The magazine for collectors of UK stamps

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Royal Mail

Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 59 No.12

Commonwealth values





The new stamp issue from Royal Mail celebrating Birmingham 2022

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EUREKA! We've found it. This has to be our best world mixture yet. At least 85% Commems with a staggering variety with around 100 countries/states (yes we have found stamps from that many). Much modern and many high values included. Our **SUPER WORLD 100.** 1/2 lb £32.00, 1 lb £60.00, 2 lbs £115.00. **Sale price 1/2 lb £27.00, 1 lb £52.00, 2 lbs £95.00.**

OVERSEAS FOREIGN & COMMONWEALTH CHARITY MIXTURE. With over 120 Charity sources in this country it is not surprising that this is the ultimate mixture of Foreign & Commonwealth stamps essentially on paper. Enormous variety and mostly modern as it is collected from offices on a day to day basis. Many h. values as many are Air mail values and a lot will never be seen in approval books! 1 lb £30.00, 2 lbs £55.00, 4 lbs £105.00. **Sale price 1 lb £25.00, 2 lbs £48.00, 4 lbs £90.00.**

SPECIAL OFFER NO. 1: Buy 1 lb Australia and 1 lb New Zealand Charity for the discounted price of £32.00. List price £40.00.

AUSTRALIA. On paper charity mix, includes modern with dream variety, many Commems and high values, collected from a school-teacher in the Outback. Approx. 2500 stamps / 1 lb. 1 lb £20.00, 2 lbs £39.00. **Sale price 1 lb £17.00, 2 lbs £32.00.**

NEW ZEALAND. On Paper charity mixture with Commems and higher values includes. Supplied to us exclusively by a N.Z Charity. Approx. 2500 stamps / 1lb. ½ lb £11.00, 1 lb £20.00. **Sale price ½ lb £9.00, 1 lb £17.00.**

COMMEMORATIVES & LARGE ONLY ON PAPER MIXTURES

AUSTRALIA. 1/2 lb £25.00, 1 lb £48.00. **Sale price 1/2 lb 22.00, 1 lb £39.00. FRANCE** 1/4 lb £23.00, 1/2 lb £42.00. **Sale price ¼ lb £20.00, 1/2 lb £39.00. IRELAND** ¼ lb £38.00, ½ lb £75.00. **Sale price ¼ lb £30.00, ½ lb £58.00. JAPAN** 1/4 lb £22.00, 1/2 lb £41.00. **Sale price ¼ lb £18.00, 1/2 lb £34.00.**

OFF PAPER MIXTURES

SPECIAL OFFER NO. 2: Buy 1 lb World, 1 lb British Commonwealth and 1 lb W. Europe Scoop for the discounted price of £128. List price £154.00.

WORLD SCOOP. An Off paper mix scooped from our oddments tub. Emanating from Charities, Auctions, personal collections etc. You will find high Cat (please tell us when you do) & many additions for your collection. Each 1 lb lot is over 7000 stamps, costing around ½ p each. ½ lb £20.00, 1 lb £39.00, 4 lbs £150.00. **Sale price ½ lb £17.00, 1 lb £32.00, 4 lbs £110.00.**

BRITISH COMMONWEALTH SCOOP. Our popular Off paper mixture covering old Empire & modern Commonwealth. Several clients found stamps cataloguing £10 to £50 each. No promises but with at least 7,000 stamps/1lb you'll have great fun sorting. ½ lb £31.00, 1 lb £60.00. **Sale price ½ lb £27.00, 1 lb £53.00.**

WEST EUROPE SCOOP. An Off paper mixture of small and large stamps with much earlier material. Many better and unusual values. In great demand as our interests in the EEC grow. Approx. 10,000 stamps to 1 lb costing around ½ p each. ½ lb £28.00, 1 lb £55.00. **Sale price ½ lb £23.00, 1 lb £45.00.**

QUEEN VICTORIA – KING GEORGE VI COMMONWEALTH. Off paper and therefore no soaking required. We were lucky enough to buy a retired dealer/collectors collection of albums and accumulations and was not sure what to do with it so have decided to treat you all by busting the whole lot into one off paper mixture. As we do not sell stamps individually or by catalogue value we have left that for you. Great interest for postmark collectors as many of them will be now obsolete, and great for watermark, shade and perf varieties. Majority being George V & VI but also contains Victoria and Edward. Around 2,000 stamps per ¼ lb and must be a bargain at around 3p a stamp. ¼ lb £65.00, ½ lb £125.00. **Sale price ¼ lb £58.00, ½ lb £112.00.**

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



Heavenly postal history Maurice Buxton reveals some excitement generated by a comet sighting in the Victorian era **370**



Brushing up on their skills Designers and artists contend for glory in the philatelic arena **373**



The show goes on We reflect on the origins of Stampex and look ahead to next month's exhibition **378**

Stamp Scene As always Dane Garrod shares his insights into the countries' upcoming philatelic events **380**



Birmingham 2022



Aquatics – Diving – *1st Class*



Boxing – *1st Class*



Gymnastics – Artistic – *£1.85*



Cycling – Mountain Bike – *£1.85*

Royal Mail's new stamp issue celebrates the 'Friendly Games'

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Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games Stamp Specifications

Date of issue	28 July
Number of stamps	Eight – (4 x 1st Class, 4 x £1.85)
Design	Interabang
Illustrations	Charis Tsevis
Stamp format	Square
Stamp size	35mm x 35mm
Number per sheet	24/48
Printer	Cartor Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	14.5 x 14.5
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA

Commonwealth Games



Para Table Tennis – *1st Class*



Para Powerlifting – *1st Class*



Athletics – *£1.85*



Wheelchair Basketball 3 x 3 – *£1.85*

The 22nd edition of the Commonwealth Games takes place in Birmingham between 28 July and 8 August. The event promises to be a sporting and cultural extravaganza in the West Midlands. Spectators will witness 11 days of world class sport, the city will offer a magnificent cultural programme and elite athletes will compete for the coveted gold, silver and bronze medals. In celebration of the Games and issued on the opening date, Royal Mail have produced eight Special Stamps highlighting some of the sports and para sports that will be taking place.

The stunning neofuturistic illustrations are the creation of the prolific Greek artist Charis Tsevis. The dynamic art exudes kinetic energy by way of an explosion of angular colour blocks skilfully juxtaposed to create the form of sporting participants. The style is consistent with his mesmerising equine art he produced for Ascot Racecourse's King George Weekend in 2018. The four First Class stamps and four £1.85 values are accompanied with a Presentation Pack, Souvenir, Postcards and a choice of three 50p Coin Covers, appropriately in gold, silver or bronze. ►



Above: First Day Cover with the Tallents House handstamp

Opposite: First Day Cover with the alternative handstamp

This year's Games with 19 sports, and 8 para sports will engage competitors from 72 nations and territories; it's a far cry from its humble beginnings. Going back to its inauguration as the British Empire Games in 1930, just 450 competitors and team officials from 11 countries gathered in Hamilton, Canada to take part. Subsequently the Games have been held every four years with only 1942 and 1946 breaking the sequence because of the war. Known as the British Empire and Commonwealth Games from 1954 to 1966, and British Commonwealth Games from 1970 to 1974, they've also gained popularity as the 'Friendly Games' due to the spirit of friendship and fair play they traditionally engender.

Some of the achievements in the rich history of the Games remain etched in the hearts and minds of many. Those that watched it will never forget the race that became known as the 'Miracle Mile', when at the Vancouver Games in 1954 Roger Bannister and John Landy became the first athletes to break the four-minute mile. Groundbreaking it was too in Manchester in 2002 when Chantal Petitclerc became the first gold medal winner in a para-sport, an historic occasion representing the very first time an event for an athlete with a disability was officially recognised. And in 2014 when women's boxing was introduced for the first time at the Games in Glasgow, Team England's Nicola Adams proved to be a trailblazer taking the first gold medal in the flyweight division.

And Team England are bullish about their medal chances at Birmingham, their Chef de Mission, Mark England said: 'The Birmingham 2022 sports programme is incredibly exciting for us as the host team. We plan to be medal competitive from day one and deliver inspiring moments throughout the 11 days of competition. This once-in-a-lifetime opportunity



for Team England athletes to perform on their home stage in Birmingham will, I've no doubt, provide countless memorable moments for the home support.' The Scots too have been eagerly anticipating the Games which is the only occasion when Scotland gets to compete in a multi-sport event as a nation in its own right, and this is one of the factors that they feel contributes to the strong team spirit which has become an established trademark of Team Scotland.

The Team Wales Chef de Mission Nicola Phillips expressed that '...it will be a chance to celebrate sport again and although it's not a Home Games, Birmingham 22 is a stone's throw from the Welsh border. We remain optimistic about the chance for Team Wales supporters to go along and cheer for our Welsh athletes and give them as close to a home advantage as we can. The atmosphere will be something definitely not to be missed, with our hosts in Birmingham known for their welcome for all nations and cultures'. It will also be interesting to see if the games reveal another sporting great from Northern Ireland, perhaps to join the illustrious hall of fame with the boxer Barry McGuigan, the golfer Rory McIlroy or footballer George Best, and of course snooker's enigmatic Alex Higgins. However with more events for women than men it may well be that the next Mary Peters emerges who won Golds in the shot put and pentathlon at Edinburgh in 1970, and another Gold at Christchurch in 1974 also in the pentathlon.

Royal Mail certainly hope that all four Home Countries take delight in a good measure of success and win a plentiful share of the medals. And that competitors and spectators alike enjoy a spectacle that contributes to the West Midlands becoming part of a long lasting legacy that manifests elite teamwork, athleticism and of course friendship ●



FD2212-TH



FD2212-PL



FD2212-NP

The Presentation Pack has the official Birmingham 2022 hologram affixed and contains all eight Special Stamps. It also features enlarged stamp artwork and photographs of the many venues which will host events during the Games. Information is also written by the Commonwealth Games team about the many sports, venues and The Queen's Baton Relay



Presentation Pack inner



Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games Prices

Set of 8 Special Stamps	£11.20
Presentation Pack	£12.10
First Day Cover Stamps	£14.10
Stamp Souvenir	£14.10
First Day Envelope	£0.30
Postcards (8 in set)	£3.60
Half Sheet (24 x 1st Class)	£22.80
Full Sheet (48 x 1st Class)	£45.60
Half Sheet (24 x £1.85)	£44.40
Full Sheet (48 x £1.85)	£88.80
BU Coin Cover	£17.50
Silver Coin Cover	£67.50
Gold Coin Cover	£1095.00



Presentation Pack outer



The Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games Brilliant Uncirculated 50p Coin Cover. The cover has its own special handstamp as well as an information card and special limited-edition coin from the Royal Mint

Article by Ian Boardman

Birmingham 2022 quiz



The Scottish team at the 1930 Games in Hamilton, Canada

How to enter Please send your answers, with your contact address or phone number, marked 'Birmingham 2022 Quiz', to: Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. Or by email to chloe.tuck@royalmail.com.

Prizes The first five correct entries drawn after the closing date win the Birmingham 2022 Presentation Pack.

Closing Date 15 September 2022.

May solutions Women of WWII Quiz 1) b 2) c 3) a 4) b 5) a

Winners Sally Povall, Upton; Dave Dorgan, Bolton; James McKay, Rosehearty; Allan Stone, Somerton; John Gant, Coleshill.

1 How many countries participated in the 1930 Games in Hamilton?
a) 11 b) 18 c) 24

2 At which Games did Roger Bannister run the 'miracle mile'?
a) Auckland 1950
b) Vancouver 1954
c) Cardiff 1958



3 Which of these sports is *not* featured in the Birmingham 2022 stamp issue?
a) Table Tennis
b) Gymnastics
c) Hockey

4 Who illustrated the Birmingham 2022 Special Stamps?
a) Panayiotis Tetsis
b) Charis Tsevis
c) Carlos Tevez

5 In which event did Mary Peters win gold at Christchurch in 1974?
a) Shot put
b) Discus
c) Pentathlon

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

1936 King George V proposed memorial issue



This page shows five designs from final essay submissions in March 1936, all based on the Vandyk head with variety of styles, wording and colour, and imperforate

An article in last month's July issue of the *Bulletin* reviewed the contribution and involvement in our hobby by King George V, and also the possibility at that time for a memorial stamp issue following his death in January 1936. Precedence in Europe in the previous eighteen months had been the deaths of a President, a King, and a Queen Consort, all of whom had been honoured and remembered with a memorial stamp issue. Would Britain follow this idea, and would there be designs and ideas brought to the fore for consideration? Although there has been some debate in recent years as to exactly what time of day, or night, the King died, it was announced to the world on the morning of Monday 20 January. By Wednesday morning a letter had appeared in *The Times* newspaper suggesting the issue of a memorial stamp. The writer referred to the precedents in recent years in other countries and suggested that an issue as a tribute to the late King would be welcome. However, the Director General, Sir Donald Banks, had written to Major Tryon, the Postmaster General, later on that Wednesday saying 'The question of the issue of mourning stamps has been raised in the newspapers, but there is no precedent for this being done, and it might give rise to many practical difficulties'. Dismissive in advance, and the perception would have been that was the end of the matter – but it wasn't.

Correspondence continued in the newspaper for the next three weeks, largely in favour of a memorial issue. Specific suggestions included a 1½d stamp printed in black or with a black border, or a new special design based upon the 1840 Penny Black. Although the Post Office was not keen on the idea, the new King, Edward VIII, was. His suggestion was for a surcharged issue supporting the King George V Jubilee Trust which was to become a Memorial Fund. As Prince of Wales, Edward had played a large part in its









inception to mark the 25th anniversary of his father's accession to the throne, hence his interest in a stamp to further its aims and his father's memory. The very recent Belgian mourning stamps for Queen Astrid had included a surcharge for charity, which the Post Office would have to consider even though they had never been in favour of charity issues. King Edward favoured a special issue of the 1½d stamp to be sold at 2d with the surplus ½d going each time to the Memorial Fund.

A meeting of the Trust was arranged for Wednesday 5 February 1936, which left little time for designs to be suggested and produced. Around midday on Saturday 25 January the Director General had telephoned the GPO asking that the printers, Harrison & Sons, furnish designs as soon as possible. The request was immediately passed to Harrisons who contacted their staff on this Saturday afternoon, and by working through Saturday night and all day Sunday, a first selection of essays was produced on the Monday. More designs were also made available on Wednesday 29 January and on 5 February, the date of the meeting of the Jubilee Trust. Later alterations and experiments for speedy production were made by Harrisons between 4 and 20 March. Most of the artwork were by two of the design staff, Palmer and Baxter, although their exact identities have not been verified, together with involvement of ►



©caindyman/123RF.COM

King George V (1865-1936) on an engraving from the 1800s. King of the United Kingdom and the British Dominions and Emperor of India during 1910-1936. Engraved by J S Virtue & Co.



Three completely different trial designs showing various heads, wording, colours and borders, submitted in March 1936



King George V in his Silver Jubilee year, 1935. Portrait by Vandyk

A S Thornton who contributed designs for stamp issues in later years, but without success. The production files for the memorial stamps have not been traced and so the total number of essays produced is not known, but details of the work received from Harrisons has been able to identify many of the designs.

While all this work was being undertaken, discussion continued between all those concerned about the problem of issuing charity postage stamps. There was certainly some precedent for it as in 1890 the Penny Post Jubilee had been marked by the GPO with two limited issues of commemorative stamped stationery to raise money for the Rowland Hill Benevolent Fund. A postcard was on sale at the Guildhall on 16 May and an envelope with an inserted message at the South Kensington Museum and all post office counters on 2 July. Both had postage value of one penny, with the postcard selling at sixpence and the envelope at a shilling. This had been a great success with money raised for the Benevolent Fund after the entire issue of 10,000 postcards were sold in less than three hours. Years later in 1924, King George V wished the sale of British Empire Exhibition stamps to benefit the Edward VII Hospital Fund for London, giving the 1890 event as a precedent. However, one of the factors was the disproportionate element of 'charity' to 'postage' in the proposed sale of the stamps, as well as the 1924 stamps would be sold over an extended period, unlike the single day's duration in 1890. In the face of objections, the philatelist King withdrew his proposals. When the problem of collection and separation of charity funds from postage was restudied in 1936, different circumstances prevailed. The charity element proposed for the memorial stamp was modest at a third of the postage and guidance of experience in this endeavour was sought from Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Norway and Switzerland.

This was therefore the situation at the time of the meeting with the Jubilee Trust on 5 February when most of the memorial stamp essays prepared by Harrison & Sons were ready for inspection. Prospects seemed favourable for a memorial stamp issue as outlined by the new King, but the events by which it failed are to a degree uncertain. After the meeting with the Trust, King Edward received essays from the Postmaster General but found none of the designs acceptable. Representatives from Harrisons had visited London on 5 and 11 March, almost certainly bringing fresh proposed designs with them for consideration at the next committee meeting of the Jubilee Trust



Three definitives from March 1936 submissions printed in colour variations with head and background combinations, and imperforate

on the following day, 12 March. The Director General, Sir Donald Banks, was a member of that committee and thus able to influence decisions from within. A memorandum much later, on 1 October, records that the initial stamp proposal was considered by the committee, which decided not to adopt it. How promptly this decision reached Harrison & Sons is unknown, but no further work was undertaken on the memorial stamp after 20 March. But, the idea was not forgotten and would be revived.



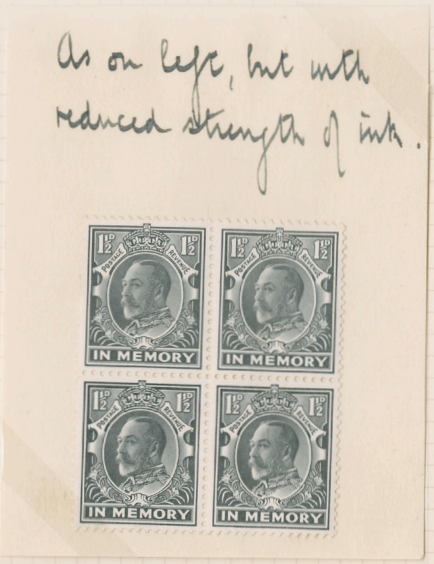
Nothing occurred in this context between April and August 1936, but later that year in September, a leading figure in the advertising world, Sir Charles Higham, suggested that a Memorial Fund stamp with a sale price of one shilling be placed on sale at post offices. The GPO reminded the organisers of the Memorial Fund that a similar proposal had already been considered and rejected. Additionally, the renewed suggestion had not received much public enthusiasm. That a memorial stamp issue was considered in 1936 was because it was the new King's own wish at a time of national mourning. The same idea of a Memorial Fund stamp was raised on the death of King George VI in 1952, but was once more rejected. However, memorial stamps were first issued in 1965 on the death of Sir Winston Churchill, and the experiment of a charity stamp was tried in 1975.

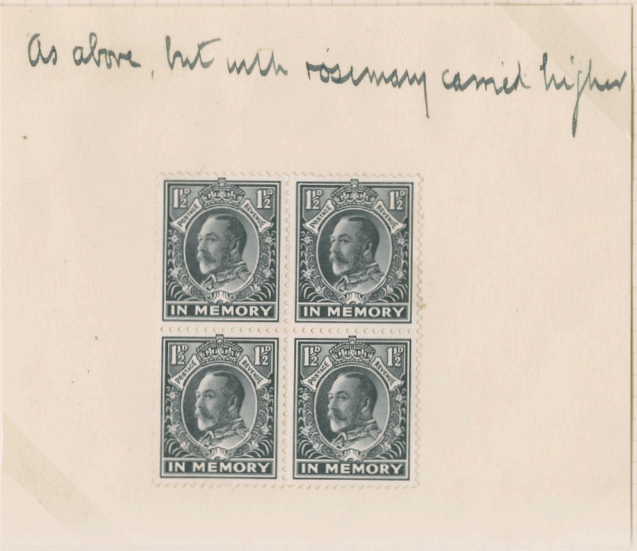
So what of the essays themselves, and what information has survived, although some has certainly been misplaced or lost? The chronological order in which various batches of work were received from Harrison & Sons has been identified with surviving essays in The Postal Museum beginning with those on the Monday afternoon of 27 January 1936. On that day, 1½d definitives printed in black or violet 'mourning colours', with two perforated blocks of four, one in each colour. Two days later, adaptations of the 1½d definitive using the Vandyk head in place of that by Mackennal, a border of rosemaries replacing the dolphins around the lower part of the head, and the words 'THREE HALFPENCE' replaced by 'IN MEMORY'; printed in standard red-brown or various shades of grey on coated and uncoated paper, and various depths of etching. Sixteen blocks of four, all but one imperforate, with the two degrees of etching for each colour. ►



The Mackennal head in March 1936 designs with suggested overprinted words of 'KING GEORGE V' above the head and 'MEMORIAL' beneath. The top essay being unperforated and the other four with black borders perforated









Submitted on 5 February 1936 were four annotated blocks of four essays with the Vandyk head and with the 'd' added after the '1½'

Submitted on 5 February were essays as a week earlier but with a deeper background in front of the King's face, improvements to space and balance of lettering, and a 'd' added after '1½' in the upper corners. On a number of essays the rosemary border was extended upwards around the head to give the effect of a wreath. Four annotated blocks of four are in The Postal Museum with these small amendments. In March 1936 came the last submissions which included a number of completely different designs which are also housed in The Postal Museum. These include, firstly, five trial designs with the 1½d value, all with the Vandyk head with variations of border, colour, wording, and size, all being imperforate. Secondly, three definitives printed in colour variations with head and background combinations and imperforate. Thirdly, five designs with the Mackennal head and suggested overprinted words of 'KING GEORGE V' above the head and 'MEMORIAL' beneath, various colour combinations and with four of the five with black borders perforated. Lastly, three completely different trial designs with various heads and borders. One of the designs submitted in March with both a Vandyk and a Mackennal head was clearly based upon an unused Barnett Freedman design for the 1935 Silver Jubilee issue. Harrisons had a copy to hand of the essay they had originally prepared, and were able to use it as a model.

In retrospect, we can acknowledge that a Memorial Issue was an idea that was fitting for the 'king of philately' who would surely have been pleased to know that his lifetime passionate hobby would remember him, and indirectly his on-going contribution with the Royal Philatelic Collection ●

Article by Dane Garrod FRPSL



Trial mourning colours of purple and black on the definitive 1½d value from the first submissions on Monday 27 January 1936



Blocks of four in chalky grey-lilac and in black, printed on uncoated paper in two different depths of etch, from the 29 January 1936 essays



Blocks of four in chalky grey-lilac and in black, printed on coated paper in two different depths of etch, from the 29 January 1936 essays







Blocks of four in slate and red-brown with the Vandyk head and from the 29 January 1936 submission of essays



Blocks of four in deep slate and deep red-brown with the Vandyk head and from the 29 January 1936 submission of essays





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1853 Viewing the Klinkerfuss Comet

Comets have been observed in the heavens since ancient times. Being new phenomena suddenly appearing in the otherwise familiar night sky, they were often regarded as portents of great or terrible events to come. As it happens, comets bright enough to be seen by the casual observer without the aid of a telescope are unusual. A comet is a small icy body in solar orbit; to be visible in this way it needs to pass close enough to the Sun for warming by solar radiation to release gases producing a visible atmosphere or 'coma' around the nucleus, and sometimes a 'tail' pushed out by the solar wind. On 10 June 1853 a new comet was observed by the astronomer Klinkerfuss at Göttingen. By 13 August the comet was visible to the naked eye, and it was at its brightest on 30 and 31 August. A British astronomer reported still seeing it with a telescope on 3 September[1]. The comet was a newsworthy item, and curious members of the general public all over Europe made a point of looking for it.

The letter shown here contains an eyewitness description of viewing the comet from south-west England. It was addressed to Commander[2] John Frere, second in command of the 80-gun third-rater *HMS Bellerophon* based at Malta, and sent by his wife Anne from Torquay on 7 September: '…I want very much dearest to know whether you have seen anything of the Comet. I

[1] See The Times for 23, 24, 26, and 30 August and 10 September 1853.

[2] Although addressed to 'Captain' Frere, it seems she had anticipated his promotion somewhat – he did not attain that rank until 13 November 1854.



suppose you have as you see so much of the Stars. We have been all alive about it here. First Alice & Mary told wonderful things of a Star with a Tail which they saw on their way home from Roundham Place. They only got laughed at till the Newspapers mentioned it. Then the Servants (of course) said they had seen it. I have never seen a Comet having always been unfortunate about it, & when we were made aware of the fact, there was, according to the paper, only about half an hour for 2 nights after Sunset when it could be seen.

The girls were running up from Tea all the Eves before last to look out of the attic window, but in vain, & we had given it up when about 10oc [names unclear] walked in from Roundham Place & begged us to go & look, as it was most beautiful. Up we went, and there, close to Charles's Wain (near which Constellation it was said to be) there was an appearance like a white Horse's tail, which every now & then darted out to a greater length & then contracted, & moved slowly altogether towards the horizon. We called everybody to come & see, voted the papers stupid to tell us it would be below the horizon a couple of hours earlier than when we saw it high in the sky, & I went to bed quite pleased that I had seen a Comet at last; but last night, & tonight, tho' it has been quite clear, & the Stars all visible, there has been no appearance of anything of the sort, which puzzles us not a little, as it ►



looks as if after all it could not have been the Comet. At one time there appeared to be a star at one end of the tail, but as it moved we could not see the star again & thought it had been some fixed star over which it was passing. The light was not yellow, but more like the Milky Way only brighter, & the size very much that of a Horse's tail…'

Another sheet of the letter is missing; it appears that Anne Frere began it at some earlier date and added more on 7 September, thus making full use of the paper. The letter was sent by the standard route at the time, in a sealed bag through France to Marseille, and then by British packet to Malta – considerably more expensive than the alternative route entirely by ship, but also much faster. It was paid at the minimum rate of 1s 3d for up to ¼oz (10d British postage + 5d French postage)[3], which the writer was careful to note – the 1s embossed stamp has been cut to shape, possibly to help minimise the weight!

Anne also noted that '…It is a great comfort to me to see the confidence with which it is asserted both here & at Paris that the Eastern question is settled for this bout. I now begin to hope the Ships will really now be ordered home & that my own Love's turn will come before the *Bellerophon* is very much over her Commission…'. Unfortunately, the latest bout of the 'Eastern Question' – the geopolitics of the Ottoman Empire's slow-motion disintegration – was shortly about to result in the Crimean War of 1854-56. The *Bellerophon* saw active service at Sebastopol, with her gun crews manning off-loaded guns ashore. The ship sustained some damage during the bombardment of the city, although Frere survived. Hmm, maybe the comet was a portent of great and terrible events after all… *Article by Maurice Buxton FRPSL*

[3] French postage was a simple 5d per ¼oz, British postage on the same basis as the inland scale – one rate up to ½oz, two rates for ½-1oz, then two rates for each additional 1oz or part (1843-54). As one British rate in this case was 10d, this rapidly became pricey for higher weight letters.



HMS Bellerophon at sea off Malta, 1852

The Commonwealth Games and the competing artists

In the June issue of the *Bulletin* we highlighted how a number of artists pitched their talents to be creators of the artwork for the 1958 stamp issue to celebrate the Cardiff Games. I'm sure you'll agree that the standards were very high and there were a number of essays which could have been developed into finished designs that would have graced the stamps. And it was the designs of three different artists; Reynolds Stone, Henry Brown and Pat Keely which won Royal approval for production of the three value stamp set. The article's essays that were presented are housed at The Postal Museum, and a further search in the archives there have unearthed some more philatelic gems, specifically in connection with the creative process for the next stamp set celebrating the Games. These were issued on 15 July 1970 in connection with the 9th Games which were held in Edinburgh. J Andrew Restall's winning designs featured on all three values which depicted three subjects; athletics, swimming and cycling. Restall had already established his credentials having designed two stamps – the 1/3 Hovercraft and the 1/6 Windscale Reactor for the 1966 British Technology issue, as well as the Aberfeldy Bridge, 9d value in the British Bridges issue of 1968.

However his designs featuring progressive action shots of athletes competing in running, swimming and cycling events were not warmly received by everybody. The graphics were certainly a break from tradition and led to a scathing attack from one critic who compared them to 'a load of ectoplasm emerging from a sewer'! Nonetheless despite some opposition others took ►



Restall's design for the 1/9 stamp, featuring cyclists in an adaptation of foot-exposure camera technique used in sport to study body position and movement. It was presented to the Stamp Advisory Committee (SAC) on 28 August 1969. The final design was approved by The Queen on 24 November



15 July 1970
9th British Commonwealth Games, Edinburgh

One of several progressive colour proofs housed in The Postal Museum's archive. This set from Restall's accepted design was produced in December 1969 in red-brown, olive-green and grey-black





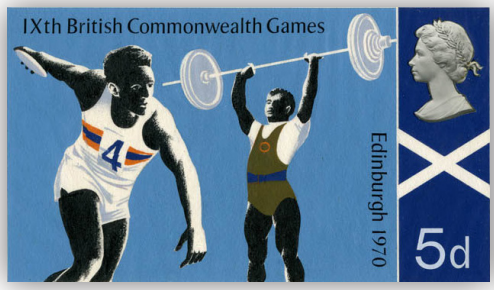


Bradbury Wilkinson's designs for the 5d and 1/6 which were rejected by the SAC on 28 August 1969





Designs by Thomas De La Rue & Co. Ltd for the 1/6 and 1/9 which were also rejected by the SAC on 28 August





Gordon Huntly's 5d featuring a male discus thrower and weightlifter, also his 1/9 showing three relay runners – rejected on 28 August

the converse view and praised his innovative approach which was complemented by De La Rue's new Delacryl print process. It was a relatively new innovation that Restall had championed as far back as 1967 and one that was being employed for only the second time in stamp printing following its use for the production of the 1969's Post Office Technology issue. The technique was essentially a lithographic process which produced brighter and more perfectly detailed stamps as well as being more true to subtle colour definition (the *Bulletin* of October 1969 gives an in depth description of the process).

De La Rue itself had also produced essays for the issue which were rejected, as had fellow printers Bradbury Wilkinson. Appropriately given the Games were to be held in Edinburgh, the three individual artists that were approached to produce designs all had Scottish connections. Restall, born in Headington, Oxford in 1931 was educated at George Watson's College in Edinburgh and attended the Edinburgh College of Art. Of the other artists also invited to create essays, Gordon F Huntly was a Scot, and Julian Gibb was Scotland-based.

Geoffrey Vieler, the newly appointed Managing Director of Posts, was not particularly enamoured with Restall's work and felt that his designs were preferable to Gibb's which he considered *'no better than the average run of athletics and sports stamps churned out by the dozen nowadays, by countries in Eastern Europe and elsewhere'*. However I quite like the essays he submitted that are shown here in their entirety – 'warts and all' – they're a reminder of the way we worked before Apple Macs turned the creative processes on their heads, and when cut and paste really meant that!

Including the current issue, four more Games stamp sets followed 1970's. On 15 July 1986 with the event back at Edinburgh five stamps featuring ►

Preliminary designs by Julian Gibb featuring male runners, female swimmers and male cyclists. They were presented to the Stamp Advisory Committee on 28 August and selected for development for their meeting on 21 October but subsequently rejected









Julian Gibb's designs progressed to colour proofs that were presented on 21 October 1969

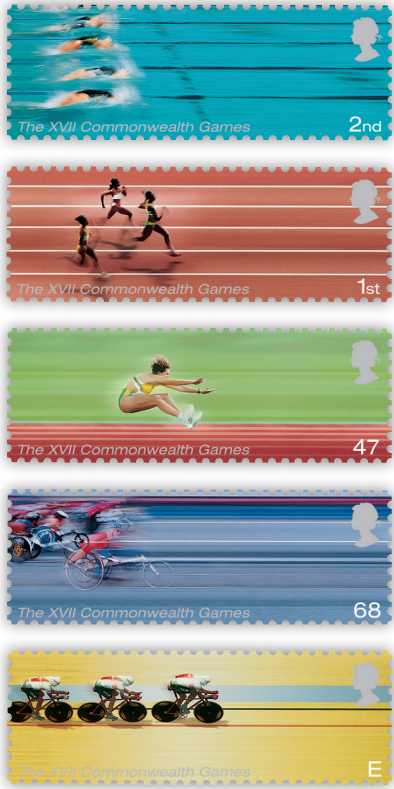
Images reproduced with the kind permission of The Postal Museum

sports were designed by Nick Cudworth who sadly passed away last year. Nick was born in Derby and attended the Chelsea School of Art, he worked in oil and pastels and is equally known for his landscape, still life and portraiture. His 17p value shows a sprinter on blocks awaiting the starting pistol. The 22p stamp features rowing, and the focus for the 29p is weight-lifting. Shooting is featured on the 31p value with the marksman wearing the host nation's (Scotland) insignia. The 34p stamp celebrates hockey, which was somewhat idiosyncratic given that the event wasn't featured at the Games until 1998 – it was included in the set to mark the centenary of the Hockey Association and in celebration of the World Hockey Cup for Men in London.

The 17th Commonwealth Games held in Manchester prompted the next stamp issue on the theme, the set issued on 16 July 2002 was appropriately named The Friendly Games. The five values were designed by Madeline Bennett whose objective was to elicit the excitement and tension of competitors racing towards the finish line – in a track event (1st Class), wheelchair race (68p) and cycling (E). The 2nd Class stamp likewise showed swimmers striving for gold, and the 47p value depicted a long jumper in mid-air. The stretched stamps and photographic style combined effectively to create a



15 July 1986
13th Commonwealth Games, Edinburgh and World Men's Hockey Cup, London



16 July 2002
The Friendly Games, 17th Commonwealth Games, Manchester

sense of movement. The Glasgow Games in 2014 was the impetus for the next stamps on the subject. The set which was issued on 17 July 2014 features judo on the 2nd Class, swimming (1st Class), marathon (97p), squash (£1.28), netball (£1.47), and para-athlete cycling (£2.15). Howard Brown was the designer, and he collaborated with illustrator Nanette Hoogslag and photographer Andy Hooper. Brown's compositions capture the action and movement with a series of lines and contours simulating direction and speed. Initially Brown worked with Hoogslag *'to create montages by assembling figures that showed a particular type of movement,'*. Hooper subsequently worked with sportsmen and women, to photographically capture the desired sense of movement. Hooper set up the photoshoots for each event. The venue for the cycling shoot was the Manchester Velodrome and the swimming images were achieved subaqueous. Hoogslag then progressed the images by creating effects and contrasts.

And so to the current era and the stamps just issued on 28 July to mark the 22nd edition of the Games in Birmingham. The style created by the Greek artist Charis Tsevis follows the diverse and contrasting aesthetics of its predecessors in the series – making for another interesting subject for thematic collecting ●

Article by Ian Boardman



17 July 2014 2014 Commonwealth Games, Glasgow



Royal Mail looks forward to this year's autumnal exhibition

THE BUSINESS
DESIGN CENTRE,
52 UPPER STREET,
ISLINGTON,
LONDON N1 0QH

Nearest Tube Station
Angel Islington
(Northern Line)

Wednesday 28 September
10:30 – 17:30

Thursday 29 September
10:30 – 17:30

Friday 30 September
10:30 – 17:30

Saturday 1 October
10:30 – 16:00

Having broken free from the shackles of the pandemic, the philatelic world is gathering momentum and the date of the Autumn Stampex will be ringed in indelible ink on the calendars of thousands of collectors and dealers not just from the UK but from around the world. Organised by the Philatelic Traders Society (PTS), the upcoming Autumn Stampex, taking place in London in September, promises to be another great opportunity to catch up with friends, pick up new additions for your collection and enjoy several frames of excellent philatelic material. The new look and feel show will be featuring the Stampex Talks Auditorium, a Collectors Lounge, Digital Zone and new Youth Zone which were all initially showcased at Stampex 2021. The Royal Mail stand will be on the Village Green at the entrance, and will be selling all the current collectibles including the Royal Marines stamp issue (from 29 September). For more details about the event and to register to be kept up to speed with developments why not sign-up for the free Newsletter at: www.stampexinternational.com.

Please note that the Royal Mail stand at Stampex, under no circumstances, can offer any of the stamp barcode scheme swap out services.

Confirmed dealers at the Autumn Stampex to date:
Stephen T Taylor • Thematix • Thames Themes • The Glasgow Stamp Shop • Richardson & Copp Abacus Auctions • David Feldman • John & Mark Taylor • Chris Rainey • Robert Danzig • Andrew G Lajer • Mark Bloxham Stamps • Anthony Baker • Bill Barrell • BB Stamps • Ian Perry Stamps Alliance Auctions • Samwells • Bridger & Kay • Argyll Etkin • Candlish McCleery • Alan Berman Benstamps • Robert Uden • Mulready Philatelics • Grosvenor Philatelic Auctions • Ross Shiells Mint GB • Philangles • Cavendish Philatelic Auctions • Corbitts • Dauwalders • Stanley Gibbons • Spink





STAMPEX INTERNATIONAL
THE BRITISH NATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION
THE Philatelic Traders' SOCIETY LTD
SPINK
WHERE HISTORY IS VALUED

The early days...
The first show branded Stampex was in 1956, however the true emergence of the show came about in 1953 with the Coronation Year National Stamp Exhibition held at Central Hall. That first exhibition was organised by the PTS which remains the primary organiser of Stampex today. The following year in 1954 at the same venue, the exhibition returned as the National Stamp Exhibition (dropping the reference to the Coronation year). The name was retained until 1956 when the exhibition was finally named Stampex. The annual event was hosted at a new venue in 1969 – the Royal Horticultural Halls, Westminster. With the show now biannual, in 1996 it moved to its current home at the Business Design Centre.



Cover with a 1½d Wilding cancelled with the Coronation Year National Stamp Exhibition handstamp dated 14 JAN 1953. The following year the type indicating 'CORONATION YEAR' was no longer required as shown in the postmark dated 9 JAN 1954 cancelling the King George VI 2½d on the Letter Card below

History of Stampex

10 Jan 1953 First National Stamp Exhibition organised by PTS at Central Hall

7 Jan 1956 Renamed Stampex

13 Mar 1959 First souvenir sheet issued, using a UN stamp to illustrate Central Hall

1960 No exhibition because of upcoming London International (9 July)

5 Mar 1969 New venue: Horticultural Hall

1 Mar 1971 Only year without a special postmark due to postal strike

24 Feb 1981 Renamed Super Stampex as the exhibition was staged in both Old and New Halls at Horticultural Hall

14 Oct 1986 Last BPE as separate show

3 Mar 1987 First Spring Stampex following merger with BPE

22 Sep 1987 The first Autumn Stampex/BPE

24 Jan 1996 Transfer of Spring and Autumn Stampex to Business Design Centre

British Stamp Exhibitions
by Glenn H Morgan and Graham M Wilson







Stamp Scene Dane Garrod keeps you posted on events and activities in the philatelic world

The month of August has for some years been the summer break for society meetings, with annual programmes running from September to late June or July. For the **The Great Britain Philatelic Society**, there is the Stanley Gibbons Reception at 399 Strand, London WC2R 0LX with Members' Displays from 6pm onwards on Wednesday 10 August. Should you wish to attend, please contact the Hon. Secretary, Phil Waud, on 07484 629171 or at secretary@gbps.org.uk, well in advance of the date. Meetings of **The Royal Philatelic Society London** at their premises at 15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 7BW and of **The National Philatelic Society** at The Phoenix Centre, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL, will both re-commence in September for the beginning of the 2022-23 season.

4 August North Cornelly Stamp Fair, Green Acre Motel, Heol Fach, North Cornelly CF33 4LH, 9am to 1pm. Enquiries: Trevor King, 01522 857343.

5 August Cardiff Canton Stamp Fair, St. Catherine's Church Hall, 169 Kings Road, Cardiff CF11 9DE, 9am to 1pm. Enquiries: Trevor King, 01522 857343.

6 August Bilsborrow Stamp Fair, Village Hall, Bilsborrow (6 mls N of Preston) PR3 0RE, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Fred O'Reilly, 01226 765069.

Bournemouth Stamp Fair, St. Edmund Campion Church, 481 Castle Lane West, Bournemouth BH8 9TN, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Peter Jones, 01489 582673.

Charing Cross Market, 1 Embankment Place, Villiers Street, London WC2N 6RH, 7am to 3pm. Enquiries: Bridget Petticrew, 07540 144433.

Leicester Stamp Fair, The Holiday Inn, 129 St. Nicholas Circle, Leicester LE1 5LX, 9.30am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: John Suschitzky, 01162 350441.

Lichfield Stamp Fair, Boley Park Community Hall, Ryknild Street, Lichfield WS14 9XU, 9.30am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: John Rice, 01785 259350.

NEWQUEX Stamp Fair, Trevisker St.Eval Community Centre, Orion Drive, St. Eval PL27 7TA, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Des Kent, 01288 355918.

Rawreth Stamp Fair, Parish Hall, Church Road, Rawreth SS11 8SH, 9am to 3pm. Enquiries: Sarah Brooks, 07786 302722.

South London Stamp Fair, Shirley Methodist Church Hall, Eldon Avenue, Croydon CR0 8SD, 9am to 3pm. Enquiries: Ray McQuade, 020 8395 9285.

Swindon Stamp Fair, Lawn Community Centre, Guildford Avenue, Swindon SN3 1LA, 10am to 3pm. Enquiries: John Puttock, 01793 542767.

7 August Braintree Stamp Fair, Bocking Arts Centre, 15 Bocking Road, Braintree CM7 9AE, 9am to 2.30pm. Enquiries: Lorne Webb, 01424 751518.

Lincoln Stamp Fair, Village Hall, Hawthorn Road, Reepham LN3 4DU, 9.30am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: Tony Limb, 07562 570562.

Oxford Stamp Fair, Botley W.I. Hall, North Hinksey Lane, off Botley Road, Oxford OX2 0LT, 10am to 1.30pm. Enquiries: Tristan Brittain, 07957 158299.

Sandy Stamp Fair, Scout Headquarters, Sunderland Road, Sandy SG19 1QY, 10am to 3pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845.

10 August Torquay Stamp Fair, Torquay Boys' Grammar School. Shiphay Manor Drive, Torquay TQ2 7EL, 9.30am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: Rex Eccott, 01288 381489.

11 August East Horsley Stamp Club Fair, Kingston Avenue, East Horsley KT24 6QT, 12pm to 3pm. Enquiries: Martin Mathewson, 01932 565814.

13 August Charing Cross Market (as entry for 6 August).

Derby Stamp Fair, Nunsfield House Community Hall, 33 Boulton Road, Alveston DE24 0FD, 9.30am to 4pm. Enquiries: Kevin Johnson, 07808 665472.

Great Barr Stamp Fair, Collingwood Centre, Collingwood Drive, Pheasey, Great Barr B43 7NF, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Dave Burnett, 07765 792998.

Middlewich Stamp Fair, Middlewich Community Centre, Civic Way, Middlewich CW10 9BX, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Fred O'Reilly, 01226 765069.

Norton (Teesside) Stamp Fair, Methodist Church Hall, High Street, Norton TS20 2QQ, 9.30am to 1.30pm. Enquiries: Mike Lewis, 07742 153669.

14 August Wokingham Stamp Fair, St. Crispin's Centre, Wokingham RG40 1SS, 10am to 2pm. Enquiries: Tristan Brittain, 07957 158299.

17 August East Grinstead Stamp Fair, Chequer Mead Centre, De La Warr Road, East Grinstead RH19 3BS, 9.30am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: John Perriman, 01903 244875.

20 August Brighton Stamp Fair, Church of the Good Shepherd Hall, 272 Dyke Road, Brighton BN1 5AE, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: John Perriman, 01903 244875.

Charing Cross Market (as entry for 6 August).

Hull Stamp Fair, St. James's Centre, 169 First Lane, Hessle, HU13 9EY, 9.30am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: Kevin Johnson, 07808 665472.

Preston Stamp Fair, Barton Village Hall, Garstang Road, Barton PR3 5HE, 9.30am to 4pm. Enquiries: Martin Crowson, 07521 282383.

21 August Dronfield Stamp Fair, Village Hall, Coal Aston, Dronfield S18 3AX, 9.30am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: Kevin Johnson, 07808 665472.

Knowle Stamp Fair, Village Hall, St. John's Close, Knowle, Solihull B93 0NH, 9.30am to 2.30pm, up to 15 dealers. Enquiries: Andrew Vaughan, 07824 775979.

Maidstone Stamp Fair, Royal British Legion Hall, Hall Road, Aylesford, ME20 7NX, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: John Perriman, 01903 244875.

Slip End Stamp Fair, Village Hall, Markyate Road & Grove Road (B4540), Slip End, LU1 4BU. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845.

27 August Canterbury Postcard & Collectors Fair, Westgate Hall, Westgate Hall Road, Canterbury CT1 2BT, 10am to 3.30pm, 50+ tables. Enquiries: Clive Baker, 07802 402873.

Charing Cross Market (as entry for 6 August).

Chester Stamp Fair, Hoole United Reformed Church, Hoole Road, Chester CH2 3AU, 10am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: Terry Barnett, 01514 862610.

Chichester Stamp Fair, Donnington Parish Hall, Stockbridge Road, Chichester PO19 8QR, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Robert Uden, 01303 238807.

Colchester Stamp Fair, Parish Hall, Old London Road, Marks Tey CO6 1EN, 9.30am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: Lorne Webb, 01424 751518.

Coventry Stamp Fair, Shilton Village Hall, Wood Lane, Coventry CV7 9JZ, 10am to 1pm. Enquiries: Dave Mann, 07976 797975.

Ealing Stamp Fair, Kingsdown Baptist Church Hall, Northfields Avenue, Ealing W13 9PR, 9am to 1pm. Enquiries: Tristan Brittain, 07957 158299.

Morley Stamp Fair, St. Mary's Hall, Commercial Street, Morley, near Leeds LS27 8HZ, 9.30am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: Kevin Johnson, 07808 665472.

28 August Harrogate Stamp Fair, Masonic Hall, Station Avenue, Harrogate HG1 5NE, 9.30am to 3pm. Enquiries: Mike Lewis, 07742 153669.

29 August Aylesbury Stamp Fair, Church of the Good Shepherd, Churchill Avenue, Southcourt, Aylesbury HP21 8ER, 10am to 3pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845.

Felbridge Stamp & Postcard Fair, Felbridge Village Hall, Crawley Down Road, Felbridge, East Grinstead RH19 2NT, 9.30am to 3pm. Enquiries: Chris Rapley, 01795 478175.

1 September Cardiff Canton Stamp Fair, St. Catherine's Church Hall, 169 Kings Road, Cardiff CF11 9DE, 9am to 1pm. Enquiries: Trevor King, 01522 857343.

3 September Bilsborrow Stamp Fair, Village Hall, Bilsborrow (6 mls N of Preston) PR3 0RE, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Fred O'Reilly, 01226 765069.

Charing Cross Market (as entry for 6 August).

Rawreth Stamp Fair, Parish Hall, Church Road, Rawreth SS11 8SH, 9am to 3pm. Enquiries: Sarah Brooks, 07786 302722.

South London Stamp Fair, Shirley Methodist Church Hall, Eldon Avenue, Croydon CR0 8SD, 9am to 3pm. Enquiries: Ray McQuade, 020 8395 9285.

Sutton Coldfield Stamp Fair, Methodist Church Hall, South Parade, Sutton Coldfield B72 1QY, 9.30am to 3.30pm, up to 8 dealers. Enquiries: John Rice, 01785 259350.

Swindon Stamp Fair, Lawn Community Centre, Guildford Avenue, Swindon SN3 1LA, 10am to 3pm. Enquiries: John Puttock, 01793 542767.

Wigginton Stamp Fair, Recreation Hall, Wigginton, York YO32 2PL, 9am to 2pm. Enquiries: Mike Lewis, 07742 153669.

4 September Lincoln Stamp Fair, Village Hall, Hawthorn Road, Reepham LN3 4DU, 9.30am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: Tony Limb, 07562 570562.

Milton Keynes Stamp Fair, The Irish Centre, Manor Fields, Watling Street, Fenny Stratford MK2 2HX, 10am to 3pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845.

Newcastle-under-Lyme Stamp Fair, Community Centre, Wye Road, Newcastle-under-Lyme ST5 4AZ, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Simon Collyer, 07966 565151.

Oxford Stamp Fair, Botley W.I. Hall, North Hinksey Lane, off Botley Road, Oxford OX2 0LT, 10am to 1.30pm. Enquiries: Tristan Brittain, 07957 158299.

Worthing Stamp Fair, East Worthing Community Centre, Pages Lane, Worthing BN11 2NQ, 9.30am to 4pm. Enquiries: John Perriman, 01903 244875.

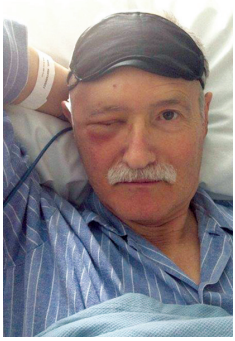
8 September East Horsley Stamp Club Fair, Kingston Avenue, East Horsley KT24 6QT, 12pm to 3pm. Enquiries: Martin Mathewson, 01932 565814.

9 September Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, Russell Square, London WC1H 0DG, 9am to 3pm. Enquiries: Kate Puleston, 020 8946 4489.

UPA VIP Series: **'Because' …**

Act Now

Has the time come for you… to do something different… ?



Hi, That's Me, Thankfully, a few years ago now …

Something unexpected happens: certainly, that was what happened to me when a 'blue lights' ambulance and Police car whisked me, in an induced comatose state, down the M5 to Bristol Southmead Hospital with a bleed on the brain for an emergency craniotomy operation after I fell in the garden.

Weeks afterwards at the follow-up appointment the German operating surgeon told my wife and I that as he operated, he wondered the outcome of continuing … apparently, it was likely I could have been unable to talk, eat, see or even to walk … apparently it all looked pretty hopeless, was it worth continuing?

All somewhat dramatic, traumatic but true: I'm not going to say that I experienced some form of life-changing revelation after I made a complete recovery, thanks to the quick action of my wife and the operating team that saved my life … but I am going to say that I firmly believe that as one door closes, the opportunity of another door opens ... and it is up to us whether inertia beckons OR as life's 'philatelic doors' swing, we make a simple conscious decision – perhaps to carry on collecting regardless … which is what I did (or rather I gave up collecting at the age of 18 when I entered the stamp trade – so my choice is to carry on dealing, auctioneering and hopefully serving you).

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Philatelic Expert and Author

New Issues and Withdrawals

Information correct at the time of going to press

5 August — **Withdrawal** Unsung Heroes: Women of World War II: Stamp Souvenir. Stamp Sheet Souvenir.





1 September — **Issue** Transformers: Stamps (4 x 1st Class, 4 x £1.85). Miniature Sheet (1 x 2nd Class, 3 x 1st Class, 1 x £1.85). Stamp Pack. Miniature Sheet Pack. Presentation Pack. Stamp Souvenir. Stamp Sheet Souvenir. First Day Envelope. First Day Cover Stamps. First Day Cover Miniature Sheet. First Day Cover Prestige Stamp Book Pane. Prestige Stamp Book (pane one: 4 x 1st Class, pane two: 4 x £1.85, pane three: 1 x 2nd Class, 1 x 1st Class, pane four: 2 x 1st Class, 1 x £1.85, pane five: Machins, 2 x 50p, 2 x £1). Limited Edition Prestige Stamp Book. Press Sheet. Collector's Sheet. Postcards (14 in set). Stamp Sheets. Fan Sheets. Framed Stamps. Framed Collector's Sheet. Framed Giclee Print. Framed Fan Sheet. Bundle. Medal Covers. Stamp Ingots.

9 September — **Withdrawal** Cats: Stamp Souvenir.



29 September — **Issue** Royal Marines: To be announced.

1 October — **Withdrawal** Pride: Stamp Souvenir.



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

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chloe.tuck@royalmail.com

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