

Bulletin

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Edmund Dulac • Coronation anniversary • Prince William

BELLS AND CHEERING

FOUR simple words—"The Queen is crowned"—seemed to make history and time stand still for the multitude beneath The Mall.

The loyal people, awakened from their weariness under a sunpour which could not for a moment stir them from their places, raised their voices in a great shout: "God Save the Queen!"

Perhaps it started from the Zealand contingent and from me. Perhaps the Australians who waved the flags and stood nearby.

But it is no exaggeration to say this call for the Queen have come from the American overseas as well as never Corona-

the to the the ster A' of devo into revelry. Singing and cheering, 600,000 people thronged the streets

Round the world in celebration



A kiss as the Queen sees her new grandchild

Jubilant grandparents, a looking radiant, absolutely proud father and close relations arrived, along with champagne, bouquets, flowers and heavy rain, visit the world's newest prince before he left hospital with his mother yesterday.

The Prince of Wales, w first at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, shortly before



R2.50 Mauritius

Birth of HRH Prince William of Wales



Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



Cover Next month Royal Mail will issue stamps to mark the 50th anniversary of the Coronation and the 21st birthday of Prince William. In this issue, we preview these stamps and some of the other Coronation products available.

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

1 May	Withdrawal Airliners stamps, presentation pack, stamp cards, and stamp book (self-adhesive).
6 May	Issue Victorian Ingot Collection: No 1 Penny Black.
20 May	Issue Wilding Collection II miniature sheet and presentation pack.
20 May	Withdrawal World Cup stamp, miniature sheet, presentation pack and stamp cards.
26 May	Issue Coronation Anniversary stamp cards.
28 May	Issue Stamp books: 6 × E, 6 × 42, 6 × 68p with 'The Real Network' slogan added to front cover • rolls of 500 × 1st class (gold) printed by De La Rue • Welsh 2nd class printed by DLR.
2 June	Issue Coronation Anniversary stamps; presentation pack; prestige stamp book; coin, banknote and ingot covers; ingot and coin pack; commemorative postal order.
10 June	Issue Prince William of Wales stamp cards.
17 June	Issue Prince William of Wales stamps and presentation pack.

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The British Philatelic Bulletin is published monthly by Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ • **Editor** J R Holman • **Price** £1.10 single copies from Post Office Limited philatelic outlets • **Annual subscription** £11.75 in UK and Europe; £16.75 rest of the world. Subscriptions should be sent to Royal Mail Talents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB • **Binders** to hold 24 issues, price £7, are available by post from Royal Mail (Edinburgh address above) • Royal Mail also publishes the fortnightly *British Postmark Bulletin*, which gives details of forthcoming special 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 plc, unless attributed to a specific author. All requests to reproduce any article should be sent to the Editor, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ • **Design** by Robert Maude • **Printed** in Great Britain by the Perivan Group Limited • **ISSN** 0953 8119 • **Royal Mail** is a trading name of Royal Mail Group plc. Registered in England and Wales, number 4138203, registered office 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ

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This month The Editor previews this issue

May 1963 was a significant month for collectors of British stamps. There were no fewer than three issues (six stamps) of special stamps – a major event in the philatelic world of the time. There had only been one issue (3 stamps) in all of 1962. May 1963 also saw the opening of the Philatelic Bureau in the old Central Telegraph Building opposite the then London Chief Post Office. With the setting up of the Bureau came the introduction of ‘First Day of Issue’ postmarks and later PO first day cover envelopes and presentation packs. It also heralded the introduction (September 1963) of this *Bulletin*. Frank Langfield who set up the Bureau and *Bulletin* wrote about the early days of the Bureau in the *Bulletin* in May 1993. Frank remains very active in retirement and is still an avid *Bulletin* reader. In 2001 he visited Tallents House, the current home of Royal Mail’s mail order service which incorporates the former Bureau service for collectors and the philatelic trade. Much has changed over the years, and Tallents House is highly automated and computerised. Despite this, the fundamentals of the service started by Frank 40 years ago remain firmly in place.

On the theme of anniversaries, it is 50 years since the first National Philatelic Exhibition (now Stampex), and of course The Queen’s Coronation. Details of the 10 stamps to be issued on 2 June to commemorate the anniversary are given in this *Bulletin*, together with information on another Royal issue, for Prince William’s 21st birthday, on 17 June. Looking ahead, there will be an issue featuring pub signs in August and I invite readers to report pub signs having a postal connection, showing stamps, mail boxes, mail coaches, postmen, etc. Photographs would be most welcome and I will publish a selection in the *Bulletin*. Please write the location of the pub on the back of the photo, also your name and address so it can be returned to you. I look forward to hearing from you. JOHN HOLMAN, EDITOR •

Stamp scene Rowland Hill • GB literature • Auctions • Exhibitions • Anniversaries



Rowland Hill Awards The awards for philatelic achievement during 2002 were presented at a dinner held at the Draper’s Hall, London on 18 March. Compere for the evening was chef and stamp collector Ross Burden. The awards were presented by Gavin Macrae, Director of Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles, Francis Kiddle, Chairman of the British Philatelic Trust, and Nigel Howarth of the Philatelic Traders’ Society, the three sponsoring organisations. Shown here is John Browning receiving his award from Ross Burden (left) and Francis Kiddle •

Auction results The Labrador collection of Newfoundland airmails (see February *Bulletin*) sold well at Harmers on 25 February. Almost all of the items from the 'Hawker' attempt in 1919 selling for their printed estimate. Only 200 examples were overprinted and 87 remain unused. One of the room bidders had a particularly personal interest in this section, being the grandson of pilot Harry Hawker. A manuscript 'Aerial Atlantic Mail J.A.R.' overprint on Caribou 3c brown from the Martinsyde attempt of 1919 made the estimate of £25,000 and a similar manuscript overprint on a 2c cover addressed to London went for £75,000. The combined realisations of the three sales over the two days was in excess of £1 million. For details of future auctions contact Harmers •

The 293 lots in the Richard Chan Hong Kong auction at Cavendish on 6 March sold for over £1½ million. £39,100 was paid for an 1889 cover with Hong Kong 10c tied by the ANPING datestamp – this is believed to be the highest-ever auction price paid for any Treaty Ports cover (est £25-30,000). A GB 1d red cover at the 1d Soldier's Concession Rate cancelled by the SHANGHAI cds sold for £6325 (est £4-5000). For details of future auctions contact Cavendish •

Harmers No 11, 111 Power Road, London W4 5PY or see website: www.harmers.com

Cavendish Philatelic Auctions 153-7 London Road Derby DE1 2SY. Telephone 01322 250970.

GB literature The 2003 editions of the *GB Concise Catalogue* and *Collect Channel Islands and Isle of Man Stamps* are now available, price £18.95 and £13.95 respectively (UK postage £3.50) from Stanley Gibbons Ltd, Parkside, Ringwood BH24 3SH; telephone 01425 472363. The *Concise* contains many price changes for Victoria and Edward VII issues, with extensive revisions to Elizabeth II, reflecting current market values •

Eric Paul Ltd has announced publication of the final volumes of *The Essential Guide to the Great Britain Line Engraved 1d and 2d Stars 1840-1864* by K W Statham. Vol 15 covers the 1d value, Die II Plates 22-49 (207 pages, over 1136 diagrams), Vol 16 the 1d value Die II plates 50-R15, R16 & R17 (204 pages, over 1643 diagrams), and Vol 17 A Comprehensive Plating Summary (240 pages). The three volumes, in presentation box, cost £150 •

Enquiries Eric Paul Ltd, PO Box 44, Marple SK6 7EE. Telephone 0161 427 2101.

The March/April issue of *The GB Journal* (GB Philatelic Society) contains worthwhile articles on some arcane topics: Die 2, Alphabet 3, Plate 22; The First Paper Contract for QV Line-Engraved Stamps; 10d Jubilee Issue; London Mailcoaches; and Surface Printed Notes. For collectors of more modern material, the new Europe and Worldwide Machin definitives are shown in colour on the front cover along with four designs by M Farrar Bell for the 1967 British Flora issue. Sent out with the *Journal* is the Society's *Newsletter* which is a much less heavy read. Included this time are short features on the Victorian ½d 'Bantum' stamp, Moate Cross cancels, 1d black Plate 11 on cover, reports of the Society's displays at Chester 2002, requests from readers for information, and an obituary of postal history dealer Michael Jackson •

GB Philatelic Society For details of the Society contact Debbie Harman, Greylands, Melton, Woodbridge IP12 1QE.

The March issue of *Orbit* (Astro Space Stamp Society) includes a feature on John Pond, Astronomer Royal 1811-35. The article illustrates some relevant postmarks and postcards and includes a design for a stamp featuring Pond •

ASSS For details contact B Locker, 21 Exford Close, Weston-Super-Mare BS23 4RE.

Enquiries 15 Debdale Lane,
Keyworth, Nottingham NG12
5HT. Telephone 0115 937
4079.

Picture Postcard Monthly The March issue of this well-produced magazine contains interesting articles on Mornington Crescent (London), troopships, the Black Watch, the postcard road to Baghdad and cards from the 1991 Gulf War. There are reports of cards showing lighthouses from the Estonian Postal Museum and a series from the Faroe Islands Study Circle. In his 'Card Chat' column, Mark Routh comments on recent Royal Mail stamp cards (PHQ cards) and shows a New Zealand Post maximum card for the Lord of the Rings stamps. *Picture Postcard Monthly* is available from postcard dealers and fairs, price £2.40. The annual subscription is £28 UK, £34 Europe, £45 USA/Canada, £47 Rest of World airmail, Rest of World surface £32. The publishers produce cards themselves – send SAE to address above for list. Recent cards at 50p each include six political cards featuring John Prescott, Tony Blair, Gordon Brown, George W Bush, Saddam Hussein, the anti-war demonstration in London and two marking the collapse of Brighton West Pier. Postage extra on one card, two or more post free •



Action at the Stampex NYSG youth auction.

Stampex enquiries 020 7490
1005.

Midpex Contact Mervyn Benford, Cloudhill, High Street, Shutford, Banbury OX15 6PQ. mbenford@bigfoot.com

For details of the Society contact: Mrs Y Gren, 146 Old Shoreham Road, Shoreham-by-Sea BN43 5TE. Annual subscription £12 UK, £14.50 overseas.

Exhibitions Spring Stampex (26 February - 2 March) attracted 6400 visitors. The newly introduced congestion charge may have spread attendance more evenly throughout the week. Whilst Wednesday and Saturday were the busiest, the others were well up to expectations, and Sunday, usually quiet, was busy all day. The free Smilers stamp with attached Stampex label was very popular – some 3100 sheets (each of eight stamps and labels) were produced; 640 sheets were used for singles in the programme, about 350 complete sheets were sold to visitors, and the rest to PTS dealers. The National Youth Stamp Group welcomed more young collectors than for some time past, and the free auction on Saturday afternoon was, as usual, a noisy and highly active event. The NYSG always needs stamps and related philatelic items for distribution to young collectors. Any *Bulletin* readers with spare material should contact Anne Dummer on 01536 519959. The Royal Mail stand reported good sales of the Microcosmos prestige book, Smilers sheets, and 'Collectibles' products. The Malta, Cyprus, Guernsey, Jersey, Isle of Man and Gibraltar postal administrations had stands and Harry Allen represented a further five post offices. Autumn Stampex (17-21 September) will include the National Competitions (adult and junior), and a display by the British Society for Russian Philately •

Midpex 2003, the ABPS national show for specialist societies, will be held at the Midlands Sports Centre for the Disabled, Tile Hill, Coventry, on 28 June. Open 10.00-16.00, admission 50p including programme. Some 60 societies and 40 dealers are expected to attend. The venue is near Tile Hill station, reached by local trains from Coventry or Birmingham International. This will be the fifth Midpex, previous events having proved popular •

The Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain celebrates its 50th anniversary with an exhibition at the Embassy of the Czech Republic, 26 Kensington Gardens, London W8 (near Notting Hill Gate underground station) on 22-24 May. This will comprise some 140 frames showing the stamps and postal history of the Czech and Slovak lands. Admission free.

Open Thursday 10.00-20.00; Friday & Saturday 10.00-16.00. Exhibition enquiries: Mrs L. Bosworth, 01622 762577 •

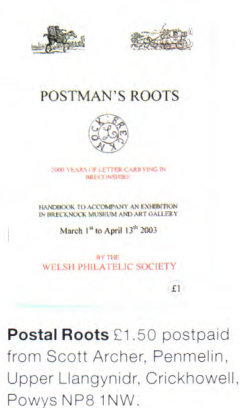
The popular Thematica exhibition will be held at the Carisbrooke Hall, Seymour Street, London W2 (near Marble Arch), 28-29 June. Dealers (UK and overseas) will offer a wide range of thematic material, and many of the UK's thematic societies will be represented. There will be displays and competitive entries for the John Fosbery and British Thematic Association trophies which are judged to the same rules as Stampex •

Details were given in March of the 'Postal Roots' exhibition, organised by the Welsh Philatelic Society, on show at the Brecknock Museum & Art Gallery, Brecon, 1 March - 13 April. A well-produced 32-page book, written by Michael Scott Archer, accompanied the exhibition. Amongst the many illustrations is a letter on a wood tablet found in a well in the Roman fortress on Caerleon. Dating from the late 1st century AD, and in Latin cursive script, it tells of guards sent to fetch legionary soldiers' pay, and parties collecting building timber. The tablet is preserved by the National Museums and Galleries of Wales. Maps show the Roman forts and roads in Breconshire, drover's trails (from medieval to Victorian times), postal routes (1677-1800 and 1800-65), railways (c1865 to c1950), and postal services (1980 to present). There are interesting illustrations of postal staff, letter boxes and mail coaches and a number of postmarks, although none more recent than the 1900s •

Philatelic society anniversary Fifty years ago Chris Phillips was asked by two boys to start a stamp club for boys and girls in Tunbridge Wells. The first meeting was held on 15 April 1953. This club, the Newlands Road Philatelic Society, was never run or organised by anyone over 21, and regular meetings were held for 14 years. Adults were invited to give talks, some financial assistance and allow meetings to be held in their homes. Most of the first 100 were held at Chris's parents' home, 15 Newlands Road. After that meetings were moved around to other places, and sometimes a room or hall was hired. Many well-known philatelists visited, including James Watson and Charles P Rang of Stanley Gibbons, Kenneth Chapman, Editor of *Stamp Collecting*, Cyril Harmer, and two different Mayors of Tunbridge Wells. The club was quite famous in the stamp world, with 'friends' and even members in France, Eire, Australia, Rhodesia, and New Zealand. In 1959 questions were asked in Parliament on behalf of the Club. Though the members paid a small subscription, the funding was mainly from the sale of the Club's own first day covers. The Club ceased in 1967.

Chris Phillips has set up a new Yahoo Group on the internet: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/newlandsroadphilatelicsociety> which is open to all original NRPS members and their friends. To celebrate the Club's anniversary, he has had produced sheets of Smilers stamps showing Club members and activities on the labels. He hopes to have some special covers posted in Tunbridge Wells on 15 April, using these stamps with their labels and that more original members can be found so that they can obtain one of these covers •

Thematica For more details and competition entry forms send a SAE to: Brian Sole, 3 Stockfield Road, Claygate, Esher KT10 0QG. Entry forms should be returned by 16 May.



Postal Roots £1.50 postpaid from Scott Archer, Penmelin, Upper Llangynidr, Crickhowell, Powys NP8 1NW.

Enquiries Chris Phillips, 19 Alexandra Park, Scarborough YO12 5JN.

Enschedeé anniversary On 4 March the Dutch PO (TPG Post) issued two stamps to commemorate the 300th anniversary of stamp printers Joh Enschedé. The company first printed stamps for Royal Mail in 1979; its most recent issue was the Secret of Life stamps and PSB in March •

Snail mail problem A reader in Surrey sent an intriguing article from a local newspaper about the letter box in the village of Well, near Crondall. Snails regularly infest the village post box set into the wall of The Chequers pub. Above the box is a Royal Mail notice reading: 'Any mail posted in this postbox is liable to be eaten by snails. The nearest alternative box is at Lord Wandsworth College, Long Sutton. Royal Mail apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause.' A Royal Mail spokesman is quoted as saying 'Normally it's the outer casing of the envelope they go for. They don't eat too much of the inside especially if it's thick office paper but they seem to like the cheaper paper.' Any snails found by Royal Mail staff are removed as humanely as possible •

Bulletin back issues Geoffrey Coxhead has for disposal *Bulletins* from March 1979 to August 1999 including indexes to vol 22. Any offers will be donated to a local charity. Contact Mr Coxhead on 01443 675841 •

Royal Mail news New postal rates • Stamp cards • Forthcoming special issues • Ingots



Cylinder numbers & colours

D1 green • D1 phosphor

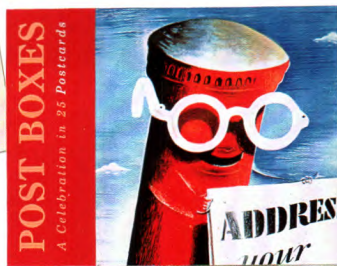
Serviced FDCs should be ordered from Tallents House by 2 June.

New 34p definitive Revised UK postal rates come into effect from 8 May. The basic 2nd and 1st class rates (up to 60g) will increase by 1p to 20p and 28p respectively. The next weight step (60-100g) will also increase by 1p to 34p and 42p respectively. No new stamps are required for the 20p and 28p rates as they are covered by the 2nd and 1st class NV1 stamps; there is also an existing 42p stamp, but a 34p value is needed.

A new 34p Machin definitive will go on sale at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and at Royal Mail Tallents House on 6 May. This will be printed in lime green in sheets of 200 by De La Rue. The usual Royal Mail first day cover for definitives will be available (25p). Serviced covers with a Tallents House or Windsor first day postmark can be ordered from Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB: price 82p UK, 70p overseas. There will be no presentation pack for this stamp.

Collectors can send their own covers on the day of issue for these postmarks to Tallents House or, for the Windsor postmark, to: Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Wexham Road, Slough SL1 1AA. The handstamp references are FD03 31 and FD03 32 respectively. Details of any sponsored postmarks for 6 May will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin*.

With the rate changes, the 20p, 33p and 41p definitives will be withdrawn from sale at Post Office branches on 7 May but remain available from Tallents House and Post Office philatelic outlets until further notice •



Royal Mail stamp cards Readers are reminded that cards are now available of the Machin 1st class stamp in gold and the new Europe universal stamp. Still available are two postcard books containing cards relating to the Coastlines and Post Box stamp issues. In addition to reproductions of the 10 Coastlines stamps, there are 15 other cards featuring the British coastline, including Felixstowe, Strangford Lough (Northern Ireland), and the coast near Berwick-upon-Tweed. The cards (stamp and view) measure 167 × 122mm, being larger than the standard stamp (PHQ) cards. They can be removed from the book by tearing along a row of rouletting. The Post Boxes book contains five cards reproducing the Pillar to Post stamps and a further 20 showing Post Office posters featuring pillar boxes. The books cost £5.99 each. Order code PB366 Coastlines, PB367 Post Boxes ●

Forthcoming special stamps There are no new issues of special stamps this month. However the second of the Wilding miniature sheets goes on sale on 20 May. The special stamp programme resumes on 2 June with the Coronation Anniversary issue, followed by the 21st Birthday of Prince William on 17 June, both previewed in this *Bulletin*. The issue for July is A British Journey: Scotland, which features: Ben More, Isle of Mull; Rothiemurchus, Strathspey; Upper Dalveen, Lowther Hills; Loch Assynt, Sutherland; Glenfinnan Viaduct, Lochaber; and Papa Little, Shetland Islands. Two of the stamps are shown here – full details next month. The stamp programme then continues with Pub Signs (12 August), Transport Toys (18 September), British Museum (7 October) and Christmas (4 November) ●



Two of the A British Journey: Scotland stamps to be issued in July. Illustrations are proofs, 85% actual size. Values shown here and on p259 will change.

Coming off sale The Airliners and World Cup stamps, presentation packs and stamp cards will be withdrawn from sale on 1 May and 20 May respectively. Bulletin Publication no 9 – *The Wildings: The First Elizabeth 11 Definitives* – was distributed free with the April 2002 *Bulletin*. Copies are still available from Royal Mail Tallents House, price £2.95 (order code PB362). Any remaining stock will be withdrawn from sale on 27 June ●



Ingot covers Shown above is the second Pillar to Post ingot cover which went on sale on 22 April. These covers feature artwork relating to the postal and social history of the time of the postbox shown on the ingot, ranging from the 1850s to the 1980s. This second ingot in the series reproduces the 1st class Pillar to Post stamp issued in October 2002. A pair of the stamps is cancelled by a special Edinburgh postmark in the style of that in use in the city in 1874. The cover is available from Royal Mail Tallents House, price £29.95. The third and fourth ingot covers are scheduled for issue in July and October ●

Victorian Ingot Collection The first in a new series of attractive folders containing silver ingots of Victorian stamps will be available from 6 May. This features the Penny Black, the world's first and most famous adhesive postage stamp. Price £26.95. The Collection will continue with the 1870 ½d, 1847 embossed 1s, 1882 £5 orange, 1881 1d Lilac, and 1887 'Jubilee' ½s stamps. Details of availability to be announced. These folders, and a storage device to house them, will be available from Tallents House, Edinburgh only •



New definitive printings The Machin 1st nv1 stamp has now been printed in gold in rolls of 500 by De La Rue. That company has also printed the Welsh and class stamp, previously printed by Walsall. Supplies of the new printings will be available from Royal Mail Tallents House and Post Office philatelic outlets from 28 May •

Postmark contacts If you have a query about covers handed in at a Post Office branch for First Day of Issue postmarking, or sent direct to one of our Special Handstamp Centres, please call 08457 740 740. Our customer care team will be pleased to help. However if you ordered your cover from Tallents House then please call the dedicated enquiry line: 08457 641 641 •

Prize draw winners Winners of the *Microcosmos* PSB draw in January were: J Willard of France; Miss E Dhiarrioni, Spain; Mrs C Kettle, Lancashire; T Paterson, Edinburgh; G Patterson, Cheshire; and G Durrant, Norfolk.

Winners of the Mystery Prize Draw (February) were: E Haywood of Co Durham; K Reader, New Zealand; R Ellis, London; D Slater, Cheshire; C Chugg, Belgium; M Mochrie, Surrey; J Freire-Banos, Bristol; Eileen See, Singapore; Miss S Young, Hampshire; Mrs J Williams, Hertfordshire; J Corney, Kent; A Parker, Greece; R Ballucchi, Italy; Mrs O Willcock, Suffolk; B Morris, Essex; J McCaig, Kent; W Doe, Cornwall; M Smith, Lancashire; Mrs W Cowley, Lancashire; and A Friend, Sussex •

Fifty per cent luck, fifty per cent bluff Richard West talks to Otto Hornung, discovering more of his extraordinary life



Otto Hornung receiving his Outstanding Achievement award at this year's Rowland Hill Awards, far left, and in his service days.

YOU CAN ALWAYS RELY on Otto Hornung for a good story. More often than not, it will be the background to a cover he has recently discovered, ever anxious to search out all that needs to be known about its circumstances and characters, and equally ready to share his discoveries with others. At other times, it is a recount of his quite remarkable life.

Twice Otto fled from Czechoslovakia; the first time before the outbreak of the Second World War. When the Germans entered Czechoslovakia, reaching his home town of Ostrava on 14 March 1939, he decided he wanted to leave. Of course he knew the dangers of staying, but what he wanted was a rifle to fight the Germans. He fled to nearby Poland in a train with the mail bags, thanks to the help of a postman.

He volunteered for the Czechoslovak Legion in Poland. The German advance did not catch them, but they were interned by the Russians. After 18 months, in March 1941, he was sent with a group of 60 soldiers to the Czechoslovak battalion in the Middle East. They participated in the advance into Vichy-ruled Lebanon, then in October 1941 they went on the deck of two Australian destroyers to besieged Tobruk and stayed there for six months. In 1943 the Czechoslovak forces in the Middle East were sent to England, and in 1944 with the invasion forces to France. They took over the siege of Dunkerque. On 5 November 1944, during one of the Czech attacks,

the tank on which Otto was riding blew up on a mine, but his small group carried on, taking the German trench. Shortly afterwards he was shot and the bullet just missed his heart.

He survived the war, remaining a few months in the Army, indeed refusing promotion to Captain, preferring to make use of his knowledge of languages by taking a job at the Czechoslovak Press Agency. That was not to last: after a few years he was dismissed, because he had served under British High Command, had relatives in the West, and was 'cosmopolitan', the polite term for Jewish. Otto spent three months unemployed until, despite knowing nothing of the subject, he found work with an agricultural publishing company – as he says, his life has been 50 per cent luck, and 50 per cent bluff. Later he found a job with a daily newspaper thanks to his languages, as a result of which he was allowed to travel, as long as he went alone. This enabled him to establish contacts in both the United Kingdom and United States which would prove invaluable later, not least his meeting with Kay Goodman.

However, he was once more feeling troubled by the situation in Czechoslovakia, and so in 1967 succeeded in leaving with his wife and two sons. Again, it was a case of bluff, for the family was not permitted to travel together. Nearly all possessions had to be abandoned: Otto left with just £100 in his pocket. On arriving in England, the family spent one night in a hotel: then Kay heard

of their plight, and opened the doors of her home in Ealing to Otto and his family. Those who remember Kay will know she was always noted for her kindness and generosity. Otto will never forget her.

Through another stamp contact, Pat Herst, Otto learned that the Philatelic Traders' Society was looking for a new Secretary. Otto filled that role, which included running Stampex, for over 20 years until his retirement.

The collector Otto had collected stamps from a young boy, concentrating naturally on Czechoslovakia. The impetus came from his father, who collected Austria: Otto managed to get this collection to Poland, and then sent it to friends in London. Badly needing to supplement his meagre army pay, Otto asked his friends to sell. He received the princely sum of £20, which he immediately lost in a poker game!

Collecting understandably went on hold during the war, but Otto resumed collecting Czechoslovakia after, until a friend introduced him to Turkey. He was given some parcel cards, from which he immediately soaked off the stamps, thus ruining valuable items of postal history – but he became hooked on Turkey. He was fortunate in that he seemed to be alone in this interest, so new material came cheaply. Ironically, the acknowledged expert on the stamps of Turkey, Dr Adolf Passer, also came from Czechoslovakia.

Prior to his escape in 1967, Otto had smuggled out his collection. In England, he met the same reaction from dealers: no one wants Turkey; turkey is for Christmas. So, despite not having much money, he was able to acquire material.

A few years after the war Otto started exhibiting, entering internationally for the first time in 1959, and achieving a bronze medal at the international in London in 1960. The exhibit was to develop, and win Large Gold medals at India and New Zealand in 1989. Otto decided to move from Turkish stamps to postal history, achieving three Large Gold medals in London 1990, Tokyo 1991 and Granada 1992. That meant he could enter the FIP Championship Class, but he never achieved a Grand Prix.

To many Otto is best known for his writing. Soon after he started working for the newspaper, Otto was introduced to a publisher planning a series of encyclopaedias for Hamlyn's, the international publishing house. Otto was invited to write one on stamp collecting. He was given a deadline of just six months, which he managed to extend for another three as he had not even started to write. With the help of many friends who let him take pictures of their philatelic rarities, the work was completed in time, just before he escaped to England. It would sell over 60,000 copies, including editions in English, Japanese, German and Danish. It did not earn Otto a fortune, as he had to agree that his fee for the largest, the English, edition be paid into an account in Prague, but it did establish his reputation.

He was already writing from Prague for a magazine in Germany, but in England he was first invited to write by the late Arthur Stansfield, at the time owner and editor of *The Philatelic Exporter*, and he has been writing for this magazine every month since. While with the PTS he visited many overseas international stamp exhibitions. At the time the Board of Trade sponsored British dealers attending overseas exhibitions, provided they were accompanied by a representative of the British stamp trade association who was not a dealer. Otto thus established many contacts overseas, and soon other magazines were inviting him to write: again his knowledge of languages proved a great help. To date Otto has contributed to 16 magazines in thirteen countries.

At the international exhibition in Prague in 1962, Otto was one of the founder members of the International Association of Philatelic Journalists (AIJP) and was its President for 12 years. He continues to write, and to collect the City Post of Istanbul and postal history of the Carpatho-Ukraine, but his collection of the postal history of the Ottoman Empire is being sold.

Otto has been honoured for his work in philately, being a signatory of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists. He is a truly remarkable man: there may have been luck, there may have been bluff – but there has also been a lot of ingenuity and expertise ●

Prince William of Wales A new stamp issue



Technical details

Printer Walsall Security Printers

Process Gravure

Stamp size 35 × 35mm

Sheet size 50

Perforation 14.5

Phosphor Background

Gum PVA

Gutter pairs Horizontal

Cylinder numbers & colours

28p W1 silver ● W1 black ● W1 dark grey ● W1 bright green

E W1 ash pink ● W1 dark grey ● W1 bright green

47p W1 turquoise-green ● W1 brown-black ● W1 dark grey ● W1 bright green

68p W1 sage green ● W1 black ● W1 bright green

Phosphor cylinder W1 all values

FOUR STAMPS GO ON SALE ON 17 June to mark the 21st birthday of HRH Prince William of Wales on 21 June. The stamps – 28p, E, 47p and 68p feature photographs of the Prince at the start of his gap year before going to university, on an official visit to Scotland just before going to university, and on his first day at St Andrew's. The stamps were designed by Madeleine Bennett, who designed last year's Commonwealth Games stamps. They feature: 28p Prince William on his first day at St Andrew's University, September 2001 (photograph by Brendan Beirne); E stamp at Highgrove, September 2000 (Tim Graham); 47p at Anchor Mills, Paisley, September 2001 official visit (Camera Press); and 68p on visit to Glasgow, September 2001 (Tim Graham).

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets about a week before 17 June, price 25p. The text on the cover is in English and Welsh. Orders for FDCs with the four stamps cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of Tallents House or Cardiff must reach Royal Mail (address below) by the day of issue. Price £2.54 UK or £2.17 overseas.

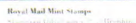
Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (Tallents House postmark), or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Penarth Road, Cardiff CF11 8TA (Cardiff postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FD0327' (Tallents House), or 'FD0328' (Cardiff). Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for the Cardiff postmark. Details of other handstamps will be announced in 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, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ.

PHILATELIC PRODUCTS A well-illustrated pack containing the four stamps (price £2.20) and stamp cards (25p each) will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets. The pack, written by Fay Sweet, includes photographs of Prince William taken in each year from 1982 to 2002. His coat of arms, granted for his 18th birthday, is reproduced. The text of the pack is bilingual (English and Welsh) ●

to mark the Prince's 21st birthday on 21 June



Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
Ilkeston
Derbyshire



The presentation pack (right) includes photographs of Prince William with his brother Harry and his father, with The Queen, playing sports, and at school at Eton.



Prince William stamps The Prince made his British stamp debut in 2000 on one of four stamps in a miniature sheet marking the 100th birthday of his great-grandmother, the late Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother. His birth and christening in 1982 were commemorated by special postmarks.

Prince William's 18th birthday in 2000 was commemorated by an 'omnibus' series of stamps issued by Crown Agents territories, Jersey, Isle of Man, Gibraltar, and elsewhere. He has also featured on issues from Barbuda (1984), Guinea (1985), New Zealand (1985), and Turks & Caicos Is (1999). Stamps issued in 1982 by Mauritius and North Korea showed him as a baby leaving the hospital with his parents a few days after his birth. ●

Coronation anniversary The ceremony and

The Coronation Anniversary stamps are designed by Kate Stephens, who designed last year's Golden Jubilee stamps. They are printed se-tenant in blocks of 10.



Technical details

Printer De La Rue

Process Gravure

Sheet size 50

Stamp size 35 x 37mm

Perforation 14.5

Watermark '50'

Phosphor Two bands

Gum PVA

Gutter pairs Horizontal
(between strips of stamps)

Cylinder numbers & colours

D1 yellow ● D1 magenta ● D1 cyan (blue) ● D1 grey ● D1 slate ● D1 black ● D1 gold ● D1 phosphor

British Postmark Bulletin

For a sample copy write to:
The Editor, British Postmark
Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old
Street, London EC1V 9HQ.

TEN 1ST CLASS STAMPS featuring scenes of The Queen's Coronation on 2 June 1953 will be available from Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and Royal Mail Tallents House Edinburgh from 2 June. Five stamps show colour photographs of the Coronation procession and ceremony, and five show, in black and white, scenes from Coronation events and street parties around the UK. The Queen's profile is in gold at top left on all stamps except that reproducing Cecil Beaton's portrait. As with last year's Golden Jubilee stamps, this issue is printed on '50' watermarked paper. Also available from 2 June will be a prestige stamp book entitled *A Perfect Coronation*.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets about a week before 2 June, price 25p. Orders for FDCs with the four stamps or cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of Royal Mail Tallents House Edinburgh or London SW1 must reach Tallents House (address below) by the day of issue. Price £3.71 UK or £3.16 overseas.

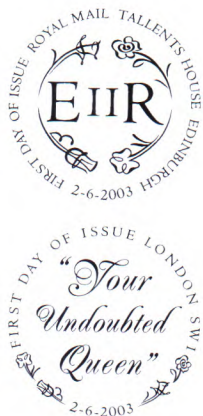
Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (Tallents House postmark), or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Mount Pleasant, London EC1A 1BB (London SW1 postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FDO313' (Tallents House), or 'FDO314' (London SW1). Covers can be posted or handed in at main post offices for the London postmark. For details of other handstamps for 2 June see the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House (£12.25 UK/Europe; £24.95 elsewhere).

celebration of 1953, recaptured on Royal Mail's new stamps



Top row left to right: 1) guardsmen in Coronation procession; 2) East End children reading a notice about Coronation party; 3) The Queen in the Coronation chair, with the Bishops of Durham and Bath & Wells; 4) school children in Plymouth assembling Royal pictures; 5) Cecil Beaton's famous official Coronation portrait.

Bottom row: 6) games at East End street party; 7) the Coronation coach at Marble Arch; 8) children in fancy dress outside house decorated for the Coronation; 9) The Coronation coach returning to Buckingham Palace; 10) children at a London street party.



An illustrated pack containing the stamps (below, £3.15) and stamp cards (25p each) will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and Tallents House.

The pack illustrations include the crowning of The Queen by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Coronation Chair, the St Edward's and Imperial State crowns, and the Sovereign's Orb and Sceptre with cross.



Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbie Road
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

ROYAL MAIL TALLENTS HOUSE 25 SOUTH LUTON BRIDGEMAN, EDINBURGH ROAD W1



ancient ceremony of the Coronation

This elaborate Christian ritual has an extraordinarily long history — having been used to inaugurate monarchs since before the Norman Conquest — and the British sovereign is now the only European monarch still to be crowned according to the full medieval Coronation service.

In 1953, the Crown Jewels were brought to Westminster Abbey from the Tower of London and the presentation to the Queen of the crown, orb and scepters symbolized the beginning of her reign and elevation from princess to monarch.





A Perfect Coronation contains four panes, as follows.

Pane 1 Top and bottom rows Machin 1st, 2nd and 1st class stamps; middle row two Machin 2nd class stamps separated by label showing crown and dates 1953/2003.

Pane 2 Coronation Anniversary stamps nos 1, 8, 6, and 3.

Pane 3 Coronation Anniversary stamps nos 2, 5, 7, and 10.

Pane 4 top row 47p and 68p definitives in Wilding designs (as 1s and 1s5d stamps); middle row £1 in design of 1953 Coronation 1s3d; bottom row 68p and 47p Wilding definitives.

PRESTIGE STAMP BOOK A new PSB containing Coronation Anniversary special stamps, Wilding and Machin definitives, and a £1 version of the 1953 Coronation 1s3d stamp will be on sale from 2 June, price £7.46. The text of the book recalls the pomp and splendour of Coronation Day. The pane containing Wilding definitives and £1 stamp is printed on uncoated, '50' watermarked paper; the Wildings have elliptical perforations. The two panes of Coronation Anniversary stamps are on paper. The Machin pane is on coated paper with all panes are printed in gravure by Walsall Security. Notice differences between this £1 stamp and that of the 1953 '50' miniature sheet of May 2000. As well as being on uncoated paper, the new £1 will have phosphor bands; the 1953 Coronation 1s3d is on phosphor coated paper. The 1953 Coronation 1s3d is the third most popular British stamp ever by value, after the Penny Black and 1929 PUC £1 stamp.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES As for sheet stamps – see p272. Any stamp from the prestige book can be used, singly or in combination, for all first day, philatelic and sponsored handstamps in use on 2 June. Tallents House will service covers with the pane containing Machin definitives and label. Price £2.67 UK, £2.28 overseas. Please state if Tallents House or London swi postmark required when ordering. ●

Coronation covers A range of covers will be available from Tallents House from 2 June. All feature The Queen wearing the Imperial State Crown on Coronation Day. All three are limited editions; early ordering is advised •



Ingot cover (below): the five Coronation and procession stamps cancelled by the Westminster Abbey gold postmark and with a silver and gold-plated ingot of the 1953 Coronation 1s3d stamp. £39.95.

Coronation crown & ingot pack (bottom right): the ingot of the 1953 Coronation stamp, the new £5 coin and an original Coronation 5s coin. £49.95. Limited edition of 2003 only.

Banknote cover (left): Cecil Beaton's Coronation portrait stamp cancelled by a special London SW1 gold postmark showing Westminster Abbey. Set into the cover is a £5 note and a £5 (crown) Coronation Anniversary coin. £44.95.

Coin cover (below): the full set of 10 Anniversary stamps, cancelled by the Westminster Abbey postmark in gold, with new Coronation Anniversary £5 (crown) coin encapsulated. £15.95.



THE CORONATION ANNIVERSARY
1953 2 JUNE 2003



No. 0001



THE CORONATION ANNIVERSARY
1953 2 JUNE 2003



No. 0000





Coronation stamps The first commemorative stamps for a Royal occasion were issued in 1935 for George V's silver jubilee, and stamps were in preparation for the Coronation of his eldest son as Edward VIII in May 1937 when the King abdicated in December 1936. The Post Office hurriedly produced a new Coronation stamp showing the new king, George VI, and his consort Queen Elizabeth. Designed by Edmund Dulac, it went on sale the day after the Coronation; over 388 million were sold.

George VI died in February 1952 and 16 months later his daughter was crowned as Queen Elizabeth II. Four stamps, covering the main inland and overseas postal rates, were issued (above) – the designs selected from some 75 submissions. The 2½d, 4d and 1s6d had symbolic designs showing crowns, sceptres and other items of the Royal Regalia, by Edgar Fuller, Michael Goaman, and Michael Farrar Bell. The design of the 1s6d was repeated for the 6d stamp on the Coronation aerogramme. More distinctive was Dulac's design for the 1s3d stamp, featuring a frontal portrait of The Queen in Coronation robes against a tapestry background, said to have been inspired by a portrait of Elizabeth I by Nicholas Hilliard. The design was used again in a miniature sheet for the Stamp Show 2000 exhibition in London, and makes a third appearance in the Coronation Anniversary prestige stamp book. The 1953 Coronation stamps remained on sale until 31 October, the numbers sold ranging from nearly 6 million of the 1s6d to over 415 million of the 2½d value. The full story of the designing, printing and sale of this issue can be found in *1953 Coronation Issue* by Giles Allen, number 11 in the *Special Stamp History* series, published by the National Postal Museum in 1997 •



The 25th anniversary of the Coronation was marked in 1978 by four bold designs by Jeffery Matthews showing the state coach, St Edward's and Imperial State crowns, and the Sovereign's Orb. Two of the four are shown above.



Edmund Dulac, the integrated designer by Philip Parker

FROM THE LATE '30s to the early '50s, Edmund Dulac was responsible for some of the finest UK stamps ever produced. As a tribute to the artist, a stamp pane in the forthcoming prestige book *A Perfect Coronation* features a special arrangement of the recently re-issued Wilding definitives designed by Dulac (one from the miniature sheet issued on 5 December 2002, another from the sheet from 20 May 2003), as well as his coronation stamp at a £1 value (issued originally in this form for Stamp Show 2000). The stamps are shown below; the complete pane is shown on page 274 of this *Bulletin*.



A philatelic tribute to the artist and his legacy

It is arguable that the mid-1930s were something of a golden age for Post Office 'arts'. It was the era that John Grierson's film *Night Mail* was defining the documentary genre, and the process of photogravure printing was becoming established in British stamp production, while a relaxation of the stiff formality of stamp issues was resulting in interesting designs. The brazenly modernist 1935 Silver Jubilee stamp by Barnett Freedman is one example. One of the unadopted designs for this issue was by Edmund Dulac (right); an exuberant, rather gallic design where the King is flanked by modernist renderings of Britannia and Mercury (the winged messenger).



Born in Toulouse in 1882, Dulac first studied law but his artistic interests led him to the Ecole de Beaux-Arts, leaving in 1903 to take up a scholarship at the Académie Julien in Paris. However, he soon moved to London and established himself as a book illustrator. In 1911 he won two gold medals at the Barcelona International exhibition and the following year he became naturalised as a British citizen. At the outbreak of war in 1914 the *Daily Mail* commissioned him to produce a series of charity stamps for the Red Cross – his labels featuring Greek heroes were a taste of designs to come.

In 1936 there occurred the exchange of letters in the pages of *The Times* which was to associate Dulac ever more with stamps. The definitives featuring the photographic portrait of the new King Edward VIII and pared-back design caused a lively debate, and letters by Eric Gill and Dulac set out their respective stalls regarding stamp design. Dulac championed an integrated approach, where the relationship between all parts of the design was as important as the individual components.

Following the abdication, Dulac and Gill were asked to produce new stamps – and they refined the new simplified formula for definitives with details such as Gill's lettering and Dulac's delicate iconic plants representing the constituent parts of the UK. The profile of George VI was based on a small plaster relief prepared by Dulac, and he fashioned a head in an heroic, classical style (below left). Indeed, this portrait of the King was to adorn almost every UK stamp of the reign. As a tribute to the King, this head was reproduced as a label in a pane of mixed definitives published in the Royal Mail prestige book, *A Gracious Accession* (February 2002).

Dulac's 1937 coronation stamp (far right) broke new ground in depicting the monarchs face-on. Definitives and commemorative stamps display his preoccupation with an integrated design. The dignified features of the monarchs are surrounded by symbolic imagery, imperial crown and distinctive lettering to form a harmonious whole.



Unadopted design by Dulac for the centenary of the Penny Black in 1940. The Post Office deemed this approach not to be 'in harmony with British ideas of stamp design'.

Below: design for (unissued) Anglo-French stamp, and the issued 1948 Olympic Games stamp.



Dulac's further experiments with an heroic head integrated with graphic elements are shown by the unadopted designs for the centenary of the Penny Black in 1940 (above).

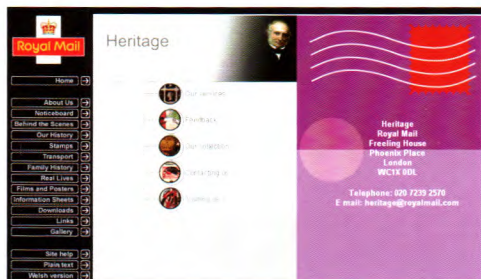


Dulac's wartime work for the French postal authorities is equally important. He was approached by the French leader in exile, General de Gaulle, to design stamps for the Free French Colonies, an appropriate commission since Dulac had worked with Gill on a joint Anglo-French stamp at the beginning of the War (left). His later commission for a French definitive for issue after the liberation again shows his fascination with heroic, classic design – the profile of Marianne centred in the design and the ordering of type and symbolism echoing his British definitives (see contents page).

Dulac's postwar designs explored the wider landscape format in a determined expression of 'controlled freedom' in design. His stamp for the 1948 London Olympics (left) again utilised the head of the King, but demarcated it within an oval while his classical figure strides across the Earth. The curve of the globe, the circular motifs of the Olympic logo and the radical departure of undulating lettering all echoed the sense of movement – again, many elements beautifully integrated.

With the advent of the new Queen, Dulac's final stamps were no less masterpieces. His framework in reversible tones for higher value Wilding definitives first appeared in 1953. His 13s6d value for the coronation is a remarkable rendering of the young queen – an unusual full-face portrait in coronation regalia – and an echo of his previous coronation design of 1937. Again, the national emblems are subtly integrated into the design, almost like woven details in a tapestry. Tragically, Edmund Dulac died on 25 May 1952, just days before his coronation stamp was issued on 3 June. ●

Philately on-line Ron Negus revisits Heritage Services' site



www.royalmailgroup.com/heritage Post Office Heritage Services is in Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL, and the search room is open from 9 am to 4.15 pm on Mondays to Fridays. It is advisable to check by telephone, on 020 7239 2570, to ensure the records you wish to see are available.

I REVIEWED the Post Office Heritage Services site in July 2001, but since then some features have been added and the general design has been improved. Following the change of group name from Consignia plc, the site address has also changed to www.royalmailgroup.com/heritage. Heritage Services embraces both the Post Office Archives and the National Postal Museum.

The left hand main navigation bar on the home page of the site contains thirteen headings. This starts with information about the collection, the services available, details of opening hours and travelling instructions under the title 'About Us'. A 'Noticeboard' provides a brief summary of developments to keep users up to date, and 'Behind the Scenes' relates stories about the people, places and things that have played a part in British postal history.

The section devoted to 'Our History' provides a time line giving notable innovations in postal services in each century from the 1600s to now. 'Stamps' has information about major National Postal Museum holdings, an outline of stamp production methods, plus details of how the Museum conserves its artefacts. Items of note in this group of pages are details about the famous R M Phillips collection of Victorian material that was presented to the Post Office in 1965, and illustrations of some unissued designs for British stamps from more recent times.

The heading 'Transport' explains how mail has been delivered over the years by foot, horse, over water, train, road and air. For genealogists who may have had family members employed by the Post Office, the site offers a 'Family History'

heading. In this, help is given on how to research your ancestors through the various stored personnel records. Following this, a 'Real Lives' section gives examples of actual letters from the Archives that illustrate different aspects of social history.

Samples of posters, documentaries and tv commercials that have been used over the years to advertise postal services are presented under 'Films and Posters'. These include video clips. The heading 'Downloads' provides some fun items, mainly for children, including jigsaws, pictures to print out and colour in, and some screen-savers with a postal theme. There is also a 'Links' page to other relevant websites and a 'Gallery'. The latter section contains an exhibition that is changed from time to time. At present, it is displaying 150 Years of Pillar Boxes.

The final item in the navigation bar is entitled 'Information Sheets', which has been expanded considerably since I reviewed the site before. It now provides 16 self-contained documents giving details of Heritage Services or Post Office background. Each of these can be printed out. Amongst them is Heritage Information Sheet No 16, which is a most useful summary index to the Post Office Archives. This covers all the classes of records maintained and lists how many volumes and files each class contains. Work is continuing to expand this summary index into a full on-line catalogue of the holdings.

The whole site remains well worth visiting and many collectors will be surprised at the scope of this national Heritage Collection •

Eminent early collectors Francis W Webb, by Ron Negus

For some countries, the name of one particular collector will come to mind whenever that country is mentioned in a philatelic conversation. In the case of Hong Kong, that name is Colonel Francis W Webb.

FRANCIS WEBB'S BOOK *The Philatelic and Postal History of Hong Kong and the Treaty Ports of China and Japan*, published in a limited edition of 500 copies by the Royal Philatelic Society in 1961, remains the definitive work on the subject. Some minor amendments have appeared since as the result of further research and three reprints of the book have been produced in the James Bendon Philatelic Series in 1991, 1994 and 2000. The original has stood the test of time, however, and is still keenly sought after by bibliophiles when it appears in philatelic literature auctions.

Francis Wynne Webb was born on 12 December 1907 at St George's, Bermuda. He was the nephew of Lord Kitchener of Khartoum. Whilst still at school, he was attracted to the military life, and achieved his ambition in 1927 when commissioned in the Royal Artillery. His Army career took him to many parts of the world in Europe, the Middle East and the Far East. Between 1939 and 1945 he served in France, the Western Desert and Italy, and was awarded the OBE in 1942. In the Italian campaign, he commanded a mountain regiment. After the war, he was appointed Chief Administrative Officer to Field Marshal Montgomery at his headquarters in Fontainebleau.

After a spell on administrative duties in the War Office in London, Colonel Webb suffered a mild coronary thrombosis in 1952 and was invalided out of the Army. He then joined the National Coal Board and soon rose to a senior position. On his release from the Army, his doctors had advised him to rest as much as possible and to take up a sedentary hobby. His choice was stamp collecting. He had dabbled briefly with this in 1938, but the Second World War had prevented him pursuing it too seriously.

He had resumed his interest, in fact, whilst still serving in the Army, because in 1948 he had made the acquaintance of H B R Clarke. This well-known collector had founded the China Section of the City of London Philatelic Society five years earlier, and soon persuaded Webb to join the group. He found the Society to his liking, and became Chairman of the China Section for a one-year term. Colonel Webb, however, disliked buying Communist inspired philatelic material and, at Clarke's suggestion, put together a small, specialised study of the 1891 Hong Kong Jubilee issue. Just prior to his heart attack, Webb had expected to be posted overseas and he sold his Hong Kong collection.

He took the advice of his Army Medical Board as soon as he had recuperated from his illness and joined the newly formed Hong Kong Study Circle and began his next collection of the Colony. At this time he is quoted as saying 'My only disappointment is that I didn't start collecting Hong Kong earlier. I was stationed there from 1930 to 1935, which was before most people had started collecting the Treaty Ports or the Branch Offices, and at a time when the varieties on George V issues were obtainable at any post office. Unfortunately, subalterns just did not collect stamps! Otherwise I should have a much better collection than I have, acquired at a greatly reduced cost, and I would know the answers to a great many questions that we have still not been able to find out.'

Although the stamps and postal history of Hong Kong were his first love, Webb had other smaller collections of Europe, British Commonwealth and USA. He claimed these were nominally the property of one of his four sons, but

admitted 'although he is keen, he does not get much of a look in'.

As an organiser, Webb was outstanding and various philatelic groups soon called upon his skills. For the Hong Kong Study Circle, he served firstly as their Chairman and from 1960 until his death was President. He also edited the Circle's *Bulletin* for many years. On the wider philatelic scene, he was a member of the Council of the Royal Philatelic Society, having joined in 1954 and becoming a Fellow in 1961. He also served on the Publications Committee of the Royal. Many collectors will have come into contact with him through the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain, where he served as Chairman of the Permanent Executive.

He was closely associated with the regular British Philatelic Exhibitions in the 1960s, and was also a member of the Executive Committee planning the International Exhibition in London – Philypia 70. Unfortunately, he died before this major event took place. At a local level, he was credited with revitalising the Surrey Federation, which was in danger of becoming the weakest of the Home Counties groupings. Under his guidance, it flourished once more. He contributed to the success by visiting as many societies as possible giving displays or acting as a judge for competition nights. On a personal level, Webb was proud of the almost complete collection of miniature bottles of spirits and liqueurs that decorated his home. He used to claim that he could serve his guests with almost any drink they might require from this collection.

One of the highlights of Colonel Webb's philatelic career was being asked to arrange for various collections to be exhibited at the 1962 Centenary Stamp Exhibition in Hong Kong. With the help of Sir John Wilson, he was given permission to take selected pages from The Queen's Hong Kong collection with him to be displayed in the Court of Honour. A family friend recalled the following tale Webb told him after he returned. The Colonel said 'On arrival, I was met by an armed escort and handed over the Royal Collection. The Governor asked to see it, and when the package was opened it was revealed to

be the wrong collection! I had visions of being sent to the Tower of London. However, I was able to explain that this was a cover plan for reasons of security and that my own collection had been substituted for the Queen's pages. I was then able to produce these and everybody was happy.'

In the autumn of 1968, Webb suffered another mild heart attack and was unable to attend to his many duties on doctor's orders. After convalescence and a holiday at Lyme Regis, he had recovered sufficiently by late October to attend a Council meeting at the Royal and to preside at a meeting of the Hong Kong Study Circle. On the day following the Hong Kong meeting, however, he had another attack and died at his home on 30 October 1968. In his obituary in *The London Philatelist*, Past-President of the Royal Philatelic Society, Ewart Gerrish, wrote 'Although he possessed the gift of making things happen, the common touch was always present and many junior collectors benefited from his understanding of their problems and kindly guidance.' ●



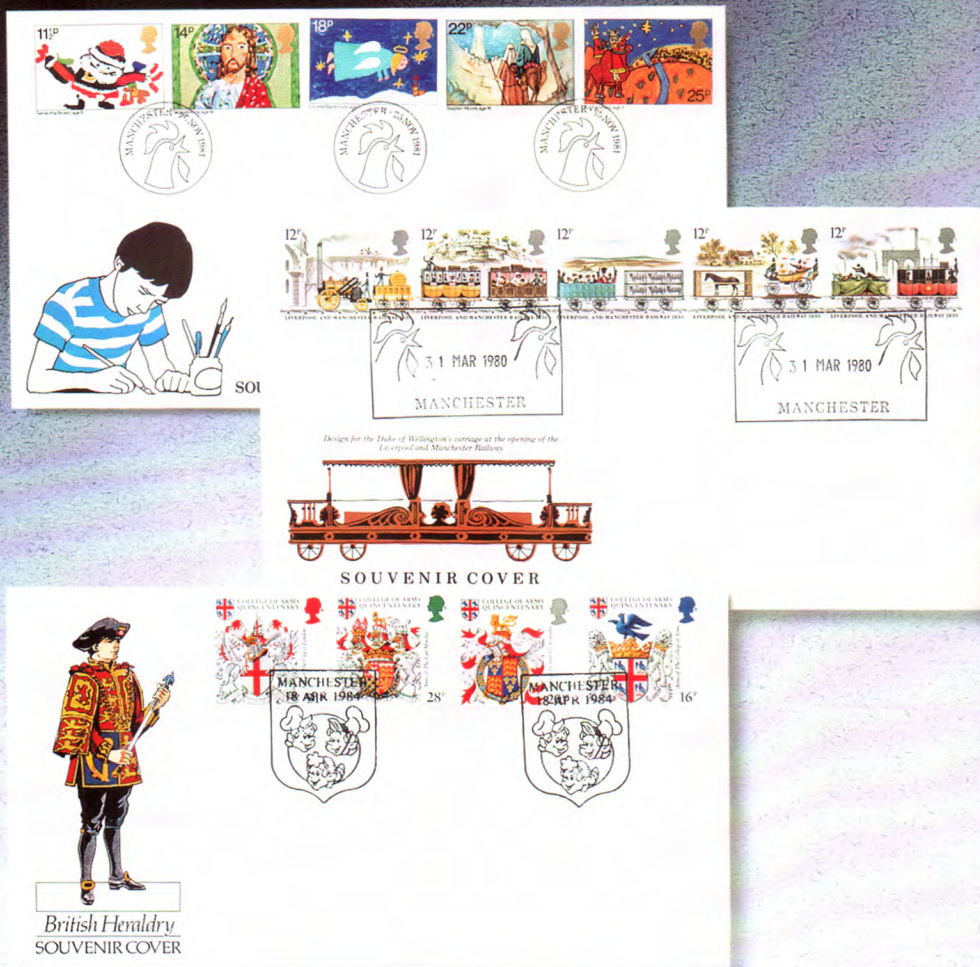
Cover corner More covers from Kellogg's, by Richard West

ARE YOU LIKE ME? You know you have something – but can never find it when you want it. When writing about Philatelic Promotions for the February *Bulletin*, I knew I had the special covers sent out via Kellogg's Corn Flakes, but simply could not find them.

I am pleased to say all have now been found, and there are three. First, the cover for the five Liverpool and Manchester Railway stamps. This promotion started early in 1980 and ran through to 1982. However, from the release of the Christ-

mas stamps in 1981, these were used instead of the 'Railway' stamps, together with a change to the cover design.

I had forgotten another Kellogg's promotion, on packs of Rice Krispies, during 1984. Again a cover was offered, this time with the 'College of Arms' British Heraldry stamps, being cancelled with a handstamp depicting 'Snap', 'Crackle' and 'Pop'. The package also included a 'Press Out 'n Colour Jousting Tournament' and a 'Stamp Bug Album' for 1984.



Postbag Letters to the Editor

Wilding stamps On 5 December 1952 I celebrated my 12th birthday and bought one each of the 1½d and 2½d Wilding issue. The following year my father bought me the Coronation issue in horizontal mint pairs; a joy to behold. I already had a world collection and was busy completing the 3c commemoratives of the USA. These were commonly printed in purple, a colour which I regarded as special because I never seemed to find the George VI 3d deep violet. We had moved to Sidcup away from the smog of London in those winters of the early 1950s. Stamp collecting and Dick Barton on the radio was heady stuff and there was even a stamp album named after Mr Barton.

Yes it is good to see the Wildings again but contrary to your assertion the new stamps are not on uncoated paper but have a printed tint on a solid surface; there are no loose hairs indicative of a true uncoated paper. Keep up the good work.
ROBERT OLIVER, RINGWOOD ●

Special stamps I think the year has got off to a good start, stamp-wise. The Birds of Prey set are striking photographs, and it will be interesting to know how many 'casual' recipients of letters using them spot the different designs. I also like the Secret of Life set – Peter Brookes' designs give a light touch to some major scientific issues, although one wonders whether the rules could not have been waived in this case to use the famous photo of Crick and Watson (as shown on the FDC filler). Peter Brookes, of course, was a designer

used in the 1999 Millennium series, and there are two other designers used that year whose work I would like to see used for appropriate future sets – Sara Fanelli and Jeff Fisher, while another scenic se-tenant strip from Paul Cox, as for the 1989 Lord Mayor's Show set, is surely overdue.

I suppose the tick-boxes on the recent Occasions set will give the catalogue compilers a problem – do they list the different possible ticks separately for 'used' copies? The forthcoming Fruit & Veg set with the variety of stick-ons will cause similar problems – I think I shall reserve judgement until I see this set for real – will I be tempted to use them with stickers attached, I wonder? It will be a good thing if, particularly with the special Sainsburys packs, this issue does get wide use among the non-collecting public – so often I feel the various issues and booklets that Royal Mail puts so much effort into only reach a very restricted circle. One final point: I am intrigued by the designs shown in the March *Bulletin* for the new airmail stamps – are these a further try-out for a possible re-design of the Machin image for definitives? STUART NICOL, LIVERPOOL ●

Overseas Machins While the new NV1 stamps for overseas post are smart enough and significantly distinctive in design, the red, white and blue marks on the right margin are surely hachures, not chevrons? J H WITHEROW (Sqn Ldr retired), RICKMANSWORTH ●

Prize draw Our special prize this month is a 2002 Yearbook



WE HAVE THREE of the 2002 Yearbook as this month's special draw prizes. For your chance to win send your name and address on the reverse of a postcard or back of a sealed envelope to: Yearbook Draw, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ to arrive by 30 May ●

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



February identify The detail is from the red pepper stamp in the Fun Fruit & Veg issue of March this year. The winner was W Antheriens of Belgium.

February knowledge The answers: 1) Reynolds Stone; 2) The Settlers' Tale; 3) Charles Goodwyn. The winner was S Hogg of Leeds.

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

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

- 1 Who designed the 1997 Queen's Horses stamps?
- 2 Which set of Millennium stamps featured frog's legs?
- 3 Who is the new Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection?

Send your answer (addressed to either the May *Identify* competition or May *Knowledge* competition), name and address on a postcard or back of a sealed envelope to: British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ. The senders of the first cards drawn in each competition on 13 June will each receive £100. Ten runner-up prizes of presentation packs or FDCs will be awarded in each competition.

The competitions are not open to Royal Mail employees ●

Events

6 April - 2 May Stamp Lincs 2003 at the Museum of Lincolnshire Life, Lincoln. 10.00-17.30, Sun 14.00-17.30. Displays, competitions, children's activities. Stamp Fair & Family Fun Day on 26 April. **Enquiries** P Wain, 66 Chaucer Drive, Lincoln LN2 4LS.

1 May Display 'GB King George V Bits and Pieces' by Michael Sefi to Kingston upon Thames PS, at Surbiton Library, New Hall, Ewell Rd, Surbiton, 20.00. **Enquiries** B Sole, 01372 467652.

3 May Exeter & District PS annual stamp exhibition and fair at Priory High School, off Topsham Road, Exeter, 10.30-16.30. Competition entries, displays, children's corner, dealers, refreshments. Draw at 16.15. **Enquiries** A Pavey, 01392 445194.

10-12 May Railway Philatelic Group Convention at Windermere Hydro. **Enquiries** Dr A Goodbody, 01200 427545.

16-18 May North East Philatelic Weekend, Swallow Hotel, Gateshead. Displays, social events. **Enquiries** Miss V Beeken, 0191 386 1931.

17 May Display 'Glasgow - Aspects of its Postal History' by Miller McGrath to GB Philatelic Society at British Philatelic Centre, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1, 11.00. AGM and members' displays at 14.15.

22-24 May Czechoslovak PS of GB 50th anniversary exhibition at Embassy of the Czech Republic. See p262. **Enquiries** Mrs L Bosworth, 01622 762577 ●

Late news

Royal Mail update De La Rue have printed supplies of the 20p, 33p and 41p definitives at their new premises (formerly Questa) at Byfleet. The sheets bear the De La Rue imprint in the left margin. Supplies went into distribution to post offices in March and April. All are from cylinder D1 colour D1 phosphor, both dot and no dot. There are no 'jubilee lines' at the bottom of the sheets. The three international books (6 × E, 6 × 42p and 6 × 68p) will be available from 28 May with 'The Real Network' slogan added to the Royal Mail logo on the front cover. Following the increase in postal rates from 8 May, sheets of 1st class 'generic' Smilers sheets will cost £6.15 instead of £5.95. A new Smilers sheet of 20 mixed Cartoons stamps will be available from July. The Extreme Endeavours self-adhesive book stamps (29 April) were printed from cylinders D1 magenta D1 yellow D1 cyan (blue) D1 black D1 gold D1 phosphor.

The remaining Travelling Post Office (TPO) services are to be withdrawn over the next few months; the Cardiff-Glasgow TPO will run for the last time on 10 May.

A special £10 postal order marking the 50th anniversary of the Coronation will be available from Tallents House and postshops from 2 June. It features a scene from the Coronation ceremony. Price £14.95. Further details next month •

Adam Faith The pop-singer turned actor, who died in March, was also a stamp collector. In an interview in *Stamp Bug News* (January 1981) he said he started collecting aged 19 when he was a young singer touring the country. His interest was encouraged by his manager Colin Berlin, also a collector. Faith found himself 'scouring the streets for stamp shops', collecting 'all kinds of stamps, both British and anything else that appealed to me or I knew would increase in value and rarity.' Following a car crash in 1974, stamps helped him recuperate and he found the hobby 'invaluable when you want to take your mind off other worries.' Adam Faith would be a strong candidate for inclusion, one day, on stamps showing 1960s pop stars •

Auction news The Cavendish sale on 8 March included an imperf pair of 1870 1½d (some faults) which made £1265. A Wangford Maltese Cross on cover made £632 as did a Granton Ship Letter card. A Dundee first day of Uniform Penny Post cover made £1035 and the first day use of the Glasgow handstruck '4' reached £1150. A specialised GB auction will be held on 5 June. Enquiries: Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, telephone 01332 250970.

Grosvenor Auctions have moved from Woodstock Street to the third floor of the Stanley Gibbons building, 399 Strand, London WC2 where the 15 May auction will now take place. The existing telephone number 020 7629 9399 can be used until a new number is available.

Spink's 8 May auction includes some fine GB Victoria, Edward VII and George V material including Edward VII 1s Board of Education, Victoria £1 1.R. Official, and VR 1d Black. Enquiries: Spink, telephone 020 7563 4000 •

Thematica Visitors to the exhibition at the Carisbrooke Hall, Seymour Street, London W2 (28-29 June) will receive a free souvenir sheet, designed by Jeffery Matthews, on the theme of the Coronation Anniversary •

Stamp Active The programme for those starting or running a junior stamp club has been updated and re-designed. Five new leaflets are available from the National Youth Stamp Committee, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1M 6PT. The NYSC always wants stamps and philatelic material for use in promoting the hobby to children. If you can help, please contact Anne Dummer, 2A Bryant Road, Kettering NN15 6JE; telephone 01536 519959 •

New list Rushstamps has published no 53 of its Rush Express price list. Over 4000 price changes reflect the active market in GB stamps. For a copy contact Rushstamps, PO Box 1, Lyndhurst SO43 7PP. Telephone 023 8028 2044 •

KEEP YOUR SMILERS SAFE WITH THE NEW SMILERS ALBUM



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Also available are packs of 5 blank Smilers leaves for personalised sheets. Price £2.99. Code PA633.

To order these products or for further information on the Smilers range of products please contact Royal Mail Tallents House, details as below.

Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB
UK telephone order line 08457 641 641, overseas +44 131 316 7483

