 x 1st Class Diamond Jubilee Definitives. Left: the Diamond Jubilee Definitives First Day Cover

Britons of Distinction Ten individuals who have shaped our world in important ways are celebrated in an intriguing special issue

High-achieving Britons with a variety of artistic and scientific gifts are remembered in next month's special issue of ten stamps entitled Britons of Distinction. Some of the names on the stamps are world-famous, some lesser known, but all of them were exceptionally successful in their particular field of endeavour:

Basil Spence: architect of Coventry Cathedral (shown on the first stamp), which opened in 1962 and was built in a controversially modern style to put new heart into Coventry following the destruction of the city's 14th-century Gothic cathedral during a ten-hour bombing raid in 1940.

Frederick Delius: composer whose most famous pieces – such as 'On Hearing the First Cuckoo in Spring' – evoke a English pastoral idyll. He was born in Yorkshire to German parents and lived for decades in France.

Mary 'May' Morris: gifted textile artist (daughter of William Morris), represented on the stamp by a piece of her embroidery – The Orange Tree.



Above: pictorial postmark, chosen for the 50th anniversary of the opening of Coventry Cathedral, designed by Sir Basil Spence.
Right: Britons of Distinction Presentation Pack



Britons of Distinction Prices	
Stamp Set	£4.60
Presentation Pack	£5.10
First Day Envelope	30p
First Day Cover, inland	£6.00
First Day Cover, overseas	£5.00
Stamp Cards (10 in set)	£4.50

Britons of Distinction Stamp Specifications	
Date of issue	23 February 2012
Number of stamps	10 x 1st
Design	Purpose
Stamp format	Square
Stamp size	35mm x 35mm
Printer	Cartor Security Printing
Print process	Lithography
Number per sheet	25/50
Perforations	14.5 x 14.5
Phosphor	All over
Gum	PVA
Sheet formats	Two sheets of 25/50 with five se-tenant designs per sheet



Odette Hallowes: a French-born British secret agent in wartime France, who survived solitary confinement in German concentration camps.

Thomas Newcomen: lay preacher, ironmonger and inventor of the atmospheric steam engine (shown on the stamp). His first working engine was installed at a coal mine near Dudley Castle in Staffordshire in 1712.

Kathleen Ferrier: the Lancashire-born contralto who achieved an international reputation as a stage, concert and recording artist.

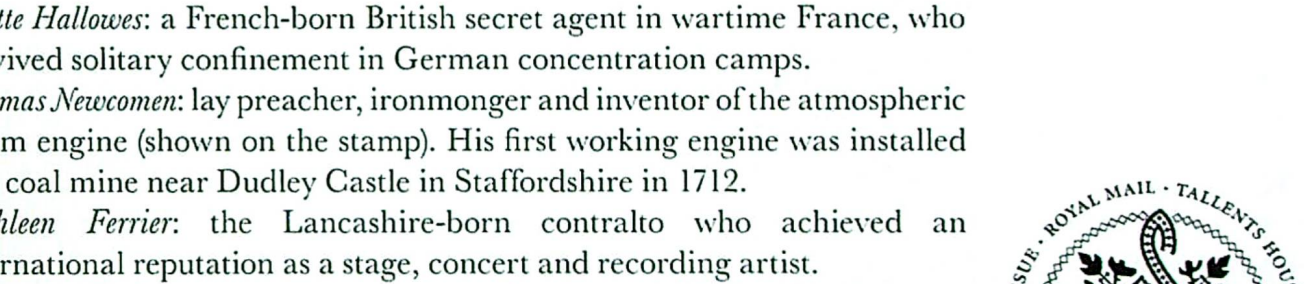
Augustus Pugin: architect, designer and advocate of the Gothic style, represented by an image of the interior of the Palace of Westminster.

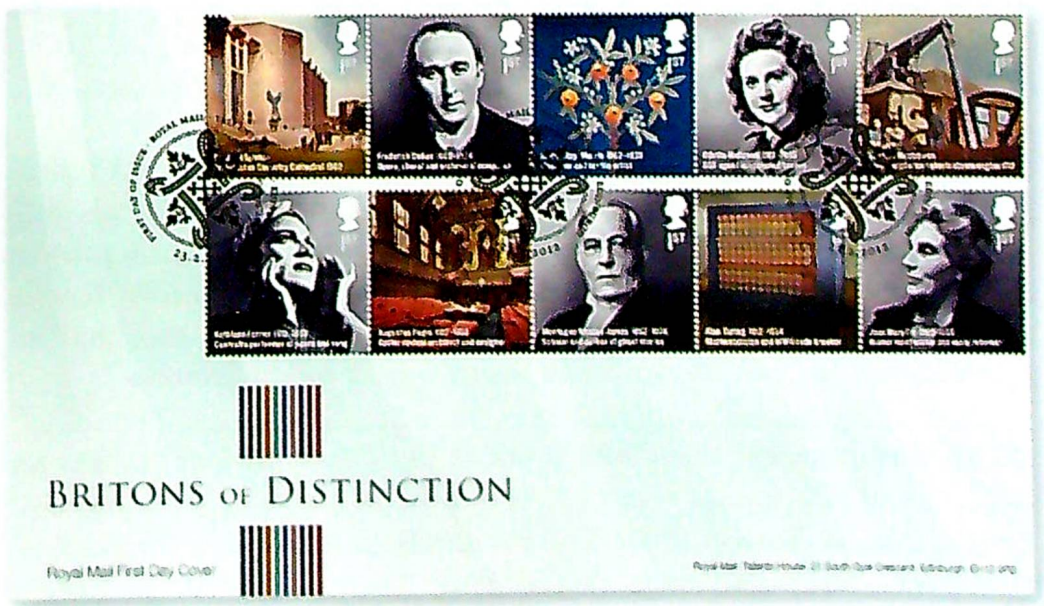
Montague Rhodes James: medieval scholar and provost of King's College Cambridge, known as the originator of the 'antiquarian ghost story' genre.

Alan Turing: mathematician and computer scientist. The stamp shows Turing's Bombe code-breaking machine at Bletchley Park.

Joan Mary Fry: relief worker, social reformer, ardent pacifist and Quaker, who worked as a prison chaplain in World War I, organised post-war famine-relief in Germany before returning to England

The Britons of Distinction stamps go on sale on 23 February, the second day of the Spring Stampex in Islington •





Above: Tallents House pictorial postmark.
Right: Britons of Distinction First Day Cover envelope, with a filler card written by Maev Kennedy

Stamp Scene by John Holman

Society anniversaries in 2012 We are fortunate in the UK in having such a fine array of philatelic societies and stamp clubs – national, specialist and local. Some of the local societies date back to the early days of stamp collecting in Victorian times. Celebrating their 75th anniversaries this year will be the Crewe, Halifax, Horsham, Kirkintilloch, Pinner, Redhill, Stirling and Watford societies, and the BBC Stamp & Postcard Society. The Bishop's Stortford and Poynton societies will mark their golden jubilees •



Above: the Penny Post Jubilee of 1890 will be the subject of John Davies' display at Phoenix Place.
Below: Perth, host city to the Scottish Philatelic Congress in May



National Philatelic Society The NPS, founded as the Junior Philatelic Society in 1899, is still one of the UK's major societies and since 1908 has published The *Stamp Lover*, which contains a wide range of articles of interest to collectors of all levels. The October issue includes features on 2011 Europa stamps on the theme of forests; how to go about taking up thematic collecting in that area; the 'errors on stamps' collection of the late Dr David E G Irvine; and 'Machin Manifestations' in which Michael Goodman explains hidden security and other codes.

At the next meeting of the NPS on 14 January, Tony Bosworth displays 1936 Berlin Olympics, followed by Tasmanian Stamps & Postal History from Patrick Reid on 12 February and 1890 Penny Post Jubilee from John Davies on 10 March. Meetings are held at the Phoenix Centre, alongside The BPMA in London. For details of membership and activities write to National Philatelic Society, c/o BPMA, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL, phone 020 7239 2570, or email nps@ukphilately.org.uk •

Stamp fairs & exhibitions Spring Stampex at the Business Design Centre, Upper Street, London N1 on 22-25 February, will include displays in a 'Special Invitation National Competition'. As usual Royal Mail will have a stand offering the full range of stamps and philatelic products. For enquiries about Stampex, call 01273 594110.

The Philatex fair at the Royal Horticultural Halls, London SW1 (near Victoria station) takes place on 19-21 April and on 11-12 May the well-attended Scottish Philatelic Congress will be held at the Dewar Centre in Perth. The main international exhibitions of 2012 will be Salon du Timbre in Paris (8-17 June), Indonesia 2012 in Jakarta (18-24 June), and an international in Doha, Qatar (21-26 September, to be confirmed)•

GB Philatelic Society The GBPS, founded in 1955, is the main society for collectors of GB stamps, especially pre-Elizabeth II issues. At the next meeting, on 21 January, Peter Lister will talk on 'A Week in September' about the 1911 Coronation Aerial Post (11am), followed by Society

Competitions (2pm). On 31 March Gerald Marriner will display Postage Dues (11am) and Barrie Cook and Tony Stanford GB Overprints (2pm). Both meetings are at the Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1.

The GBPS will also hold a meeting from 11am on the Saturday of Spring Stampex (see above). For more details about events and membership of the GBPS, contact Peter Tanner, 13 St Hubert's Close, Gerrards Cross, Bucks SL9 7EN or visit www.gbps.org.uk •

Europa competition winners PostEurop, the organisation of European postal administrations, has announced the top three winners of the 2011 Europa Stamp Competition: Turkish PTT (Turkey), Magyar Posta (Hungary) and CTT Correios (Portugal). The theme for the 2011 Europa issues was Forestry. The theme for 2012 is 'Visit' •

Michael Briggs retires After 47 years at Stanley Gibbons Ltd, Michael Briggs retired in November 2011. Michael joined the famous stamp company in 1964 and worked at the 391 Strand shop under John Farthing (later Managing Director), where some of his early duties included preparing the window displays. In 1970 he joined the staff of *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, working alongside editor Russell Bennett and stalwart features writer James Watson. For most of his years with Stanley Gibbons Michael has designed the magazine's pages and front covers as well as contributing news features. He also compiled many of the catalogue supplements, a main feature of GSM. Michael also found time to design front covers for some SG catalogues, act as the company's archivist, and update some of its publications, including *How to Arrange and Write up a Stamp Collection* and *How to Identify Stamps*. He has also written *Focus on Stamps*, published by Hamlyn in 1992.

While developing his formidable knowledge of stamp issues of the past 40 years, among the many people in the stamp world whom Michael recalls meeting are stamp designers Barbara Brown, David Gentleman (who showed him how to make a 'hot air balloon' from an Amaretti macaroon wrapper) and Brian Sanders. In his early days at SG, Michael used to write up collections and recalls two in particular – the A R Wills collection of Mulready items, Penny Blacks and Twopence Blues (which won a Large Gold at Philympia), and a W C Neild collection of Falkland Islands. Wills had some fantastic material, including the largest known block of the VR Official (36 stamps).

Michael looks forward to having time in retirement to work on his own collections of GB stamps, London special postmarks and printed postage impressions. Hopefully he will continue to contribute to the philatelic press and will remain in contact with SG, not least through his wife Michelle, the SG Catalogue Department Manager. We wish him a well-deserved long and happy retirement and thank him for the help he has given to the *Bulletin* in supplying information and images over many years •

Save stamps, save albatrosses One of the world's iconic symbols of majesty and freedom, albatrosses are the largest flying birds on the planet and ▸

Diary dates

January 2012

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

12 James & Donald entertain at Sheffield Philatelic Society, United Reform Church, Norfolk St (facing Crucible Theatre). 7.15-9.30pm. New members welcome. Email secretary@sheffieldps.org.uk for details.

14 Tony Bosworth NPS display: 1936 Berlin Olympics. More on page 140.

20 & 21 York Stamp & Coin Fair, York Race Course, Admission free.

21 'A Week in September' talk by Peter Lister, GBPS, see page 140

28-29 Red Rose Postcard and Stamp Club Fair, Barton Village Hall (on A6 north of Preston). Entry 50p.

February

8 Strand Stamp Fair, as above.

22-25 Spring Stampex at the Business Design Centre, Upper Street, London N1.



Above: at this time of year many albatross parents travel thousands of kilometres for food – your old stamps can help them

extinction. A Christmas stamp appeal is part of the Save the Albatross Campaign, run by the RSPB in conjunction with BirdLife International. The stamp appeal has so far raised more than £100,000 since its beginnings in 2004 – and so has made a significant contribution to the protecton of the world's albatross population.

You can send stamps to RSPB Stamps, PO Box 6198, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire LU7 9XT or drop them off at an RSPB reserve site (please sort the UK from foreign stamps). If you would like to donate more valuable items, such as covers or albums, please send to: Stamp Volunteer, Community Marketing, RSPB The Lodge, Sandy, Beds SG19 2DL •

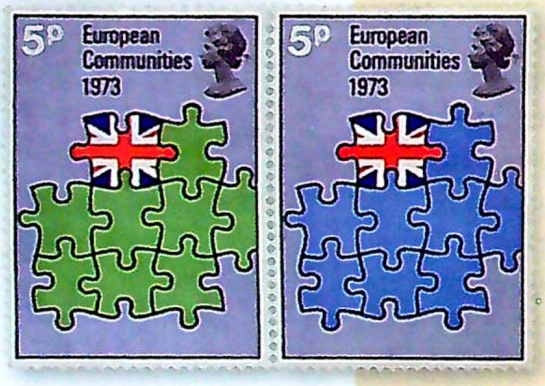
Auction news Cavendish will hold an auction of GB Rarities at its Derby auction rooms on 25 January. This will comprise the collections of Frank W Thompson and Peter J Thompson, covering the period 1839 to 1995. The catalogue will be available online at www.cavendish-auctions.com. For further information contact Cavendish on 01332 250970.

Spink will hold a 'Winters Collection Series' auction on 26 January. Enquiries to Spink on 020 7563 4000 or visit www.spink.com.

Grosvenor will hold a British Empire & Foreign auction on 8-9 March and a GB Stamps & Postal History sale on 25-26 April. For enquiries phone 020 7379 8789 or visit www.grosvenorauctions.com •

End of an era The RMS *St Helena*, which serves the remote Atlantic island of the same name, docked in the UK for the last time in October after more than 20 years' service. In future the vessel will serve St Helena from Cape Town and Ascension. The ship featured on St Helena stamps in 2010 •

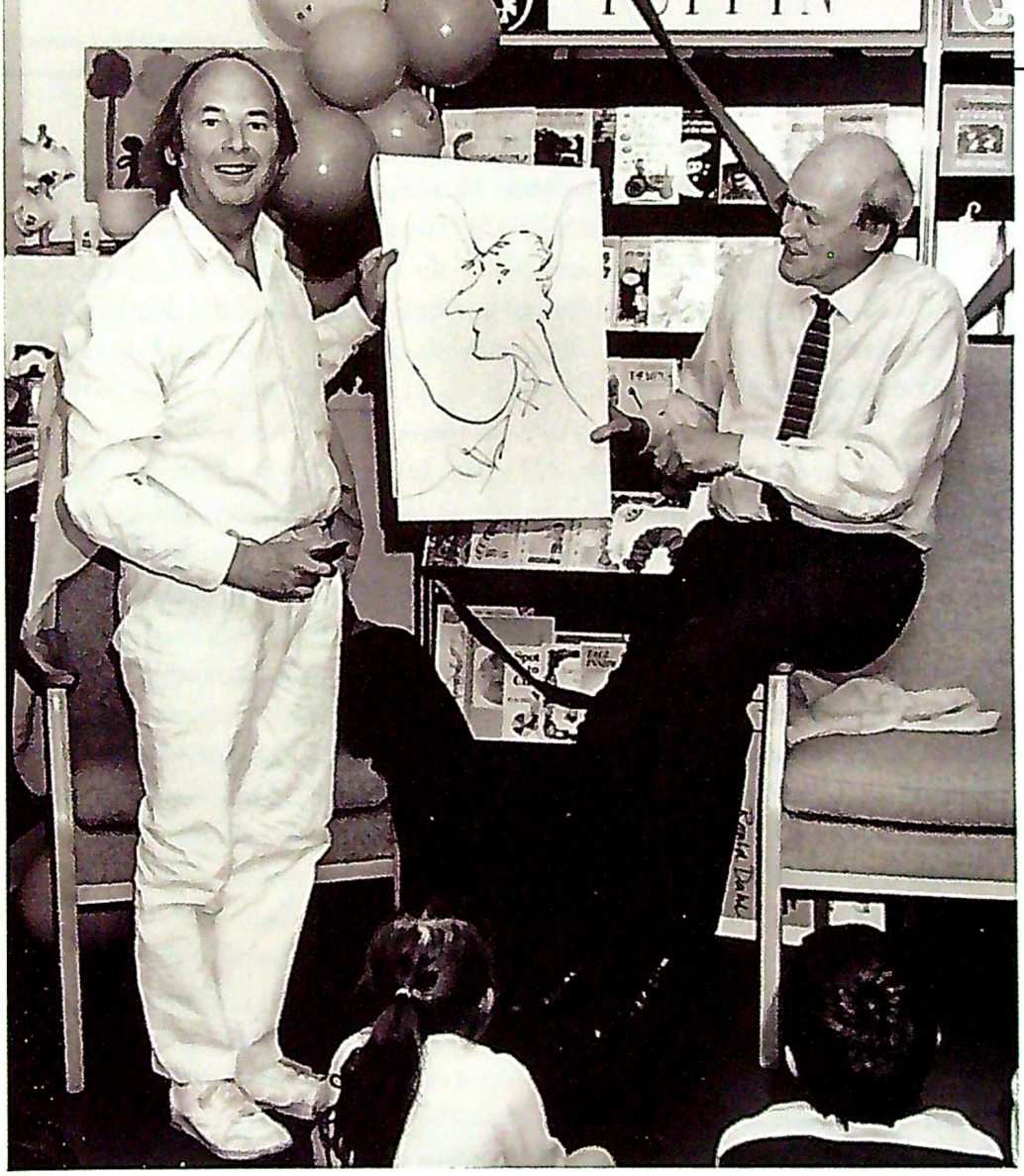




This month in history – January 1973

On 1 January 1973, the United Kingdom became a fully fledged member of the European Economic Community – a matter which remains contentious to this day. Three stamps, in a common design, marked the event. They were designed by Peter Murdoch, produced by Harrisons and issued on 3 January, comprising a 3p stamp for the UK 1st Class rate and a se-tenant pair of 5p stamps, the rate for letters to Europe. The designs featured a jigsaw of nine pieces representing the nine member countries (this has since increased to 27 nations). One of the jigsaw pieces showed the Union Flag, and always reminds me of the opening sequence of the television show 'Dad's Army'.

A few of the stamps were pre-released in error in London and a cover is known bearing the stamps postmarked in Edinburgh on 28 December 1972. Some 54.8 million of the 3p stamp were sold, 11.8 million of the two 5p values and over 105,000 presentation packs, some of which contained an insert card with German text, worth more than the standard pack. Collectors of first day covers tend to seek covers with postmarks for the European ferry ports of Dover, Folkestone, and Southampton •



Left: Quentin Blake and Roald Dahl entertaining children in hospital
Below: this month's Roald Dahl issue features many of his much-loved children's stories, including the *James and The Giant Peach*



The wonderful story of Mr Blake and Mr Dahl

Illustrator Quentin Blake added a certain magic to Roald Dahl's work. Alison McClintock discovers how the two worked so well together

IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE Roald Dahl's work without the distinctive illustrations so synonymous with characters, such as *Matilda*, *The BFG* and *Fantastic Mr Fox*. But how did the partnership come about? It was their canny publisher at Jonathan Cape who brought Dahl and Blake together. He and Dahl were looking for someone to illustrate *The Enormous Crocodile* and Blake, who was already well established as an illustrator, was asked to do a few experimental drawings for the book. 'I was nervous when we first met,' he admits. 'Dahl was already a very, very famous author, and I was anxious to get the job. A few other people had been asked to do some work for it too, so it was like a ▸

little exam. But I passed.' And he passed with flying colours, it would seem. Their first lunch began a partnership between author and illustrator that lasted from 1975 until Dahl's death in 1990. By then the pair had collaborated on 19 books, including *Danny Champion of the World*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and *The BFG*, which celebrates its 30th anniversary this year.

Different paths

Dahl and Blake shared a devotion to work that resulted in a prolific output, but their earlier lives had been very different. Dahl, born in 1916 in Wales to Norwegian parents, excelled in his military career, rising to the rank of wing commander in World War II before he took up writing. He was deeply affected by the deaths of his sister (when he was a child) and his daughter – both of whom died at the age of seven. He also lost his father when he was only three years old. It has been suggested that these experiences shaped the 'dark side' of Dahl's writing – his adult fiction is characterised by strange and often tragic twists of fate, and a mischievously dark humour runs through his children's stories. After World War II and a stint working for Shell in Tanzania, Dahl wrote 22 books for children, 13 for adults, and many poems, plays and screenplays.

Blake was born in 1932 in Hackney and educated at Cambridge and the Chelsea School of Art, where he taught for many years. He was the first Children's Laureate in 1999, and recently received the last Prince Philip Designers Prize. Blake illustrated 19 of Dahl's books, has written 35 of his own children's books and illustrated another 270 – and is still going strong.

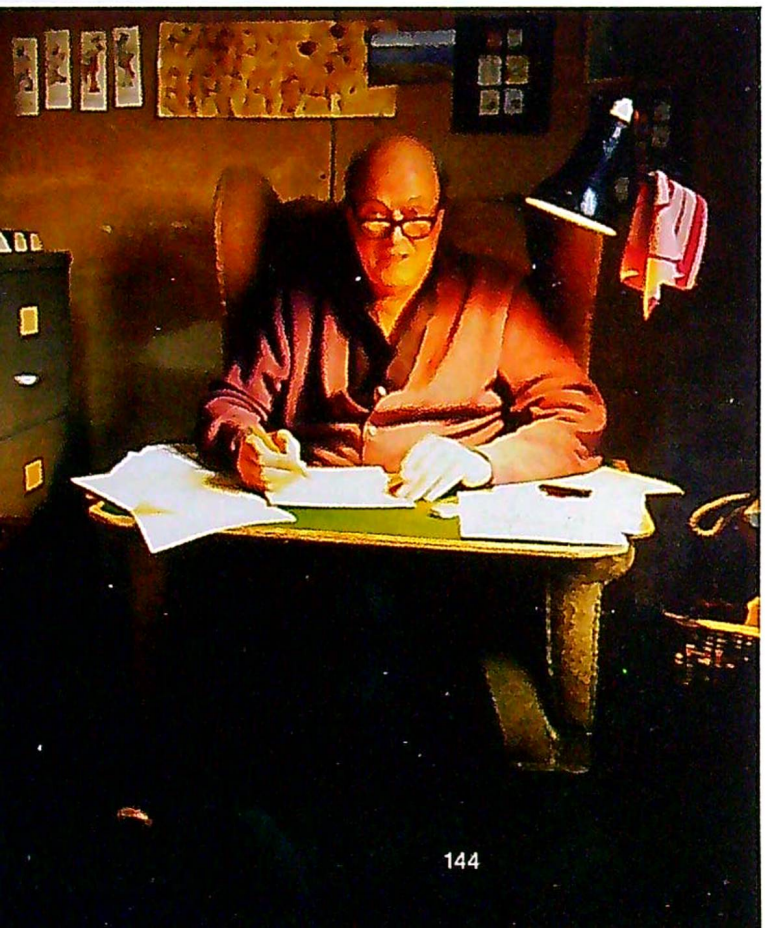
Inspiration through action

When asked to describe what Dahl was like as a person, Blake gives some insight as to why their working partnership flourished: 'He was not at all like me,' Blake says, 'he was a man of action and that's what made him so good at telling stories.'

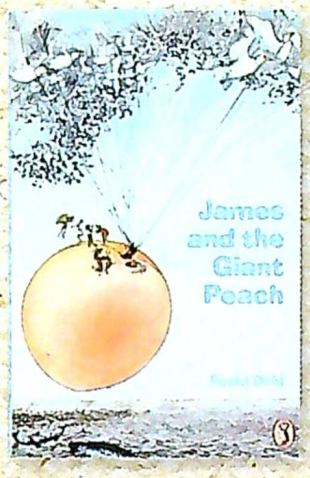
This clearly gave Blake the inspiration he needed – his imagination thrived on Dahl's plots and pace. 'It was wonderful for me,' he says. 'Some books are all about what people are thinking and what their emotions are at that time, but Roald explained things through activities. There was always something happening so there was this excitement about what you could draw.'

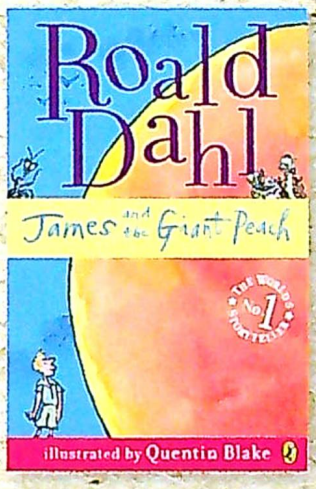
And in return Dahl loved how Blake's pictures complemented his work. Dahl saw the illustrations as an integral part of his story-telling and paid a great deal of attention to the balance of words and illustrations on the printed page, to ensure that they worked together to maximum effect. For example, when *The BFG* was already at the printers, Blake received a telephone call to say that Dahl wasn't happy because there weren't enough of his pictures in it! ▷

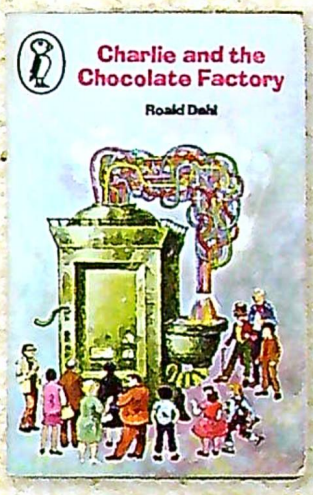
Below: Roald Dahl at work in the garden shed which he famously used as a writing studio

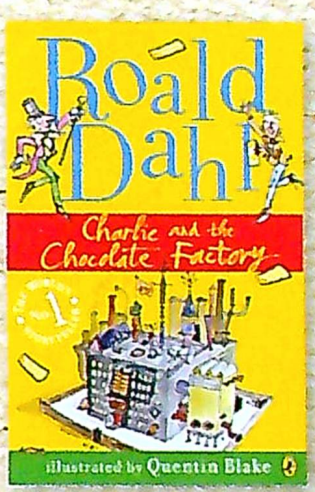


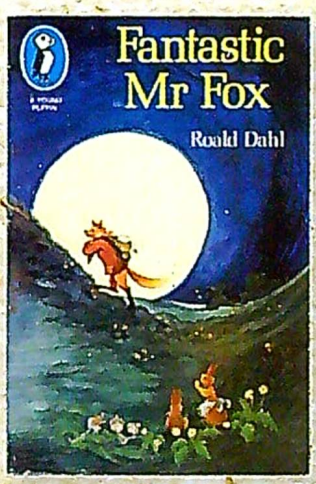
Dahl photo by Jan Baldwin. Book jackets: Jonathan Cape, Pearson, Puffin Books; Penguin plc, Alfred A Knopf

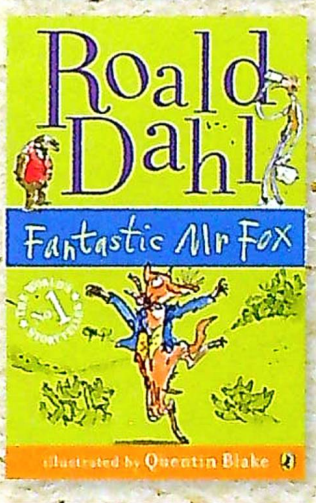


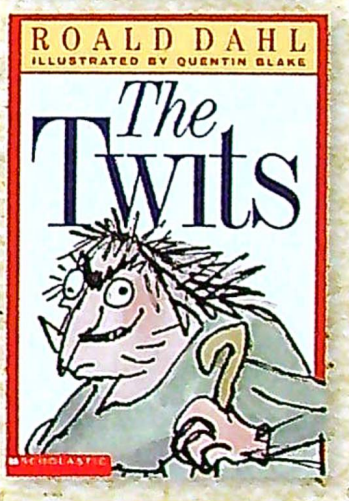


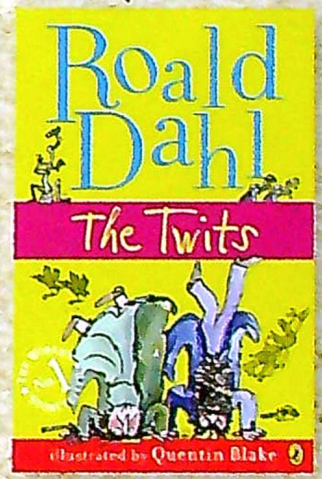


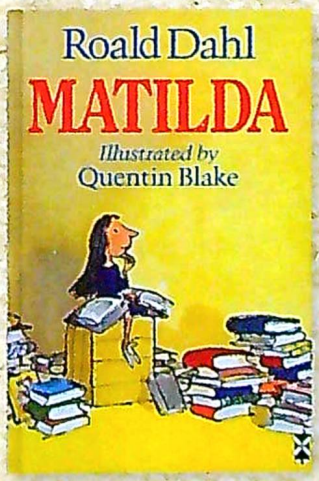


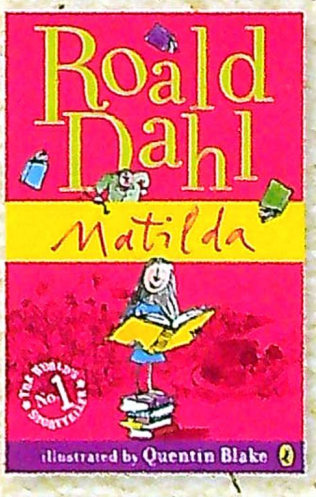


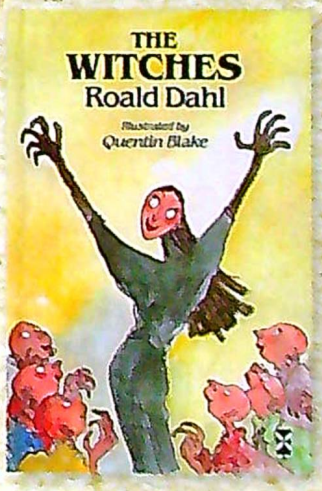


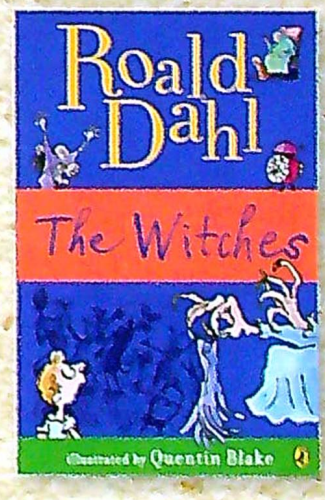


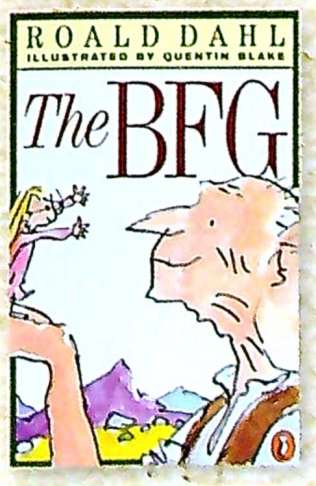


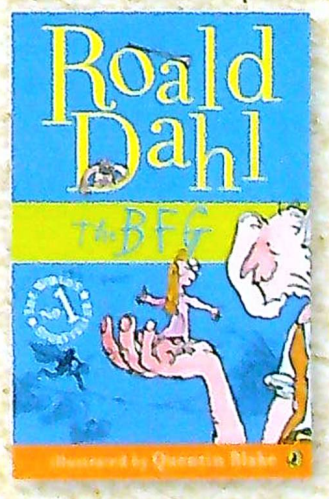






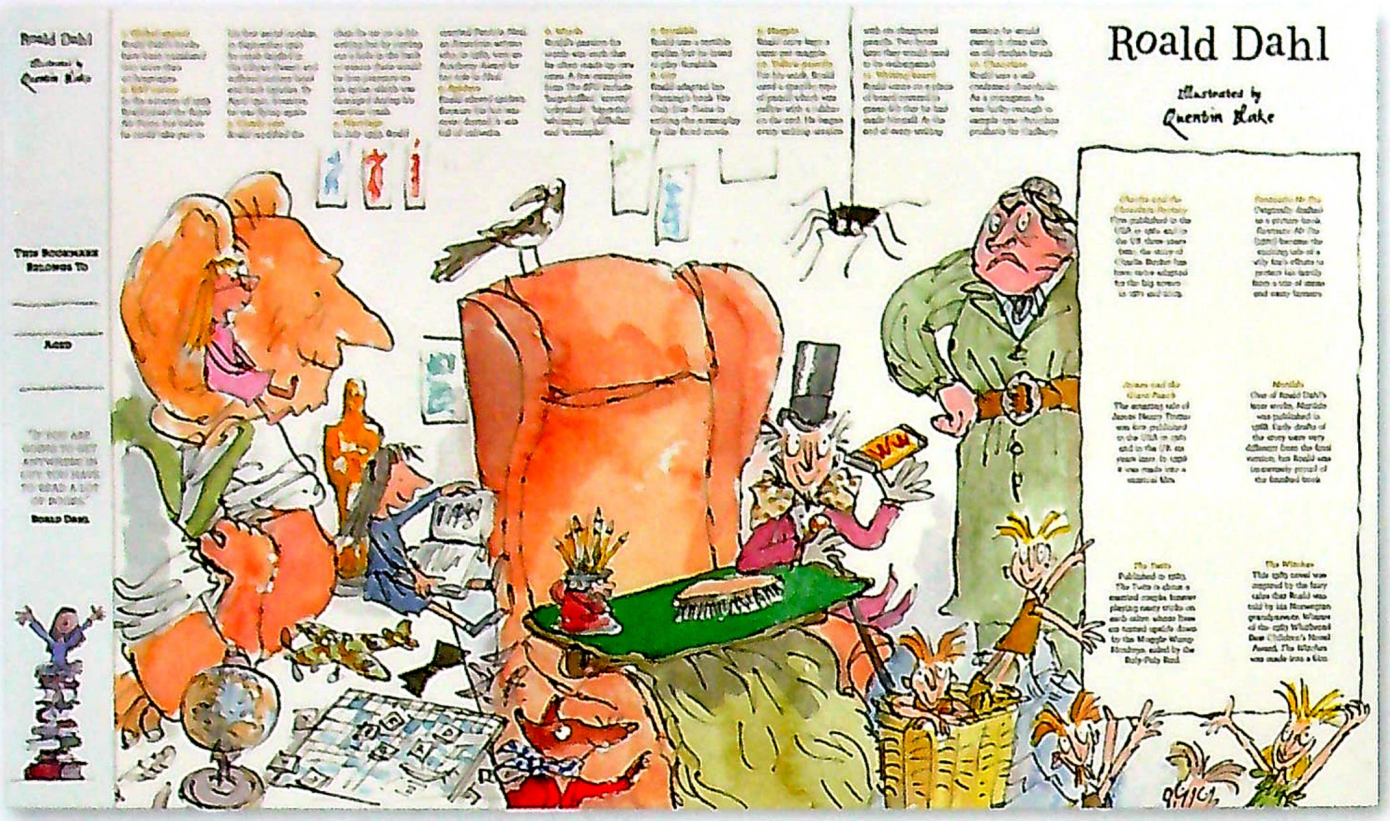






Quentin Blake's illustrations on this month's Roald Dahl special stamp issue are taken from these notable children's titles. Top row: an early covers of *James and the Giant Peach*, first published by Alfred A Knopf in the US and illustrated by Nancy Ekholm Burkert. An early paperback of *Charlie and The Chocolate Factory*. Both shown here alongside Blake's most recent cover designs for Puffin editions.

Second row: 1974 *Fantastic Mr Fox* in Puffin paperback illustrated by Jill Bennett , alongside Blake's most recent cover. *The Twits* covers from 1980 and 2007 editions, both illustrated by Blake.
Third row: Blake's cover designs for the first and most recent editions of *Matilda* and *The Witches*. Left: two of Blake's designs for *The BFG*, celebrated on the Miniature Sheet released on 10 January



Above: inside the Presentation Pack, released this month as part of the Roald Dahl special stamp issue, Quentin Blake's illustration includes a selection of characters from Dahl's children's stories, gathered around his 'writing chair'

Special deliveries

Dahl wouldn't tell Blake anything about a story before he began writing – so Blake always had a fresh reaction to the words and Dahl gave him *carte blanche* in his initial visualisations: 'The first time I found out about the characters was when I got a typed manuscript through the post in a brown envelope,' says Blake. 'He used to tease me and say, "Oh Quent you'll have fun with this one", or "Oh Quent you'll have trouble with this one." But, in a way, a book that's got trouble in it is interesting, because there is something difficult to do – I liked that.'

Blake would make drawings and notes in the margins as he read a story. 'I used to do rough drawings of the moments which I thought the audience would want to see, so the first collaboration was with the story,' Blake explains. He would then meet with Dahl to discuss and comment on the drawings. 'We didn't always see things the same way... we both liked things to happen so we had a great collaboration,' he adds.

Dahl was not averse to making changes to a story if he felt the pictures suggested them. For instance, The BFG began his life wearing a big leather apron and knee-length boots. 'The boots were only mentioned once,' says Blake, 'but of course they had to appear in every drawing.' Dahl felt the apron got in the way when the giant moved and, in Blake's words, 'the boots were just dull'. The two sat down for a rethink but couldn't agree on his footwear. 'Several days later I received an oddly shaped parcel,' says Blake. 'Unwrapping it revealed a large sandal – one of Roald's own, which is what the BFG now wears.'

Boredom, beards and bullies

Dahl had three pet hates – boredom, beards and bullies, and these niggles became inspiration for his and Blake's work. His desire to avoid boredom, in himself as for his readers, is evident in his description of what a children's

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, Fantastic Mr Fox, James and the Giant Peach, Matilda, The Twits, The Witches and The BFG
© Roald Dahl Nominee Ltd; artwork © Quentin Blake 2004, 2001, 1999, 2001, 2010, 1997, 1983 & 2012

author should be: 'They must be a jokey sort of a fellow', he once told *Writer* magazine. 'He must like simple tricks and jokes and riddles and other childish things. He must be... inventive.'

No fewer than 283 invented words appear in *The BFG*, in the giant's own made-up language called Gobblefunk. These include the BFG's favourite green fizzy drink named 'frobscottle' that has the nasty and noisy side-effect of giving the giant 'whizzpops' (flatulence). He eats 'repulsant snozzcumber' vegetables instead of 'human beans', and Dahl delights in calling his enormous sneezes 'snotdanglers'. Blake's drawings are a perfect match for such inventions. 'His imagination produced them,' explains Blake, 'I helped him see them.'

Facial hair was a second anathema. Even as a child he had expressed a wish to 'do something against beards'. And in his short children's novel, *The Twits*, Mr Twit sports a grotesque creation full of sardines and Stilton and cornflakes, all of which were drawn with vigour by Blake.

But it is his third *bête noire* that shows Dahl's vulnerable side. Fatherless by the age of four, Dahl was suffering severe physical punishment at his infants' school, reportedly for the Matilda-worthy jape of placing a dead mouse in a storekeeper's sweetie jar. He fared no better at boarding school where he was bullied, which led him to recall his school days as 'days of horrors' filled with 'rules, rules and still more rules that had to be obeyed'.

It is no surprise, then, that he came down hard on real-life bullies. And in his fiction, too, Dahl treated his bullies without mercy. In an interview with the *New York Times Book Review* Dahl reveals that his 'nastiness' was 'payback' and that 'beastly people must be punished'. This determination saw George's grandma in *George's Marvellous Medicine*, subjected to poisons, explosions and all sorts of contortions before she disappears. The cruel sister in his *Revolting Rhymes* version of Cinderella is beheaded by Prince Charming and Matilda's Miss Trunchball is threatened by a ghost. But Dahl's stories avoid vindictiveness, and are helped in this by Blake's fun-filled illustrations.



Above: The BFG talks with his little friend, Sophie.
Below: the inspiration behind the BFG's shoes – one of Dahl's own sandals



Light and shade

A mercurial enthusiast, Dahl was always urging Blake to try or read things that interested him or meet people he liked and who entertained him. He packed his children's literature with the same energy and activity because, as he told the *New York Times Book Review*, 'Children are... highly critical. And they lose interest so quickly. You have to keep things ticking along. And if you think a child is getting bored, you must think up something that jolts it [the story] back. Something that tickles. You have to know what children like.'

Blake once described his illustrations as a 'sort of handwriting'. And Dahl acknowledged, 'it is Quent's pictures rather than my own written descriptions that have brought to life such characters as the BFG'. The legacy of that working partnership continues to enthral millions of children across the world and to support the Roald Dahl's Marvellous Children's Charity of which Blake is president. Each year the charity helps thousands of children in the UK who are living with serious conditions of the blood and the brain – causes important to Dahl in his lifetime •

The Four Kings

Adrian Keppel examines the production of stamps during the reigns of the Four Kings, to coincide with this month's new Kings and Queens issue

THE ERA OF the Four Kings is an important one in British philately, marking as it does the transition from classic stamp production to more modern stamp-issuing policies. We note how the balance shifts from purely definitive issues to an emphasis on commemorative stamps. Along the way, various changes in stamp production were introduced which helped shape our stamp catalogues as we know them now.



Fig 1



Fig 2



Fig 3



Fig 4

Fig 1 Issued in January 1902, 2½d, printed by De La Rue.
Fig 2 1911 1½d, printed at Somerset House
Fig 3 1911 4d, perf 15x14, printed by Harrison & Sons
Fig 4 The unissued 2d Tyrian plum, printed by De La Rue



King Edward VII (1901-1910)

The reign of King Edward VII is characterised by a process of continuation. De La Rue had held the contract to print stamps in letterpress ever since 1855, when the first surface-printed stamps of Great Britain were issued during the reign of Queen Victoria. A new ten-year contract had just been negotiated in 1899, so they remained the sole printers of British stamps during the first King's reign (see fig 1). Issued 110 years ago this month, the first Edward VII stamps featured the left-facing profile of the King by Austrian sculptor and artist Emil Fuchs.

At the end of their ten-year contract, De La Rue submitted to the Board of Inland Revenue a lower tender, to reduce the cost of stamp production. But it was still highter than that of Harrison & Sons, to whom the Board eventually decided to give the contract – in 1911.

By that time King Edward VII had died, but the change of printers would still have an impact on his stamps. As stamps for the new King – George V – were not ready yet, various provisional printings were made of the existing Edward VII design between 1911 and 1913. Harrisons did not have the facilities to print multi-coloured stamps, so they printed the mono-coloured stamps there and the bi-coloured stamps (see fig 2) were printed at Somerset House. This is easily the most intricate period of King Edward VII's reign, as the printings are very hard to distinguish, especially since mono-coloured stamps were later printed at Somerset House too. The only easy ones to identify are all stamps with perf 15 x 14 – these could *only* have been printed by Harrison & Sons – as all other stamps are perf 14 (see fig 3).

All stamps during this era were printed on paper with the Imperial Crown watermark for the low values, and with the Large Anchor watermark for the high values. Only ordinary paper was used until 1905, when chalk-surfaced paper was introduced for various values. This paper had a special coating making it harder for postmarks to be removed. By 1910 a third type of paper had been introduced for the provisional printings only. This was smoother than the earlier provisional printings, which were on coarser paper.

All images author's own except for 10 and 13, courtesy of Grosvenor Auctions

The most exciting item from Edward VII's reign is undoubtedly the unissued 2d Tyrian plum (fig 4). It was produced in May 1910 as part of De La Rue's project to replace all bi-coloured stamps with mono-coloured ones. But the death of the King prevented its issue, and the majority of the stock was destroyed with only a few copies surviving. Other major items to watch out for are the inverted watermarks, which occur on a good number of values printed by all three printers (although the De La Rue versions command the highest catalogue prices), and the first booklets issued in Great Britain, which appeared in 1904 (fig 5).



Fig 5 A 1904 booklet pane, printed by De La Rue



King George V (1910-1936)

The picture becomes even more muddied when we enter the reign of King George V properly. Concentrating on the printers first, we have Harrison & Sons printing the surface-printed Downey Head definitives of 1911, although some of them are also printed at Somerset House. The two are now so indistinguishable that they no longer warrant different catalogue numbers. The best way to recognise the two printings (and that goes for subsequent joint ventures as well) is to look for copies with control numbers in the margins. The Harrisons printings have no full stop after the letter (fig 6), whereas the Somerset printings do. The 1912 Profile Head definitives follow the same pattern (fig 7). By the time the Profile Head issues get reissued with a different watermark, the main printer had become Waterlow & Sons, who would hold the contract for printing the low value definitives from 1924 to 1933. In 1934, Harrisons regained the contract, mainly because of their investments in what was then cutting-edge technology – the photogravure process. Before they were ready to commence printing in photogravure, however, new stamps were needed, so Harrisons started by printing some more of the Profile Head stamps in letterpress (fig 8), with the 6d printed at Somerset House (fig 9).

These provisional printings by Harrisons may sometimes be distinguished by their streaky gum. It is not until the mid-1930s that things quieten ▸



Fig 6



Fig 7



Fig 8



Fig 9

Fig 7 1912 1d Profile Head printed by Harrison & Sons
Fig 8 1935 2d definitive, printed by Harrison & Sons in photogravure
Fig 9 1913 6d Profile Head printed at Somerset House
Fig 6 1912 1d Downey Head printed by Harrison & Sons, without full stop after letter B



Fig 11



Fig 12

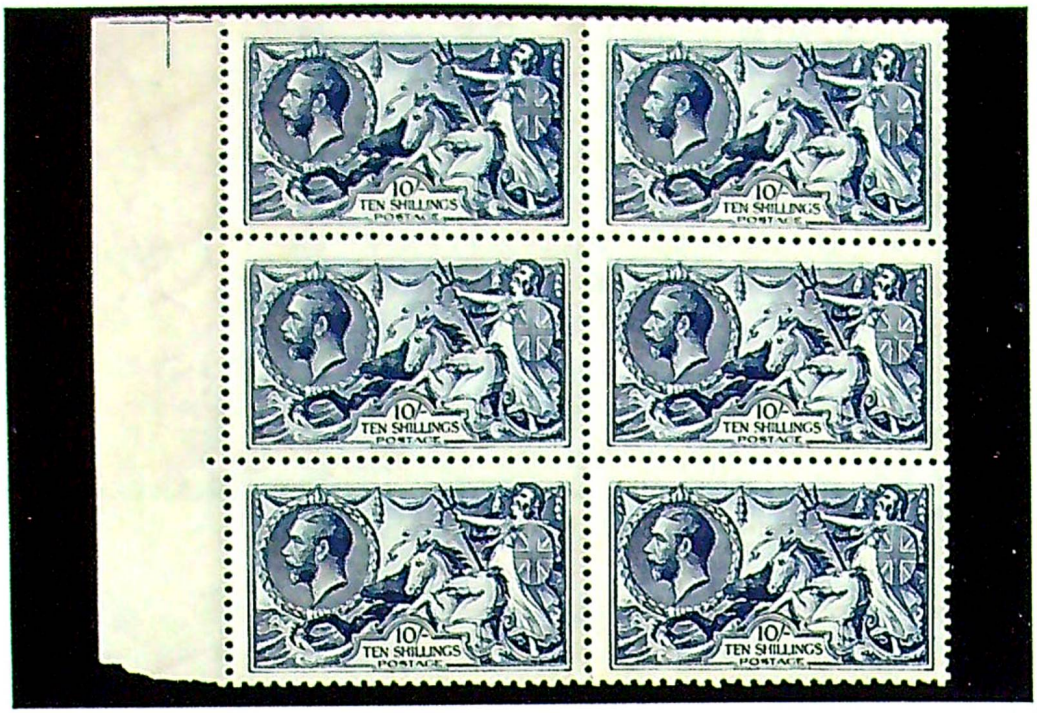


Fig 10

Fig 10 1918 Bradbury Wilkinson printings of the Seahorses
Fig 11 1925 1½d value of the 'British Empire Exhibition' set, printed in recess by Waterlow
Fig 12 1929 1d value of the 'Ninth UPU Congress, London' set, printed in typography by Waterlow & Sons

down and Harrison becomes the sole printer of the low value definitives, which would from now on be printed in photogravure.

A complicating factor in the George V era is the production of the high values. These so-called Seahorses stamps were printed in recess, for which different printing contracts were made up. The first set, of 1913, was printed by Waterlow Bros & Layton. This was followed by De La Rue printings in 1915, and Bradbury Wilkinson printings in 1918 (fig 10). The re-engraved version of the Seahorses was recess-printed by Waterlow and issued in 1934.

A final matter to look at is the production of Britain's first commemorative issues. Again, we find a mixture of printers responsible for various issues. The 1924 and 1925 recess-printed 'British Empire Exhibition' stamps were recess-printed by Waterlow (fig 11). The 1929 'Ninth UPU Congress, London' set (fig 12) was a joint venture by Waterlow for the low value surface-printed stamps, and Bradbury for the £1 recess-printed value. The final commemorative issue, the 1935 'Silver Jubilee' set, was printed in photogravure by Harrisons.



Fig 13 The rare Prussian Blue version of the 2½d Silver jubilee stamp

The first decade saw a variety of papers being used. Old stocks of paper with the Imperial Crown watermark were used for the first Downey Head stamps, and paper with a Simple Royal Cypher was introduced in 1912. The Multiple Royal Cypher paper was used in 1912 and 1913 for the production of coil stamps. In 1924, a Block Cypher watermark was introduced and this would be used for the remainder of the King's reign. Two subtypes exist, one in use by both Waterlow and Harrisons, the other by Waterlow only, as part of an experiment with different paper. In general it can be noted that wartime papers (used from 1917 to 1921) are coarser than the pre- and post-war papers. For the Seahorses and the UPU £1, special watermarks were used.

The most famous philatelic item in the King George V era is undoubtedly the Prussian Blue version of the 2½d Silver Jubilee stamp (fig 13). A total of four sheets of this shade were printed and inadvertently sold over post office counters.



King Edward VIII (1936)

The 11-month reign of King Edward VIII saw only four stamps issued. They were all printed by Harrison & Sons in photogravure on paper with a Block 'E8R' watermark (fig 14). The stamps were printed in sheets, coils and booklets. Because of the short nature of his reign, there are no errors or extraordinarily rare items to collect. The booklet panes with a variety of advertising labels could be said to be the most interesting collecting area, as are copies overprinted 'Cancelled' or 'Specimen'.



Fig 14



King George VI (1936-1952)

As with Edward VII, the era of King George VI is characterised by continuity. Harrison & Sons still held the contract for all low value definitives and were also responsible for all commemorative stamps issued during the reign. All stamps produced by Harrisons were printed in photogravure on a paper with a Block 'GVIR' watermark (fig 15). The only other printer involved in British stamp production during this King's reign is Waterlow, who held the contract for printing the high value definitives. The two high values sets that were issued during the reign of George VI – the Arms high values introduced in 1939 (fig 16) and the Festival high values of 1951 (fig 17) – are both recess-printed. Surprisingly, the wartime years did not have a noticeably detrimental effect on papers used. The only change was the use of different inks. Lighter colours were introduced during the war as a means of economising.



Fig 15



Fig 16

It may be regarded a sign of improved production techniques that in this reign, too, there are not any major errors to collect. The most (in)famous of all is not really a scarce item, but more a remarkable item. The Coronation stamp of 1937 may be a humble 1½d stamp, but it comes with more than 20 catalogued varieties (fig 18)! There are so many of them that it has sometimes been suggested that these major varieties may not all have occurred inadvertently. Be that as it may, it has turned the Coronation stamp into a proper collectable!

Fig 15 1947 11d definitive, printed by Harrisons & Sons.
Fig 16 1942 10s 'Arms' high value in lighter ink, printed in recess by Waterlow & Sons
Fig 17 1951 10s 'Festival' high value, printed in recess by Waterlow & Sons
Fig 18 One of the 20 catalogued versions of the Coronation stamp of 1937

By the end of the period of the Four Kings, stamp production had settled down considerably, with the bulk of the production in the hands of a single printer, produced in one printing method, and the high values being the only exception to this rule. And in subsequent decades, not much changed – it isn't until the early 1980s that we see the beginning of the end of the Harrisons' long monopoly, with new printers encroaching upon their terrain •



Fig 17



Fig 18

Codes on the Horizon J Newcomb checks out new accounting codes on Horizon labels







Above, from top: 1st Class letter code on gold label with serrated edge; 1st Class large letter, Welsh version; Special Delivery, next day, on obsolete white label

Since 26 September 2011 you may have noticed new codes appearing on Horizon labels. These new letter and number codes were introduced to convey more detailed information about the service used and the rate of VAT payable in each transaction. This article explains these different codes, following on from my article on page 14 of September 2011 *Bulletin*, which outlined the development of postage labels and listed the service indicators that have evolved since their introduction in 2002.

The first of the latest codes is positioned after the words 'Royal Mail' (or 'Parcelforce') and relates to the type of postal service in question; the second one is a number at the end of the line immediately below and indicates the rate of VAT payable on that service, if any.

An explanation of the codes is given below. The letters of the alphabet that are missed out are those which are considered less easy to read.

What the latest Horizon codes mean:

UPPER LINE

Services provided by Royal Mail

- **a** Articles for the blind
- **b** Inland letter, 1st Class
- **c** Inland large letter, 1st Class
- **d** Inland packet, 1st Class
- **e** Inland letter, 2nd Class
- **f** Inland large letter, 2nd Class
- **g** Inland packet, 2nd Class
- **h** International airmail letter
- **i** Mail order item returned
- **m** Forces letter
- **n** Forces large letter
- **o** Underpayment rectified on outgoing international letter
- **p** Forces packet
- **r** Airsure item
- **t** Forces item, free
- **x** International surface letter
- **y** Special delivery item
- **z** Standard parcel

Services provided by Parcelforce

- **5** Forces parcel
- **6** Economy international parcel
- **7** Standard international parcel

LOWER LINE

VAT rate on Royal Mail items

- **4** VAT exempt
- **5** VAT zero-rated
- **6** Standard rate VAT

VAT rate on Parcelforce items

- **7** VAT exempt
- **8** VAT zero-rated
- **9** Standard rate VAT

There are, of course, variations in the appropriate VAT level. Most inland mail and that which is sent within the EU is exempt from VAT. An exception to this is on Special Delivery items with a guarantee of Saturday delivery, on which VAT is standard – so their Horizon label carries the code 6 on the second line.

On mail sent outside the EU – and the Channel Islands fall within this category – VAT is zero-rated, so its Horizon label will show a code 5 on the second line. Similarly, VAT will vary according to the destination of an international parcel •

John Newcomb is a member of the British Postmark Society

Checklist of 2011 definitives To complete your records we bring you a full list of the definitives issued last year





Please note We quote Royal Mail order numbers (prefixed DS, YB etc) as given on Tallents House stock lists • Key to printers: C = Cartor, D = De La Rue, E = Enschedé, W = Walsall • Printing process: G = gravure, L = litho, I = intaglio • Unless otherwise stated, definitive and country stamps are self-adhesive, have a perforation gauge of 15 x 14 (with ellipses at lower left and right sides) and two phosphor bands (2nd class standard size one band) • The dates quoted are those on which the stamps were first available from Tallents House; in some instances they may have been available at Post Offices earlier to meet postal needs •

Machin definitives

8 March 1p, Maroon (DS017); 2p, Dark Green (DS021); 5p, Ash Pink (DS054); 10p Light Tan (DS109); 20p, Light Green (DS206). All self-adhesive with security ovals. No iridescent overprint. All D, G.

29 March 68p, Sea Green (DS681); 76p, Pink (DS760); £1.10, Lime Green (DS110); £1.65, Sage (DS165). All self-adhesive with security ovals. All D, G.





Left: the Aerial Post PSB definitives pane has a Downey portrait on its central label. Below: the Morris & Co PSB was the first to use the new colour Machins. Right: Arnold Machin Centenary Souvenir Sheet and illustrated stamp books

Country definitives

England

29 March 68p, Oak (ES682); £1.10p, Tudor Rose (ES110). All C, L, PVA.

Scotland

29 March 68p, Thistle (SS682); £1.10p, Tartan (SS110). All C, L, PVA.

Wales

29 March 68p, Daffodil (WS682); £1.10p, Prince of Wales Feathers (WS110). All C, L. PVA.

Northern Ireland

29 March £68p, Linen (IS682); £1.10 Parian China (IS110). All C, L, PVA.

Mixed-value panes from PSBs

22 March 3 x 5p, 3 x10p, 67p, 97p + central label with panda, In WWF Prestige Stamp Book (YB044). C, L, PVA.

5 May 4 x 5p, 2 x 10p, 2 x 50p + central label with Morris bird. In the Morris & Co Prestige Stamp Book (YB045). C, L, PVA.

9 September 4 x 5p, 2 x 1st, 2 x 76p + central label with three-quarter portrait of George V by Downey. In the Aerial Post Prestige Stamp Book (YB046). C, L I, PVA. (1st class gold and 76p stamps have security overprint with MPIL M11L code.)

Miniature sheets

14 September 10 x 1st, Arnold Machin Centenary Souvenir Sheet (S1004). W, G.

Stamp books

11 January 4 x 1st (+ 2 x Thunderbird stamps). In the FAB: The Genius of Gerry Anderson, *Thunderbirds* illustrated Stamp Book (UB323). W, G.

24 February 4 x 1st (+ 2 x 1st from the Medical Breaththrough special issue stamps). In the British Heart Foundation illustrated Stamp Book (UB324). W, G.

22 March 4 x 1st Large Stamp Book (UB325) and 4 x











2nd Large (UB326) Stamp Book, both with copy change – printer's name removed. W, G.

14 June 4 x 1st (+ 2 x 1st Thomas the Tank Engine Stamps – Thomas and Bertie the Bus). In the Thomas the Tank Engine illustrated Stamp Book (UB327). W, G.

27 July 4 x 1st (+ 2 x 1st from London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games special issue – Wheelchair Rugby and Paralympic Sailing). In the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games illustrated Stamp Book No. 5 (UB328). W, G.

23 August 4 x 1st (+ 2 x English Railway Stamps). In the Classic Locomotives of England illustrated Stamp Book (UB329). W, G.

15 September 4 x 1st (+ 2 x 1st from London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games special issue – Gymnastics and Fencing), London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games illustrated Stamp Book No. 6 (UB330). W, G.

25 October 5 Stamp Books with logo of the FSC (Forest Stewardship Council): 6 x1st with Stamp Calendar (UB331), 12 x 1st (UB332), 12 x 2nd (UB333), 4 x 1st Large (UB334), 4 x 2nd Large (UB335). W, G.

Pictorial (Smilers®) definitives

12 February 20 x Union Flag stamps + labels, 'Namaste! Hello from Royal Mail – New Delhi 2011'; Indipex Smilers® Exhibition Sheet (AT065). C, L.

30 March 10 x Union Flag stamps + labels, 50th Anniversary of E-Type Jaguar Commemorative Sheet (AV013). C, L.

10 June 10 x Union Flag stamps + labels, Prince Philip's 90th Birthday Commemorative Sheet (AV014). C, L.

28 July 20 x Hello stamps + labels, 'Hello from Royal Mail – Yokohama, Japan 2011' Philanippon Smilers® Exhibition Sheet (AT067). C, L.

15 September 20 x Royal Seal stamps + labels, 350 Years of the Postmark Generic Sheet (AT068). C, L.

8 December 8 x 1st, 8 x 2nd, 2 x 68p, 2 x £1.10 Christmas stamps + labels, Christmas 2011 Generic Sheet (AT069). C, L •

Commemorative covers and sheets

Orders and enquiries

Buckingham Covers
Warren House
Shearway Road
Folkestone
Kent CT19 4BF
www.buckinghamcovers.com/aerialpost
Phone 01303 278137

Benham
Unit K Concept Court
Shearway Business Park
Folkestone
Kent CT19 4RG
E-mail: orders@benham.co.uk
www.benham.co.uk

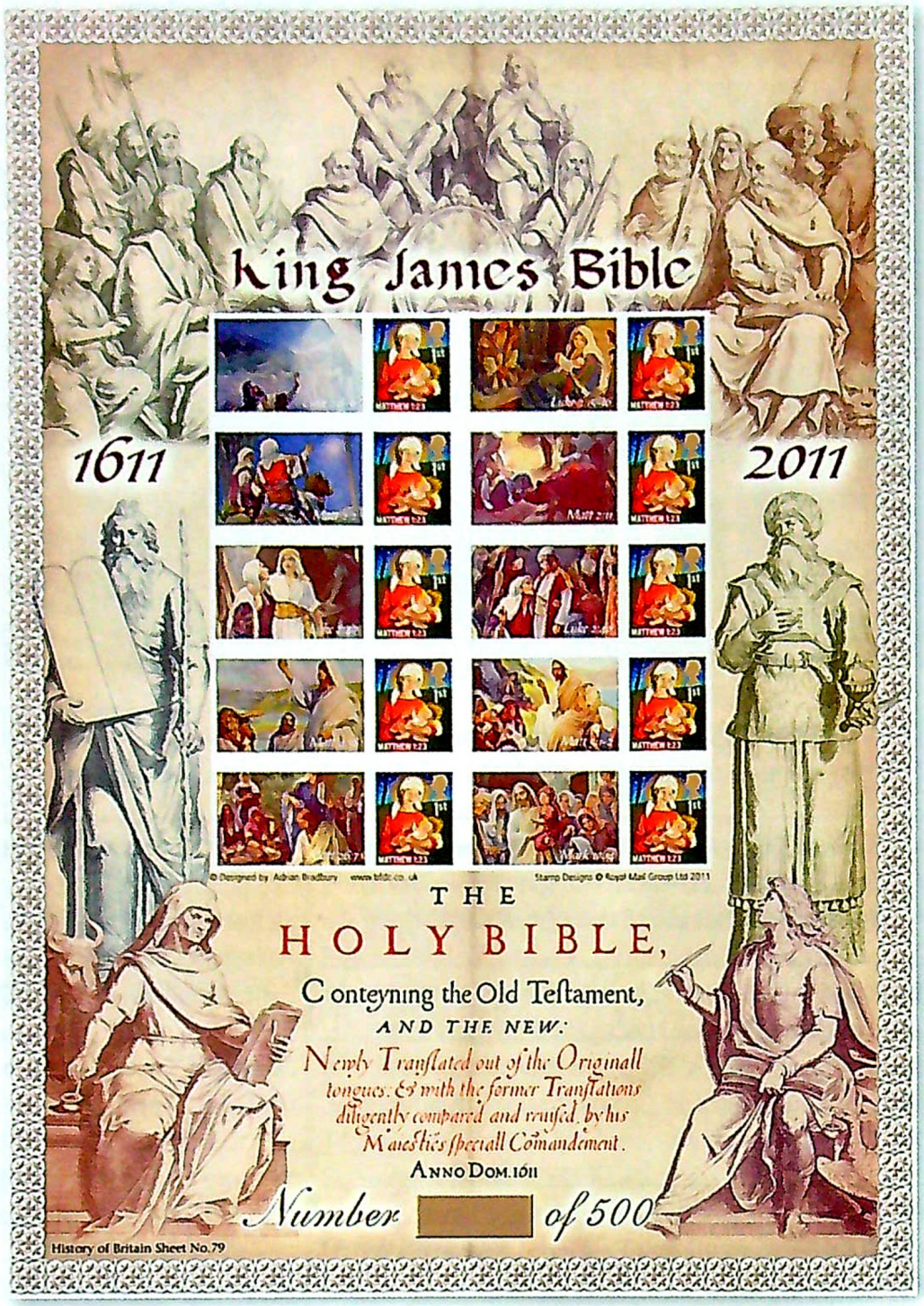
BFDC
A G Bradbury
BFDC Ltd
3 Link Road
Leicester LE2 3RA
Tel 0116 2705367
brad@bfdc.co.uk
www.bfdc.co.uk

Civil Defence Association
Secretary: T Essex-Lopresti
24 Paxton Close
Matlock
Derbyshire DE4 3TD
Tel 01629 55738
aedissel@btinternet.com
Cheques payable to the Civil Defence Association please.

GBFDC Association
PO Box 99, Widnes
Cheshire, WA9 0NN
www.gbfdc.co.uk

Nene Valley Railway Ltd
Wansford Station
Stibbington
Peterborough PE8 6LR

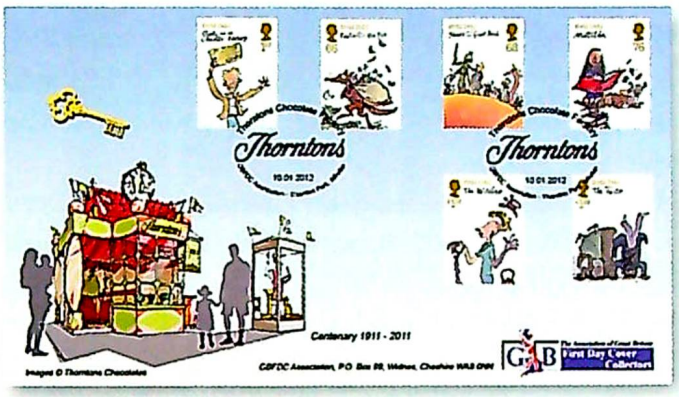
Cover producers wishing to announce a recent or forthcoming cover should submit copy of up to 75 words and an image of the cover. Announcements are published on a first-come-first-served basis or around a theme, at the discretion of the Editor. Please send submissions for March *Bulletin* to the address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



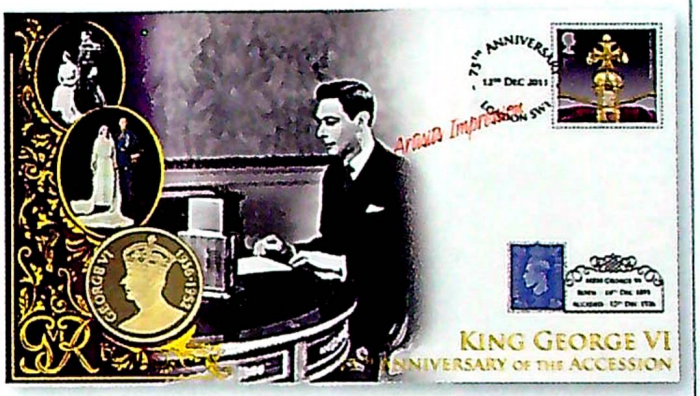
The 400th anniversary of the King James Bible is celebrated in this customised business sheet from BFDC. The design is based on the front page of the first edition. **Price:** £35 including p&p ●



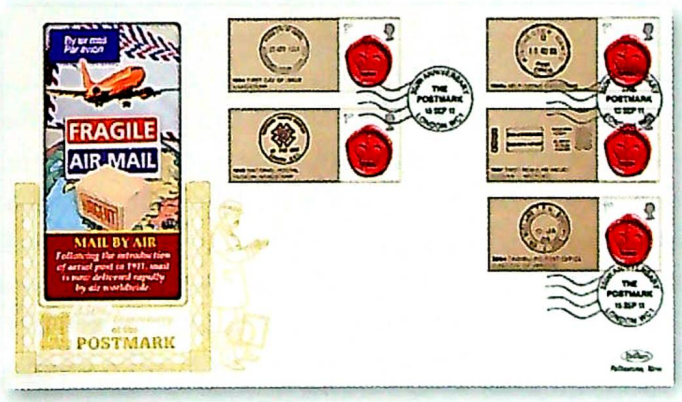
The Nativity – this BFDC cover of the Christmas 2011 Miniature Sheet is cancelled with the words of Matthew 2:10, cited on the £1.65 stamp. **Price:** £20 including p&p ●



Thorntons centenary cover Thorntons is the largest independent chocolate and confectionery manufacturer in the UK. It celebrate's the start of its 101st year of business with this Roald Dahl FDC from GB Covers. **Price:** £17.45 including p&p ●



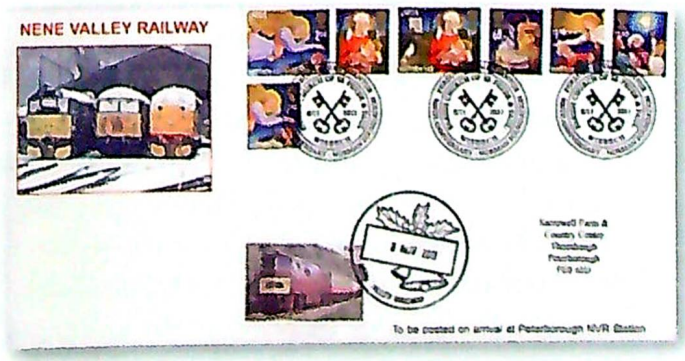
Marking the 75th anniversary of the accession of George VI, this cover from Buckingham Covers bears a 1st Class Crown Jewels stamp, a 2½d 1936 stamps and a commemorative medallion struck by Tower Mint. **Price:** £18.90 including p&p ●



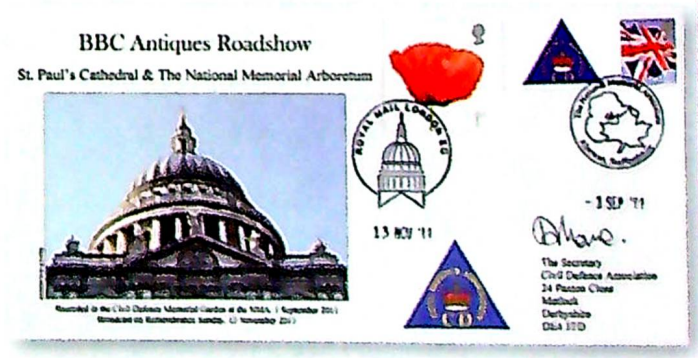
The 350th Anniversary of the Postmark is celebrated in this first 'Benham Gold' cover in a limited edition of 500. It carries five different examples of postmarks over the centuries, as featured on labels in the Royal Mail Commemorative Generic Sheet, and a special cancellation. **Price:** £21 including p&p ●



Pride of the North-east This Benham cover highlights Lindisfarne Priory in a central illustration and carries three first-day cancellations of the UK A-Z Part 1 special issue. The postmark is Jubilee Britain Berwick-upon-Tweed, for Lindisfarne. **Price:** £16.45 including p&p ●



Nene Valley Railway marks the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible with this commemorative cover featuring the seven Christmas 2011 stamps, labels showing NVR trains in wintry scenes and a special Nene Valley Railway handstamp. **Price:** £10.30 including p&p ●



The Antiques Roadshow at the National Memorial Arboretum, broadcast on Remembrance Sunday 2011, included an interview with the grandson of Alfred Sharr, a member of St Paul's Watch during WWII. This CDA double-dated cover bears the grandson's signature. **Price** £12.50 inc UK p&p.

Collect British Stamps John Holman reviews the 2012 edition of *'CBS'* from Stanley Gibbons



THE NEW 2012 EDITION of the Stanley Gibbons *Collect British Stamps* (CBS) catalogue is now available. Since it was first published in 1967, it has sold over 3.5 million copies, playing an important role in popularising the collecting of British stamps.

This latest edition is the 62nd and, with more than 200 pages, is a far cry from the original book. It lists all basic British stamps from the Penny Black to the 2011 Christmas issue, together with first day covers, presentation packs, PHQ cards, gutter pairs, Royal Mail yearbooks and year packs, and the now popular Post & Go stamps.

The introductory pages, often overlooked by users, contain important information including a 13-page commemorative stamp design index, especially helpful for thematic collectors. A 'Collecting Stamps – the Basics' section will help beginners, and the guide to stamp pricing and the glossary of philatelic terms are of value to both new and established collectors. CBS is the simplest Stanley Gibbons catalogue of GB issues and the 'Features Listing' indicates other catalogues containing more specialised material.

My main criticism of this CBS is the listing of the Machin decimal definitives which is necessarily complicated, owing to the longevity of this series and the vast number of values and variations. The listings have to be sought out within the chronological system, whereas the companion *GB Concise Catalogue* now has a self-contained 27-page Machin section, which makes it much easier to find specific stamps. A similar section in CBS would help. At present we have to go to pages 30-34 for the listing of 1971-96 gummed issues (stamps listed with X prefix numbers), page 72 for 1989-92 NVI stamps, pages 87-90 for 1993-2008 stamps with elliptical perforations (with Y prefix numbers), page 153 for 2006 PIP stamps, and pages 170-1 and 176 for 2009-11 self-adhesives (U prefix numbers). And one has to search still more pages for bespoke Machins, such as the 1999 large size from a Prestige Stamp Book and the 2000 Millennium issue.

The prices reflect the scarcity of some recent special issues. The three 2001 Submarine Service stamps on self-adhesive paper (SG 2207-9) are priced at £80 unused and the two Punch & Judy self-adhesives (2230-1) at £34. However, many prices seem based on face value rather than scarcity, and one wonders if used 2nd Class Christmas stamps justify their prices, considering they are still used in large quantities. In fact, some are priced higher than the more elusive greetings stamps of the 1990s.

Above and below: cover and typical pages from the 2012 edition of *Collect British Stamps*



These comments apart, CBS remains a well-produced and essential work of reference, now serving its third generation of collectors.

Stanley Gibbons *Collect British Stamps*, price £12.95. is available from Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB, and from Stanley Gibbons •

Prize draws A dragon's den of puzzles and a fierce crossword

Identify and Knowledge

1 *Identify* the stamp from the detail, right, with its name and year of issue.

2 Test your *Knowledge*:

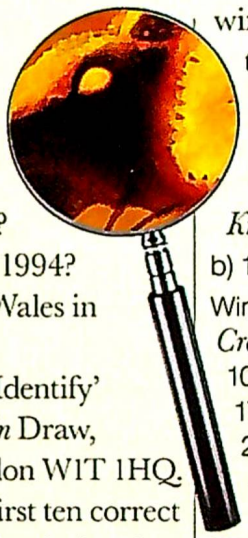
a) Who designed this month's Lunar New Year of the Dragon stamp sheet?

b) Who sat next to the Ice Dragon in 1994?

c) What sat in front of the Dragon of Wales in February 1998?

Send your answers , marked 'January Identify' and/or 'January Knowledge', to *Bulletin* Draw, 1st Floor, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ.

Closing date: 14 February 2012. The first ten correct entries drawn from our postbag after the closing date win this month's new stamp sheet and all items from the Roald Dahl issue •



November solutions and winners

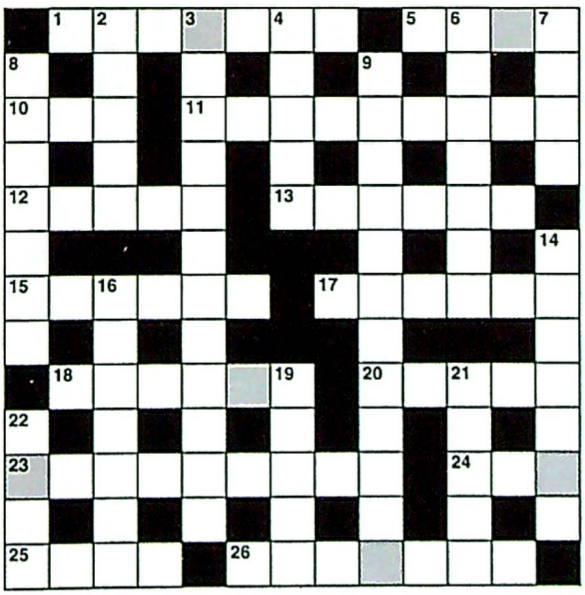


Identify: 18p Autumn stamp of 1993. Winner: Mrs E Bowater, Kidderminster.

Knowledge: a) Tony Benn. b) 1st Class. c) Lynda Gray. Winner: Mr D Slater, Congleton.

Crossword: Across: 1 Relieve, 5 Male, 10 Win, 11 Abolished, 12 Trial, 13 Assume, 15 Humbug, 17 Smudge, 18 Ethnic, 20 Ember, 23 Scrambled, 24 Air, 25 Aide, 26 Babyish. Down: 2 Ennui, 3 In all but name, 4 Viola, 6 Ashamed, 7 Ends 8 Twitchy, 9 Midsummer Day, 14 Terrors, 16 Matured, 19 Celia, 21 Bears, 22 Asia. Solution: vignette. Winner: D Seymour, London.

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 'January Crossword' at the address above. The first three correct entries drawn after 14 February win the Distinguished Britons issue



CLUES ACROSS

1 Have they escaped from awful regimes? (7)

5 River exists twice (4)

10 Lubricant to ease head off painful swelling (3)

11 Nearly let out day and night (9)

12 Artist appears in metal locomotive (5)

13 Military display of skin pattern (6)

15 Funny sulphur interior of the universe (6)

17 Reptile turns up in motel, truthfully! (6)

18 Aurally bends down like branches (6)

20 Label with two zeros forbidden (5)

23 Ten operas translated into artificial language (9)

24 Marshy land provides some defence (3)

25 Anglers use these as perches (4)

26 Note creating disorder over time (7)

CLUES DOWN

2 Island whisky article (5)

3 Environmentalist identifies the gardener's talent (5,7)

4 Level before start of throwing competition (5)

6 Us lot upset about party, having no tickets (4,3)

7 Bean sprouts on your artichokes as starters (4)

8 Touching prisoner with diplomacy (7)

9 Devious union's strict orders (12)

14 Tell of close-run election? (7)

16 Prevented despot wandering around park (7)

19 Seeing that section of dress in cerise (5)

21 Cause confusion involving Foreign Office in petition (5)

22 Almost strange block of water (4)

Prize draw rules and regulations

1 The closing date is 14 February 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) to 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 Melanie Williams, *British Philatelic Bulletin*, Royal Mail 1st Floor, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ. The promoter is Royal Mail Group Ltd, 100 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0HQ.



Happy New Year of the dragon

The Lunar New Year – Year of the Dragon

To coincide with the beginning of the Year of the Dragon on 20 January 2012, Royal Mail is issuing the Generic Sheet of 20 stamps, shown above.

For further details, please write to the address on page 130, visit www.royalmail.com, or phone 08457 641 641 •

Royal Mail

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