BRITISH PHILATELIC

Bulletin

The Royal Mail magazine for stamp collectors

Volume 49 Number 6 | FEBRUARY 2012 £1.20

Diamond Jubilee • Comics • Britons of Distinction



The new Diamond Jubilee definitive, issued this month

STAMP POLL RESULTS • PREVIEW LOCOMOTIVES OF SCOTLAND • 2010-11 INDEX

Issues and withdrawals



Cover Queen Elizabeth II, Dorothy Wilding (hand-coloured by Beatrice Johnson) 1952. © William Hustler and Georgina Hustler/ National Portrait Gallery, London. This portrait is included in *The Queen: Art and Image*, a touring exhibition that brings together 60 of the most resonant images of The Queen's reign. For details visit www.npg.org.uk

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2 February	**Issue** The House of Windsor and Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, Kings & Queens 6: Stamps, Miniature Sheet, Presentation Pack, Stamps 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
23 February	**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
1 March	**Issue** City of Cardiff Coin Cover
7 March	**Withdrawal** Magical Realms: Stamps, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards
8 March	**Issue** Classic Locomotives of Scotland, Great British Locomotives 2: Miniature Sheet, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards, Name Plate Cover
20 March	**Issue** Comics: Stamps, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards, Pin Badges
21 March	**Withdrawal** WWF: Stamps, Miniature Sheet, Prestige Stamp Book, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards

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The *British Philatelic Bulletin* is published monthly by Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB ● 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 Zenith Print & Packaging Ltd ● **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.

Postbox and inbox

First-class letter

Fitting remembrance

The Lest We Forget commemorative pane carries a modern copy of one of the embossed postcards decorated with embroidery by servicemen in World War II. As I happen to have some of these postcards done by 'the Lads', I decided to replace the modern one with one of the originals. I must say it looks very good – and I thought *Bulletin* readers might find this of interest.

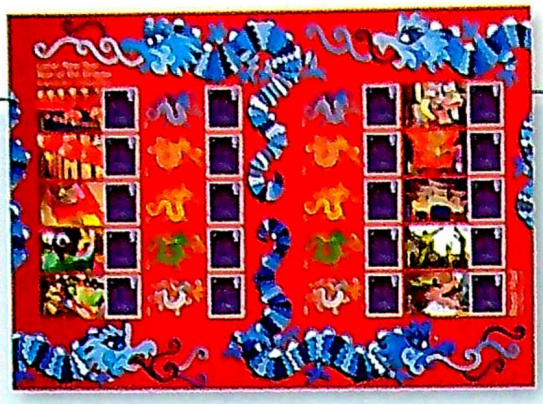
Mr AH Malony, Fareham



What a good idea – a fitting philatelic tribute to those who worked to create and preserve items of delicate craftsmanship in times of destruction.

When you're Smilering

In the October *Bulletin* Mr Beaney's letter, asking for more details of stamp sheet formats, struck a chord with me. What I find missing on

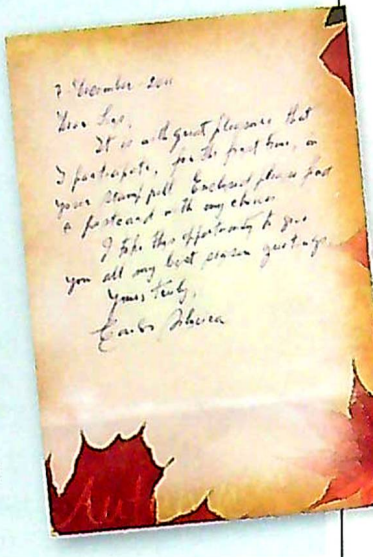


occasion is the name of the printer and the print process of Smilers® Generic Sheets.

Keith Johnson, Studio City, by email

We do our best to give readers full details of new stamps at least a month in advance, but all the Smilers® information is not always available to us at the time we go to press. We will try to improve this situation and hope the preview of the Lunar New Year sheet met your needs – on page 134.

Guess where this one's from?



Just one look at the scattered maple leaves and you might guess that this letter comes from Canada! We enjoyed receiving it from Mr Silveira of Toronto, along with his votes in the 2011 Favourite Stamp Poll. The results are on page 168.

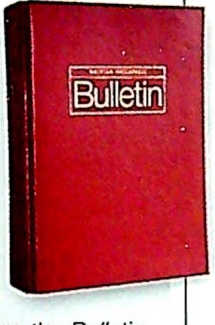
Letting off steam: **More details!**

I subscribe to Bulletin partly to obtain details of new issues. When details are missing I cannot prepare my orders properly. I find that the printer's name and gum/adhesive specifications are not given for miniature sheets, contents of Prestige Stamp Books are not fully described and prices of FDCs for non-UK residents are left out. These details are valuable to collectors. May I ask you to ensure they appear in future issues. I thank you very much.

Etienne Peremans, Brussels

We have taken steps to include prices of FDCs for both UK and overseas addresses and will provide more information where possible on the Prestige Stamp Books.

Keep the mail coming...



The Editor welcomes your letters and the senders of those published will receive philatelic delights as a thank-you. The writer of the 'First-class letter' award receives the *Bulletin* binder. Send your letters to: The Editor, *British Philatelic Bulletin*, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. Remember you can send emails to bulletin.enquiries@royalmail.com

February update Commemorating the Jubilee, new animals and a 1932 pillar box



Only two British monarchs have celebrated 60 years on the throne; Queen Victoria was the first and this month our present Queen Elizabeth will become the second. To celebrate the long reigns of both queens, Royal Mail is issuing a beautiful Diamond Jubilee Commemorative Document, printed in a limited edition on high-quality vellum-style paper.

This unique fold-out document has a window mount surrounding portraits of Queen Victoria and Queen Elizabeth II from the Kings and Queens stamp series. The window is flanked by the dates 1897 and 2012, the years of their respective Diamond Jubilees. Inside the document, more photographs and elegant calligraphy capture special moments of the monarchs' lives – carefree days of childhood, iconic Coronation portraits and images that capture the gravitas of their years on the throne •

Above left: the Diamond Jubilee Commemorative Document is available from Tallents House. Price: £7.49, in a limited edition of 6,000

London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Definitive Coin Cover Released last month as part of the commemorative definitives issue (see page 72, *Bulletin* November 2011), a unique limited-edition Coin Cover features the new commemorative coin from the Royal Mint – a brilliant, uncirculated £2 coin, as shown on the cover, right. The London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games definitive stamps carry the distinctive special postmark and an insert card charts some of the unique achievements associated with the event •



Below: this unique coin cover, issued in a limited edition of 15,000, carries a brilliant, uncirculated £2 coin. Price: £17.50



The animals come in six by six This month sees the launch of a new Royal Mail series of British Farm Animals Post & Go stamps, which will feature traditional UK breeds of sheep, cattle and pigs. The first issue, released on 24 February (during Stampex), features six traditional sheep breeds in their typical habitat, illustrated by Robert Gillmor.

The *Welsh Mountain Badger Face* is an ancient breed and the Domesday Book mentions sheep of a similar description. Today there are two varieties, both with the 'badger-style' stripe above the eyes: Torddu (Welsh for black belly, as shown top left) and the lighter Torwen (white belly).

Standing in front of a dry-stone wall, we see a fine pair of *Dalesbred* sheep, with a distinctive black face and a white spot on each side of the nose. This hardy breed has been reared in northern areas of England for generations and its resilient, hard-wearing wool used in the making of tweeds and carpets.

The origins of the *Jacob* sheep can be traced back over 3,000 years to Syria. With its distinctive spotted fleece and upright horns, it was introduced to the UK as an ornamental breed. Its wool is strong and long (up to 10cm) and therefore is ideal for hand-spinning.

A handsome all-black head, black legs and almost horizontal ears distinguish the *Suffolk* breed, which was created from crossing the Southdown and the Norfolk Horn. Its fleece produces fine knitting wools and tweed.

The sheep breed believed to be the UK's most primitive is the *Soay*, originating from the first

Post & Go British Farm Animals I, Sheep – Prices

Stamp Set	£2.76
First Day Cover UK	£3.79
First Day Cover non-UK	£3.16
First Day Envelope	30p

Post & Go British Farm Animals I, Sheep – Specifications

Date of issue	24 February
Number of stamps	Six
Stamp design	Kate Stephens
Stamp illustration	Robert Gillmor
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	56mm x 25mm
Printer	Walsall Security Printers
Print process	Gravure
Perforations	Kiss die-cut simulated
Phosphor	Bars
Gum	Self-adhesive

domesticated sheep that populated northern Europe. Small and robust with curved, ridged horns, it has a fleece usually chocolate or tan in colour.

Last comes the lovely *Leicester Longwool*, a large breed of sheep with a lustrous curly fleece, first developed by Robert Bakewell over 200 years ago. Bakewell was a pioneer in the field of animal breeding techniques in the selection of livestock (his work is said to have influenced that of Charles Darwin). The high-quality wool of the *Leicester Longwool* is always in demand by hand-weavers and is mainly used to create fine cloth, material for suits and knitting wool.

The six Post & Go Sheep stamps are available as a Stamp Set, printed in a sheetlet form and inserted in a card carrier designed by The Chase (as shown on page 135 of January *Bulletin*). It has information about each breed, written by Jack Byard, and a profile of the artist Robert Gillmor. The Stamp Set is available from Tallents House and will be overprinted with First Class values and a philatelic code in gravure.

Orders for serviced First Day Covers have to reach the Royal Mail by 24 February 2012. Customers may also send stamped envelopes on the day of issue to Royal Mail, Tallents House for the Tallents House, Edinburgh postmark. Customers who hand in or post stamped Royal Mail First Day Cover envelopes at main Post Offices® on the day of issue will receive the pictorial SHEEPDROVE, LAMBOURN, HUNGERFORD first day postmark (as shown above right). Alternatively, customers may send stamped envelopes to any of the Special Handstamp Centres for the pictorial or plain SHEEPDROVE, LAMBOURN, HUNGERFORD postmark, quoting the reference number of the postmark required.

Special posting facilities are available for first day covers and for the special exhibition overprint at this month's Stampex (see page 192).

Thematic collectors may be interested to know that other Royal Mail stamps to feature Sheep are the 1992 Wintertime (30p Welsh Mountain Sheep), 2004 Farm Animals and 2009 Christmas (£1.35 Shepherd with Lamb) •





Above, alternative pictorial postmark with an illustration of a Soay sheep, the UK's oldest known breed, and with the postmark of Sheepdrove, chosen as the suitably sheep-themed place name. The Tallents House Post & Go postmark shows a map of the British Isles

Small but perfectly formed The GVR Type E Small Combination Pillar Box, dating from 1932 is released on 7 February, the latest addition to The Royal Mail Pillar Box Collection. This is a delightful series of models for the serious collector – all the models are accurately detailed at a scale of 1:19 and are handmade and painted, with a pewter touch mark applied to the inside. The packaging carries an accurate illustration and includes historical information about the pillar box.

The consultant for this series is Martin Robinson of the Letterbox Study Group (who writes for *Bulletin* this month on page 186). The models are produced by DJH Engineering Ltd and the packaging designed by The Chase •

February farewells Audiences currently enjoying record-breaking runs of the musicals *Billy Elliot*, *We Will Rock You* and *Oliver!* will sadly be unable to buy stamps that celebrate their experience after 23 February, when the Musical special issue – featuring these and four other internationally acclaimed British musicals – is withdrawn. The *Oliver!* stamp is shown right •



Results of 2011 readers' poll

In December *Bulletin* we asked you to take part in our 26th annual stamp poll by voting for your favourite single stamp and favourite stamp set of 2011. Everyone at the *Bulletin* extends their thanks to all readers who took part •

And the winner is... The favourite stamp of the year among *Bulletin* voters is the First Class stamp of the Royal Wedding pair and not far behind in fourth place is the £1.10 Royal Wedding stamp. Your votes reflect the exceptional fondness in which readers hold the royal newlyweds and their place in history. And the number of philatelic spirits stirred by a grand wedding are almost matched by those inspired by the wonders of wildlife: in second place comes the Siberian Tiger and in third place the Red Panda, among the beautiful threatened species featured in the WWF issue •

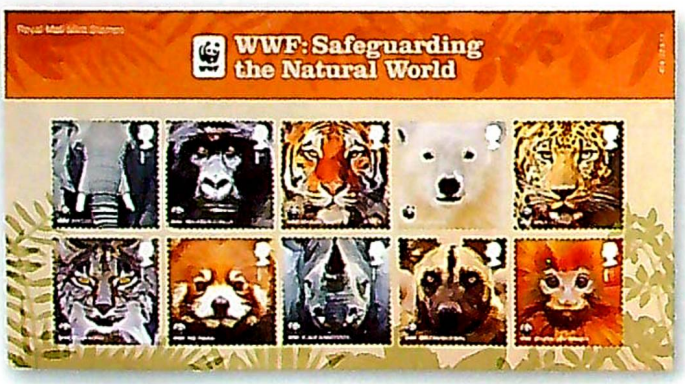
FAVOURITE SETS 2011

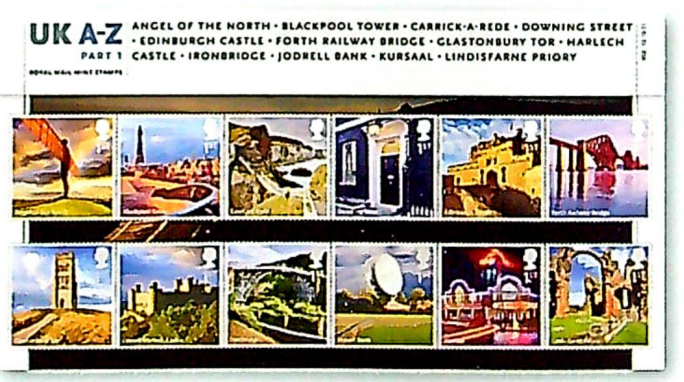
	Votes
UK A-Z Part 1	99
WWF	96
The Crown Jewels	77
Thomas the Tank Engine	58
Classic Locomotives of England	56
Morris & Co	53
The House of Hanover	32
Royal Wedding	30
Christmas 2011	25
Post & Go Birds of Britain II	21
London 2012 – Olympic and Paralympic Games III	19
Post & Go Birds of Britain IV	19
Post & Go Birds of Britain III	16
Aerial Post	13
FAB – The Genius of Gerry Anderson	13
Musicals	12
Magical Realms	11
Royal Shakespeare Company	6

Favourite set As soon as your votes started to come in, two sets leaped ahead of the pack and there was a very close race for first place between the UK A-Z Part 1 stamp set and the WWF set. At the final count UK A-Z Part 1 pipped the WWF by three votes to take first place. The elegant Crown Jewels set is in third place, chugging proudly into fourth and fifth place are the Thomas the Tank Engine and Classic Locomotives of England, and the Post & Go Birds of Britain sets II, III and IV flocked together as popular middle-rankers.

Julie Murray, Head of Marketing, Stamps and Collectibles, is pleased with this result: 'In the UK A-Z series, the varied locations were felt to have a strong appeal in particular regions, so we are delighted that they have won such broad popularity in the philatelic community. The WWF images were designed to deliver an important conservation message on inland and overseas mail. Again *Bulletin* readers have sent us a clear signal of their appreciation.'

Please note, readers were asked to vote for their three favourite stamp sets. We operate a one-vote-one-point system, so the numbers shown in the list of votes on the left represent the number of readers who voted for that set as one of their three favourites •





Prize draw winner All the postal votes and votes by email went into a prize draw and the lucky winner of the leather-bound Royal Mail 2011 Year Book is Mr Sam Bowater of Stourport-on-Severn. The senders of the next five votes drawn from the postbag are to receive the Diamond Jubilee Definitives and this month's Britons of Distinction issue •

Favourite stamp poll results In the table below the number in brackets following each stamp name refers to the key numbers beneath the illustrations on pages 123–5 of December 2011 *Bulletin*. All are first-class tariff unless otherwise stated •



FAVOURITE STAMPS 2011

	Votes
The Royal Wedding (57)	21
WWF: Siberian Tiger (46)	18
WWF: Red Panda (39)	17
The Royal Wedding: £1.10 (58)	16
UK A-Z Part 1: Forth Railway Bridge (124)	12
WWF: Polar Bear (38)	10
Classic Locomotives of England: 97p, BR WD No.90662 (20)	8
The Crown Jewels: Imperial State Crown (97)	8
Morris & Co: Philip Webb 1867 (60)	7
Thomas the Tank Engine: "Goodbye, Bertie," called Thomas (77)	7
WWF: Amur Leopard (41)	6
WWF: Siberian Lynx (40)	5
Kings and Queens: House of Hanover: 76p, Penny Black, 1840 Uniform Postage (111)	5
UK A-Z Part 1: Ironbridge (127)	5
Classic Locomotives of England: BR Dean Goods No.2532 (17)	3
Morris & Co: William Morris 1884 (59)	3
Morris & Co: 76p, John Henry Dearle,1901 (61)	3
Morris & Co: £1.10, Morris & De Morgan 1876 (63)	3
Thomas the Tank Engine: Thomas (71)	3
Post & Go Birds of Britain IV: Puffin (113)	3
UK A-Z Part 1: Downing Street (122)	3
FAB – The Genius of Gerry Anderson: Thunderbird (3)	2
FAB – The Genius of Gerry Anderson: Captain Scarlet (2)	2
Post & Go Birds of Britain II: Magpie (12)	2
Post & Go Birds of Britain II: Long-tailed Tit (13)	2
Musicals: We Will Rock You (23)	2
Magical Realms: Dumbledore, JK Rowling's *Harry Potter* (29)	2
Magical Realms: Nanny Ogg, Terry Pratchett's *Discworld* (31)	2
Magical Realms: Aslan, CS Lewis's *Narnia* (36)	2
WWF: Black Rhinoceros (37)	2
WWF: Golden Lion Tamarin (42)	2
Post & Go Birds of Britain III: Kingfisher (67)	2
The Crown Jewels: St Edward's Crown (91)	2
Kings and Queens: House of Hanover: £1.10, Victoria 1837-1901 (108)	2
UK A-Z Part 1: Angel of the North (119)	2
UK A-Z Part 1: Blackpool Tower (120)	2
UK A-Z Part 1: Harlech Castle (126)	2
FAB – The Genius of Gerry Anderson: 60p, *Thunderbirds* motion stamp (8)	1
Post & Go Birds of Britain II: Blackbird (11)	1
Post & Go Birds of Britain II: Chaffinch (14)	1
Classic Locomotives of England: 60p, Peckett R2 *Thor* (18)	1
Musicals: 97p, Billy Elliot (28)	1
Magical Realms: 97p, The White Witch, CS Lewis's *Narnia* (35)	1
WWF: African Wild Dog (43)	1
WWF: Gorilla (44)	1
WWF: Spider Monkey (47)	1
WWF: 97p, Jaguar (50)	1
Morris & Co: £1.10, Edward Burne-Jones c1864 (64)	1
Thomas the Tank Engine: James (72)	1
London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games III: Paralympic Sailing (81)	1
London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games III: Field Athletics (82)	1
The Crown Jewels: The Sovereign's Sceptre (92)	1
Aerial Post: 68p, Hamel ready to leave Hendon (100)	1
Aerial Post: £1.00, Greswell's Blériot at Windsor (101)	1
Kings and Queens: House of Hanover: £1, Queen Victoria, 1897 Jubilee (112)	1
UK A-Z Part 1: Carrick-a-Rede (121)	1
UK A-Z Part 1: Glastonbury Tor (125)	1
Christmas 2011: Matthew 1:23 (131)	1



Classic Locomotives of Scotland come steaming into view as a special issue next month

The Miniature Sheet's border carries a 1949 image of Glenfinnan Viaduct, and crossing it is a Fort William-to-Mallaig train, the LNER Class K2260

Four powerful old Scottish locomotives are brought together in a new Miniature Sheet released on 8 March. This is the welcome sequel to the series of Classic Locomotives of England stamps (see page 145, Volume 48) and celebrates the unsung heroes of the steam age, many of which had working lives of several decades before diesel and electric trains came into general use in the 1960s.

The two First Class stamps show two locomotives of class D34, Numbers 62471 and 62496. Both of these trains are former North British Railway (NBR) 4-4-0 locomotives and both are named after Scottish glens: 'Glen Falloch' (Number 62471) and 'Glen Loy' (Number 62496). They were built by

Classic Locomotives of Scotland Prices	
Miniature Sheet	£3.24
Presentation Pack	£3.75
First Day Cover UK	£4.36
First Day Cover non-UK	£3.64
First Day Cover Envelope	30p
Name Plate Cover	£14.95
Stamp Cards (five in set)	£2.25

Classic Locomotives of Scotland Miniature Sheet Specifications	
Issue date	8 March
Size of Miniature Sheet	179mm x 74mm
Number per sheet	Four
Design	Delaney Design Consultants
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	41mm x 30mm
Printer	Cartor Security Printing
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	14.5 x 14
Phosphor	All over
Gum	PVA

the NBR at Cowlairs between 1920 and 1921, to the design of WP Reid and the photographs used on the stamps were taken on 9 May 1956 at Ardlui on the West Highland Line from Glasgow to Fort William and Mallaig.

The 68p stamp shows a class D40, also a 4-4-0, of the type that the Great North of Scotland Railway (GNSR) used for most of its traffic. The 'Andrew Bain' was built in 1921 by the NBR, to the design of TE Heywood, and has the Number 62276.

'Bon Accord' is the name of the train on the £1 stamp. Built in 1897 by Andrew Barclay Sons and Company of Kilmarnock, 'Bon Accord' (Number 8078) belonged to the Aberdeen Gas Works. The image on the stamp shows the train working along Miller Street, Aberdeen, in the June of 1962.

Among the last of the Highland Railway locomotives to remain in active service was the 'Clan Mackinnon', seen on the £1.10 leading a fish train at Kyle of Lochalsh. This is a class 4-6-0 locomotive, LMS and BR, Number 54767. Its designer was Christopher Cumming and it was built by Hawthorn Leslie.





The starting point for the design of the stamps involved close collaboration between railway experts Professors Dugald Cameron and Colin Divall and designer Brian Delaney. They trawled through thousands of photographs of trains to establish a shortlist of the best ones for the stamp design. The Presentation Pack is designed by Tayburn and is written by Dugald Cameron. Also available is a Classic Locomotives Name Plate Cover, containing an enamelled replica of the 'Flying Scotsman' name plate •

Above from top: alternative first-day pictorial location postmark and Tallents House first-day postmark.
Below: postmark for the Classic Locomotives Name Plate Cover, with the LNER logo





Below: the Classic Locomotives Name Plate Cover, which includes an enamelled miniature version of the 'Flying Scotsman' name plate (left)





Biff! As *The Dandy* turns 75 this year, we celebrate the British institution of the top-class comic





Above: in true comic style, the two pictorial postmarks pack a punch

What memories are conjured up by these iconic comics and their unforgettable characters! Celebrating the most popular and influential comics and characters of the past 75 years, next month's Comics issue is bound to raise a nostalgic smile. Combining mind-boggling tales of adventure, heroes with superpowers and the chance to revel in naughtiness – for several generations these comics are a fondly remembered part of growing up.

Stamp by stamp *The Dandy* and Desperate Dan kick off this smile-inducing set. *The Dandy* was launched by DC Thomson & Co Ltd in 1937 and is the world's third-longest-running comic. Desperate Dan made his debut in the same year, delighting children with his tough-guy antics such as shaving with a blow torch and eating cow pies (complete with horns).

The Beano was first published in the following year and its great star, Dennis the Menace, began getting into scrapes in 1951. Other iconic strips include the Bash Street Kids, Roger the Dodger and Minnie the Minx.

Eagle hit the shelves in 1950 and the first issue, showing Dan Dare on the cover, sold 900,000 copies. Other popular stories included Riders of the Range and PC 49. *Eagle* had educational elements, too, containing news and sport sections and cross-section diagrams of machinery.

The Topper was published from 1953 to 1990, when it merged with *The Beezer*. Mickey the Monkey was the original cover star and Beryl the Peril a big favourite.

Tiger was published from 1954 to 1985 and concentrated on sports. Its most popular strip was Roy of the Rovers. This strip was so successful it eventually became a comic in its own right.

Bunty was another DC Thomson & Co publication. Launched in 1958, it ran until 2001. The Four Marys – four teens who lived in a girls-only boarding school – was the comic's longest-running story.

Buster was published from 1960 to 2000 and carried a mixture of humour

and adventure strips. The title character was originally billed as 'Son of Andy Capp', the hero of the *Daily Mirror's* strip, and sported a similar flat cap.

Valiant was a British boys' adventure comic, running from 1962 to 1976. It was published by IPC and was one of their major titles throughout the 1960s and early 1970s. As well as war hero characters like Captain Hurricane, *Valiant* ran science fiction strips, such as the Steel Claw.

Yet another DC Thomson & Co Ltd title was the weekly comic *Twinkle*, 'the picture paper especially for little girls', which was published from 1968 to 1999. Nurse Nancy, who ran a toy hospital with her grandfather, was one of the most popular characters, along with Goody Gumdrops and Jenny Wren.

2000 AD is a weekly British science fiction-oriented comic, first published in 1977 and still going strong. It is most noted for its Judge Dredd stories and a number of artists and writers who became renowned in the field, including Alan Moore, Neil Gaiman and Grant Morrison. Judge Dredd is a law enforcement officer in a futuristic city where uniformed Judges combine the powers of police, judge, jury and executioner.

All in all, there was a comic character for everyone to associate with, plus adventures to fuel the imagination. Those were the days... •

Facing page: released on 8 March, the Comics special issue recalls the glory days of children's weeklies.
Below: Comics stamps in the Presentation Pack

Comics Prices	
Stamp Set	£4.60
Presentation Pack	£5.10
First Day Cover UK	£6.00
First Day Cover non-UK	£5.00
First Day Envelope	30p
Stamp Cards (10 in set)	£4.50

Comics Stamps Specifications	
Issue date	20 March
Number of stamps	Ten
Design	The Chase
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 format	Two sheets of 25/50 with five se-tenant designs per sheet



Stamp Scene John Holman reports on recent and forthcoming events in philately



Highcliffe Castle in Dorset is the venue for a Jubilee Philatelic Exhibition this month, exactly marking the 60th anniversary of The Queen's accession

Jubilee Philatelic Exhibition An exhibition marking The Queen's Diamond Jubilee will be staged at Highcliffe Castle, Dorset on 1-10 February. The exhibition comprises 24 frames with 382 sheets of stamps and related philatelic material. It offers the opportunity to show a philatelic time-line of the Royal events to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen, as well as to display Her Majesty's royal ancestry and line of succession to the throne from William the Conqueror. Stamps on display include depictions of all the kings and queens of Great Britain dating back to William I, references to The Queen's European connections through Queen Victoria, and a wide range of images relating to The Queen's life and times and royal visits.

It is hoped that this exhibition will promote philately to a wide audience. It will certainly appeal to anyone already interested in stamps, the monarchy and genealogy, and there are many links with subject areas included in the National Curriculum. Highcliffe Castle was built between 1831 and 1835 by Charles Stuart, 1st Baron Stuart de Rothesay in a Gothic Revival style Admission to the Jubilee Philatelic Exhibition costs £3. For further details contact the address shown in the Diary Dates listing on the facing page •

Island issues The Isle of Man Post Office issues six stamps and a diamond-shaped commemorative sheetlet on 6 February to mark The Queen's Diamond Jubilee. A miniature sheet follows later in the year. A further six Isle of Man stamps go on sale on 20 February to mark the centenary of the maiden voyage and sinking of the *Titanic*. Orders and enquiries: Isle of Man Stamps & Coins, PO Box 10M, Douglas, Isle of Man IM99 1PB or visit www.gov.im/post/stamps.



The Isle of Man's philatelic Jubilee celebrations include this first-day cover of the diamond-shaped stamp issue

Guernsey Post will issue three sets of stamps this month. Stamps marking The Queen's Diamond Jubilee and Endangered Species (Bengal Tiger) go on sale on 22 February, as does a set for Alderney commemorating the centenary of the *Titanic's* demise. For more details, orders and enquiries, contact Guernsey Philatelic Bureau, Envoy House, La Vrangue, St Peter Port, Guernsey GY1 5SS, or see www.guernseystamps.com.

On 6 February, Jersey Post issues two new £2 stamps to mark The Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The photographs featured on the stamps, printed as a se-tenant pair and in a miniature sheet, include a 1954 photo of The Queen and one of her father, King George VI. The sheet margins and the miniature

sheet both include a verse from the national anthem. Jersey's next issue will comprise six stamps in the ongoing Aviation History series on 9 March. Further stamps marking The Queen's Diamond Jubilee will be issued on 1 June. All enquiries to: Jersey Philatelic Bureau, Freepost JE793, Jersey Post, Jersey JE1 1AF or through the website at www.jerseystamps.com •

Philatelic recognition Among the 27 new Fellows of the Royal Philatelic Society London (FRPSL) announced in December, we were pleased to see the name of Douglas Myall, our former *Bulletin* contributor on matters Machin. Douglas is generally acknowledged as the authority on Machin stamps and is the publisher of the acclaimed *Complete Deegam Machin Handbook.*

In a recent *Bulletin* survey, he has remained among readers' favourite writers, but has politely declined writing for us. Douglas tells us that he is rather too busy in his retirement to write for *Bulletin.* We are currently researching alternative contributors of regular Machin articles •

Promoting stamp collecting in Northern Ireland The recently formed Federation of Northern Ireland Philatelic Societies staged a very successful Stamp Exhibition in Bangor Museum from 25 October to 4 November 2011. An ambitious programme of events included displays from collections of members of the North of Ireland, Lagan Valley and Portadown and District Philatelic Societies. The aim of the programme was to promote the hobby of stamp collecting to members of the public of all ages. A large number of visitors attended the exhibition, talks and the valuation day on 4 November, by Corbitts Ltd, attracted large crowds.

The 'Aspects of Philately' displays in the first week illustrated the many and varied ways in which philatelic material can be collected. Displays included Stamps on Stamps, early New Zealand stamps, Postage Dues, Airgraphs, USA miniature sheets, GB overprints and GB Royalty on stamps and covers.

At the weekend there was the opportunity for young people to participate, when members of the Stamp Active Group (a section of the ABPS involved with junior collectors) gave advice on how to start stamp collecting, and encouraged participation in the hobby. Two days were very well attended.

During the second week the whole exhibition was changed to highlight 'Northern Ireland Philately' with stamps, covers, postcards and items of postal history. The displays included NI post offices and their postmarks, Lisburn and Belfast Postal History, early mail routes to Northern Ireland, social philately of the linen industry, Randalstown postcards, and places and people from the Province that have appeared on stamps.

The event being held in Bangor helped to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the town's post office. Established in 1936, it retains a rare remaining Edward VIII post box in the UK – a wall-mounted bronze box with the Royal Cypher.

The two weeks of displays and lectures culminated on 5 November with a Regional meeting of the Royal Philatelic Society London at Mount Stewart; the main speakers were Christine Earle with a display entitled 'The Post Office went to War', and David Beech who spoke about the Philatelic Collections at the British Library, and conservation of philatelic material • ▸

Diary dates

February

1-10 Jubilee Philatelic Exhibition, Highcliffe Castle, Dorset BH23 4LE. Enquiries: 01425 278807 or email exhibitions@highcliffecastle.co.uk

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

12 National Philatelic Society meeting, The Phoenix Centre, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DG. Patrick Reid on Tasmanian Postal History. Tel: 020 7239 5125

16 RPSL meeting. Keith Klugman shows 'Victorian Natal'. 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY. Visitors welcome by prior arrangement on 020 7486 1044.

22-25 Spring Stampex, at the Business Design Centre, Upper St, London N1 0QH.

23 Sheffield Philatelic Society meeting. Daphne McMillan on WWII Allied Material. Email secretary@sheffieldps.org.uk



Above: Stampex, held twice a year in Islington since 1987. Below: this month's special Stampex handstamps







See you at Stampex Spring Stampex will be held at the Business Design Centre, London N1, 22-25 February 2012 (for opening times and contact details see page 192). The main displays are on the 'Village Green' area (opposite the Royal Mail stand) and there will be a multiframe competition for the 'Pictorial' classes: Thematic, Open and Postcards, with overseas participation for invited countries. Seminars will be held in support of these classes, with an emphasis on Thematic Philately.

On Saturday 25 February a number of philatelic societies will hold meetings at Stampex, representing a wide variety of specialisms, including the Concorde Study Circle, Great Britain Philatelic Society (at a joint meeting with sister society from Germany), Egypt Study Circle, Aden, Yemen, Somaliland Study Group, Wreck and Crash Mail Society, Bechuanaland and Botswana Society, Ceylon Study Circle, and Ascension Study Circle. On the mezzanine floor, the Stamp Active organisation will welcome young collectors to its Olympic-themed area and will hold its popular 'fun' auction on the Saturday. Members of the National Philatelic Society will man the information stand, and the Youth area will include the entries in the Stamp Active Competition.

The Royal Mail stand offers the full range of current issues and posting boxes are provided for collectors to post covers for the special Stampex handstamps. These can also be obtained by sending covers to the Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Mount Pleasant, London EC1A 1BB. New Royal Mail issues during Stampex are Britons of Distinction (see page 138 and 181) and Post & Go British Farm Animals I, Sheep (see page 166 and 192).

Stampex – the British National Stamp Exhibition – was first held in 1953 and was first called Stampex in 1956. Over the years the exhibition has provided collectors with many interesting souvenirs, such as special postmarks and covers, souvenir sheets and publicity labels and, more recently, postcards and customised sheets. Some 21 postcards have now been issued, some reproducing unused stamp designs held in the British Postal Museum & Archives. The customised sheets, with labels attached to the stamps, started in 2003 and have featured Nelson (Autumn 2005), the Victoria Cross (Autumn 2006), birds (Autumn 2007 and Autumn 2011), aircraft (Autumn 2008) and railways (Autumn 2010). The Spring 2012 sheet bears ten 1st class Union Flag stamps with attached labels showing the *Titanic*, to mark the centenary of its sinking in April 1912. The images on the labels show the building of the ship, its opulent rooms, the captain (Edward John Smith), and the rescuing of survivors. An image of the vessel sinking forms the background to the sheet, which has the PTS logo at bottom right •

Happy Birthday dear Dickens Charles Dickens was born on Friday, 7 February, 1812. A host of exhibitions and radio and TV performances have been arranged for this year to mark his 200th anniversary. If you are inspired to collect Dickens on stamps, the Chatham-Kent Dickens Fellowship is a good starting point and shows a selection of Dickens stamps from many countries at www.dickensfellowship.ca – and, of course, there's a Charles Dickens special issue to be released by Royal Mail on 19 June •

Forthcoming auctions On 7 March Cavendish – currently marking its 60th anniversary – will auction the Frank W Thompson and Peter J Thompson collection of GB Postal History in Derby. Over 750 lots include transatlantic mail, Derbyshire postal history and an original May 1682 'Dockwra' mark. An online catalogue is available at www.cavendish-auctions.com. For further information contact Cavendish on 01332 250970 •

Social mail decline A US national newspaper reported recently that a survey has found Americans typically receive one personal letter every seven weeks compared to one every two weeks in 1987. This highlights the decline in letter writing due to the growth in telephone calls, emails and texting. The US Post Office lost some $8 billion last year. Here in the UK, Royal Mail still handles 59 million items of post per day, down from 80 million in 2006 •

This month in history – John Holman recalls the Polar Explorer stamps of 1972

On 16 February 1972 the Post Office issued four stamps, the first of two sets, depicting famous explorers. The stamps featured portraits of Sir James Clark Ross (3p stamp), Sir Martin Frobisher (5p), Henry Hudson (7½p) and Captain Robert Falcon Scott (9p) superimposed on maps of the areas they explored. The stamps were designed by Marjorie Saynor who also designed the 1970 1s and 1s 9d Anniversaries stamps, and the 1976 Cultural Traditions and 1982 Maritime Heritage issues. The Explorer stamps were printed in up to seven colours with The Queen's head added in gold and then embossed. All four stamps exist with the two phosphor bands omitted, the 9p being the rarest, and errors of missing colours are found on three of the four values. Especially rare are omitted slate-black and lemon colours on the 3p.



Collectors of marginal copies will notice that the background design of the stamps extends about 2mm into the sheet margins. The Post Office provided 'First Day of Issue' handstamps for the Philatelic Bureau (showing a polar bear and penguin) and London WC (compass points). There were no sponsored handstamps for this issue but FDC collectors particularly seek covers with the Plymouth First Day of Issue handstamp, and Greenwich and Gravesend circular datestamps. The presentation packs were available with an insert card printed in German or Japanese – worth looking out for. Sales of the stamps ranged from 5.4 million of the 9p to 53.6 million of the 3p, the then 1st class letter rate. Over 103,000 packs were sold.

This year marks the centenary of the death of Captain Scott who perished in Antarctica in March 1912. Scott's expedition features on one of the stamps in the House of Windsor miniature sheet, issued on 2 February •

From the Mint to the Mail

Dr Kevin Clancy, Director of the Royal Mint Museum, talks to Kate Shaw about the history of the coinage portraits on this month's new definitive stamps

LET THE JUBILEE BEGIN! Issued on 6 February, the Diamond Jubilee Definitives herald the beginning of the philatelic celebration of The Queen's sixtieth year on the throne. The new definitives set a philatelic first in bringing together six iconic portraits of the Queen that have been used on classic stamps, coinage and banknotes issued during her long reign. Philatelists are of course familiar with the two stamp portraits – the Machin head on the Diamond Jubilee definitive and the special edition of the Dorothy Wilding portrait first seen in 1952. On the other four stamps, however, are portraits usually seen only on currency, making a strikingly fitting departure from philatelic tradition.

I asked Kevin Clancy, Director of the Royal Mint Museum to give us some background information about the design of the coin portraiture featured on the new stamps –and here is what he had to say:

> 'I think it's terrific that Royal Mail have released the Diamond Jubilee Definitive stamps featuring bank notes and coins as well as stamps, because through these we encounter images of our monarch more often than through any other media. While we may occasionally see images of The Queen in newspapers and on TV, we handle coins and banknotes every single day and perhaps take their design for granted. To see coinage portraits on stamps gives a fresh focus. We are reminded that the portraits we see on coins are works of art and that their creators laboured over their work with care and sensitivity.'

Kevin Clancy goes on to describe the two coinage portraits...



Below: the first coinage of The Queen's reign, the new stamp featuring the Gillick profile and Mary Gillick (1881-1965), who exclaimed after her sitting with The Queen: 'I am now her devoted slave for ever!'

The Mary Gillick Coinage

'The sculptor Mary Gillick was born in 1881 and held her first exhibition at the Royal Academy when she was 30. She was over 70 years old when she won the competition to prepare the portrait for the first coins of Elizabeth II, for issue in 1953. The Gillick portrait was selected from 17 entries, with the final rendering decided upon by the Royal Mint Advisory Committee, the organisation still presiding over coin issues today. Then, as now, the Committee was composed of eminent artists and heraldic experts, and in 1952 it was chaired by its new President,

Images courtesy of BPMA and Royal Mint

Prince Philip, enthusiastically undertaking one of his first public roles. (He was involved in the design of coins for some 50 years and remained President of the Committee until 1999.) So Gillick was in the unusual position of having her work appraised by the husband of the monarch she was portraying.

'Before she won the coin commission, Gillick had already 'cut her teeth' on royal portraits, notably with a conjoining portrait of The Queen and Prince Philip on a royal visit. The basic "architecture" of the coinage portrait has distinct echoes of the royal visit image, including the same device of cutting off at the shoulder and the same manner of forming the bust. The result is a strong classical style, both in the use of a simple wreath around the head and in the similarity of the shoulders to the conventions of Renaissance medals. But above all, there is a charming sensitivity in the way the Gillick image has been modelled.

'It's interesting to compare this portrait with the closest historical reference of a female monarch on coins – Victoria. As a young queen, Victoria was portrayed bare-headed, with only a hairband wound through her hair on the coin profile, then later in the mid-19th century with a Gothic crown and towards the end of her reign, wearing a widow's veil. The 'young-head' depiction of Victoria is not nearly as classical in form as the Gillick portrait of Elizabeth II, which was modelled with an almost soft-focus treatment, so delicately as to appear in some instances as if the coin had not been properly struck.

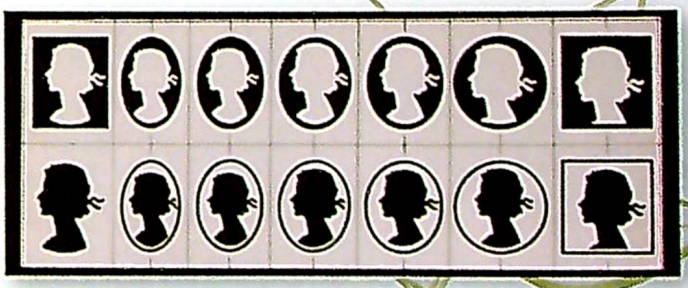
'Our understanding is that the 27-year-old Queen Elizabeth was very fond indeed of this portrait and it has been retained on Her Majesty's private coinage of Maundy Money [the small silver coins that the Queen distributes every year on Maundy Thursday as part of a tradition dating back to 1699, in which the monarch hands coins to the poor and, more recently, to those who have made an outstanding contribution to their community].

'The Gillick portrait was used both on UK coinage and the coinage of many Commonwealth countries until decimalisation in 1971. Gillick's work was briefly "transferred" from the world of coinage to that of stamps between 1966 and 1968, when David Gentleman, seeking to simplify the effigy of the Queen on stamps, reduced the Gillick portrait to a small cameo and reversed it to left-facing, as is the postal tradition.'



Above: 1953 – this famous Coronation photograph was taken in the same year as the Gillick-head coin was issued

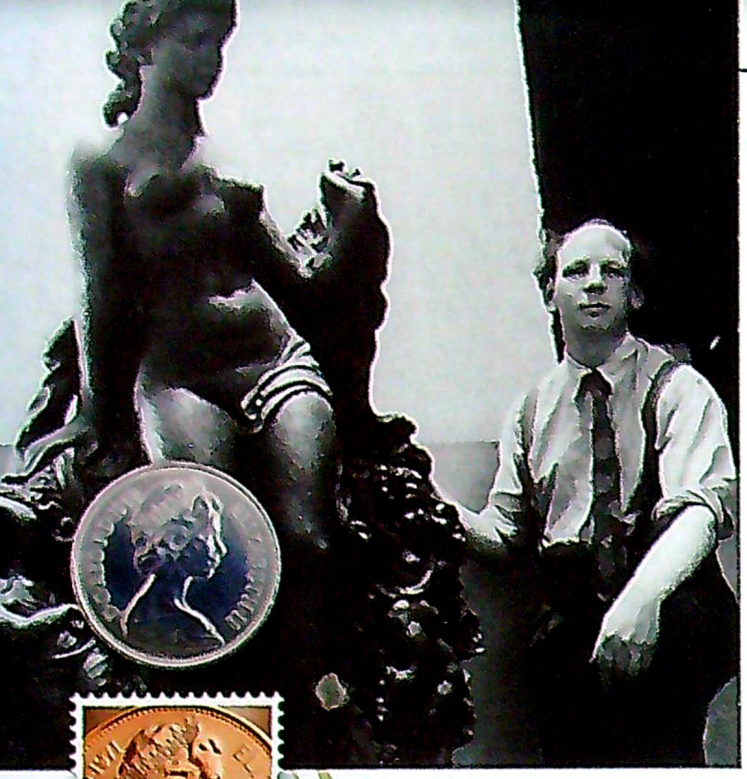
Below: preliminary work of David Gentleman in 1965. A left-facing cameo based on the Gillick coin portrait was used on stamps for a short period in 1966–68. Since then the commemorative head by Machin, also with laurel wreath, has been used



The Arnold Machin Coinage Portrait

'Arnold Machin was also an established sculptor, in his fifties, when in 1964 he was chosen to design a new effigy of the Queen, to be used on all the new decimal coinage that was being planned. Although decimalisation did not take place until 1971, the first decimal coins with Machin's portrait were issued in 1968.

'With the prospect of decimalisation came a general feeling that there had to be a marked change in the appearance of our national currency, not only on the reverse of coin designs but also in the portraits on the obverse; the design of the new decimal coins should help the public understand the values of the new coins they handled. Machin was a member of the forward-looking Royal Academy, so quite at home with the concept of the positive value of change. Yet there is a similarity in the proportions of the head and the bust of the Machin and the ▸







Above: Arnold Machin, the first decimal coinage and two stamps from this month's new issue – the Machin coinage portrait and the Machin Diamond Jubilee Definitive in the new colour of Diamond Blue.

Portraits on stamps have always faced to the left, whereas portraits on coins alternate from monarch to monarch between left- and right-facing

Gillick coin portraits. Like Gillick, Machin avoided the couped portrait cut off by the neck which had been usual on coins earlier in the century and was seen again in the 1980s and 90s effigies – by Raphael Maklouf (1985 to 1997) and Ian Rank-Broadley (since 1988). The wreath, however, was replaced with the tiara which the Queen had been given as a wedding present from her grandmother Queen Mary.

'Machin subsequently created a sculpture partly based on the coinage portrait, for use on the definitive stamp of 1967 – the first of what has come to be known the world over as the Machin series and one of the most reproduced images in history. The distinct similarity of line between the Machin coin and stamp effigies is well illustrated in the Diamond Jubilee Definitive stamp set, where we see the Machin coinage portrait (se-tenanted with the Gillick) facing the Diamond Jubilee Machin definitive. The difference in the height of relief is also evident: on the stamp effigy the cheeks appear more rounded, there is more volume in the hair and more weight in the shoulder.

'For the coin effigy Machin had to create a sense of depth using hardly any sculptural form, because the height of relief on a coin is miniscule – that's why photographing a coin requires careful lighting to maximise the points of relief. This low level of relief is quite different from that which a sculptor is able to employ when creating a sculpture to be photographed for printing. The low-relief form for a coin has to sustain production at the rate of 800 a minute on the coinage press and then jangle around in purses and pocket for years, so the highest point of relief – usually the ear or the hair – needs to be even lower than the rim of the coin. Otherwise it would wear ridiculously quickly.

'From decimalisation in 1971 the Machin effigy was used for all British coins until 1984 and continued to be used on coins of New Zealand and Australia until 1985 and 1986 respectively, and in Canada until 1989.

Creative miniature links

'The use of portraiture on stamps and coins has been linked since the Penny Black bore a portrait of Queen Victoria by William Wyon, who also created the standard-circulation coinage portraiture for the Royal Mint. Bertram Mackennal created a portrait of George V for the stamp as well as coins. And more recently David Gentleman, another famous stamp designer, has worked with us on many Royal Mint projects over the years. Such artists have a masterful eye for what works on a small scale. They always have to keep in mind that what might look fine at a large scale should not have too much detail that would be lost when it is reduced to a small scale. Which is an interesting metaphor for many things in life' •

'Designing Change: The Art of Coin Design', edited by Dr Kevin Clancy, is available from the Royal Mint on 0845 60 88 222 and at www.royalmint.com/store

Photograph: Bournemouth News/Rex Features

Distinctly noteworthy

The more you look into this month's new issue, the more you learn. Here are short biographies of ten Britons – all different, all distinctive

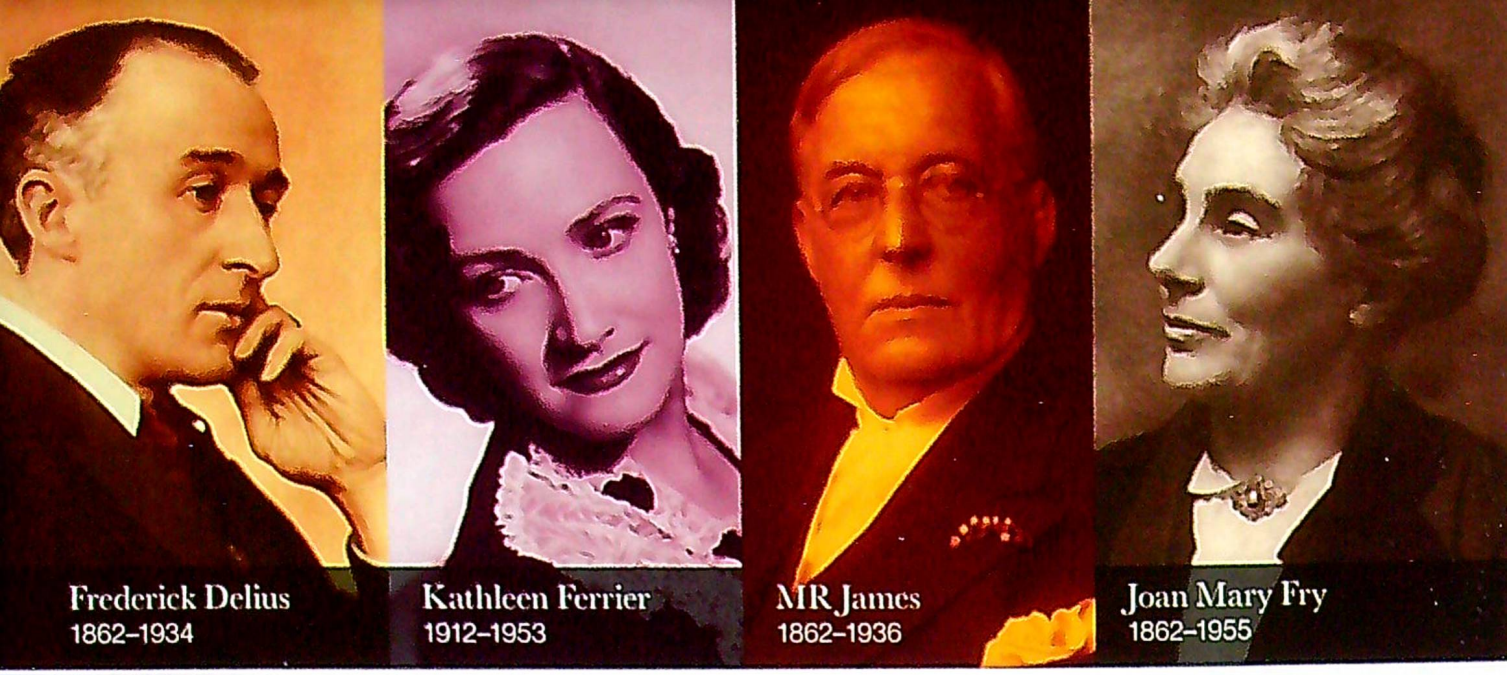
SHAKESPEARE'S WORDS come to mind when we explore the lives behind the names honoured in this month's Britons of Distinction issue: *'Some men are born great, some achieve greatness and some have greatness thrust upon them'*. Perhaps only a few of the men and women shown on the new stamps are universally known, but all led lives of distinction and made a great contribution to society in some way – through great artistic and creative endeavours, scientific breakthroughs or exceptional compassion. The common thread that links them is a passionate dedication in using their remarkable individual gifts.

Thomas Newcomen (1664–1729) A Baptist lay preacher and ironmonger from Devon, Newcomen is often called the forefather of the Industrial Revolution. No doubt inspired by the workings of tin mines near his birthplace in Devon, in 1710 he built an atmospheric steam engine that pumped water from deep mines. Contemporary engines, including those invented by Thomas Savery (whose patent forced Newcomen into partnership) used steam to create a vacuum and draw up water, but they did not work beyond a depth of around 30 feet. Newcomen created the vacuum inside a cylinder and used atmospheric pressure to push down a piston to power the pump, providing a more efficient use of energy. His first working engine was installed at a coal mine in Staffordshire in 1712 and by the time of his death, 17 years later, at least 100 had been installed across Britain and Europe. An incorporated company – the Proprietors of the Invention for Raising Water by Fire – dealt with the practicalities and Newcomen's engines remained at the forefront of engineering development for another 75 years. It was not until 1769 that James Watt, the name most people associate with the steam engine, began to refine Newcomen's invention.



Top: the atmospheric steam engine was the first practical device to harness the power of steam to produce mechanical work

Augustus Pugin (1812–1852) The son of a French draughtsman who had fled to England during the French Revolution, Pugin was born in London. Having learned drawing from his father, by the time he reached his teens word of his exceptional ability had reached royal circles and he was commissioned to work on silverware and furnishings for George IV at Windsor Castle. He went on to become an acclaimed architect and design theorist, best remembered for his work in the Gothic Revival style, which included 113 Catholic churches, chapels and cathedrals, 12 convents and monasteries and 34 schools. Most notable of all his achievements is the Palace of Westminster. Although the architect Charles Barry designed the Palace as a whole, he handed to Pugin responsibility for its Gothic interiors. No detail was too small for Pugin – he had the ability to translate his architectural designs into almost every component of a building, including wallpaper, ▸



metalwork handles and grilles and fabrics. This all-embracing approach to design was to influence Morris and Ruskin and the Arts & Crafts movement.

Frederick Delius (1862–1934) Born in Bradford, the composer Delius was the son of a German wool merchant. At the age of 21 he went off to Florida to manage an orange plantation and there he clearly demonstrated that he had no heart for a career in commerce. Within a couple of years his father agreed to allow Delius to pursue a musical career and paid for him to enrol in a course of music study in Leipzig. Although he had been an advanced student of the violin under Mr Haddock in Leeds, Delius's favourite occupation was improvising on the piano. He moved on from Germany to Paris, where he quickly developed a full-time career as a composer and where he was to spend the rest of his life.

Delius was inspired by the work of Chopin, Wagner and Grieg, whom he met in Leipzig and who championed his work. He developed a unique composing style, which incorporated influences of English, German and Scandinavian folk tunes as well as the African-American music Delius had heard in Florida. The most famous of his works are the romantic, pastoral pieces, including *Summer Night on the River* and *On Hearing the First Cuckoo in Spring*, most of which were composed in the years before World War One. His opera *A Village Romeo and Juliet* was staged at Covent Garden in 1910 and innovative six-day Delius festival was held in London in 1929. Soon after the festival Delius' health began to fail and for the last six years of his life he worked at his home in Paris with the young musician and amanuensis Eric Fenby.

MR James (1862–1936) From the age of three until his mid-forties MR James's home was the Rectory in Great Livermere, Suffolk. It was not, however, his main residence, because James was Provost of King's College Cambridge and Eton College and director of the Fitzwilliam Museum. While a notable classicist of his day, it is for his gripping ghost stories that James is probably most famous. He breathed new life into the genre of ghost mysteries by steering away from the Gothic excesses of the Victorian era, introducing classical elements and sticking to a well-honed formula. James relied on three

Photographs © Corbis; National Portrait Gallery, London; Religious Society of Friends in Britain; The Bridgeman Art Library; Getty Images.



Above: eight of the Briton's of Distinction, whose achievements are celebrated in this month's special issue

principle plot devices: a distinctive setting, a naïve male protagonist and an antiquarian object that was invariably haunted. His story-telling had begun at family gatherings, especially around Christmas time (a season often featured in his stories). Such was James's narrative power that the listening friends were often too terrified to walk home alone! James was eventually persuaded to publish some of his work. His first collection, *Ghost Stories of an Antiquary*, appeared in 1904 and there were immediate demands for more. Bewitched and terrified fans included the Prince of Wales and Theodore Roosevelt. *More Ghost Stories of an Antiquary* followed in 1911, A Thin Ghost and Others in 1919 and A Warning to the Curious and Other Ghost Stories in 1925.

Mary 'May' Morris (1862–1938) As the daughter of a famous father – William Morris – the young May Morris was encouraged to develop her creativity. She learned embroidery as a child from her mother Jane – model and muse to Rossetti – and her aunt Bessie Burden, both of whom had trained with William Morris. May is now seen as a leading figure in the revival of English embroidery and as a textile artist of genius.

She advocated 'art embroidery' over the popular 'Berlin wool work needlepoint'. Although her approach was experimental, like many at Morris & Co she drew key inspiration from the Middle Ages. May was Director of the Embroidery Department at Morris & Co from 1885 until about 1896 and also worked at the Royal School of Art Needlework. Because women were barred from the Art Workers' Guild, she founded the Women's Guild of Arts in 1907, serving as its President until her mid- seventies. Many of May Morris's beautiful wall hangings, bed covers and other textiles are now in major collections, including that of the Victoria & Albert Museum in London.

Joan Mary Fry (1862–1955) Born into a rich Quaker family in London, Joan Mary Fry grew up to become a Quaker relief worker and social reformer who exercised a lifelong commitment to pacifism and social justice. Her father was the judge Sir Edward Fry, and her brother the artist and critic Roger Fry – a leading member of the Bloomsbury Group. Like her sister Margery, who ▸

became chair of the Howard League for Penal Reform, she was educated at home and taught herself some Hebrew and Greek.

On the outbreak of World War One, Fry became a prison chaplain. She supported and befriended many conscientious objectors and championed them at tribunals and court martials. Straight after the war she took the bold move of visiting the defeated Germany with other Quakers, despite initial opposition at home. They set up food-distribution networks, in recognition of which the University of Tübingen awarded her an honorary doctorate.

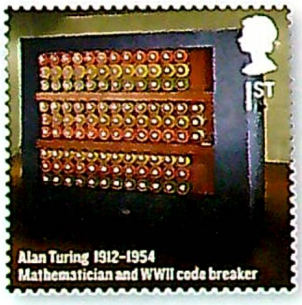
In the 1920s Fry worked in the coalfields of South Wales, where she established food centres for the children of unemployed miners. She also advocated vegetarianism and took up the cause of The Friends Allotment Committee, which allowed people to grow their own food on unused land without losing unemployment benefit.

Below, from top: Spence's Coventry Cathedral, the embroidery of May Morris, Pugin's Palace of Westminster and Turing's code-breaking machine – in this month's Britons of Distinction issue









Sir Basil Spence (1907–1976) Born in Bombay and educated in the UK, Spence qualified as an architect at the Edinburgh College of Art. He trained under Edwin Lutyens and also admired the modernist Le Corbusier. Spence's distinctive, visionary architecture is most famously demonstrated in Coventry Cathedral, rebuilt after the city's 14th-century St Michael's Cathedral was destroyed in wartime bombing. He was selected initially from 200 applicants for the Coventry project and worked passionately to support the fundraising necessary for its completion. The Cathedral was consecrated 50 years ago this year.

Spence also designed a number of Sussex University buildings (including the Grade 1 listed Falmer House), the British Embassy in Rome, Glasgow Airport and the Knightsbridge Barracks. as well as a wide range of commercial buildings and private houses, The Cenotaph and Queen Mary's dolls' house.

Kathleen Ferrier (1912–1953) Daughter of a Lancashire headmaster, Kathleen Ferrier won numerous amateur piano competitions while working as a telephonist for the General Post Office. She did not take up singing seriously until 1937 after her husband bet her a shilling that she wouldn't dare to enter the singing competition at the Carlisle Festival. The war years saw her working for the Council for the Encouragement of Music and the Arts, forerunner of the Arts Council, bringing music to people in the factories, villages and hostels.

Ferrier became a popular voice on radio and sang Handel's *Messiah* at Westminster Abbey in 1943, Benjamin Britten's new opera *The Rape of Lucretia* at Glyndebourne in 1946 and Mahler's *Das Lied von der Erde* at the first Edinburgh Festival in 1947. Overseas concerts, recordings and fame followed; the critic Neville Cardus described her Angel in Elgar's *The Dream of Gerontius* as 'one of the most moving experiences, musical and spiritual, in a lifetime'.

In 1951 Ferrier underwent surgery for breast cancer. Her last appearance was in the second performance of a new production of *Orfeo*, created for her at Covent Garden. Her illness was not made public and Ferrier's death at the age of 41 was a great shock to her audiences around the world.

Alan Turing (1912–1954) Science was a passion of Alan Turing's from his childhood, which was spent in various foster homes until his father's retirement from India in 1926. Turing often referred to a seminal influence of his work as being a popular book entitled *Natural Wonders Every Child Should Know.* The young Turing grew up to be a man ahead of his time and is now regarded as the founder of computer science, the first to understand how technology might transform our lives in the 20th century and beyond.

As a Cambridge don he proved a brilliant logician, mathematician and computer scientist. Although he invented the 'Turing machine' – a calculator capable of simulating the logic of any computer algorithm – years before the technology existed to build it, he is best known as one of the bright young men recruited to a secret operation at Bletchley Park. There his work involved breaking the encrypted messages generated by the German Enigma and Lorenz machines. Turing was the head of the Hut 8 team and led the design of the code-breaking Bombe machine, building on the work of Polish scientists who had first broken the Enigma code used by the Germans. Hut 8 is believed to have shortened the war by up to two years.

Turing continued innovative research after the war, when he worked for the National Physical Laboratory and at Manchester University. The 1950 Turing Test of a machine's capacity for replicating human intelligence provided a blueprint for the digital computer. Time magazine cited Turing as one of the 100 most influential people of the 20th century, saying: 'The fact remains that everyone who taps at a keyboard, opening a spreadsheet or a word-processing program, is working on an incarnation of a Turing machine'. Sadly, Turing's later years were not happy: he was arrested in 1952 for homosexual behaviour, then illegal, and avoided prison only by accepting injections of hormones as 'therapy'. His conviction also lost him his security clearance, so he could no longer work for the government. Turing died in 1954 and is believed to have poisoned himself.



Above: the famous slate statue of Alan Turing, by Stephen Kettle, is at Bletchley Park. For visitor information, phone 01908 640404

Odette Hallowes (1912–1995) The first woman to win the George Cross, Odette Hallowes was hailed a national hero for her work in the French resistance. Born in Amiens northern France, she lost her father in World War One and at his funeral her grandfather told her that another war would inevitably come, in which it would be her duty to serve. At the outbreak of World War Two, she was living comfortably with her English husband and three daughters in London, and was reminded of her grandfather's words.

After hearing an appeal from the Admiralty for holiday photographs to help identify beaches in preparation for raids on the continent, Hallowes accidentally applied to the War Office and her interview there resulted in her joining the secret service. Once trained, she crossed the occupied zone of France to join a resistance group in Burgundy, where she fell in love with her unit leader. In 1942 she was arrested by the Gestapo, tortured and sent to Ravensbrück concentration camp – and survived. Hallowes' life was immortalised by Anna Neagle in the eponymous film which included her famous words: 'You must take your pick, gentlemen. I can only die once'. After the war she devoted much of her life to working with organisations supporting war veterans •

Photo: K Reilly

What to collect Martin Robinson's suggestions for readers with a budding interest in post boxes



1

As this is a collectors' magazine, readers of *Bulletin* articles about postboxes might well pose the question: 'But what is there to collect?' And the answer, fortunately, is 'quite a lot' – enough to have kept me busy for 40 years.

Let us begin with post boxes themselves. It used to be possible to buy redundant post boxes from Royal Mail, but nowadays the collector must have recourse to the commercial market in the shape of antique dealers and online sales, where prices run into thousands of pounds. My first post box was bought in 1972 from the PO sorting office in Leamington Spa. It had been stored there after being removed from a village post office near Stratford-upon-Avon, where the postmaster had decided to install a larger window in his shop front – there was no longer room for the wall box, which had been replaced by a pillar box. It cost me £2.50 and I had to sign an undertaking that I would not display it in such a way as to mislead the public. The lock was removed and I took the box away myself. Subsequently I had it shot-blasted and repainted, then installed in a brick pillar in my car port.

To buy even a modest wall box these days would cost a great deal more. If you haven't got the space, budget or inclination to collect the boxes themselves, you could opt for collection plates or other smaller items of PO memorabilia.

Join the post box paparrazi A great many of my fellow enthusiasts in the Letter Box Study Group (LBSG) visit and photograph post boxes, and compile a collection of photographs and notes about their sightings. A word of advice if you are embarking on photographing postboxes: always carry some form of ID – I carry my LBSG membership card – and ask permission when appropriate. In these security-conscious days, taking photographs around a post office or other public building can be regarded as a suspicious activity, so always be prepared to reveal your identity – and reasons for the photography. I have been challenged several times. Once I was followed for several miles by a police car, whose driver eventually pulled me over and wanted to know what I was up to. Fortunately the police officer found my LBSG card both reassuring and amusing.

Above: a recently discovered rare example in Somerset. Below: George VI Double Aperture Pillar Box (scale 1/19) from the Royal Mail Pillar Box Collection



2

I always take a close-up shot of the whole box, perhaps some details and a general view of the location. Study of the photos afterwards often reveals details one hadn't noticed. Some of my LBSG friends go into much greater detail than I do, discovering small differences by careful measurement. And there are still discoveries to be made. Recently I found a very rare wall box – only two other examples are known – being used as a private posting box near a garden gate in a Somerset village (1). What is unusual about it is that the royal cipher has been altered from that of Edward VIII to George VI. The owner was unaware of its rarity and was just as tickled as I was.

View the collections There are some interesting collections to visit and often preserved boxes can often be found in local museums. The best collections, all of which can be visited by arrangement, are the Post Office's own, found in the British Postal Museum and Archive's Postal Museum store at Debden, Essex (call 020 7239 2570 for details or visit postalheritage.org.uk/page/museum), The Isle of Wight Postal Museum (www.postalmuseum.co.uk) and the Colne Valley Postal History Museum, Halstead, Essex (www.cvphm.org).

Miniature focus Another popular area of collecting is model post boxes. These fall into two groups: carefully crafted miniatures, and less accurate (sometimes woefully inaccurate but nonetheless fun) models which may be money boxes or containers for anything from bubble bath to sweets. There are thousands of models to be found, both old and new. Royal Mail is currently marketing its own range of models and pin badges, as well as a new gift range, The Post Room, which includes an Elizabeth II type A box in the form of a money box.

Then there are stamps, on which post boxes often feature – in fact a large collection could be assembled of stamps and first day covers of the world that show post boxes in one form or another. They have featured several times on British stamps, and two issues have been entirely devoted to them – a set of five stamps in 2002 marking the 150th anniversary of the first pillar box and are illustrated with beautiful engravings by Czesław Słania (4), and a four-stamp miniature sheet in 2009. Let us not forget stamp booklets and postal stationery, too. Between 1971 and 1974 a series of ten 10p stamp books was issued whose covers showed post boxes from old to modern (3).



3



4

Top: one of the 1970s stamp booklet series with post boxes on the covers. Above: the Pillar to Post stamp issue of 2002. Below: an unusual box made in Greenock in the 1850s and still standing – in India

For more information Contact the Letter Box Study Group at 38 Leopold Avenue, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham B20 1ES or via www.lbsg.org •

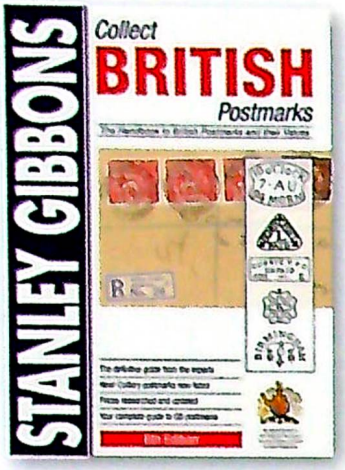
In his next article Martin Robinson looks at more collecting opportunities for postbox enthusiasts in the areas of handstamps, postmarks, souvenir covers and postcards.

Readers report I am grateful to readers who continue to write to *Bulletin* about post boxes they have come across in their travels. Mr Ishwar S Batra of Chandigarh has submitted a photo of a handsome pillar box in Himachal Pradesh in Northern India (right). Boxes like this were manufactured by Suttie & Co of Greenock in 1856-57 for use in Scotland, and a single survivor is in the Post Office Heritage collection. Some, with a horizontal rather than a vertical posting aperture, were later exported to India and several are still in existence. Mr Batra says that it is due to the efforts of Maj R E Hotz, a British Army Officer, who did not return to England after Independence and settled down in Kasauli, that this letter box survives.

Please send your photographs to The Editor at the address on page 164. We regret that we cannot promise to return photographs.



Collect British Postmarks John Holman reviews the latest edition from Stanley Gibbons



THE FIRST EDITION of this popular work, compiled by the late Dr Tim Whitney, was published in 1979, with subsequent editions published by Picton Publishing, Longman Group, the author and the British Postmark Society. The long-awaited 8th edition is now out, published by Stanley Gibbons Ltd, with a similar cover design to its well established 'Collect British Stamps' (reviewed in January *Bulletin*, page 158).

Postmark collecting is a vast subject and it is not possible to list and value every postmark in the same way as stamps. However, here you will find listed all the main types of British postmarks from the 17th century to the present, with useful notes and good illustrations. The prices given are what collectors should expect to pay for good clear strikes on clean covers or cards. The note on pricing (on page viii) merits careful reading when valuing postmarks in your collection or when buying.

Broad scope The category titles of the listings give an idea of the scope of the book, as follows: General Post to 1839; Free Franks; London Local Posts to 1839; Marks of the Provincial Post to 1839 – England & Wales; Early Scottish Marks to 1839; Early Irish Marks; Great Post Office Reforms, 1839-44; Numeral, Spoon & Duplex Postmarks; Squared Circle Postmarks; Later Circular Handstamps; Machine Cancellations; Slogan Postmarks; Special Event Postmarks; Railway Postmarks; Colliery Postmarks; Maritime Markings; Military & Camp Postmarks; Aviation; Islands; Charge, Instructional & Explanatory Marks; Newspaper, Parcel, Registered, Express & Triangular Postmarks; Posted in Advance for Christmas Postmarks, Parliamentary; Royalty; British Post Offices Abroad; Tourist Cachets; Meter Marks; Printed Postage Impressions; Postal Mechanisation; and Post Office Names.

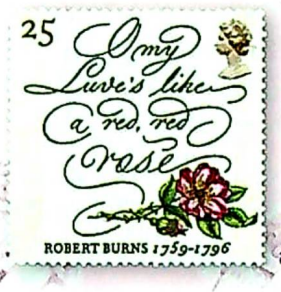
The final sections of the book include an A-Z of interesting places, listings of postal rates and abbreviations and last, but by no means least, an extensive bibliography. This is helpfully divided between 'classic works', now mostly out of print, and 'the moderns' that superseded them. Looking at the bibliography shows just how much research has been published on British postmarks in recent years, much of it distilled into this new edition that will be welcomed by existing collectors and may well inspire a new generation.

Collect British Postmarks costs £29.95 and is available from the Stanley Gibbons shop at 399 Strand, London WC2R 0LX (phone 020 7836 8444) or from Stanley Gibbons Ltd, 7 Parkside, Ringwood, Hampshire BH24 3SH •

December Quiz solutions and winner

Solution: Dent. Winner: D Slater, Congleton. Answers: 1 17th-century mailbag. 2 Dockwra. 3 *Emma*. 4 Lombard St. 5 38 years. 6 Peter Williamson. 7 Rowland Hill. 8 King George V. 9 Girobank. 10 47%. 11 Dollis Hill. 12 Inns. 13 *The Carriers Cosmography* by John Taylor, 1637, listed places to find mail coaches and carriers in London. 14 1969. 15 10%. 16 Evelyn Murray. 17 Transorma. 18 Ledburn, Near Mentmore, Bucks. 19 Eastcastle Street. 20 Moses James Nobbs. 21 1965. 22 1981. 23 1958. 24 Royal Mail Ship. 25 1964.

Prize draws Stamps with a heart, for Valentine's day



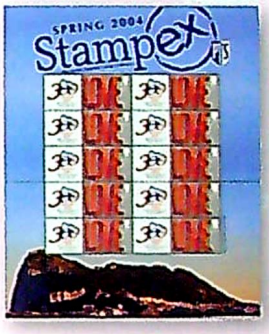
a



b



c



d


e

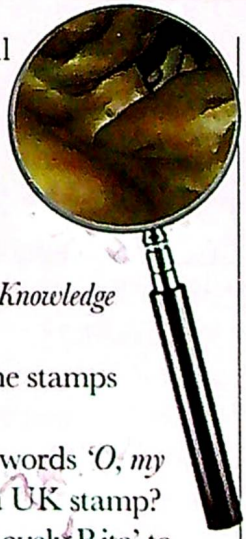


f



g

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



Knowledge To mark Valentine's Day this month, we cast aside the cryptic crossword for an extended *Knowledge* quiz on matters of the heart.

The six questions below relate to the stamps labelled a to g, shown above.

a) In what year did Rabbie Burns' words *'O, my Luve's like a red, red rose'* appear on a UK stamp?

b) What is the occupation of the 'Lovely Rita' to whom a song is dedicated on the Beatles album *Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Heart Club Band*, featured in a 2007 special issue?

c) What is the significance of the word 'Alloway' in the romantic first-day postmark shown?

d) Known as the 2004 Stampex Love Sheet, why does it carry an image of the Rock of Gibraltar?

e) This 1995 stamp shows a kiss in a detail from a Renoir painting. What is the name of the painting?

f) What medical breakthrough was celebrated in the 2010 stamp showing the human heart?

g) The only UK stamps carrying the words 'Valentine's Day' appeared in a special issue on 6 February 1981. What is the name of the issue?

How to enter Send your answers, marked 'February Identify' and/or 'February Knowledge' to: Philatelic Bulletin Prize Draws, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, EH12 9PB.

Closing date:
14 March 2012.

The first correct entry drawn after the closing date wins the Diamond Jubilee Definitives and Comics issues, plus the Bradbury Valentine Sheet (right). Five more winners drawn receive philatelic prizes •



Prize draw rules and regulations

1 The closing date is 14 March 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 The Editor, *British Philatelic Bulletin*, Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. The promoter is Royal Mail Group Ltd, 100 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0HQ.

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Notes: PS = Philatelic Society. April 2011 issue included a publicity sheet on Royal Wedding stamps. Volumes 46 and 47 indexes are available on printed sheets and pdfs from Tallents House, at the address on page 162 •





The Britons of Distinction special issue is released by Royal Mail during Stampex, on Thursday 23 February. And Friday sees the arrival of the new Post & Go British Farm Animals I, Sheep. Special posting facilities are available for first day covers and for the special Stampex postmark – see page 176

This month at Stampex...

An exhibition of distinction Spring Stampex will be held, as usual, at the Business Design Centre, London N1, from 22 to 25 February 2012. Organised by the Philatelic Traders Society, the exhibition offers about 90 trade stands, interesting displays and a number of popular activities.

Opening hours are: Wednesday 22 February 11.30am-7pm, Thursday 23 and Friday 24 February 10am-6pm, and Saturday 25 February 10am-5pm. Admission is free.

The Business Design Centre is a short walk from Angel underground station (Northern Line), and the area is well served by buses. Refreshments are available at the exhibition.

For further details of Stampex phone 01273 594110 or email info@philatelic-traders-society.co.uk •

Royal Mail

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