

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The ROYAL MAIL magazine *for stamp collectors*

Bulletin

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Olympics • 'Regionals' are
50 • Women of Distinction



Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



Cover The 90th anniversary of the RAF is celebrated with a flypast over London. Royal Mail's Air Displays issue was featured in the March *Bulletin*, and the RAF Uniforms in June. Photograph reproduced by courtesy of the RAF.

Availability All items available from Royal Mail Tallents House (address below). Selected items are available at Post Office branches and Post Office philatelic outlets at the main post offices in: Bristol, Cambridge, Chester, Colchester, Coventry, Croydon, Durham, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Grimsby, Harrogate, Lichfield, London (Eastcheap & Trafalgar Sq), Newcastle upon Tyne, Norwich, Nottingham, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Princes Risborough, Southampton (High St and Hedge End), Southend-on-Sea, Stevenage, Stroud, Trowbridge, Truro and York.

Royal Mail Tallents House 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB, UK. Telephone order line (08.30-17.00 Monday to Friday): 08457 641 641; from overseas +44 131 316 7483. Minimum handling charge UK £1.45, Europe £1.55, rest of world (airmail) £2.15. Some products can be ordered on Royal Mail's website: www.royalmail.com/shop

2 July	Withdrawal Grand Prix stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards
16 July	Withdrawal Harry Potter stamps, miniature sheet, presentation pack and stamp cards
17 July	Issue Air Displays stamps, presentation pack, stamp cards, generic sheet, Farnborough Air Show medal and cachet covers
24 July	Issue London 1908 Olympic Games commemorative sheet and coin cover
25 July	Withdrawal Scouts Centenary stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards
2 August	Withdrawal Brooklands medal cover
5 August	Issue Beijing 2008 Olympic Expo generic sheet (20 × 1st Hello stamps plus labels bearing illustrations in the form of traditional Chinese lanterns)
22 August	Issue Olympic Flag Handover miniature sheet, presentation pack and stamp cards
25 August	Withdrawal Scouts coin cover

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The **British Philatelic Bulletin** is published monthly by Royal Mail, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ. • **Editor** J R Holman • **Price** £1.20 each from Post Office Ltd philatelic outlets • **Annual subscription** £12.95 UK & Europe; £17.95 elsewhere. Send subscriptions to Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB • **Binders** (to hold 24 issues) £8.50, storage boxes (about 30 copies) £9.95 available by post from Royal Mail (Edinburgh address, above) • Royal Mail also publishes the fortnightly **British Postmark Bulletin**, giving details of forthcoming special handstamps. Available on annual subscription from Edinburgh address above: £12.25 UK and Europe, £24.95 rest of the world • **Copyright** Design & text Royal Mail Group Ltd, unless attributed to a specified author. All requests to reproduce any articles should be sent to the Editor, **British Philatelic Bulletin**, Royal Mail Letters, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ • **Design** Robert Maude • **Printed** in Great Britain by Beacon Press • **ISSN** 0953 8119 • Royal Mail is a trading name of Royal Mail Group Ltd. Registered in England and Wales no 4138203 registered office 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ

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Stamp scene News and upcoming events: Glenn Morgan keeps you posted

Harrogate 2008 Penny Blacks, Two Pence Blues, Portuguese engraved masterpieces, Chilean classics, early transatlantic mail, wartime mails, miniature graphic art from the Commonwealth, Victorian postal stationery, RAF Indian covers, and much more besides, were all on show at the ABPS national exhibition in Harrogate in May. There were about 500 frames of both competitive and non-competitive classes.

The organisers told me that exhibits were up by 100 per cent over last year, as Harrogate offered the last chance for exhibitors to qualify for the home international scheduled for 2010. Standards were of the highest quality, with more Gold and Large Gold medals awarded than for several years past. Richard Wheatley, Exhibition Secretary, said 'Many of these exhibits have taken their owners a lifetime to acquire. This show is a "once in a lifetime" opportunity to view extraordinarily scarce material and to marvel at the history it conveys.'

Amongst the excellent invited displays was one of Portugal from 1853-84 examining the die characteristics and flaws associated with three engravers, and another of Chilean proofs, unissued stamps, revenues and imperforate classics from the designer and engraver, Jose Moreno.

Over 50 specialist dealers and auction houses, including a few from abroad, gave visitors the chance to add to their collections. One dealer commented that he had enjoyed 'a fantastic show, with more money taken in the last hour and a half than I ever thought possible'. The contribution made by the dealers to the staging of an exhibition cannot be over-emphasised – around half of the costs of putting on a show are covered by their renting stands.

Four society meetings were held: the National Philatelic Society successfully trialled the reintroduction of meetings outside of London, with 40 collectors attending, and the GBPS, Postal History Society and West Africa Study Circle all held meetings on the Saturday. Seven other societies took stands to promote their activities.

The venue was an inspired choice and offered ease of access for all visitors, being all on one level and with everything in one large room. The hall was extremely well lit, so the exhibits could be admired – a major fault with Croydon, where some exhibits had been in virtual darkness.

A free handbook and catalogue, given to all visitors, comprised 48 pages of A5, containing everything required to be of value while at the show and to serve as a useful record of the event afterwards. For once, the press was very well taken care of, with the electronic press packs that I received from Tony Plumble, Publicity Officer, offering many lessons for other FIP and National show organisers to learn from. Before the show had opened, I had been sent a map of Harrogate, the location for the show, a list of booked dealers, a press conference invitation and press release, plus a full record of all the exhibits that would be on display. ►

For me, there were two disappointments. Firstly, there was a total lack of any suitable philatelic souvenir for the exhibition, and this is another issue that I had with Croydon last year. The excellent sheets produced for Thematica are a fine example of what can be done, while for Torquay in 2006, the ABPS produced several interesting items for the collectors of exhibition souvenirs – a collecting area dating back to Victorian times. The second disappointment was an almost total absence of children, at least on Saturday, when I saw only two youngsters all day. With an encouraging 42 exhibits coming from budding collectors, I had expected to see more of these exhibitors.

It was a fine exhibition; there was a real 'buzz' about the place and everyone I spoke to was full of praise for what had been achieved. The organisers of the next ABPS event will have much to live up to •



Visitors in the frame area at the Harrogate exhibition.

Green plaques Westminster, in London, is rich in its heritage of buildings and the people who have lived and worked there. The Westminster Green Plaques Scheme celebrates the remarkable endeavours of some of its former residents. Launched in 1991, the plaques draw attention to particular buildings in Westminster associated with people of renown who have made lasting contributions to society, much as the Blue Plaques scheme does, albeit with different criteria. In May of this year a plaque was unveiled at the first Penny Post Office in Westminster, located at 39 Gerrard Street in the west end. This building, used by 52 postmen to deliver and sort letters destined for homes in Westminster between 1794 and 1834, is now used as a Japanese restaurant. Thanks to Cyril Macey for providing the news clipping about this scheme •

Happy Golden Anniversary Established in 1958, Warwick and Warwick has grown to be one of the leading auctioneers and valuers of collectables in Britain. They claim to offer the best possible facilities for the sale of not just postage stamps and postal history, but also postcards, cigarette cards, coins and banknotes, medals, toys and most other collectable items. Their team of experts will offer free advice, in complete confidence, on any matters relating to buying or selling in auction or by private treaty.

They have recently launched a professional-looking new website from where their catalogues can be viewed online. The site also includes useful articles on their areas of expertise, and at the time of viewing there were eight stamp-related articles covering such diverse subjects as a rare Scottish pre-stamp cover, the 1841 Notice to Postmasters, an interesting Mulready caricature, mail from the Hindenburg crash, and four other non-GB features. I suspect that this section will grow with time. The rest of the site includes the many services that they offer, including the opportunity to join the Specialist Register, and even to register an interest in applying for a job with the company •

Enquiries Warwick & Warwick, Chalon House, Scar Bank, Millers Road, Warwick CV34 5DB. Telephone: +44 (0) 1926 499031. Fax: +44 (0) 1926 491906. Visit website www.warwickandwarwick.com or send email enquiries to info@warwickandwarwick.com



The new edition of Pierron's errors catalogue is available as a book or CD. See below for information on prices and ordering.

Stamp errors catalogue I have been a user of *Pierron's Modern Great Britain & Commonwealth Missing Colour Errors* catalogue since the first publication, and each edition keeps getting even better than its predecessor. This newly published catalogue details, illustrates, and values every known missing colour error from Queen Elizabeth II's reign (1952 to date), and now encompasses the Commonwealth nations as well as GB.

I find the smaller softback format for the latest version to be more manageable than that of the large pages used in 2005. It now measures 230mm high × 160mm wide × 35mm thick, so is more like a paperback novel, albeit *War and Peace*, and it now boasts an eye-catching coloured cover depicting some striking missing colour gems. The book has been matt-laminated with the text highlighted in a clear gloss UV ink, so it is not only stylish in appearance, but will prove to be more than durable in everyday use.

Complete descriptions accompany high quality colour images and normal stamps appear alongside errors for easy reference. Known or estimated quantities are listed. Genuine market prices, based on dealer sales and auction results, are included. How errors occurred, where and when they were found, and other significant information also appears.

The opening chapters include an introduction, catalogue notes, terminology, plates/cylinders and references, before moving on to the countries and their errors. Each country is prefixed by a full page about its location, a Commonwealth timeline and a potted history of the country; while every page header bears a useful small map and the national flag(s) to aid orientation when flicking through the pages.

This catalogue offers an unparalleled reference featuring 800 information-filled pages in full colour. It now contains over 80 countries, 1250-plus errors are detailed, and there are more than 2500 images. It is, simply, the definitive resource for GB and Commonwealth missing colour errors.

Note that the catalogue does not include missing perforations, inverted watermarks, partially missing colours, nor the many items that tend to get lumped together with errors, such as colour trials, proofs and similar rarities. The introduction explains that had these items been included, the book would have been three times the thickness. A visit to www.errors.info will reveal many of these 'extra' items and, as the site is updated almost daily, it is best to bookmark the home page and to consult it regularly.

I have not seen the current CD version, but it will function as well as my 2005 edition because the pages are in Adobe PDF format (so viewable on both Mac and PC). It is extremely simple to use and is ideal if you want all the information contained within the book, but at a knock-down price.

This publication is out now as an electronic catalogue priced at £19.95 and also in printed form at £49.95 (both postpaid to UK addresses). The book weighs 1.720kg without its protective transit box, so P&P is £7.50 to European addresses or £10 for rest of world destinations for the book, or £2.50 and £3.75 respectively for the CD. Purchases can be made online at www.errors.info by choosing SHOP from the toolbar, where you can pay immediately using PayPal, or alternatively call +44 (0) 1483 503335, fax +44 (0) 1483 560812 or email tompieron@bacchic.net with any enquiries ●



UK licenced postal operators Naturally enough, the largest UK mail operator is Royal Mail Group Ltd. However, there are a surprising number of other operators in the UK, all of whom are licenced. As of April, these are:

Postal indicia of licenced operators on Downstream Access Mail.

Citipost AMP Limited (formerly Alternative Mail and Parcels Limited)
City Link Post (trading name of Target Express Parcels)
CMS (trading name of Royale Research Limited)
DHL Express (formerly Securicor Omega Express)
Document Outsourcing Limited

DX Network Services Limited
FedEx UK Limited (formerly ANC Limited)
Intercity Communications Limited
LDS Cambridge Limited
Lynx Mail (trading name of Red Star Parcels Limited and now part of UPS)
The Mailing House Group (trading as Northern Mail)

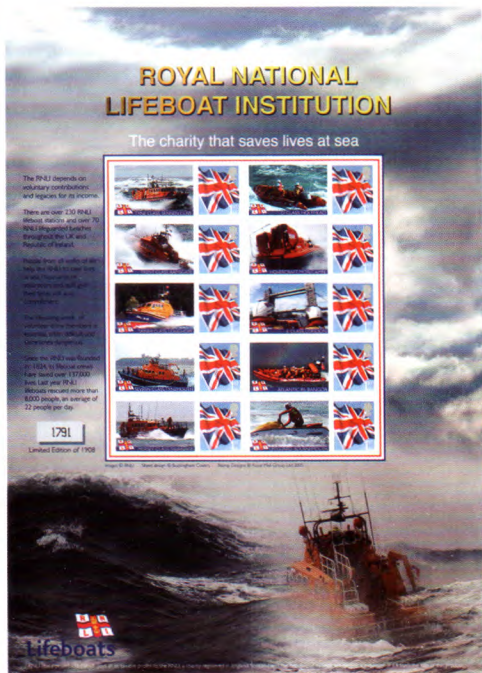
Racer Consultancy Management Services
Secure Mail Services (formerly Special Mail Services Limited)
Secured Mail Limited
TNT Post UK Limited
UK Mail
Zip Mail Limited

These companies all process what is known as 'DSA mail' (Downstream access mail). Downstream access enables alternative operators to compete with Royal Mail's upstream activities (collection, sorting and distribution) and then access Royal Mail's network for 'final mile' delivery of their mail.

It is good to see that the British Postal Museum & Archive is actively collecting material from all of these companies, including mailbags and promotional items, as well as the mail that lands on our mat every day. Their Contemporary Collections Archivist ensures that the full history of the British postal service is represented within the BPMA's holdings, and not just Royal Mail's activities.

To keep this list up-to-date, or to get full contact information and web-site links for each of the companies listed above, visit www.hellmail.co.uk/uk_postal_operators.asp •

2008 Summer Olympics Australia Post has recently issued a single stamp featuring a design of a dragon, reflecting the host nation. It was a delight to see the Olympic rings in full colour below the Australian flag set against a plain white background, for there could be no doubt what event the stamp was commemorating. The five interlocked rings were found on an ancient altar in Delphi, Greece, by French educator Baron Pierre de Coubertin. They originally symbolised the five parts of the world in which this sports movement was active, while today they symbolise the five continents •



Business Customised Smilers Buckingham Covers has recently issued two new sheets, on railways and lifeboats, in its ongoing series of stamp sheets.

The 'Big Four' stamp sheet is an official National Railway Museum product released in January of this year in an edition of 1923 copies. On 6 January 1923, the railways were organised into the 'Big Four', namely the GWR (Great Western Railway or 'God's Wonderful Railway!'), LNER (London & North Eastern Railway – East Coast), LMS (London Midland & Scottish Railway – West Coast) and the Southern Railway. This limited edition carries a royalty per sale to the National Railway Museum, and will be available in the Museum shop, meaning Buckingham Covers has only a limited number. The price is £24.95, plus £1.65 post, packing and insurance.

Released 13 March 2008, the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) sheet is in an edition of 1908 copies, and commemorates the charity that saves lives at sea. This sheet is also priced at £24.95, plus £1.65 post, packing and insurance, with £4 per sale going to RNLI funds. Tony Buckingham hopes to raise £15,000 for the charity with this stamp sheet and the accompanying covers that are being marketed •

Roll of Distinguished Philatelists Three new RDPS have been elected at a recent meeting of the Board of Election to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists. On Saturday 26 July, during the 2008 Philatelic Congress of Great Britain in Stratford-upon-Avon, the following philatelists will sign the Roll: Edward (Ted) B Proud, aged 78, of the UK; Robin M Startup, aged 71, of New Zealand; and Richard F Winter, aged 71, of the USA. ►

The Roll was established in 1921 by the Philatelic Congress of GB with the approval of King George V, who was the first signatory. Since then, some 335 philatelists from 45 countries have been honoured in this way. There are currently 68 signatories from 26 countries including 12 from the UK.

We offer congratulations to these eminent collectors on their achievement of attaining the world's premier philatelic honour •

Stamp Preview Thanks to readers, I have been able to complete my collection of *Stamp Preview*. Interestingly, three respondents advised me that there have been a few unnumbered, but dated, supplements. In case this is of interest to anyone, I record below details of the examples provided to me: April 1997, Golden Wedding Issue; November 1997, The Golden Wedding; 5 May 1998, New Self-Adhesive Definitive Stamps/Booklet Changes; April 1999, Definitive Stamp issue; June 1999, Edward and Sophie's Wedding; April 2000, New Stamp Books/New Definitives/Country Stamps; December 2000, Christmas Smilers; and 6 March 2001, Northern Ireland Definitive Issue.

Reports of any other Supplements brought to light will be listed here in a later Stamp Scene. It seems that supplements have not been issued in the past few years •

Royal Mail news New issues and products

• BPMA exhibition • RSA Design Directions

2008 issues The special issues are listed at right, with the alternative First Day of Issue postmarks. Miniature sheet is abbreviated 'ms'.

The Air Displays stamps, shown here in March, will be issued to coincide with the Farnborough Air Show, 14-20 July 2008.

Three of this year's new issues are previewed in this *Bulletin*. The Olympic Flag Handover miniature sheet, to be issued 22 August, is featured on pages 336-37, and the Country Definitives Anniversary miniature sheet (29 September) is previewed on pages 338-39. Stamps featuring Women of Distinction, on sale 14 October, are previewed on page 340.

The Christmas issue (4 November) features traditional pantomimes. The Madonna and Child stamps, issued last November, will again be available for those who prefer religious-themed Christmas stamps. The 2006 Christmas airletter will again be reissued.

The year ends with the final Lest We Forget miniature sheet (6 November) marking the Armistice ending the First World War, at 11 o'clock on 11 November 1918. Remembrance Day is especially poignant this year, marking the 90th anniversary of the ending of the War which cost over eight million young lives •

17.07	Air Displays	Farnborough, Hants
22.08	Olympics Handover (MS)	London E15
18.09	RAF Uniforms	Hendon, London NW9
29.09	Country Definitives anniversary (MS)	Gloucester
14.10	Women of Distinction	Aldeburgh, Suffolk
04.11	Christmas	Bethlehem, Llandeilo
06.11	Lest We Forget (MS)	London SW1

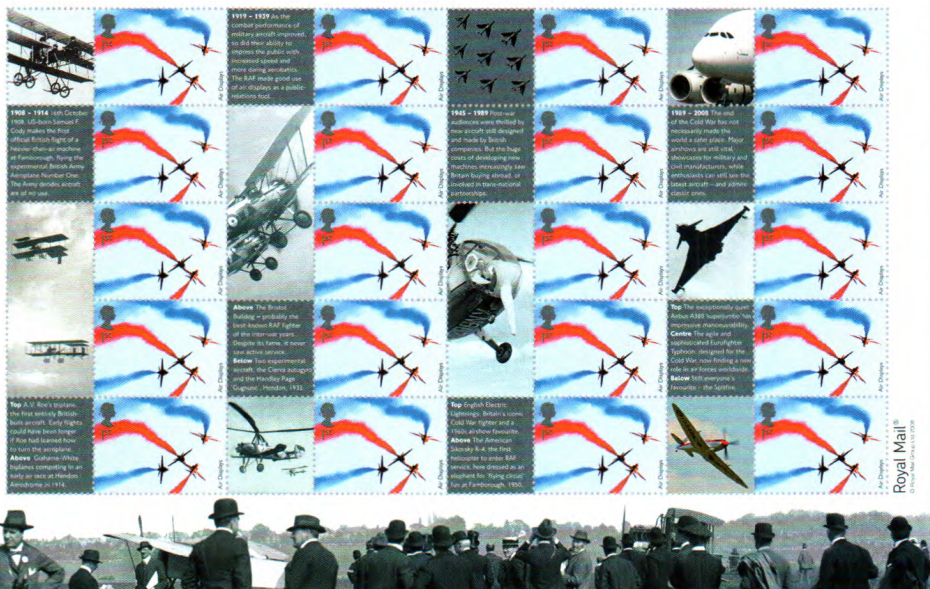
New definitive and country stamp products To coincide with the miniature sheet and prestige book for the Country Stamps Anniversary, a new collector's pack containing one of each of the current 2nd class, 1st class, 50p and 81p stamps for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (16 stamps in all) will go on sale on 29 September, priced £8.30. Also out that day will be a set of Machin definitive stamp cards reproducing the 17 current valued stamps from 1p to £5, plus seven NV1 stamps – 24 cards in total, price £9.60. The NV1 stamps comprise 1st and 2nd class standard and 'Large' sizes, Europe and Worldwide up to 40 grams and Worldwide postcard. All these stamps were shown in the April *Bulletin*, on page 233 •

Glorious United Kingdom Following the Glorious Country sheets for Wales (1 March 2007), England (23 April 2007), Scotland (30 November 2007), and Northern Ireland (11 March 2008), a UK sheet will be available from 29 September, with five 1st class stamps for each of the four countries and appropriate labels. Stamps and labels will be self-adhesive, printed in litho by Cartor. Price £7.75. A UK coin cover will also be issued, price £13.95 •

Generic sheets Shown here are the generic sheets for Air Displays (17 July) and Beijing 2008 Olympic Expo (5 August). Both were printed in litho by Cartor. The Olympic Expo sheet, featuring traditional Chinese lanterns on the labels, was designed by Hat Trick design group of London. Price £7.75 each. The Olympic Expo sheet is available only from Tallents House •



Air Displays



Farnborough Air Show covers In addition to the Farnborough Air Show medal cover, mentioned in the March *Bulletin* (page 208), a cachet cover (below) will be available from 17 July, price £14.95. This bears a complete set of the Air Displays stamps tied by a first day cancellation, with a cachet applied to indicate that the cover was carried on a Chrislea Super Ace plane, which originally flew into Farnborough in 1948. Both the medal and cachet covers are available only from Tallents House •

Above: Air Displays Generic sheet, to be issued 17 July.

Below: The Farnborough Air Show cachet cover, also to be issued 17 July.





Stamp ingot packs The fifth ingot in the series reproducing stamps from the reigns of Edward VIII & George VI is now available. This contains the 1951 Festival of Britain 4d stamp (shown at left) which featured the Festival Symbol designed by the eminent graphic artist Abram Games. The stamp, with its companion 2½d value, were the last commemorative stamps of King George VI's reign, as he died nine months later. The new ingot pack costs £27.95.

The sixth and final ingot to be issued in this series will feature the George VI 1951 5s stamp from the 'Festival' high values set, depicting a view of the White Cliffs of Dover. This will be available from 16 September, and replaces the 1948 1s Olympic stamp, the cancellation of which was announced in the April *Bulletin* •

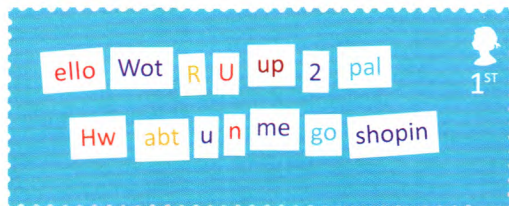
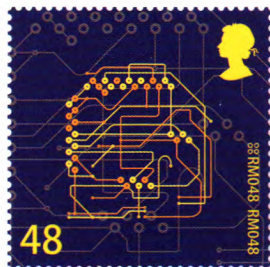
Coming off sale Readers are reminded that three special issues will be withdrawn from sale during July – Grand Prix (2nd), Harry Potter (16th) and Scouts Centenary (25th). Order now if you still require these for your collection. The Harry Potter generic sheet and Scouts prepaid postcards will remain on sale until further notice •



Now showing: the BPMA's Regional stamps exhibition.

British Postal Museum & Archive A BPMA Machin exhibition is on display at the Wedgwood Visitor Centre, Barlaston, Stoke-on-Trent – see page 350 for details. An exhibition marking the 50th anniversary of the Regional (Country) stamps is now on show at the BPMA at Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL. Entitled 'Lions, Leopards, Unicorns & Dragons: the first "Regional" stamps', the exhibition features some of the many designs submitted in 1958 and shows how the final designs developed. All the countries and islands are represented, as are the initial ideas from the reign of King George VI. The exhibition graphics are by Rupert Denyer of Sedley Place who also created the new stamps for the forthcoming miniature sheet and the panes for the prestige stamp book to be issued in September for the anniversary. Mr Denyer will give a talk, entitled '50 years of Country Definitives' at the BPMA at 19.00 on 18 September. Places can be reserved by calling 020 7239 2570.

The BPMA holds the collections of the former National Postal Museum and Post Office Archives. For information contact them on 020 7239 2570 or see website www.postalheritage.org.uk •



Winners in the Design Directions postage stamp category (from top left): Matthew Day, Danielle Gartside, Alex Gent, Colin Moore, Stephanie Cotgrave, and Albert Tai.

RSA Design Directions The Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce runs a prestigious student design award scheme, Design Directions, with prizes worth in excess of £100,000. This year, Design Directions set 16 individual projects, received over 1100 entries resulting in over 40 winners, and collaborated with a range of organisations and companies in developing the projects. The brief for the Postage Stamps, sponsored by Royal Mail and De La Rue, required students to design stamps that would excite and engage young people, the future stamp users and collectors. They were asked to think beyond traditional parameters, and look at how they could be more fun and engaging, considering the possibilities for interactive designs, and determining the theme of the stamps. The 153 entries from 30 colleges/universities were judged by Mike Dempsey RDI (studiodempsey, Chairman); Catharine Brandy and Susan Gilson (Royal Mail); Tony Bryant (De La Rue); Paul Cilia La Corte (Lewis Moberly); Harry Pearce (Pentagram); and Brian Webb, (Webb & Webb).

The winners were: Stephanie Cotgrave (University College Falmouth), whose project focused on the effects of global warming in the UK, particularly disappearing landmass due to rising water levels from melting ice-caps; Matthew Day (University College Falmouth) whose MyStamp ('My life, My Personality, My Stamp') refers to internet social networking sites, which allow users to express and share their personalities; Danielle Gartside (Middlesex University), whose 'Eco Stamps' are aimed at anyone interested in the environment, and are inspired in part by Innocent smoothie drinks and their simple positive message which gets all ages involved; Alex Gent (Reigate School of Art, Design and Media, East Surrey College) who illustrated scenes from *Alice in Wonderland*, approaching the project in a way that reflects the target audience, using illustration techniques that incorporate the current youthful interest in both graphic novels and anime

styles; Colin Moore (Forth Valley College) whose stamps are designed to modernise the stamp and incorporate certain aspects of new technology, each stamp with a printed circuit board; and Albert Tai (Middlesex University) whose stamps are based on text messaging, so that people can send their own messages around the world through the post.

The RSA first established its awards scheme for students in 1924, with the aim of linking education and industry in beneficial partnerships. In its contemporary form, this scheme, which encourages students to use their skills to address social challenges, continues to identify, support and reward the most promising and creative students.

The RSA generates new and imaginative ideas to promote social progress, delivering its aims through a portfolio of projects and a lecture programme consisting of well over 100 events a year. It is a progressive, wholly independent, multi-disciplinary body supported by 27,000 Fellows worldwide.

The 250th anniversary of the RSA was commemorated by six stamps in August 2004, one of which featured the Penny Back in honour of Sir Rowland Hill. Stamps, designed by Sarah Godwin in a RSA competition, were issued in 1986 to commemorate Sir Isaac Newton •



Storing the Bulletin Binders and box files are available for storing this and the *Postmark Bulletin*. The sturdy box files, in maroon for the *Philatelic Bulletin* and green for the *Postmark Bulletin* are available from Royal Mail Tallents House, price £9.95 each. Order codes PB349 (Philatelic), PB350 (Postmark). The files will store 30 copies of the Philatelic and about 50 of the Postmark Bulletins. The traditional binders for the Philatelic (BB001) and Postmark (PB322) Bulletins cost £8.50 each •



Special draw Win material signed by Jeffery Matthews

THE FIRST PRIZE in this month's draw comprises the 2000 Jeffery Matthews colour palette miniature sheet, the 2007 Machin miniature sheet, and the colour designation block of the new £1 ruby definitive, all signed by eminent stamp designer Jeffery Matthews, MBE. Two runner-up prizes of signed 2000 miniature sheets are also on offer. To enter the draw, simply write your name and address on the back of a postcard and send to: Jeffery Matthews Draw, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ to arrive by 31 July •

My covers collection by Martin Robinson



This 3d first day cover of 18 August 1958 bears patriotic labels, cancelled despite Post Office regulations prohibiting the use of any labels which might be mistaken as stamps.

THE FIRST British regional definitive stamps were issued on 18 August 1958, in the form of 3d stamps for Scotland, Wales & Monmouthshire, Northern Ireland, Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man, with 6d and 1s3d values for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to follow on 29 September. Nationalists had long agitated for Scottish stamps, but the Post Office's answer had always been that policy was to issue a single set of stamps for general use throughout the country. Regional stamps were seriously considered in the years immediately after the Second World War, but the idea was eventually abandoned for several reasons, not least that there were other priorities for the Post Office in post-war austerity Britain. The whole matter was taken up again in 1956, and within two years the stamps were issued.

First day covers of the Scottish 3d stamp (above) can be found bearing patriotic labels with the portrait of Robert Burns set against a background of the Scottish saltire. The denomination on the label is 'Twa Plack' (an old Scottish coin of the value of a twelfth on an English penny). The quotation 'Now's the day and now's the hour', and the dates 1759-1959 commemorate the bicentenary of the great man's birth. The quotation is from Burns's poem *Bruce to his Men at Bannockburn*: 'Scots, wha hae wi' Wallace bled, / Scots, wham Bruce has aften led, / Welcome to your gory bed, / Or to Victorie! / Now's the day, and now's the hour; / See the front o' battle lour; / See approach proud Edward's power – / Chains and Slaverie!'

Another label affixed to the same cover also shows Burns and the Scottish flag, with the well known lines from *To a Mouse*: 'The best-laid schemes o' mice an' men / Gang aft agley / An' lea'e us nought but grief and pain / For promis'd joy.' Although against postal regulations which ban from the front of postal items any labels which might be confused with stamps, the labels were postmarked, no doubt by sympathetic postal workers.

The whole story of the pre-decimal regional stamps will be told in a new British Philatelic Bulletin Publication marking the 50th anniversary of their issue. The Publication will be included free with the August *Bulletin* •

Olympic Flag Handover Beijing to London



OLYMPIC GAMES
HANDOVER OF THE OLYMPIC FLAG
FROM BEIJING TO LONDON

A MINIATURE SHEET containing four 1st class stamps marking the Olympic Flag Handover from Beijing (2008) to London (2012) goes on sale at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and at Royal Mail Tallents House on 22 August. The stamps feature iconic structures in the two cities – Beijing National Stadium, London Eye, Tower of London, and Corner Tower of the Forbidden City, Beijing. The stamps are captioned **OLYMPIC GAMES**, with the Olympic rings symbol, and bear The Queen's silhouette and 1st printed in silver. They were designed by Why Not Associates and printed in Walsall by litho with the Olympic rings in silk-screened varnish. The issue is a joint one with China Post which will be issuing similar stamps.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Orders for serviced first day covers must reach Tallents House (address given below) by the date of issue. Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (for Tallents House postmark), or to one of Royal Mail's Special Handstamp Centres (London E15 postmark) marking the outer envelope 'FD0819' (Tallents House), or 'FD0820' (London). Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for the London postmark. A non-pictorial London E15 postmark is also available from Special Handstamp Centres: request 'FD0820 NP'.

For details of sponsored handstamps and addresses of the Handstamp Centres see the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House (£12.25 UK/Europe; £24.95 elsewhere). For a sample copy write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ.

Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
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Derbyshire
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The miniature sheet on the first day cover, left, and in the presentation pack, below. The sheet measures 115 x 76mm. The stamps are a new size, 33mm square.



OLYMPIC GAMES

HANDOVER OF THE OLYMPIC FLAG
FROM BEIJING TO LONDON

Royal Mail First Day Cover



Royal Mail Mini Stamps

OLYMPIC GAMES

HANDOVER OF THE OLYMPIC FLAG
FROM BEIJING TO LONDON



Olympic Flag Handover prices

Miniature sheet	£ 1.44
Presentation pack	£ 1.95
First day cover envelope	£ 0.30
Serviced first day cover (UK customers)	£ 2.17
Serviced first day cover (overseas customers)	£ 1.85
Stamp cards set	£ 2.00



Olympic Games on stamps The modern Olympic Games were revived in 1896, and the 4th Games held in London in 1908. This was in the days before British special stamp issues, although souvenir labels were produced. By the next time the Olympic Games came to London, in 1948, special stamps were allowed, and four values and an aerogramme were issued. Two se-tenant 24p stamps were issued in 1992 for the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Barcelona, depicting the British Olympic Association logo and the British Paralympic Association symbol. Four years later a strip of five stamps featuring athletes in action marked the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Athens. The successful London bid in 2005 was also philatelically celebrated with amended designs of the 1996 stamps in a miniature sheet. This sheet was inscribed 'LONDON 2012 Host City'.

For details of 1948 Olympic stamps see articles by Bob Wilcock and Douglas Muir in the *Bulletin* November 1988, and February-April 1989 •



Celebrating 50 years of country stamps



The miniature sheet is printed in gravure by De La Rue. The stamps measure 20 x 24mm, the sheet 123 x 70mm. These stamps have two phosphor bands.

A MINATURE SHEET and prestige book will be issued on 29 September to mark the 50th anniversary of the issue of the first country stamps, then known as regional issues. 3d stamps (the basic letter rate) for Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man went on sale in the respective 'regions' on 18 August 1958, followed by 6d and 1s3d stamps for Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland on 29 September. The designs of the nine stamps for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are being reissued, now with 1st class indicator, in the miniature sheet and psb.



First day of issue postmarks

Sponsored handstamps will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – see page 336 for further details.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets about a week before 16 October, price 30p. Orders for serviced FDCs with stamps or miniature sheet cancelled by a pictorial Tallents House or Gloucester first day postmark must reach Tallents House by the day of issue. Please specify which postmark(s) you require. Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (for Tallents House postmark, FD0837), or to one of Royal Mail Special Handstamp Centres for the Gloucester postmark (FD0841).

Gloucester has been chosen for the alternative first day postmark as it is the birthplace of Dorothy Wilding, whose portrait of The Queen was used on the 1958 Regional stamps.

PHILATELIC PRODUCTS A miniature sheet pack, written by Douglas Muir of the BPMA, includes various designs submitted for the 1958 stamps. Mr Muir explains how committees in each 'region' considered the designs submitted, and describes an earlier 1940s proposal for regional issues.

Country Stamps prices

Miniature sheet	£ 3.24
Miniature sheet presentation pack	£ 3.75
Miniature sheet press sheet	£61.95
Stamp cards (set of 10)	£ 4.00
First day cover (FDC) envelope	£ 0.30
Serviced FDC miniature sheet (UK customers)	£ 4.28
Serviced FDC miniature sheet (overseas customers)	£ 3.66
Prestige stamp book	£ 9.72
Serviced FDC prestige book pane (UK customers)	£ 4.28
Serviced FDC prestige book pane (overseas)	£ 3.66

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**The Regional Definitives – Heraldry and Symbol** The panes:

- 1 Top N Ireland, Wales, Scotland 1st (as 3d stamps); middle N Ireland, Wales, Scotland 1st (as 1s3d); bottom N Ireland, Wales, Scotland 1st (as 6d)
- 2 Scotland: top 1st (as 3d), current 1st (Lion Rampant); middle current 1st, 1st (as 1s3d); bottom 1st (as 6d), current 1st
- 3 N Ireland: top 1st (as 3d), current 1st (Fields); middle current 1st, 1st (as 1s3d); bottom 1st (as 6d), current 1st
- 4 Wales: top 1st (as 3d), current 1st (Dragon); middle current 1st, 1st (as 1s3d); bottom 1st (as 6d), current 1st

There will be 10 stamp cards, reproducing each of the nine stamps and the miniature sheet.

In a new British Philatelic Bulletin Publication (No 14) to be published in August, Martin Robinson tells the story of pre-decimal regional stamps from their conception through to withdrawal and invalidation in the 1970s. The Publication will be sent free to *Bulletin* subscribers. Additional copies can be purchased from Talents House ●



Prestige stamp book *The Regional Definitives: Heraldry and Symbol* was written by Douglas Muir and designed by Sedley Place. The stamp panes were printed by De La Rue in litho.

The serviced FDC bears the pane with the stamps of all three countries, shown at left.



ROYAL MAIL TALLENTS



Women of Distinction Royal Mail honours the achievements of six outstanding women



SIX stamps featuring women of great achievement in their respective fields go on sale at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and Royal Mail Tallents House on 14 October. The stamps portray: Millicent Garrett Fawcett (1847-1929, suffragist), 1st class; Elizabeth Garrett Anderson (1836-1917, physician), 48p; Marie Stopes (1880-1958, family planning pioneer), 50p; Eleanor Rathbone (1872-1946, family allowance campaigner), 56p; Claudia Jones (1915-64, civil rights activist), 72p; and Barbara Castle (1910-2002, politician), 81p. The stamps were designed by Together Design, and printed in gravure by Walsall.

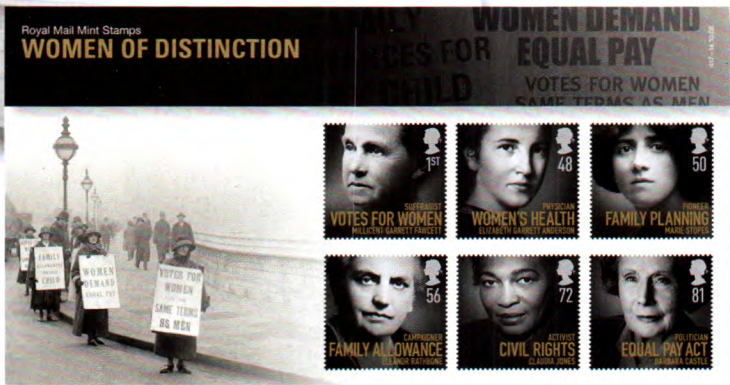
FIRST DAY FACILITIES Orders for serviced FDCs must reach Tallents House (see address below) by the day of issue. Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (for the Tallents House postmark), or to their nearest Special Handstamp Centre (for the Aldeburgh postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FD0825' (for Tallents House) or 'FD0826' (Aldeburgh). Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for the Aldeburgh postmark.

For details of sponsored handstamps and addresses of the Handstamp Centres see the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House (£12.25 UK/Europe; £24.95 elsewhere). For a free sample copy, write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ.

Royal Mail First Day Cover
WOMEN OF DISTINCTION

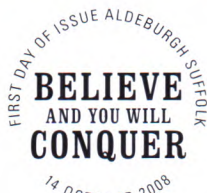


The presentation pack, below, and first day cover, left, with first day of issue postmarks.



Women of Distinction prices

Set of stamps	£3.43
Presentation pack	£3.95
First day cover envelope	£0.30
Serviced first day cover (UK customers)	£4.51
Serviced first day cover (overseas customers)	£3.84
Stamp cards set	£2.40



Women of distinction on stamps Previous stamp issues have also honoured important women in British history: Emmeline Pankhurst (1968 and 2006); Florence Nightingale (1970); Charlotte and Emily Brontë, George Eliot (Mary Ann Evans) and Mrs Gaskell (1980); Vivien Leigh (1985); Dorothy Hodgkin, Dame Margot Fonteyn, Dame Elisabeth Frink, Dame Daphne du Maurier and Dame Marcia Hartman (1996), Joyce Grenfell (1998); and Virginia Woolf, Mary Seacole, and Dame Cicely Saunders (2006).

The 1st class and 48p stamps feature sisters – Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, the first British lady to qualify as a doctor, and her younger sister Millicent Garrett Fawcett. Elizabeth Garrett was proposed to by Henry Fawcett, a Liberal MP and Postmaster General in Gladstone's government 1880–84. She decided however to pursue her medical studies and turned him down. Later Fawcett married her sister Millicent. Henry Fawcett is remembered as the 'Blind Postmaster General' who introduced postal orders and the Parcel Post. His memorial in Victoria Embankment Gardens, London, was shown in the *Bulletin* in October 1990 (page 33) •



Success in Harrogate Richard West visits the 8th ABPS National Philatelic Exhibition

The 8th ABPS National Philatelic Exhibition proved to be a highly successful event, thanks not only to a highly suitable venue, but also due to the planning, expertise and sheer hard work of the many people who were involved, including the 'local' team.

THE FIRST exhibition staged by the Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS) was held in Newcastle in 1996. About four years ago consideration was given to taking the event to York, but finding a suitable venue proved difficult. Then

came the idea of trying Harrogate for 2008. As a result, on 2-3 May, the 8th ABPS National Philatelic Exhibition was held at the Harrogate International Centre. It proved to be the perfect location, capacious and well lit. The space meant that the dealers and exhibits could all be accommodated in one hall. The juxtaposition of the two ensured there was always a good number looking at the display frames, housing some extremely fine exhibits. The absence of direct sunlight meant the exhibits were protected; the good lighting meant that they could be easily seen and enjoyed. The location also meant that the event was easy to reach, and attracted collectors from all parts of the United Kingdom – and beyond. The dealers, offering a wide range of material, were clearly pleased with the outcome.

Pride of place among the exhibits was the Court of Honour, which included material graciously loaned by The Queen. Michael Sefi, Keeper of The Royal Philatelic Collection, selected material relating to the Wilding definitives for part of the display. This featured essays of submitted designs, not necessarily adopted, the essays approved for final production, and a selection of imperforate errors, many as booklet panes, and a further booklet pane with a 2½d tête-bêche error. Also in the Court of Honour was the superb material assembled by Alan Holyoake tracing the development of the first stamps and Mulready postal stationery of Great Britain. Included within this display were covers bearing the Two Pence Blue, one for 8 May 1840, the first official day of use, and one for 7 May, sent from Liverpool, and thought to bear the stamp that had been attached to one of the notices sent to Postmasters advising of the release.

The competitive exhibits included several of interest to the GB collector. Roy Richardson provided a one-frame exhibit of varieties, many being misplaced colours and constant varieties, including issues released up to the 1960s and 1970s, which received a bronze medal. Neil Sargent achieved a large vermeil medal for his one-frame entry tracing the development of the 1d postcard of 1892, including essays, proofs, specimens, and the bands that secured the cards when supplied to post offices.

Terence Pickering won a bronze medal for his display relating to the British Empire Exhibition of 1924/25, including postcards depicting some of the pavilions. A large silver medal was awarded to John Pearce for his exhibit of Edwardian Registered Mail, featuring covers sent to many parts of the world. David Hiscock also gained a large silver medal for his exhibit of the postal items produced for exhibitions at which J.J. Webster's model of the Eddystone Lighthouse was shown. Another large silver medal went



to Michael Lockton, who showed late fee mail sent from London to overseas destinations. The Penny Post in Worcestershire was shown by Christopher Jackson, his entry winning a vermeil medal.

Apart from the one-frame exhibits, there were some superb displays of GB stamps, not least being the exhibit by Graham Horton of proofs and essays of the Edward VII definitives – an exhibit that deservedly was awarded a large gold medal, and was deemed the best exhibit of GB among the competitive entries, the special prize being donated by the Great Britain Philatelic Society. There were three gold medals awarded in this section. The first went to Anthony Wicks, whose exhibit traces the development of the first adhesive stamps, including essays and material from the Mercantile Committee, plus rainbow trials and experimental cancellations. The second went to David Signe whose exhibit deals with the stamps that were issued by seven colleges of Oxford University from 1871 to 1886. The third gold medal was awarded to Ray Simpson for a fascinating display which traces the development of stamp perforations, including the part played by Somerset House. Finally in this section, Peter Aveyard was awarded a large vermeil medal for his display tracing the development of the so-called Alphabet III used for the corner letters of the One Penny from Die II introduced in 1855.

There were no fewer than 10 exhibits in the section devoted to GB postal history, covering a range of subjects, such as: the Scottish Additional Half-penny Tax (shown by Mike Mapleton, vermeil medal); the use of the Maltese Cross (Howard Hughes, gold); GB machine cancellations, postmarks and postal markings 1857-1911 (Tim Schofield, gold); development of the postal services in Cardiff, 1582-1918 (Ray Simpson, vermeil); early Edinburgh post up to 1842 (Tim Lediard, vermeil); the post in Folkestone, Kent (Steve Boorn, vermeil); mail sent and received by rail (Philip Kenton, large silver); a study of how money was moved by Royal Mail from bank to bank (Michael O'Hara, large silver); mail sent from Britain to Denmark, 1840-80 (Mark Lorentzen, large gold); and GB cancellations used abroad from South America and the Caribbean (Roy Richardson, large silver). ►



8th ABPS National Philatelic Exhibition

Handbook and Catalogue



Hall Q
Harrogate International Centre

Friday, 2nd May 2008
Saturday, 3rd May 2008

Michael Sefi with material on the Wilding definitive stamps, from The Royal Philatelic Collection. Above, the cover of the exhibition programme.

Hugh Feldman presents the first of the new annual Anne Dummer Awards to 10-year-old Claire Mitchell.



Of particular interest to GB collectors were two exhibits in the Thematic section. The first was from *Bulletin* writer Glenn Morgan, who achieved a gold medal for his exhibit 'Through the Letter Box', explaining by the use of a wide range of material just how important the letter box has been, and remains, in our lives. Christine Earle was awarded a large gold medal, and the special prize for the best thematic exhibit presented by the British Thematic Association, for her exhibit examining the life of a family that lived through the Second World War.

There was a second medal for Glenn, a large silver for the CD he has produced with Graham Wilson of the catalogue of the copious items that have been produced over the years linked to British stamp exhibitions.

The major awards for Harrogate 2008 were presented at a dinner, during which the exhibit by Joseph Hackmey of Classic Grenada was declared the best in the show.

Also on display at the exhibition were the entries in the Stamp Active Competitions for 2008, specifically aimed at encouraging the young collector. No fewer than 42 young collectors entered the competition.

The occasion was used to present the first of the Anne Dummer Awards for the young collector of the year. Anne was a staunch believer in encouraging young collectors, and this award, in her memory, has been donated by the former Midpex committee. It will go each year to the young collector who has achieved the most, not only with their personal collection, but also in encouraging others. The first award has gone to Claire Mitchell, aged 10, who comes from Ayr.

It proved to be a highly successful event, thanks not only to the highly suitable venue, but also due to the planning, expertise and sheer hard work of the many who were involved, including the 'local' team, headed by John Sussex, and of Richard and Yvonne Wheatley, Edward Klempka, Tony Plumb, Greg Spring, Phil Harriman, Barry Clark and John Edwards.

The hope of all who came to Harrogate is that it will not be too long before they are returning for another stamp exhibition •

The Philatelic Congress of Great Britain

A history, by Martin Robinson

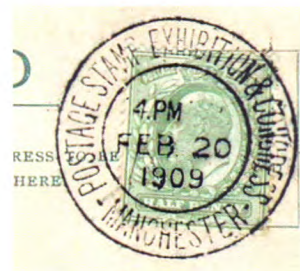
THE PHILATELIC CONGRESS of GB, which takes place in Stratford-upon-Avon later this month, has been a feature of our national philatelic life since 1909. Typically, it consists of three or four days of talks, displays and discussion, mixed with social occasions, visits, receptions and a banquet. An important feature is the presentation of the Congress Medal and signing of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists (RDP). The event is hosted by a society or federation and takes place at a different venue each year – London and Brighton have been chosen on several occasions, and sea-side resorts and spas like Harrogate are popular. The Congress is usually in May or June, although it has been held as early as February, and as late as October.

This year's event, to be held at the Holiday Inn in the heart of Shakespeare's town, will run from Thursday afternoon, 24 July until Sunday lunch-time, 27 July. On the first day there will be a reception, followed by dinner and a quiz; on Friday the Mayor of Stratford formally opens proceedings and there will be displays on Olympics and Stratford postal history, with a boat trip and a tour by open-top bus in the afternoon. On Saturday the Kay Goodman lecture will be given by Brian Sole on the subject of social philately. Chairman Gerald Marriner will give a display on the Occupation of the Channel Islands, the RDP will be signed, the Congress medal presented and the day ends with the banquet. On Sunday morning there are displays of Classic France and Congress Memorabilia, and members of local philatelic societies (Stratford, Warwick & Leamington and Solihull) will present short static exhibits. Congress ends with the ABPS forum and lunch.

Souvenirs A distinguishing feature of Congress from its earliest year has been the production of souvenirs, very popular with delegates and the wider community of philatelists, and a useful source of income for the organisers. These have usually been in the form of commemorative labels, postcards, covers and postmarks, but invitations, tickets, programmes and menus are also very collectable; there is certainly enough material to form a considerable collection. What makes it all the more interesting for collectors is that there is, to my knowledge, no catalogue to follow other than the Cinderella Stamp Club's Handbook no 8 on GB Commemorative Labels pre-1950, which has a short section of eight pages on Congress labels. ►



The souvenir postcard issued for the first Congress, in 1909. This could be cancelled with a special Congress postmark, shown on the following page.



Left: the double-circle special handstamp produced for the 1909 Congress could be used to cancel the illustrated card shown on page 395.

Centre: the souvenir label for the second Congress in 1910, recess printed in blue, brown, green or red in sheets of 12 by Perkins, Bacon, printers of the Penny Black.

Right: triangular labels were produced for the Congress of 1912, with the centre in black and the frames in blue, brown, green, red-brown or violet.



Information for the Guidance of Organisers of Future Philatelic Congresses of Great Britain (first published 1938) begins its timetable of preliminary work: 'June-July Arrange address list, Choose headquarters for Congress, Arrange Mayoral reception on first night, Commission designs for Congress souvenirs and special postmark', and has a whole section devoted to negotiating with printers about labels, and organising publicity and sales, including catering for a steady demand in subsequent years. It remarks that the labels produced for the Folkestone Congress in 1937, printed in sheets of 12 subjects and sold at 1s each, netted a profit of around £130. However, interest in the souvenirs has declined over recent years, and at last year's Croydon Congress there were none whatsoever. I am pleased to report that a souvenir sheet will be available at Stratford, featuring the labels showing the Shakespeare monument in Holy Trinity Church, Stratford, sold in 1897 and for many years thereafter to raise money for the church restoration.

With so much to choose from, it is difficult to select a few representative items. The first Congress, in Manchester in 1909, discussed the formation of a national philatelic society or federation, a collectors' catalogue, an encyclopaedia of philatelic literature and unnecessary issues. A souvenir postcard was available (see page 345), which could be cancelled with a special Congress postmark used 18-20 February. This was one of only a handful of special postmarks that year, the others all being connected with the Imperial International Exhibition at Shepherds Bush, London.

There was no special postmark for the second Congress held in London in 1910, but there were some very handsome souvenir labels showing a youthful Queen Victoria. The only other use of this unfamiliar portrait of the Queen was on Foreign Bill stamps of Ceylon.

Labels were issued at every Congress until 1913, 1920-24, and again 1932-40. Those from Birmingham in 1911 show Birmingham Town Hall (shown opposite). For the 1912 Congress in Margate triangular labels (above) were printed in rouletted sheets of nine tête-bêche pairs. The Queen's Highcliffe Hotel, where Congress was held, also had labels printed by Perkins Bacon.

For the ninth Congress, in Bath in 1922, *Stamp Collecting* magazine issued a postcard bearing the design of the Mulready envelope, to be used with the Congress postmark. At the Glasgow Congress, in 1924, MacLure, MacDonald & Co litho printed splendid labels of the city's arms in four different colour combinations. At Brighton in 1932, there were labels in blue or green showing the Royal Pavilion, and a special meter mark (opposite).

The most elaborate and best-loved of all the souvenirs produced over the years was for the 1933 Congress in London (see below). Labels showing The Postman's Knock were printed by Thomas De La Rue in seven colours, each on a different type of paper: black on a hand-made wove, blue on machine-made wove, green on laid, red on pelure, purple on wove, orange on laid bâtonné and sepia on quadrillé paper. At the Bath Congress in 1935 there were covers and special handstamps, a presentation card for delegates and a sheet of 12 different designs showing views, the city arms, and portraits of Ralph Allen, John Palmer, King George V and pioneer philatelist Stafford Smith. This format set the trend for several years.

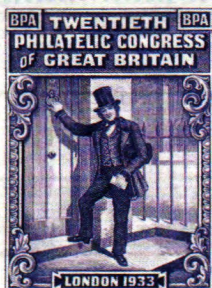
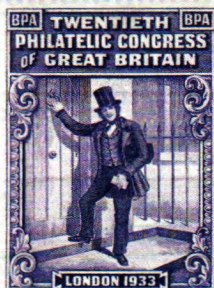
The 26th Congress, in Liverpool in June 1939, was marked by the usual special postmark, a set of 12 photogravure-printed labels showing the arms of Liverpool and Merseyside views, and a set of eight postcards reproducing Liverpool postmarks from 1707. This Congress included, on the first evening, a reception and film showing; the next day saw a business session followed by an official photograph of delegates, afternoon excursions and a theatre party in the evening. On day three two papers were given, followed by more excursions and a study circle in the evening. On the last day came a final paper, the ceremony of signing the RDP and a banquet at the Prince of Wales Hotel in Southport, which cost 15 shillings (75p) and included melon, soup, turbot, saddle of lamb, roast chicken, strawberry melba, apple tart and coffee.

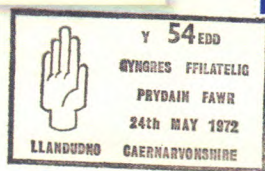
The 27th Congress went ahead in Bournemouth in May 1940 in spite of the war, and one of the souvenirs consisted of a handsome die proof of the Penny Black in black or blue. ►



Above: the label for the 1911 label was litho printed by the Artist Engraving Co; Birmingham Town Hall was printed in black, with the frames in blue, green, mauve or red.

Below: a special meter mark for the Congress of 1932, and the 1933 Postman's Knock label.





Goodman, Esp.

Edhurst Rd.,

Devon, U.K.

Top: the special registration label produced for the 1946 Congress in Brighton, used at the Congress post office.

Left: a one-day slogan postmark for the 1960 Congress in London.

Right: one of the four Welsh handstamps for Llandudno in 1972. Each of these featured a different national emblem.

Normal business resumed in May 1946 with the 28th Congress at Brighton, with a sheet of four labels in four colours and a special registration label. Covers posted that year have an additional point of interest for collectors as they usually bear the red marks of the Transorma sorting machine.

After 1948, Congress organisers seem to have favoured special handstamps and souvenir covers, the latter usually in a different colour for each day. Harrison & Sons produced an interesting souvenir card for the 1959 Congress in Torquay, bearing examples of all six of the 3d Regional stamps issued the previous year. The 1960 Congress was part of the International Stamp Exhibition at the Royal Festival Hall in London, and there was a one-day slogan postmark on 14 July. From 1966, when Congress was held in Brighton, the fashion became to have a different pictorial handstamp on each day. For the 49th Congress, in Cambridge in 1967, remaining stocks of the 1938 souvenir labels were overprinted. At Buxton in 1968 there were facsimile Mulready lettersheets and souvenir sheets showing blocks of four of the Penny Black and Two Pence Blue. For the 52nd Congress, in Folkestone in 1970, delegates were issued with privilege tickets giving them free access to dancing, deck chairs, putting and tennis.

In 1972 Llandudno hosted the 54th Congress, and the four handstamps were all in Welsh. As if this wasn't groundbreaking enough, the 1974 Congress was held in Enghien-les-Bains, near Paris, and the special handstamp was in French. A postcard issued by the National Postal Museum for the 1989 Congress in Brighton featured the Transorma sorting machine. In 1990 a souvenir sheet for the 72nd Congress, in Cambridge, showed spoof college postage labels. The last Congress at which a range of souvenirs was available was the 75th in Edinburgh in 1993, where there were postcards, labels, cachets, a special handstamp and a slogan postmark •

Philately online The main UK thematic site, by Ron Negus



www.brit-thematic-assoc.com This site allows collectors to complete an application form to join the British Thematic Association. Completed forms or other enquiries can be sent by post to Peter Denly, 9 Oaklands Park, Bishops Stortford, Herts CM23 2BY.

THE BRITISH THEMATIC ASSOCIATION (BTA) was founded in 1984 with the objective 'To promote, encourage and assist the development of Thematic Philately'. Their website was not set up until October 2006, which is one reason why my previous reviews on thematic subjects have tended to report upon American web pages. I am correcting this omission now.

The Association is open to thematic collectors of all ages, and at all levels of specialisation. At regular meetings held by the group, collectors can expand their knowledge by viewing displays and through discussions with other enthusiasts. A separate page, entitled Programme, supplies a current listing of all forthcoming meetings with venues and dates.

The BTA publishes a quarterly journal, called *Themescene*. The page on the BTA site devoted to the magazine currently only displays the front cover of an old copy. It does state, however, that some past articles will be published on the site in due course, and this will make it more useful to potential members. From this page there is a link directly to the BTA library.

The BTA library contains tear sheets of thematic articles from stamp magazines and the holdings are indexed here, alphabetically by subject. Although there is no information on the Library page, the opening page on the site does refer to a photocopying service that can be used by Association members. I assume this is related to the Library, but with no further information about it on any other page, the situation is unclear. This is an aspect of the site that needs to be addressed by the webmaster.

For thematic collectors, the year's most important stamp show is Thematica. This has its own descriptive page on the BTA site. Thematica, the British national thematic stamp exhibition held twice a year in London, has been running since 1987. Details of how to reach the venue, and information for exhibitors and dealers are given on the Thematica page.

In November 2007, an international thematic show was organised by the BTA and held in London under the generic title of Eurothema. There were five participating countries, and a complete description of this important event is given on the site. The pages contain details of the various competition entries and the marks awarded for each, as well as a number of photographs taken during the social events held in conjunction with the exhibition.

One of the methods by which collectors can improve their thematic displays is by examining medal-winning entries put together by others. This educational role is recognised on the BTA site by the inclusion of a couple of pages headed 'Displays'. These contain the full exhibits from two different subject collections – one called 'The Heart is Life' and the other titled 'Astronomy'. Each of the individual pages in these displays can be selected and enlarged on the screen for ease of viewing.

The remaining pages on the BTA site deal with administrative matters. 'Who's Who' provides a list of current office holders in the Association. Selecting any particular named person in this list causes a window to open for use in sending an e-mail to that office holder. There is a page, also, to allow an application form for membership to be printed out. The final page is the usual 'Links' list with details of other sites in the UK and overseas that will interest thematic collectors ●

Competitions Win the 2007 Miniature Sheet Collections



April identify The detail was from the 2007 Lest We Forget Poppy stamp. The winner was C Reich of Australia.

April knowledge Answers: 1) 1958; 2) Prof Dorothy Hodgkin; 3) Douglas Myall. The winner was A Peel of West Yorkshire.

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 July *Identify* Competition. Secondly, test your philatelic knowledge by answering the questions below. Send your answer to July *Knowledge* Competition.

- 1 Who designed the Explorers stamps of 1972 & 1973?
- 2 Regional stamps were introduced in 1958 – how many 'regions' were there?
- 3 In which year did Mahatma Gandhi feature on a stamp?

Send your answer (addressed to either the July *Identify* competition or the July *Knowledge* competition), name and address on a postcard or back of a sealed envelope to: British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ. The senders of the first cards drawn in each competition on 15 August will each receive a 2007 Miniature Sheet Collection. Runner-up prizes of presentation packs, stamp cards or FDCs will be awarded in each competition. The competitions are not open to Royal Mail employees ●

Events

Until 24 December 'Timeless & Classic: Elizabeth II, Queen & Icon', BPMA exhibition. Wedgwood Visitor Centre, Barlaston, Stoke-on-Trent, weekdays 09.00-17.00, weekends 10.00-17.00. **Enquiries** 01782 282 986 (Wedgwood), 020 7239 2570 (BPMA).

Until April 2009 'Lions, Leopards, Unicorns & Dragons' exhibition marking 50 years of regional stamps at BPMA. See page 334. **Enquiries** 020 7239 2570.

28-29 June Thematica at Carisbrooke Hall, Seymour Street, London W2. Saturday 10.30-17.30, Sunday 10.30-17.00. **Enquiries** Thematic Exhibitions, PO Box 8843, London N3 1HL, 020 8343 2434.

29 June British Thematic Association AGM at Thematica (above). Display 'Parachutes' by Barry Stagg follows AGM. See www.brit-thematic-assoc.com

26 July British Thematic Association meeting, Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1. Thematic displays morning, thematic workshop afternoon.

24-27 July 90th Philatelic Congress of GB, Holiday Inn, Stratford-upon-Avon. Enquiries M Brindle, 6 Nunnery Drive, Thetford IP24 3EN.

24 August STAMP Lincs (Lincoln Philatelic Society) at Washingborough Community Centre, outskirts of Lincoln. Lincolnshire clubs get-together, about 20 dealers. New collectors most welcome. **Enquiries** Peter Wain 01522 525984.

24-28 August Picture Postcard Show at the Royal Horticultural Society's Lawrence Hall, London SW1. Displays include 1908 Franco-British Exhibition and Olympics ●

Late news



Glasgow Thematic Society The Society's 60th anniversary was celebrated with a Dinner at Ross Priory on the shores of Loch Lomond. The guest of honour was Brian Sole FRPSL, President of the British Thematic Society, who complemented the GTS on this achievement before cutting the cake with President Margaret Morris. Brian (above, left) also presented member Bill McKinlay (right) with the Vermeil Medal which he had received at Harrogate 2008 for his exhibit 'Water is Life'. The toast to the Society was proposed by David Mekie, President of the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies •

Auctions Cavendish's Worldwide & GB sale on 8 May included a cover bearing a pair of the very rare Edward VII 2½d Inland Revenue Official sent from London to Borkum in 1903; estimated at £1000 it went for £1700. Four cartons containing an extensive collection of over 1200 FDCs to 2007 made £800 (£360), and an accumulation of Elizabeth II FDCs with a good range of cancels made £550 (£300). A collection of over 300 railway letter stamps, 1891-c1920 made £1200, four times the estimate. For details of future auctions, contact Cavendish on 01332 250970 or see www.cavendish-auctions.com •

Spink auctioned the impressive 'Monarch' collection of GB George V stamps on 8 May; total realizations came to almost £2 million. A unique control strip of three of the 1935 Silver Jubilee 2½d Prussian Blue made £48,000 (est £20,000-25,000), and a double impression 1934 1d scarlet,

thought to be unique, achieved the upper estimate of £12,000. A unique used example of the 1913 ½d green Multiple Cypher watermark sideways went for £12,000 (est £20,000-25,000). A GB Stamps & Postal History sale the following day sold for nearly £¼ million. A block of 60 of the 1858-69 Penny Red, plate 220, with side margins and full original gum sold for £1400 (est £1400-1500), and an interesting cover bearing a Register House Scotland fiscal sent, contrary to regulations, from Aberdeen in 1882 achieved £160 (£150-200). A British Empire Stamps & Covers auction will be held on 10 July. Enquiries: Spink 020 7563 4000, or see www.spink.com •

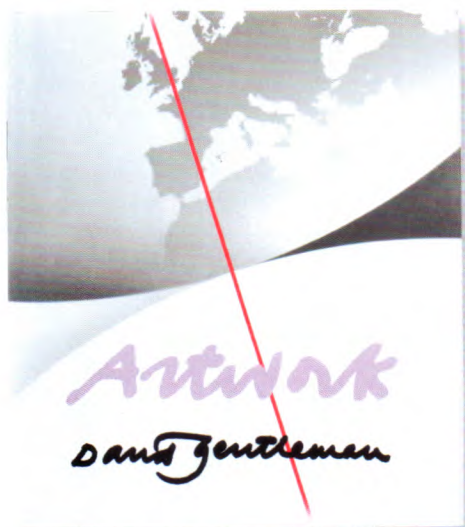
Philatelic awards The Association of British Philatelic Societies Congress Medal for 2008 has been awarded to Robert Johnson, nominated by the Society of Postal Historians. He chaired the Philatelic Congress in Bristol in 1996 and is a trustee of the Stuart Rossiter Trust which promotes postal history studies. ABPS Awards of Merit go to David Chamberlaine (Plymouth Philatelic Society), John Edwards (Leeds), Keith Elliot (Fern-down & West Moors), and Brian Rowe (Hampshire Federation). Congratulations to all on this recognition of their work for fellow collectors •

British Postal Museum & Archive A tour of the Archives will be held on 31 July and 25 September, and an 'Archive Open Day' on 13 September. Phone 020 7239 2570 for details •

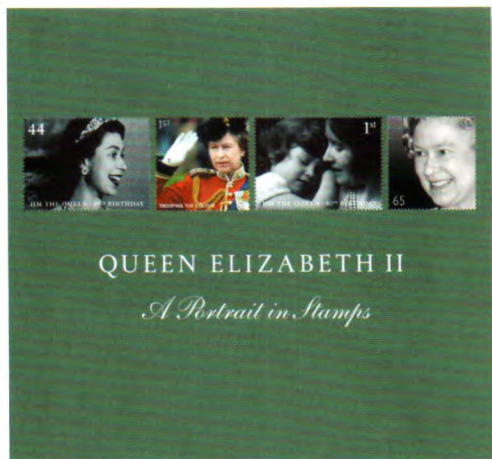
Beryl Cook The noted artist, best known for her studies of large ladies, died in May, aged 81. One of her paintings, *Girls on the Town*, was shown on a greetings stamp (below) in 1995 •



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