

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The ROYAL MAIL magazine *for stamp collectors*

Volume 38 Number 9

MAY 2001 • 85p

Bulletin

The Festival of Britain 1951 •
New issue: Fabulous Hats



Four new stamps feature hats by some of Britain's leading designers: Philip Treacy, Pip Hackett, Dai Rees and Stephen Jones. The Fabulous Hats issue, on sale from 19 June.

Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



Cover Detail from a poster by an anonymous Czech artist of the 19th century. A preview of Royal Mail's Fabulous Hats issue begins on page 272.

Issues Note some items are available only from Royal Mail Tallents House Edinburgh and Post Office Counters philatelic outlets at main post offices in Bath, Belfast, Birmingham Brighton, Bristol, Cambridge Canterbury, Cardiff, Chester Colchester, Coventry, Croydon Durham, Edinburgh, Exeter Gatwick Airport, Glasgow Gloucester, Grimsby, Guildford Harrogate, Leeds, Leicester Liverpool, London (Eastcheap and Trafalgar Sq), Manchester Newcastle upon Tyne, Norwich Nottingham, Oxford, Plymouth Portsmouth, Southampton, Southend-on-Sea, Stevenage Stratford-on-Avon, Truro, Windsor and York

1 May

Issue Occasions stamps in 'Smilers for You' sheets produced to order with customised image on labels. Available in sheets of 20 Love, ABC (baby) or Moving homes stamps, or mixed sheet of 10 Cheers and 10 Thank You stamps. Available only to order from Royal Mail Tallents House, Edinburgh.

1 May

Withdrawal Millennium Art & Craft stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards.

8 May

Issue Buses stamp cards (five stamps, one miniature sheet).

15 May

Issue Buses stamps, miniature sheet, presentation pack, and 'Postbag' (pack for young collectors).

21 May

Withdrawal Stamp Show 2000 products: Jeffery Matthews & Her Majesty's Stamps miniature sheets, Exhibition card (pack containing Jeffery Matthews sheet mint and cancelled), and Smilers sheet (greetings stamps and labels).

24 May

Issue Submarines medal cover (available only from Royal Mail Tallents House).

25 May

Withdrawal Retail stamp book containing eight 1st class definitives and 1st class Above & Beyond and Life & Earth stamps (Note: only source of the 1st class Above & Beyond stamp).

5 June

Issue Occasions stamps in 'Smilers for You' sheet with greetings labels (available from Royal Mail Tallents House and Post Office philatelic outlets).

5 June

Withdrawal Millennium People & Place stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards.

12 June

Issue Fabulous Hats stamp cards.

19 June

Issue Fabulous Hats stamps and presentation pack.

20 June

Issue Queen Victoria coin and banknote covers (available only from Royal Mail Tallents House).

Contents



The Festival of Britain Fred Gee recalls an earlier Dome on the Thames, and the 11 new stamps which appeared on 3 May 1951, a remarkable day for British collectors of the time **276**

The British Philatelic Bulletin is published monthly by Royal Mail, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8HG • **Editor** JR Holman • **Price** 85p for single copies, from Post Office Counters philatelic outlets • **Annual subscription** £9.50 in UK and Europe; £13.50 rest of the world. Subscriptions should be sent to Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PE • **Binders** to hold 24 issues, price £7, are available by post from Royal Mail (Edinburgh address above) • Royal Mail also publishes the fortnightly *British Postmark Bulletin*, which gives details of forthcoming special hand-stamps. Available on annual subscription, from Edinburgh address above: UK and Europe £10, rest of the world £21.75 • **Copyright** Design and text Consignia PLC, unless attributed to specific author. Requests to reproduce any article should be sent to the Editor, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8HG • **Design** by Robert Maude • **Printed** in Great Britain by The White Dove Press • **ISSN** 0953 8119

Issues and withdrawals for May and June **258**

Stamp scene Rowland Hill winners; Stampex; Exhibition news **260**

Royal Mail news Issues news; Postbags; Smilers stamps; New covers **263**

A world leader Tallents House is opened **266**

Royal auction Historic Spink sale, 17 May **267**

The 1d Black in 1940 by Christine Finn **268**



Fabulous Hats Work by four of Britain's leading designers is featured in this new issue **272**

Philately on-line Ron Negus on finding useful background material on the web **279**

Mail by bus A vanishing service is described by Lionel Jones **280**



Philatelic Youth Camp Richard West talks to Ross Burden **282**

Postbag Letters to the Editor **284**

Cover corner Soldiers' Tales on a cover from C F Aldridge **284**

Posting boxes **285**

Special prize draw Win a Queen Mother coin cover **285**

Competitions £200 to be won in two easy-to-enter competitions **286**

Events **286**

Late news **287**

Stamp scene Rowland Hill • Exhibitions • Society news • UK wins Nations Cup



Daniel Robinson, clearly pleased to receive his Award as Young Collector of 2000.

Rowland Hill Awards The awards for philatelic achievement during 2000 were presented at a dinner held at the Dorchester Hotel, London on 27 March. Comper for the evening was writer and broadcaster Clarissa Dickson-Wright of *Two Fat Ladies* and *Clarissa and the Countryman* fame. The awards were presented by Stuart Sweetman of Royal Mail, Francis Kiddle of the British Philatelic Trust, and Nigel Howarth of the Philatelic Traders' Society, the three sponsoring organisations. Winners received a certificate and a coveted award featuring a facsimile of the engraving die for the 1995 25p Communications stamp showing Sir Rowland Hill.

Mark Thomson commented on the excellent evening and the very high standard of the nominations, setting the judging panels a difficult task •

The winners and runners-up

ROYAL MAIL INNOVATION AWARDS	BRITISH PHILATELIC TRUST	PHILATELIC TRADERS' SOCIETY
Stamp and Product Innovation The Chase Creative Consultants Ltd for creating a new 1st class definitive for the Millennium year. Runners up: Trickett & Webb Ltd, Walsall Security Printers Ltd Journalistic Excellence: Print and Broadcast Media John Crace for a feature in the (London) <i>Evening Standard</i>. Runners up: Simon Hoggart, Robert McNeil Journalistic Excellence: Philatelic Writing Ashley Lawrence for 'Sowing the Seeds of Love', <i>Stamp Magazine</i> July 2000. Runners up: Dr Christopher Board, James Mackay, Alan Moorcroft Post Office Excellence Manchester Postshop. Runners up: Bristol and Glasgow Postshops	Youth Work Frank Soutar for his work in many schools in the 'Design a Label' competition for Glasgow 2000. Runners up: John Davies, Gavin Fryer Young Collector Daniel Robinson. Runners up: Melissa Hitchcock and Woodbury Salterton School Stamp Club Authorship/Research Clive Akerman. Runners up: Harry Dagnall, Martin Evans Community/Teamwork National Youth Stamp Group Committee for The Stamp Show 2000. Runners up: Bath Postal Museum, and Ian Nutley New Horizons Roy Erskine and Ian MacPherson for Glasgow 2000. Runners up: John Dahl and Ian Harvey, and Glenn Morgan	Business Enterprise and Development Eric Friedman. Runners up: Robert Danzig, and Malcolm Sprei. Personal Contribution Ronald G Shelly OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT The Outstanding Achievement Award went to Francis Kiddle, Chairman of the British Philatelic Trust and former President of the Royal Philatelic Society London.

Forthcoming international exhibitions The first international exhibition of 2001, Belgica 2001, takes place at exhibition halls 3, 4 and 9 at the 'Heysel' Parc des Expositions, Brussels, 9-15 June. This follows successful internationals in Brussels in 1972, 1982 and 1990. The exhibition commemorates 500 years of European Post following the appointment in 1501 of Francois de Tassis as Capitaine et Maistre des Postes.

Belgica 2001 is being organised by Pro-Post, the Royal Belgian Philatelic Federation, the Chamber of Belgian Stamp Dealers, and Belgian Post. The exhibition has Fédération Internationale de Philatélie (FIP) patronage with 12 classes: Championship, Traditional Philately, Postal History, Postal Stationery, Aerophilately, Astrophilately, Thematic Philately, Maximaphily, Revenues, Youth, Literature and Open. The exhibits will occupy some 3000 frames. The British Commissioner for Belgica 2001 is Mrs Yvonne Wheatley of Leeds. Amongst the items on display will be the only letter discovered in the ruins of Hiroshima after the nuclear explosion in August 1945. The British Library will show proofs, forerunners of the first postage stamps and a collection of rare and unique stamps dating from before 1849 when the first Belgian stamps were issued.

Some 130 postal administrations, including Royal Mail, will be present or represented and some 70 dealers will have stands, including 13 from the UK. Belgian Post has issued stamps and postal stationery to promote Belgica and new stamps will be issued each day of the exhibition, beginning with five stamps and a miniature sheet marking 500 years of European postal network on 9 June.

Amphilex 2002 will be held in Amsterdam, 30 August-3 September 2002. Keith Fitton, National Commissioner for the UK, will be pleased to send intending exhibitors a copy of Bulletin 1 and a provisional entry form on receipt of £1 (cheque or stamps) to defray cost. The competitive exhibits will be in the following classes: Traditional Philately, Postal History, Thematics, Youth and Literature.



King Albert II and Queen Paola of Belgium, patrons of Belgica 2001.

Amphilex 2002 enquiries

Keith Fitton, 50 Firlands, Weybridge KT13 0HR. Telephone 01932 840549. Completed entry forms should be submitted in early June.

Society news The March/April issue of the GB Philatelic Society's *GB Journal* contains interesting features on Britain's rarest stamp (Edward VII 6d IR Official), possible re-use of line-engraved plates, Machin postal history, measurement of shades, scarcity of QV surface-printed stamps on cover, and college stamps in the Royal Collection. The more chatty, but just as interesting, *GBPS Newsletter* includes discussions on Machin issues, the perils of competition judging, initials in postmarks, self-adhesives, and an article on the Wilding definitives. Between the two publications there must be something to interest all collectors of GB.

The Astro Space Stamp Society has produced a red, white and blue gummed astro-philatelic airmail label (etiquette) commemorating the first Briton in space mission of 1991. To win a 1997 Hong Kong exhibition miniature sheet (Solomon Islands or Trinidad & Tobago), answer the question: Who was the first Briton in space? Send your answer, name and address, with an A4 SAE (UK readers) or four IRCs (overseas) to the address opposite.

Over 40 members attended the Welsh Philatelic Society's 30th anniversary meeting at Aberystwyth on 24 February. From just 10 inaugural members, the WPS now has over 200 members worldwide. Meetings are held at various venues in Wales, and regular newsletters and postal auctions keep members in touch with the philately and postal history in Wales.

GBPS enquiries

A J Lajer, Old Post Office, Davis Way, Hurst, Reading RG10 0TR.

Astro Space Stamp Society

(BPB), 21 Exford Close, Weston-super-Mare BS23 4RE. Entries should arrive by 31 May.

WPS enquiries

Mrs M Turner, 2 Coed Y Glyn, Gellilydan, Blaenau Ffestiniog, LL41 4EL.

UK wins Nations Cup The first, experimental, FIP Nations Cup competition was held in London at Spring Stampex (28 February-4 March), organised by the Joint International Committee of the Association of British Philatelic Societies and British Philatelic Trust. Participating countries were Belgium, France, Portugal and the UK, and representative exhibits from all philatelic disciplines were in competition. Judged by an independent jury, the UK emerged a close winner with 957 points (out of 1100), with France, Belgium and Portugal scoring 933, 894 and 887 respectively. The Nations Cup represents an initiative by the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie (FIP) to create a different type of competition where teams of individuals from each country contribute exhibits to form a national representative entry. This makes high quality exhibits more accessible to the public outside the constraints of major international exhibitions. Nations Cup competitions should be held in a number of countries in each continental Federation, with the winner of each progressing to a Federation competition. Ultimately, the winner of each continental Federation competition would then compete in a planned World Stamp Championship.

The Stampex catalogue included a special section for the Nations Cup exhibits. The UK entries were: Postal History Class – The Posts of London, 16th-19th century; Mail to, from and via British Post Offices in Latin America, c1824-80; Thematic Philately – 1936 Olympic Summer Games; The Grey Goose Wing; Traditional – Twopence White Line Issues of 1841-75; King George V Profile Head, Royal Cypher Issue 1912-24; Youth Philately – Let's Collect Stamps; They Travelled Great Waters; Aero Philately – UK Air Mails, the First Fifty Years; Postal Stationery – Origins, Development and Usage of British Postal Stationery, 1840-60; and Revenue – GB Revenue Stamps 1694-1840 and their precursors. The jury comprised Egil Thomassen and Ingolf Kapelrud (Norway), Erik Hvidberg Hansen (Denmark), Wolf Hess (Germany), Juhani Olamo (Finland) and Joseph Wolff (Luxembourg).

George VI Collectors Society

F R Lockyer, 98 Albany, Manor Road, Bournemouth BH1 3EW.

Stampex also included some fine displays arranged by the King George Sixth Collectors Society and the Insurance & Banking Philatelic Society of GB. British stamps in the George VI displays were: 1939-48 'Arms' High Values; Festival of Britain (1951); Hand Illustrated Envelopes; Proofs, Varieties and Flaws; and First Day Covers. The Society produced a worthy booklet about the displays for visitors.

Insurance & Banking Society

John Payne, Kelso, Devonshire Avenue, Amersham HP6 5JE.

The British exhibits in the Insurance & Banking displays covered British Greetings Telegrams Service; GB commemoratives 1974-76; PO Savings Bank; and the 1st class Machin in flame (orange) colour. For details of the Society, which celebrates its 50th anniversary next month, contact John Payne at the address opposite.

Spring Stampex attracted some 6000 visitors; Autumn Stampex will be held at the Business Design Centre, London N1, 19-23 September. Meanwhile two important national exhibitions will be staged during June: Thematica at the Carisbrooke Hall, Seymour Street, London W2 (23-24 June), and Midpex at the Midland Sports Centre for the Disabled, Tile Hill, Coventry (30 June). Midpex is the exhibition for specialist societies ●

British Philatelic Trust The Report and Accounts for the year 1999-2000 was published in March. The Trust was directly involved with assisting Royal Mail in the organisation of The Stamp Show 2000, particularly the administration of the competitive aspect of the exhibition. The Trust pays particular attention to youth and education and during the year supplied some 450 school or youth club stamp societies with material, ranging from 'starter packs' and activity material to educational handbooks. The Trust funds the staging each year of the British Youth Stamp Championships and the Stamp Active Stamp Competition. Emphasis is continually placed on learned publication; during the year the Trust published *The Barred Numeral Cancellations of London* by John Parmenter. There was an increased level of expenditure with the Association of British Philatelic Societies to fund special projects, although the Trust does not support the running costs of ABPS. Philatelic Development, which embraces all advancement projects in philately, has again been funded by a contribution from Royal Mail. The objectives of Philatelic Development include: the re-appraisal and strengthening of the Trust's lines of communication, both with Royal Mail and various groups within organised philately; to review, modernise and update the Trust's information provision, which has included considerable preparatory work for a UK philately website involving not only the Trust but also ABPS and NPS; and to help extend public awareness of philately and its relevance in today's society. The Trust's income for the year was £240,520; expenditure totalled £171,674; assets amount to £3,354,342 •

British Philatelic Trust 107
Charterhouse Street, London
EC1M 6PT.

Royal Mail news Postbags children's packs

• Three new covers • Occasions Smilers

Forthcoming stamps The theme for this year's Europa stamps, issued by member countries of PostEurop, is Water. The Royal Mail stamps will feature Pondlife and will be issued on 10 July. The four stamps, to be previewed here next month, feature: Common Frog, Great Diving Beetle, Stickleback, and Dragonfly. There will be no new special stamps in August, the programme continues with six 1st class stamps featuring Punch & Judy on 4 September. Two of these stamps will be included, with four 1st class definitives, in a £1.62 stamp book to be available from 11 September •



Cats & Dogs stamps It is understood that the Cats & Dogs stamps used on first day covers serviced by the British Philatelic Bureau were printed by the same cylinders as were used for the sheetlets of 10. The right-hand column was used to make into rolls for the purpose of affixing the stamps to covers using machinery. On these, the gaps between individual stamps and between the rows were wider than on the sheetlet. However, apart from their use as multiples on Bureau covers, the stamps cannot be distinguished from those from sheetlets •



Postbags for children The first of a new product aimed at young collectors went on sale with the Weather stamps in March. The Weather postbag contains the miniature sheet, five colourful postcards (numbered POSTBAG Cards 1-5), a sheet of eight self-adhesive stickers, a card kit to make a barometer and a glider, and a booklet with pages showing a country scene – when the pages are ‘flicked through’ the scene changes with the seasons. The contents are enclosed in a stout plastic wallet.

Price £5.99 from Royal Mail Tallents House Edinburgh and Post Office philatelic outlets. Further postbags – attractive gifts for young collectors – will be produced for the Buses, Pondlife and Nobel Prizes issues ●

Smilers for You formats

- 1 Sheet of 20 ‘Love’ stamps
- 2 Sheet of 20 ‘ABC’ (baby) stamps
- 3 Sheet of 20 ‘Moving Home’ stamps
- 4 Sheet of 10 ‘Cheers’ and 10 ‘Thank You’ stamps

Note: the price for a single sheet has increased since the April Bulletin went to press. Enquire (see phone numbers right) for prices for 100 or more sheets.

Occasions stamps in Smilers sheets From 1 May ‘Smilers for You’ sheets of Occasions stamps will be available to order with your own image on adjoining labels in the formats listed opposite. These sheets will be available to order only from Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB, price £12.95 for a single sheet, £11.95 each for 2-4 sheets, £9.95 each 5-9 sheets, and £9.50 each for 10-99 sheets. The discount prices for two or more sheets are for sheets of the same type. For details of ordering contact the special department on 0845 074 2000 (UK customers) or +44 131 316 7489 (overseas).

In addition a ‘generic sheet’ containing four of each Occasions stamp with appropriate related labels will be available from 5 June. These sheets will be available from Royal Mail Tallents House and Post Office philatelic outlets, price £5.95. Enquiries 08457 641 641 (UK) or +44 131 316 7483 (overseas).

These Occasions Smilers sheets are being printed by Questa in lithography. There will be no first day facilities.

The Stamp Show 2000 Smilers sheet (greetings stamps) are available from Tallents House until 21 May, price £2.95, and Christmas Smilers sheets, intended for withdrawal in January, will now remain on sale, for as long as stocks last, until October, price £3.99 sheet of 20 × 19p stamps, £2.95 sheet of 10 × 1st class ●

Quantities issued

Aerogrammes

1999 Millennium Stadium Cardiff	52,000
1999 Christmas	533,250

Pictorial label books

1994 Bank of England	1,830,000
1995 R J Mitchell	3,980,000
1996 Queen's birthday	4,480,000

1997 Hong Kong	230,000
1997 Commonwealth Heads of Government	980,000
1998 Prince of Wales birthday	230,000
1999 Berlin Airlift	3,980,000
1999 Rugby World Cup	480,000

Figures for books only, not unfolded panes



Submarine and Queen Victoria covers A Submarine Philatelic Medallion Cover, with medal marking the Submarine Service centenary, will be issued on 24 May, price £12.95. This bears the four Submarines stamps cancelled by a special Gosport handstamp.

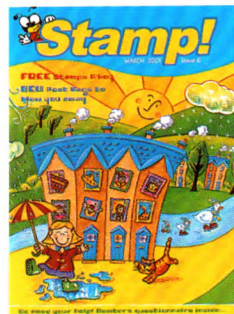
Two special covers will be available from 20 June. A coin cover (price £15.95) will bear two 1st class Queen Victoria/Elizabeth II XVI definitive stamps and the self-adhesive label of Victoria and the Albert memorial from the stamp book issued in January. The two stamps will be cancelled by a pictorial Osborne House, Cowes postmark applied in gold ink. Encapsulated in the cover is the new £5 coin featuring a bust of Victoria set within the Great Exhibition Arch at the Crystal Palace which Victoria opened in 1851.

A banknote cover (price £49.95) continues the Victoria theme, honouring both the Queen and one of the great scientists of her reign, Charles Darwin. The cover features a photograph of Victoria in old age and bears two of the 26p Darwin stamp from the 1999 Scientists' Tale set cancelled by a pictorial postmark showing the towers of Westminster Abbey. The cover encapsulates the new Victoria £5 coin and new Bank of England £10 note showing Darwin and a Galapagos Finch. The notes on the covers bear a unique serial number prefix •

Collectors Club The March edition of *Stamp!*, the magazine of the Royal Mail Collectors Club, includes features on the Weather stamps and how to make a barometer, the Submarines stamps, a poetry competition relating to the Buses stamps, the cartoon adventures of Sammy the Stamp Bug, details of the new Postbag packs for young collectors, and a page of jokes sent in by readers. The Club is taimed at young collectors up to age 14. Members receive a fun starter pack, membership card and the bi-monthly magazine. UK membership is £5 for two years, £9.50 overseas. Write to: Collectors Club, Freepost NEA 1431, Sunderland SR9 9XN •

A painting of the young Queen Victoria is featured on the coin cover, above.

Orders for these three covers should be sent to: Royal Mail Talents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB.



A world leader The Editor visits Royal Mail's Tallents House

Consignia PLC Scottish Press Office



Stamp designer David Gentleman at the opening of Tallents House.

AS READERS WILL KNOW, the British Philatelic Bureau moved from its Brandon Street address to a new home at Tallents House, South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh last autumn. The move was necessary to provide larger and better facilities for the three distinct operations now run from Tallents House – the Bureau service for collectors and the Royal Mail Retail and Royal Mail Direct services for business customers. The new building was officially opened by stamp designer David Gentleman on 21 March, attended by representatives from the philatelic press, overseas postal administrations, stamp printers and other suppliers.

In his speech of welcome John Wright, Royal Mail's Director Fulfilment & Customer Services (better known to collectors as the Bureau Manager), outlined the work of the Tallents House team. In all they serve over 500,000 customers – 350,000 philatelists, 70,000 retailers, and 145,000 businesses. Stamp books are supplied by Royal Mail Retail to retailers the length and breadth of the UK, and small businesses and other organisations can order stamps and stationery from Royal Mail Direct for their postal needs. All orders received up to 6pm are despatched by special delivery the same day; the service has proved extremely popular with businesses. John welcomed guests including Frank Langfield who set up the Bureau in London back in 1963, and mentioned two of his staff – Stuart Watt and Margaret Paul – who had worked at the Bureau since it moved to Edinburgh (Stuart retired in April). He expressed his 'passion and pride' in the Bureau and thanked his staff for their hard work in ensuring the move to Tallents House went so smoothly.

John Roberts, Chief Executive of The Post Office (now Consignia PLC), told the guests that Tallents House is named after Sir Stephen Tallents (1884-1958), who was PO Public Relations Officer in the 1930s. Sir Stephen, said Mr Roberts, 'had a creativity of the type we are now looking for in the Post Office'; he is pleased the building was named in his honour. He spoke of the £2 million spent on the new building to provide good operational areas and improved efficiency – the operations are about 90% automated and security is 'state of the art'. The building is near the new Edinburgh Mail Centre and airport – ideal for a mail-order service. The 200 staff service around 4.5 million orders a year; there are some 30,000 standing order customers abroad, particularly in the USA, Australia, Germany, Netherlands, and Canada. Stamp sales from Tallents House to collectors, retailers, and businesses now total 20% of all British stamps sold. It is, said Mr Roberts, 'no small operation and one of the most exciting businesses we have in the Post Office'.

David Gentleman spoke of his delight in being in Edinburgh, his Scottish ancestry, and of his near 40 year association with the PO. He told of his work with Tony Benn (Postmaster General 1964-66) in changing British stamps from the 'deferential designs' of the past. Of his many designs he noted a common ground in trying to make an idea visible, encapsulated in a tiny space and understandable to all. Achieving this was not easy but challenging and fun. Designing stamps had taught him flexibility and diplomacy which he had found useful in other areas of life. He had visited Tallents House earlier in the year and was impressed not only by the building but also by

the 'charming and dedicated people' who worked there. 'With affection and respect' he declared Tallents House open.

The guests were then taken on a tour of the building to see some departments at work. In the Production section presentation packs and first day covers of the Submarines stamps were being prepared (the work here is 99% automated), in Business Despatch orders were being packed for retailers and businesses; Customer Service staff were busy handling some of the 16,000 letter and

phone call enquiries each month; and the new Customised Stamps section was preparing for the new Smilers for You Occasions stamps available from May.

All visitors seemed impressed by the variety of work done at Tallents House. As Mr Roberts said in his speech, 'From its modest beginnings nearly four decades ago, the Bureau has grown, harnessing new technology, to become the world leader in the field of philately.' ●

The Royal Philatelic Collection auction 17 May at Spink



Catalogues for this sale (£15 softbound or £25 hardbound) can be ordered from: Kate Chiari, Spink, 69 Southampton Row, London WC1B 4ET, Telephone +44 (0)20 7563 4000; or seen on Spink's website: www.spink-online.com.

Specialist enquiries about items in the sale should be directed to Richard Watkins on +44 (0)20 7563 4070.

AS FIRST REPORTED HERE in March, HM The Queen is to auction duplicate items from the Royal Philatelic Collection at Spink in London on 17 May. The sale, unprecedented in terms of the nature of the material to be offered and its extraordinary provenance, comprises some 200 lots, with a combined estimate of £300,000-400,000. It offers a fascinating range of stamps and covers from Great Britain, Dominions and the Empire. The sale of duplicate and surplus items will help fund a programme of enhancement begun with the purchase of a first day cover bearing ten 1d blacks.

Amongst the GB lots is a block of six 1840 2d blue plate 1, corner letters CA-CC/DA-DC, with part original gum (estimate £18,000-20,000); an 1847 embossed head proof taken before the pendant was added and without frame in white on

pale green (SG Specialised Catalogue EP1a) (est £800-1000); and a 1s embossed in pale green, unused example with part og (£1500-2000).

Other GB lots include an 1840 1d black plate 1a on a wrapper, posted on 6 May 1840, the first day of validity (est £6000-8000); a fine unused Edward VII 2d Tyrian Plum, prepared but not issued owing to the King's death (£9000-10,000), and high value Official stamps.

The Royal Philatelic Collection is primarily associated with King George V (reigned 1910-36), an enthusiastic and astute collector. Continued by George VI and The Queen, it is probably the finest collection outside libraries and museums. George V told of the immense relief his stamps gave him away from state duties; when in London, he devoted three afternoons a week to his collection ●

The Penny Black in 1940 by Christine Finn

Speaking at the Royal Philatelic Society Dinner on 6 May 1940, the Postmaster General, the Rt Hon W S Morrison said: 'We are here celebrating in time of war the hundredth anniversary of a victory of peace, from which the whole world has benefited ... in the grim business which today makes the first call upon all our energies, it is well that we should have this reminder that the spirit of man is capable of constructive progress in conditions of freedom and peace.'

W S MORRISON'S WORDS truly set the scene for the celebration of the Penny Black's centenary, taking place as it did at the start of a war which would, to a greater or lesser degree, affect the entire world. The phrase 'a victory of peace' was also an excellent way to describe the introduction of the first postage stamp, which was in fact the symbol of a major social reform. The postal service in the 1830s, with its system of payment

by the recipient of a letter, resulted in a great deal of wasted time and effort on the part of the Post Office when letters were refused. It was also apallingly unfair in that it provided a free service to the aristocracy, MPs and high-ranking civil servants, whilst those who were trying to run businesses or simply to send personal letters faced an enormous cost. A single letter travelling across a county boundary, for example, cost more than a day's pay for the average working man – today about £25! Rowland Hill was only one of many campaigners for a reform of the service, but it was his proposals for an improved and fairer system which were accepted by the Treasury, and it was not long before the principles of the British system were adopted by other countries. It was not however, anticipated that this innovation would also lead to the development of a worldwide hobby.

Centenary exhibition and stamps With such an auspicious anniversary on the horizon, the Royal Philatelic Society began planning its centenary celebrations in the mid-1930s. A committee was set up to organise a major international exhibition at Earls Court, and the Post Office planned to issue a set of four stamps plus what would have been Britain's first miniature sheet. Early in 1939 essays for centenary stamps were invited from selected artists.

The declaration of war in September 1939 naturally led to the cancellation of the exhibition, and originally of plans for commemorative stamps. Undaunted British collectors and dealers therefore started to produce their own souvenirs, firstly for the centenary of the 4d post and later for the centenary of the Uniform Penny Post. This perhaps caused the Post Office to have a change of heart, because it announced in January 1940 that it would after all issue centenary stamps. Because of an increase in postal rates on 1 May 1940, the planned set of four stamps became a set of six.

The Lord Mayor of London approached the Royal Philatelic Society with the suggestion that it arrange a smaller scale national exhibition in aid of the Red Cross & St John Fund, to which the RPS readily agreed. The exhibition, at Lancaster House, was opened on 6 May by HRH the Duchess of Gloucester, and included an exhibit from the Royal Collection. The 27th Philatelic Congress also went ahead, together with another centenary exhibition in Bournemouth, and many local philatelic societies held celebrations of their own.

STAMP WORLD LONDON 90

ALEXANDRA PALACE 3-13 MAY

03602



DESIGNS BY EDMUND DULAC

DESIGNS
BY
HARRISON & SONS

ESSAYS FOR THE 1940 CENTENARY ISSUE

REPRODUCED BY KIND PERMISSION OF THE
NATIONAL POSTAL MUSEUM*H.L. Palmer.*

Left and below: a reproduction of the essays, and a souvenir produced by G Walker of Liverpool. Centre: Harrison & Sons staff member H L Palmer designed the issued stamps. Bottom: a cover posted at the London Centenary Exhibition.

1840



1940



PHOTOGRAVURE PRINTED STAMPS BY*

HARRISON & SONS LIMITED

LONDON W.C.2

* See over

CHELMSFORD AND DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY.

ISSUED TO
COMMEMORATE
THE
CENTENARY
OF THE
POSTAGE STAMP
MAY 6th
1940



*Mr. J. H. Smith
1, Jubilee Terrace
Chelmsford
Essex*

With the Compliments
of the President

Commonwealth issues The British commemorative stamps were overprinted for use in the Morocco Agencies, but only about a third of those overprinted were sent out to Tangier, the remainder being sold to dealers in the UK. Of the stamps sent out to Tangier, a great many were later returned unsold, and hence local first day covers for this issue are not easy to find. It might have been expected that British Commonwealth countries would be prominent in the list of those celebrating the centenary, but this was not the case. Only Burma issued an overprinted definitive stamp. Souvenir postmarks were produced in Canada and the Bahamas and a red cachet was applied in Georgetown, British Guiana. The only other Commonwealth souvenir is a rather amusing fake 'Round the world Tin Can Air Mail' cover from Tonga. Whilst the postmark is undoubtedly genuine, there is no record of any ship having been in the area at that time to receive Tin Can Mail, and the covers have clearly never been through the post.

American souvenirs The most elaborate centenary souvenirs were produced in the Americas. Although the USA did not issue a special stamp, its philatelic societies seem to have been determined to compensate for this by the production of volumes of privately produced labels. Only Washington Philatelic Society produced a postal souvenir in the form of a commemorative meter mark. An official at the Liberian Embassy in New York authorised centenary overprints on current Liberian stamps, but as these were produced and sold in New York, they might perhaps also be considered to be American souvenirs.

In South and Central America there were a great many special issues. Argentina, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua and Paraguay all produced commemorative stamps. Brazil had issued a Rowland Hill miniature sheet two years earlier, and so contented itself with a series of special postmarks for 1940. Although these countries were not directly affected by the war, Guatemala at least was indirectly affected in that it had its stamps printed in the Netherlands. They were of course detained during enemy occupation and were eventually issued in 1946!

European issues In Europe, some countries which were still 'neutral' in May 1940 managed to issue special stamps. Portugal, which remained neutral throughout, issued a set of eight stamps plus a miniature sheet. Bulgaria issued a set of two stamps, and other souvenirs and special postmarks were produced in Hungary, Sweden, Switzerland and Yugoslavia. Perhaps most surprising, however, is the number of souvenirs produced in countries which were directly involved in the conflict. Of these, only Estonia managed to produce special stamps, but as it was under Russian occupation at the time, this was no mean feat. Bohemia & Moravia (formerly part of Czechoslovakia) had been a 'German Protectorate' since March 1939, but no less than 24 centenary exhibitions were held there, most with quite elaborate souvenirs and multi-coloured special cancels. Denmark was invaded on 9 April 1940, but the Copenhagen Philatelic Club went ahead



with its centenary exhibition from 2-9 May. Centenary cancellations were also available at exhibitions in Holland and France which were just about to come under attack and must have been conscious of the fact. In fact the souvenir card for an exhibition in Rotterdam is particularly difficult to find, as most examples were posted to local addresses and were destroyed along with the town just a few days after the exhibition.

Bearing in mind the significant role which propaganda played in the Second World War, the most unlikely sources of souvenirs for the centenary of a British invention must surely be Italy and Germany. Yet three exhibitions were held in Italy, both before and after it entered into the war. A dealer in Germany produced a souvenir card with an illustration of the Penny Black, which was postally used in 1940. The German Federal Philatelic Association produced another postal stationery card, but since the design had to be approved by the Nazi leisure organisation, KDF, they included a portrait of Heinrich von Stephan and a small inscription '70 years of the Postcard' in addition to the much larger inscription '100 Years of the Stamp'.

To parody the words of Mr Morrison, in the grim business which in 1940 made the first call on everybody's energies, it is well that we should have this reminder that the spirit of philately is indomitable! •

One of the three meter marks known for the centenary, and a card from the exhibition held in Rotterdam.

Fabulous hats Celebrating British designers

FOUR STAMPS featuring hats by leading British designers will be available from post offices, Royal Mail Tallents House Edinburgh, and philatelic outlets from 19 June. As well as for Royal Ascot week and weddings, stylish British fashion hats are admired the world over and typify an aspect of the 'British Way of Life' for other nations.



1st class (27p) Red 'toque' hat by Pip Hackett, whose work has been exhibited in the UK and Germany.

E (European rate, 36p)

'Butterfly' hat by Dai Rees, whose womenswear explores the interplay of garments and accessories, especially hats.

Background above: a goose feather hat by Philip Treacy.

Technical details

Printer Joh Enschedé Stamps

Process Lithography

Size 35 x 37mm

Sheets 100

Perforation 14.5 x 14

Phosphor All over phosphor

Gum PVA

Gutter pairs Vertical

The stamps are the work of Rose Design using photographs of the modelled hats by Nick Knight, whose photos were used for the 1996 Olympics stamps. London-based Rose Design was founded by Rebecca Oliver and Simon Elliot (hence ROSE). They were previously in design company CDT, which has a long association with Royal Mail's stamp programme and assisted in the creation of the 1999 Millennium stamps. Rose designed the 2000 yearpack. The Dress Department of the Victoria and Albert Museum advised on contemporary, cutting-edge milliners and the four contacted were happy to provide some of their existing creations to be photographed. The hats were modelled by Erin O'Connor – the well-defined features of her face and long neck made her very suitable as a model for hats.

THE MILLINERS The four young milliners whose work appears on these stamps create headwear for all occasions from everyday hats to high profile, glamorous catwalk inventions that are internationally celebrated as works of art.

Pip Hackett, who graduated from the Royal College of Art in 1996, delights in making fantasy hats and headpieces which are stylish concoctions of feathers, flowers and fluid shapes in jewel-like colours. She combines conventional millinery techniques with contemporary designs.



favouring luxurious silks, velvets and lace with fragile tulle and feathers. Her ideal clients are 'disco divas and sophisticated sirens'.

Dai Rees was born in Wales and studied at Central Saint Martins and the Royal College of Art before achieving success with his dramatic hats and launching a millinery and accessory partnership in 1997. He trained as a ceramicist and frequently challenges hat-making conventions. With quills, cane, bone and other natural components, he makes spatially remarkable hats that sometimes have menacing and cage-like aspects.

Stephen Jones established his own millinery company in 1981 after graduating from St Martins College of Art. He has a special awareness of youth and club culture and as well as providing custom-made hats for international celebrities, he works with top couture houses including John Galiano at Christian Dior.

Irish-born Philip Treacy was a star graduate from the Royal College of Art in 1990 and within a year had established his own business. Commissions from Karl Lagerfeld at Chanel were quickly followed by others from Versace and Valentino. He handles all materials with ease, particularly feathers which he transforms into rigid, angular structures or lyrical shapes that move in a beguiling manner. He excels at bold, mask-like hats and frequently teams flamboyant hats with startling makeup.

45p 'Top hat' by Stephen Jones, whose eccentric and quirky hats utilize a wealth of ingredients. He is particularly adept at creating small, gem-like hats to perch coquettishly on the head.

65p Spiral hat by Philip Treacy, who examines the sculptural possibilities of millinery, with streamlined works notable for their daring concepts and perfect balance, from lofty spirals to nodding mobiles.

Cylinders and colours

.....
1st 1A yellow ● 1B magenta ●
 1C blue ● 2D black ● 1E silver

E, 45p & 65p 1A yellow ● 1B magenta ● 1C blue ● 1D black ● 1E silver

The phosphor cylinder is 1F for all values



A well-illustrated presentation pack (right, price £2.10) and stamp cards (25p each) will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets. The pack, designed by Rose Design, contains the stamps, and includes an article by Fay Sweet and photography by Paul Zak.



The *British Postmark Bulletin* is available on subscription from Royal Mail, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (£1UK/Europe; £21.75 elsewhere).

For a sample copy write to: The Editor, *British Postmark Bulletin*, Royal Mail, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8HQ.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets about a week before 19 June, price 25p. Orders for FDCs with the four stamps or cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of Royal Mail Tallents House Edinburgh or Ascot must reach Tallents House (address below) by the day of issue. Price £2.45 UK (including VAT) or £2.09 overseas (no VAT).

Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (Tallents House postmark), or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Wexham Road, Slough SL1 1AA (Ascot postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FD0113' (Tallents House), or 'FD0114' (Ascot). Covers can be posted or handed in at main post offices for the Ascot postmark. Other handstamps for 19 June will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* (see left for details) ●

Hats on stamps These are the first Royal Mail stamps dedicated to the subject of hats, but fashionable hats of yesteryear appear in earlier issues •



Above, 16th century royal headware (rather than hats) as worn by Henry VIII's six wives, on the Great Tudor stamps of 1997.



The Queen Mother is well-known for her hats – she appears on the stamps of 1980 and 2000 issued to mark her 80th and 100th birthdays. Below left, *Pinkie* and *Nellie O'Brien* by Sir Thomas Lawrence and Sir Joshua Reynolds, in the 1968 and 1973 Paintings sets.



The Festival of Britain, 1951 by Fred Gee

Mention 'the Dome' and most people in Britain will think of the structure at Greenwich which, during the year 2000 (and even into 2001) has attracted so much media attention – and so much of it far from complimentary. But the Millennium Dome was not the first dome to have been erected as a landmark scientific and cultural attraction on the south bank of London's river.

ALMOST 50 years earlier, the Dome of Discovery – alongside the Skylon, a slender pencil of steel and nylon with hardly any visible means of support, and close by the Festival Hall – had been one of the dominant features of the Festival of Britain site. This was some seven miles upstream from Greenwich, by Waterloo railway station.

But the 1951 Festival of Britain was not a single-site event: it was developed as a nationwide celebration, with local and regional events as well as its focal point exhibition in London, to mark the 100th anniversary of the Great Exhibition of 1851 and to inspire a still war-weary Britain to look forward to the promised land of economic recovery and prosperity stemming from more recent scientific and technological advances – many of these a result of military developments of the Second World War.

Readers of this *Bulletin* will not need to be reminded of the connection between the Millennium Dome and numerous issues of postage stamps, but the collector of 50 years ago could safely predict that there would not be a flood of stamps associated with the Dome of Discovery. In the early 1950s the stamp issuing policy of the British Post Office was still miserly, but nevertheless the Establishment attached such importance to the Festival of Britain that it was decided to take the unusual step of issuing a set of postage stamps to commemorate the occasion. In this case, a 'set' meant just two values: 2½d and 4d (shown opposite), which appeared on 3 May 1951. Neither of these stamps showed the Dome of Discovery or the Skylon; both had symbolic designs but these two stamps did not make a matching pair.

As I have so far referred to there being only two low value stamps to commemorate the Festival of Britain, I can imagine that some readers may be wondering whether I have forgotten four other stamps which were issued on that same date – namely, the stamps which have become known to collectors as the 'Festival High Values'. As had been customary since 1883, 'high values' meant a series of stamps with the denominations of two shillings and sixpence, five shillings, 10 shillings, and one pound (there were 20 shillings to the pound in those pre-decimal days). But although the four high values were indeed issued on 3 May 1951, and although the word 'Festival' has popularly been used in identifying them, these stamps were not intended as a commemorative issue. Unlike the 2½d and 4d values, they carried no wording referring to the Festival of Britain and no dates, and the designs had no direct, or even indirect, relevance to the Festival. The format was horizontal, with the King's profile head to the right in each case: the 2s6d yellow-green depicted HMS *Victory*; the 5s red showed the White Cliffs of Dover; the 10s ultramarine St George and the Dragon, while the £1 brown, following the example of two of the stamps in the 1939 high value set, illustrated the Royal Coat of Arms (see illustrations on p278).

Opposite, a special edition of *The Illustrated London News* for the opening of the Festival of Britain, by Terence Cuneo, whose paintings featured on the Famous Trains stamps of 1985.

THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS

FESTIVAL OF BRITAIN



Left, the two commemorative issues which comprised the Festival stamp set, designed by Edmund Dulac (2½d) and Abram Games (4d). Above, the Dome of Discovery on one of the 10 labels produced to raise funds for the Greater London Fund for the Blind.





The five low value stamps and the four 'Festival High Values' issued on the same day as the two commemorative stamps, 3 May 1951.

Unlike the two low values, these high value stamps were intended to remain on sale as definitives, replacing the existing set of the same four denominations. In the event, these 1951 high values had a relatively short life, as King George VI died only a few months after they were issued. The high values of the new reign (the Elizabeth II 'Castles') did not appear until 1955, but even so, this meant that the wrongly-described Festival High Values had a life of only four years.

To issue two sets of stamps on the same day was something of a novelty for the British Post Office of those times, but for collectors of GB stamps 3 May 1951 was even more remarkable, in that the Festival of Britain pair and the four high values were not the only stamps to appear on that day – there were, in fact, eleven new stamps to be added to one's album. The other stamps were the five lowest values of the existing definitive series – ½d, 1d, 1½d, 2d and 2½d – which were issued in new colours, primarily to enable the Post Office to comply with the Universal Postal Union scheme of colour coding for certain basic rates: the 1½d became green, which was the UPU colour for inland printed papers, and the 2½d (basic inland letter rate) became red. Consequently, the colours of the other three values had to be shuffled: the ½d, 1d, and 2d were changed to orange, blue, and brown respectively. All these, incidentally, were the pale shades used for the 1941 colour modifications.

Eleven stamps on the same day posed a pocket money problem for a schoolboy collector (as I was then): I found that I could just about afford to buy the Festival of Britain pair and the five low value definitives there and then, but it took some time for me to save enough of my spending money to acquire the four high values. Nearly £2 on stamps seemed a very extravagant outlay in those days!

3 May 1951, then, was a significant date for the philatelist – and in more ways than one, because these eleven stamps were of course the very last GB issues of the 'Four Kings' era •

Philately on-line Ron Negus finds background information

The Web's best search:

britannica.com

HOME ADVANCED SEARCH MERRIAM-WESTER STORE

Top searches: credit card Ethiopia

Honoring a legacy
CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY

Special Feature

profile

Film Files | Be careful: amidst the gory scores and man-eating pigs of *Hannibal*, you might

Profile | What does it take to work in bioterrorism? On genetic testing? Discover the

Today's News

Washington Post.com

Click category for more stories

Top News

- Mora Iraqi Oil Evading Sanctions
- High-Level Navy Court to Probe Sub Case
- Clinton: Pardons Served Justice

Encyclopaedia Britannica

Amongst the best known reference sources, all volumes of this famous work can be referred to free of charge on-line at www.britannica.com. The articles from the printed version, plus extra information on the subject of any search, are given on the site.

THEMATICS are a major interest amongst collectors today, and the newly introduced competition class of 'social philately' will attract many others. Both of these types of collection require much background research, since the stamps involved are only part of the story being unfolded. For this reason, the usual sources of philatelic information – catalogues and handbooks – do not always provide enough detail for writing up an exhibit. In this situation, access to the internet is a boon.

Somewhere, in the millions of pages on the worldwide web, it is very probable that the background information you are seeking can be found. In earlier articles in this series, I have mentioned some of the sites that provide listings of philatelic web pages. These are useful starting points in the quest for background, but are most helpful for particular stamp details and for some single thematic subjects. Some of the better sites also link to others that explore the given material in more depth or from a different perspective.

Search engines that offer to locate web sites which contain specific keywords that you have entered can be used, however, to find non-philatelic pages. Users of the internet tend to have their own favourite search engines, and I have found www.google.com extremely fast and reliable. After the required keywords have been submitted to the search engine, a list of sites in which those words appear are offered for selection on the screen with a brief outline of their content.

Another way to find background information is to look up the subject matter in an encyclopaedia and many of these can be found on-line now. Their web pages contain illustrations and maps, where required, and these can be additional benefits of this particular source.

For current statistical information about countries, the World Factbook, kept up to date by the American Central Intelligence Agency, is a prime reference source. It can be found at www.cia.gov under the 'Publications & Reports' heading. Our own British Broadcasting Corporation also hosts a number of websites offering wide coverage on many subjects. Their historical notes in particular are of a very high standard and can be accessed at www.bbc.co.uk/education/history.

Another general purpose site which leads to a wealth of information is hosted by the University of Berkeley in the USA. This site is intended to help reference librarians to answer queries from their readers on any subject. The main site is reached at <http://sunsite.berkeley.edu>. This displays a page with a number of subject headings. Choosing 'Catalogs and Indexes' takes you to a subsidiary list of these. From there you can click on 'Librarians' Index to the Internet' and see the reference index, which is also arranged in major subject categories. Selecting any one of these will provide a detailed list of relevant sites.

These are just examples of what can be located by selective use of the internet •

Mail by bus Lionel Jones describes a disappearing service

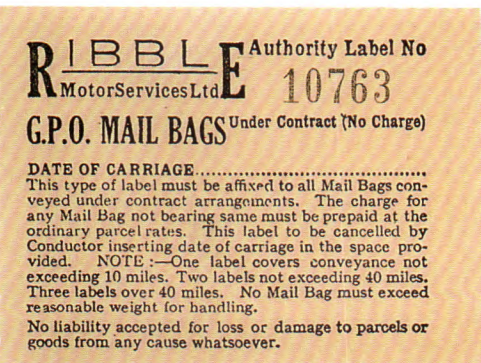


UNTIL comparatively recently, many UK bus companies operated a parcel service – carrying packages for the general public between bus stations or agencies, for collection by the addressee. This service was much used, especially in rural areas, and special parcel stamps (sometimes referred to as labels or tickets) were issued by many of the companies. Sadly such services are now operated by just a handful of companies, mostly in Scotland. Some companies also carried parcels of newspapers for the publishers and a few transported mail bags for the Post Office. Again special stamps were used for these services.

I have in my collection of GB cinderellas examples of 10p stamps used by Southdown Motor Services Ltd for the carriage of mail bags on their routes in Sussex. When I drew these to the attention of the *Bulletin* editor, he showed me examples of similar labels produced by Ribble Motor Services Ltd and evidence that the Chester-based Crosville Motor services operated such a scheme in the period 1945-1955. A white label printed 1/- in red is known.

PO Archive files indicate similar arrangements with: Great Western Railway-Motor Bus between various towns and villages, Holloway Money Order office using London Motor Buses, Coventry tramcars and omnibuses, Leeds City Tramways, Wigan trams and omnibuses, Southern National Omnibus Co and Eastern Counties Omnibus Co. No doubt there were others, some possibly using a scheme involving labels or tickets.

The scheme appears in the main to have been a contractual one between the PO and these and other bus undertakings or with councils controlling a public service vehicle fleet. Similar conveyance conditions and prices seem to have prevailed. In all probability further research of PO Archives files (Post 10, 30 and 33 series) will reveal that guidelines were set by Headquarters or by Regional Directors for local negotiations between bus companies and head postmasters in respect of either sealed mail bags or for the transport of postmen in uniform, between their delivery office and the start/finish-point of their walk.



Above, Ribble labels for mail conveyance. Four layouts of label have been seen and the last, which may have been in use up to 1983, was printed on pink paper. This pink type, unlike its cream predecessors which required an extra label for each mileage range, conveyed mail over any distance with a single label.

Southdown labels, right, were rouletted 46mm down each numbered set. Before January 1971 the Southdown charge per bag was 1s3d (6p). On 3 January 1971 the charge was increased to 2s (10p) per bag, and on 1 December 1975 the charge was doubled to 20p per bag.

All illustrations are actual size.



It appears likely that whilst quite a number of such schemes flourished from 1918, most contracts did not involve either tokens or tickets.

When the scheme involved the supply and use of labels (bus tickets) the purpose of the label was to signify the payment or undertaking to pay for the carriage of, usually, one sealed mail bag between two post towns or from a Scale Payment Sub Office with Mail-Working to a post town with outward vouching facilities. Alternatively, the mail thus transported may exclusively have consisted of items for local delivery.

No destination indications are written or printed upon these bus labels and where they were in use, the requirement seems to have been in respect of every contract so far identified, that they were affixed to the neck label (P534 CB) or similar, of every bag constituting the mail being conveyed by that bus undertaking on that route.

Southdown and Ribble services In the case of the Southdown service, accountancy and billing was as the result of the bus conductor or driver retaining the bottom tear-off half of every label affixed to a mail bag, suggesting that the charge was a flat-rate one irrespective of distance. There is evidence in respect of Southdown's 'Mails only' labels that they were produced in pads of 50 and purchased in advance by head postmasters using the service. The ticket portion retained was used for accountancy and statistical purposes.

The Ribble Motor Services label whilst serially numbered (as with Southdown) required the bus conductor to insert in manuscript the date of carriage. The number of labels affixed to each mail bag indicated to him the distance-range paid for. For instance two labels not exceeding 10 miles, three labels between 10 and 40 miles, and four labels over 40 miles. Printed conditions on Ribble labels are a reminder to those making up the mail that it must not exceed a reasonable weight for handling. This is a strange addition because mails would be loaded to, and secured upon the bus by a postman, and at destination the bus would be met by a postman who would remove the retaining strap and convey the mail to his sorting office. Perhaps in the Ribble area there

were circumstances in which mails were dropped off by the PO at a main depot and it was left for bus conductors or drivers to load them to the correct vehicle. The Ribble service was very unsatisfactory from the PO's viewpoint, as terms of contract strictly forbade the PO from chaining or padlocking mail to any part of the bus's interior during its journey, and the company accepted no liability for loss or damage in transit.

Leeds City Transport is reported to have been conveying mails as late as 1952 between the head and several sub offices. The charge was 4d, and a yellow label measuring 41 x 70mm with value and other information printed in red is said to have been in use, affixed to mail bag neck labels.

It has not been possible to establish the commencement date of Southdown services, and records held by Head Postmaster of Eastbourne were destroyed in 1985 when Eastbourne was downgraded onto Brighton. The extent of use throughout the Southdown area is unestablished but in respect of Eastbourne HPO area, mails were brought in from two Scale Payment Sub Offices which at the time had 'mail working', that is the sub postmaster was responsible for a small force of postmen who worked out of an office owned or controlled by that sub postmaster. Mails also arrived from two former Salaried Sub Offices. Southdown route number 126 between Alfriston and Eastbourne sent two mails per day Monday to Friday and one on Saturdays. The arrangement ceased on 20 February 1976 when the sub postmaster's mail working was taken over by the Postmaster of Polegate Salaried Sub Office.

Southdown route No 12, between East Dean (East Sussex) and Eastbourne sent in by bus one mail a day Mondays to Fridays. This arrangement continued until September 1974 although mail working at that SPSo continued for several years more before being subsumed by Eastbourne HPO. Hailsham SSO sent a delivery mail into Eastbourne once daily Monday to Friday and once on Sundays. Mails on this route ceased to be carried by bus in January 1971. At its peak Heathfield bus route No 190 was carrying two bags daily from Heathfield and one bag daily from Horam into Eastbourne. This ceased 23 March 1976.

It is also known that in the Worthing Head Postmaster's area during the same period Southdown buses brought mails in from their rural areas. Well documented in this respect is the town sub office of Patching, regularly making a mail to Worthing.

Workmen's tickets are well known cheaper rates of bus travel on many pre-war bus undertakings, but did you know that many of these companies produced either tickets or tokens which when presented by postmen in uniform entitled them to travel without money passing between postman and conductor?

I should be pleased to hear, via the Editor, of other labels, tickets or tokens used in connection with the carriage of mail by bus •



Tokens for postmen were produced by: Barrow in Furness (1d orange, 1 1/2d green and 2d black, top left and right), Aberdeen Corporation Tramways (above left), Brighton (above right, with 'for use only by Post Office staff while in uniform' on obverse), Nottingham (not shown), and others.

The Philatelic Youth Camp

THE ACCENT gives the game away: Ross Burden comes from New Zealand, albeit 10 years ago he decided to make England his new home. Runner up as Masterchef on BBC Television in 1993, he now frequently demonstrates his cooking skills to the nation, yet has never lost his collecting instinct.

How does a young collector survive in New Zealand? As in many countries the hobby has suffered in recent years, to a great extent fuelled by the amount of material produced by New Zealand Post. Gone are the days when collectors could afford one of each. But fewer collectors has also meant that those who remain are more active.

For Ross collecting was in the family: his father was a general New Zealand collector. The family were very much 'club people' so it was inevitable that Ross would join his local philatelic society. For his own collection, he quickly decided to take the thematic path.

At the time young collectors were given specific encouragement. Many were members of the Philatelic Youth Council, which at one time had some 300 members, and published a quarterly newspaper with articles, and opportunities for swapping and buying. Today, sadly, the Council is no more, but while the number of young collectors may have declined, the enthusiasm of those that remain is even stronger.

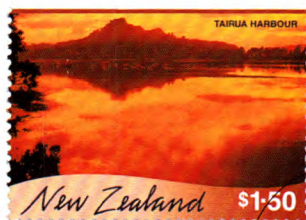
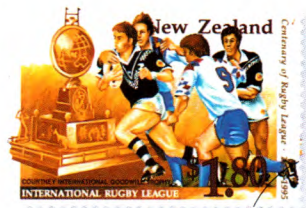
However, one youth activity still remains, and indeed today is supported more than ever. It is the annual Philatelic Youth Camp. Established in 1969 by Yorkshire-born Tom Lee and his wife Jean, together with Rob Hunt, it provides an opportunity for youngsters to go away for a few days to discover more about the hobby. Ross went to four camps, then was a leader at a further three.

Perhaps because travel opportunities are more limited for youngsters in New Zealand, each year around 30 are anxious to attend a residential camp site near Auckland for five days during a school holiday. There they learn more about the hobby through talks given by experienced philatelists, with advice given on how to prepare an eight-page exhibit, opportunities for swapping and to go on buying trips, plus, of course, a few games.



Tickets for postmen were produced by: Bury Corporation Transport Dept (1d pink, 1 1/2d pale green and 2 1/2d peach), City of Oxford Motor Services (3d in deep pink, above, 5d lilac and 6d purple), Reading Corporation Transport (1d black on blue-grey paper, 'Workman Ticket' overprinted 'Postman'), and others.

How Ross Burden learned about collecting, by Richard West



Ross Burden and some modern New Zealand issues.

For Ross it meant a treat to visit another part of New Zealand, to meet with other young collectors, and to receive help in developing his own collection, not only from the camp leaders but from the other young collectors present.

The cost is minimal: it simply covers the cost of the meals. It is normal for the local philatelic society (Ross was a member of Hawkes Bay) to sponsor the youngsters by providing the cost of travel and subsistence.

A personal interest of Ross has been marine life, so come an exhibition in New Zealand in 1985 on an Antarctic theme, Ross put his time and effort into developing an exhibit on the subject of penguins. In 1988 he was to show his exhibit at the international youth stamp exhibition held in Luxembourg. The collection has developed considerably, and last year won the Link House Thematic Trophy at Autumn Stampex (and can be seen again at Thematica 2001 on 23-24 June at the Carisbrooke Hall, Seymour Street, London W2).

Ross also collects Tasmania pictorials, and a second theme of Palm Trees, and is currently working on a new idea – not linked with cooking by the way.

He has always been a strong supporter of exhibitions, perhaps enthused by the fact that at a very early stage he was invited to be his local society's delegate for the New Zealand Philatelic Federation. Sadly collectors in the United Kingdom feel less committed to a national body compared with those in most other parts of the world. In New Zealand most collectors feel they want to be part of the Federation, which, through the profits made by running major stamp exhibitions, owns exhibition frames and is able to help finance not only exhibitions, but also research into the hobby, not least through a useful series of books.

There are ways in which New Zealand and the United Kingdom are similar: both have found that the number of young collectors has declined, but that those who do collect take the hobby more seriously. But perhaps there is a case for emulating the example from 'down under' and investigating the possibility of organising a youth camp. Certainly Ross found the camps invaluable, not least because they provide that personal touch, a mentor who gives advice and encouragement, and thus stimulates and broadens the interest ●

Postbag Letters to the Editor

Stamp books draw What a lovely surprise I had to receive the wallet of stamp books which I won in the January Special Draw. I am delighted with the contents, and the wallet will be kept intact as part of my stamp collection. It was especially well received, as it came on the day preceding my 80th birthday, so it made a very welcome birthday present which I shall treasure. Thank you so much. EDWARD BULLOCK, CAPE TOWN, S AFRICA •

Slogan postmarks With reference to the picture in May 1999 (p281) of Aberystwyth Rag slogan and triangular Die 2 instead of town die in the cancellation, this was not a late use but normal for the cancellation of mail containing 'imitation typewriting' sent at the printed papers rate (reduced price postage). To post for PP rate, items had to be printed material or cards with no more than five words written on them. If 'duplicated' material (this is in the days before photostats), ie a typewritten letter etc that was reproduced in numbers by a duplicator, was being sent out, to do so at PP rate you needed to post a minimum

of 20 with a special form. These then got cancelled with the town die replaced with a triangle with that office's telegraphic number in it. I posted 20/30 items thus for every slogan used from 1960 to the end of PP rate at the introduction of 1st/2nd class. I sent the items at same time as sending for the slogan. In 95% of cases the office did as asked; the others used a handstamp triangle. The item shown is from the batch I sent stamp up in corner to get a good clear space for triangle. COLIN LANGSTON, NEWTON ABBOTT •

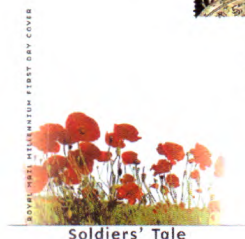
Favourite stamp poll draw You cannot imagine my surprise on opening your letter and finding the very generous cheque inside. Thank you. I will have fun deciding how to use it but you can be assured it will be on stamps or postal history which is my special interest. Sunflowers have always been a favourite of mine, even more so now! It is a long time since I have felt so childishly excited about winning a competition. Please continue the good work you do for British philatelists. MIKE TOMBS, POOLE, DORSET •

Cover corner The double appearance of Robert the Bruce

THIS MONTH'S COVER, from Mr C F Aldridge of Devon, comprises the Royal Mail Soldiers' Tale FDC with the four stamps cancelled by a special Battle of Bannockburn handstamp sponsored by

Benham. The 19p stamp in the set features Robert the Bruce, as does the additional 4½p stamp from the Great Britons set of 1974, also cancelled with the Bannockburn postmark •

What makes this Soldiers' Tale cover interesting is the addition of the 1974 stamp. Robert the Bruce, King of Scots, defeated the army of King Edward II of England at Bannockburn in June 1314.



Posting boxes 203

THIS MONTH we begin with two boxes in Victoria, Australia. The photographs were sent in by J M Beveridge of Petworth who writes: 'I noticed that in the former gold mining locations near Ballarat, old posting boxes were still in regular use. It is particularly interesting to note that although there is no royal insignia on either box, they clearly reflect some royal affinity in the early postal services in that State.'

The third photograph, submitted by Mrs Barbara McTaggart of Ayrshire, is found in Hove.

Mrs McTaggart writes: 'I came across this box when I attended the Brighton & Hove exhibition two years ago. It is just round the corner from the venue. A card in a nearby window explains why a French box is to be found in Hove: "This French Post Box was given by the Mayor of Draveil to Councillor Peter Martin, Mayor of the Borough of Hove, on the 23rd April 1994 in recognition of the twinning agreement that exists between the two Boroughs". Royal Mail empty the box as part of their normal mail collection.'



For details of the Letter Box Study Group send a SAE or IRC to the Membership Secretary, Mrs V Scott, 38 Leopold Avenue, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham B20 1ES. The Group produces interesting publications and postcards.

Special prize draw Win one of these Queen Mother covers

WE HAVE five of these attractive covers for this month's draw. Simply write your name and address on the back of a postcard and send to Coin Cover Draw, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8HQ to arrive by 25 May ●

High values draw The winners of high values packs (February draw) were: Tim Farrow, Mrs Violet Little, P B Thomas, K J Fraser, C E Sowden, George Pitsironis, T Bicknell, P Fowke, D J Lamming and J L Mason.

2000 Yearpack draw Winners of this draw (March) were: B Sharpe, P Pincket, Mr Pollock, B Wilson, R Knott, G Hayter, A Loppinet, Mrs W Ambrose, Ms P Benning and B Edwards.

Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother

The 100th year of HM Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother

Four Royal Generations

26375

Competitions Win £200 in two easy-to-enter competitions



February identify The detail is from the 1st class Submarines stamp. The winner was Francis le Marhollec of France.

February knowledge The answers: 1) Philip Sutton; 2) Citizens' Tale; 3) 1979 or 1993. The winner was E Donson of Hull.

Ten runner-up prizes were also sent for each competition. Our thanks to all who entered.

FIRSTLY, identify the stamp from the detail above. Send your answer to May *Identify* Competition. Secondly, test your philatelic knowledge by answering the questions below. Send your answer to May *Knowledge* Competition.

1 Who designed the 1953 1s6d Coronation stamp?

2 Which Millennium stamp set featured a stained glass window?

3 In which year were David Gentleman's first stamps issued?

Send your answer (addressed to either the May *Identify* competition or the May *Knowledge* competition), name and address on a postcard or back of a sealed envelope to: British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 3HQ. The senders of the first cards drawn in each competition on 15 June will each receive £100. Ten runner-up prizes of presentation packs or FDCs will be awarded in each competition. Competitions are not open to Royal Mail employees •

Events

5 May Federation of South Wales Philatelic Societies 32nd Annual Convention at Princess Royal Theatre, Port Talbot, 10.00-16.30. Admission 50p. Dealers, Kids Korner, competition entries, souvenir postcard.

Enquiries G N Prior, 20 Heol y Sheet, North Cornelly, Bridgend CF33 4EY.

7 May Midland Philatelic Federation Convention & Streety Phil Soc Stamp Fair at United Reformed Church, Brassington Avenue, Sutton Coldfield, 10.00-16.30. Dealers, valuation service (Acorn Auctions of Manchester). Light refreshments available. Admission 20p, children 10p. **Enquiries** Laurie Rennison, 0121 308 2260.

18-20 May 25th North East Philatelic Weekend at Swallow Hotel, Gateshead. Displays, social events.

Enquiries Mrs D Martin, 46 Briardene Crescent, Kenton Park, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 4RY.

19 May GB Philatelic Society meeting at British Philatelic Centre, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1, 11.00. Displays – President's Guest (R Johnson), GB Telegraphs (I Stevenson), AGM, Dealers. **Enquiries** A Lajer, 0118 934 4151.

19 May Plymouth Philatelic Society's 125th anniversary event. Stamp exhibition, including a display of 300 years of Plymouth postal history, Wessex competition winners, dealers. 10.00-16.00 at Plymouth University. **Enquiries** M Griffiths 01752 408671.

2 June Yorkshire Phil Assn Annual Convention at Pudsey Civic Hall, 09.30-16.30. Admission free, car parking, refreshments, 25 dealers, competition, invited displays. Civic Hall at Dawson's Corner at junction of ring road (A6120) and Leeds and Bradford Road (A647). **Enquiries** Alwyn Peel, 01924 505724 •

Late news

Future issues Further information is now to hand about forthcoming issues. The Flags and Ensigns miniature sheet, to be issued on 22 October, will contain four 1st class stamps. A prestige book entitled *Unseen and Unheard* will go on sale the same day, part of Royal Mail's tribute to the centenary of the Submarine Service. The book will contain four panes: two 1st class and two 65p Submarines stamps; two 2nd class and two 45p Submarine stamps; Flags & Ensigns miniature sheet; and four 1st and four £ rate Scottish country stamps. The panes will be printed by Questa in gravure. This will be the first printing of the 1st and £ Scottish stamps by Questa; the sheet stamps are produced by Walsall. Questa, however, printed 2nd and 65p Scottish stamps in the Queen Mother prestige book issued last August.

Additional information, to that given in March, can now be published about the special issues for next year. The Just So Kipling stamps will be issued in January. Like the recent Cats & Dogs issue, there will be 10 1st class self-adhesive stamps. This will be followed by five stamps marking the 50th anniversary of The Queen's accession in February, 10 1st class stamps showing the British coastline in March. Five stamps each for Circus, Aircraft, and Commonwealth Games in April, May, and July. Then there will be four stamps featuring London Bridges and an Astronomy miniature sheet in September, and five stamps each in Post Boxes and Christmas sets in October and November. A World Cup issue will depend on a home nation qualifying for the tournament •

Stamps wanted for young collectors Following the success of the National Youth Stamp Group's stand and the auction at Spring Stampex, the Group is now preparing for Autumn Stampex. Youngsters visiting the stand can earn points which they use to buy stamps from stock books. They certainly enjoyed the book at Spring Stampex and stocks of stamps are now depleted. More are required for the Autumn event and readers having spare stamps (off paper) are urged to send them to Anne Dummer, 2A Bryant Road, Ket-

tering NX15 6JE (phone 01536 519959) for use at the exhibition in September. If you want to see the results of your donations, go along to Autumn Stampex and watch the fun the youngsters get looking for the stamps they want •

Revised airletter A new printing has been made of the Welsh airletter, inscribed 'Llythyr Awyr/Airletter' instead of 'Aerogram/Aerogramme'. The new printing is going on sale at post offices in Wales as old stocks are used up, price 40p. It will be available from philatelic outlets from 4 July •

Cylinder update De La Rue advise that the 2nd and 1st class Spirit & Faith stamps were printed from cylinders 2A1B2C1D1E and 2A1B1C1D1E1F1G as well as those recorded here in October (p50). The cylinders in the Submarines book (17 April) are: Q1 flame (orange) Q1 phosphor Q1 slate-blue Q1 azure Q1 gold. The Submarine stamp is perf 15½ × 14 (15 × 14 in sheets of 100). The cylinders in the revised £1 book (17 April) are Q1 blue Q1 flame •

Stuart Watt retires Stuart, who retired after 35 years with the Post Office on 6 April, started at the Bureau in 1967, shortly after its move from London to Waterloo Place in Edinburgh. He worked in various departments – cancelling covers, stock holding, publicity (his favourite), and despatching agency orders. Over the years he worked under four Bureau Managers – Sam Thomas, A Bonar, Tony Parton, and John Wright. Stuart told the *Bulletin* he really enjoyed his years at the Bureau and now looks forward to golfing and fishing as well as continuing his work on industrial tribunals. We wish him well in what promises to be a busy retirement •

Stampex prize winner A draw was held on the Royal Mail stand at Stampex for a framed set of 48 Millennium stamps issued during 2000. The winner was Mrs C Kotecha of Middlesex •

HERE COMES THE BUS



In fact, typically, three buses have come along at once. But the wait has been worth it, since they're all absolute classics.

First, there's the Guy Arab mk11, which made its debut on Britain's war-ravaged roads in 1943. This is followed by two workhorses of the mid-eighties, the Leyland Olympian Arriva and MCW Metrobus.

All three buses feature on the new Royal Mail Bus Stamps set, now available as framed stamps or postcards, as well as in the form of three brilliant Corgi replicas.

To find out more about these or any other Royal Mail products, please phone the number below (quote ref 02AFA) or contact Royal Mail at the address shown.

Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB
UK telephone order line 08457 641 641, overseas +44 131 336 7489



5 014721 103112

