BRITISH PHILATELIC

Bulletin

The magazine for collectors of UK stamps

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Royal romance on stamps
• Academy issue's art stars



Royal wedding special edition

NEW COVER TROOPING THE COLOUR • THEMATIC HARRY & MEGHAN • WIN RA FRAMED STAMPS

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Contents



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Arty facts We tell the intriguing stories of the artists whose vision is captured in miniature on new stamps marking 250 years of the Royal Academy **303**

Celebrating GB stamps A striking stamp card and special postmark for National Stamp Celebration Day **302**

See you at Congress Details of the upcoming Philatelic Congress of Great Britain **307**



50 years of the SAC Richard West presents his history of Royal Mail's prestigious Stamp Advisory Committee **308**

Royal Mail Editor Tim Noble, Royal Mail, 185 Farringdon Road, Floor MP-03, London EC1A 1AA ● **Publishing Editor** Kate Shaw, 26 Throgmorton Street, London EC2N 2AN ● Price £1 95 from Post Office Ltd philatelic outlets or by order from Post Office branches ● **12 months' subscription** £18 95 UK and Europe, £24 95 rest of world Send subscriptions to Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles, PO Box 1373, Sunderland SR5 9PG, UK or subscribe online at www royalmail com/bulletin ● **Binders** (to hold 24 issues) £8 50, and storage boxes (about 30 copies) £9 95, are also available by post or online ● All rights reserved Reproduction in whole or parts is prohibited without prior permission of the Editors ● **Printed** in Great Britain by Zenith Print & Packaging Ltd ● **ISSN** 0953 8119 ● Royal Mail is a trading name of Royal Mail Group Ltd Registered in England and Wales, number 4138203 Registered office 100 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0HQ ● Stamp images © Royal Mail Group Ltd





Royal wedding special edition

Set for celebration Royal Mail's stunning philatelic mementos of the marriage of Harry and Meghan **292**

Moving pictures Our gallery of heart-warming Royal wedding issues from the last 70 years **298**

Love, philately A poignant thematic tale of the Royal romance **300**

Stamp Scene Get up to date with local and national highlights of UK philately **312**

Picture this... and win Framed Stamps **318**

New issues The latest Royal Mail releases **320**



A day to remember

The Royal Wedding issue offers many philatelic mementos of the marriage of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle that has enchanted the world

Here is a jewel in the crown of your collection – the Royal Wedding Miniature Sheet from Royal Mail is a perfect souvenir of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle's special day. The Sheet celebrates the great occasion on 19 May when the happy couple exchanged vows at St George's Chapel in the grounds of Windsor Castle. Accompanying the issue is a Stamp Sheet Souvenir, Presentation Pack, three Coin Covers, Royal Wedding Souvenir and Press Sheet.

Above: the elegant Royal Mail Miniature Sheet has four stamps set within a background carrying English and Welsh wording, in acknowledgement of Harry's title of HRH Prince Henry of Wales

Miniature Sheet Four stamps featuring Harry and his new wife adorn the Miniature Sheet and come in two values – First Class and £1.55. The stamp images were selected from the couple's official engagement photographs, taken by Alexi Lubomirski last December.



Above: the Royal Wedding Miniature Sheet is available with and without the printed bar code on the left hand side. Three special postmarks bearing the wedding date, as shown on page 294, are still available for First Day Covers

Royal Wedding Miniature Sheet – Specifications	
Date of issue	19 May
Number of stamps	Four
Stamp design	The Chase
Stamp format	Portrait
Stamp size	35mm x 37mm
Miniature Sheet size	115mm x 89mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	14.5 x 14
Phosphor	All over phosphor
Gum	PVA





FD1813-TH



FD1813-PL



FD1813-NP









Royal Wedding Miniature Sheet First Day Covers are available with an informative insert card and a choice of three special postmarks



Above: the Royal Wedding Presentation Pack contains the illustrated information panels shown right



Royal Wedding Press Sheet A numbered, limited edition of just 2018 Press Sheet went on sale on the wedding day. The Sheet includes ten of the Royal Wedding Miniature Sheets.

Souvenir Pack Also forming part of the Royal Wedding issue is a Royal Wedding Souvenir released on 29 June. This will feature photography from last month's wedding, the Royal Wedding Miniature Sheet, the St George's Chapel Miniature Sheet from the 2017 Windsor Castle set, and a silver foiled cachet mark. Inside the Souvenir Pack, Harry and Meghan appear in a gallery of charming photographs and are quoted talking about how they met and fell in love. ▶

Serviced First Day Covers are still available. Royal Mail is extending the period in which the Royal

Royal Wedding – Prices	
Miniature Sheet	£4.44
First Day Cover	£5.75
First Day Envelope	30p
Presentation Pack	£4.95
Stamp Sheet Souvenir	£5.75
Royal Wedding Souvenir	£24.99
Press Sheet	£48.84
Coin Cover – Brilliant Uncirculated	£19.95
Coin Cover – Silver Proof	£82.50
Coin Cover – Gold Proof	to be confirmed

Wedding First Day of Issue postmarks will be available – to 28 days. This is in recognition of the fact that the issue was not originally included in the published 2018 Stamp Programme and to give collectors sufficient time in which to submit their covers. Customers should therefore send stamped envelopes, to arrive by 29 June 2018 at the latest, to Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB, for the Tallents House postmark. Please quote the *Bulletin* media code 18Bul06.

The postmark features a delicately entwined 'H' and 'M' to symbolise the union of Harry and Meghan. Two alternative postmarks have the location Windsor, where of course the marriage ceremony and reception took place. On the pictorial version is an illustration of St George's Chapel – the historic, stunning setting for the wedding.

Below: Sheet comprising eight Royal Wedding Miniature Sheets



Wedding photographer Stamp designers at The Chase created the Royal Wedding issue using two images from Harry and Meghan's official engagement photographs. Well-known fashion and celebrity portrait photographer Alexi Lubomirski captured these romantic pictures of the couple at Frogmore House, Windsor in December 2017.

The couple invited Lubomirski to serve as their wedding photographer last month. Lubomirski, who was formally known as His Serene Highness Prince Alexi Lubomirski after inheriting a title from his father, said: 'It was an incredible honour to be asked to document this wonderful event, but also a great privilege to be invited to share and be a witness to this young couple's love for one another' •

Acknowledgements : pack photos 1, 2 and 4 by Alexi Lubomirski © Kensington Palace; photo 3 © Chris Jackson/Getty Images; photos 5 and 6 © Samir Hussein/Getty Images Printer: CPI Colour 2018/Pack design © Royal Mail Group Ltd 2018.

Picture credit: shutterstock







Left, from top: Brilliant Uncirculated, Silver Proof and Gold Proof coins, designed by Jody Clark, are available alongside the Royal Wedding Miniature Sheet on the Coin Covers

Royal Weddings gallery Inspired by the recent celebrations, we present a selection of royal pictorial stamps from years gone by. Do you remember watching any of them?



1



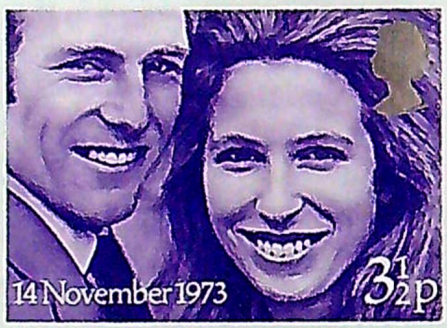
2



3



4



5



6

1 and 2 Royal Silver Wedding 1948, 2½d and £1, marking the 25th anniversary of the marriage of Elizabeth Angela Marguerite Bowes-Lyon to Prince Albert Frederick Arthur George, the future King George VI, at Westminster Abbey on 26 April 1923.
3 and 4 Royal Golden Wedding Anniversary 1997, 20p and 43p, celebrating the golden wedding anniversary of Her Majesty The Queen, including these images of the marriage of the Princess Elizabeth to Prince Philip, Prince of Greece and Denmark and Duke of Edinburgh, at Westminster Abbey on 20 November 1947.
5 and 6 Royal Wedding 14 November 1973, 3½p and 20p, celebrating the marriage of Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips in Westminster Abbey.



7



8



9



10



11



12



13



14

7 and 8 Royal Wedding 29 July 1981, 14p and 25p, celebrating the marriage of Lady Diana Frances Spencer and the Charles, The Prince of Wales, at St Paul's Cathedral.
9 and 10 Royal Wedding 23 July 1986, 12p and 17p, celebrating the wedding of Sarah Margaret Ferguson and Prince Andrew, Duke of York in Westminster Abbey.
11 and 12 Royal Wedding 19 June 1999, 64p and 26p, celebrating the marriage of Sophie Helen Rhys-Jones and Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex in St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle.
13 and 14 Royal Wedding 29 April 2011, First Class and £1.10, celebrating the marriage of Catherine Elizabeth Middleton to Prince William, Duke of Cambridge in Westminster Abbey •

Wedding album

First day lovers These sets were FDCs long before the world's most famous newlyweds enjoyed their big day, but they neatly tell Harry and Meghan's love story. How many are in *your* album?

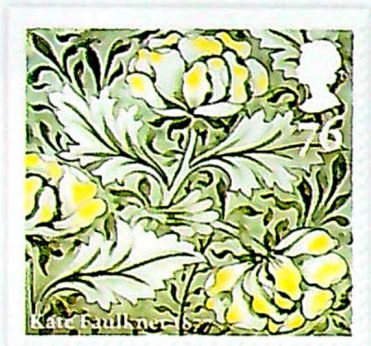


1

St George's Chapel The magnificent setting for Prince Harry and Meghan Markle's special day is presented here in glorious detail on the Windsor Castle Miniature Sheet (1). The couple were of course married on 19 May at 15th century St George's Chapel in the grounds of Windsor Castle.

This was a truly historic occasion in a spectacularly historic location. The chapel is the last resting place of great kings, including Henry VII and VIII, Edward VII, and King George VI. Harry's uncle Prince Edward and Sophie Rhys-Jones were married here; Harry himself was baptised in the chapel.

St George's is also home to the Order of the Garter. Among the most famous Knights of the Garter who have attended ceremonies at the chapel are Sir Winston Churchill and Sir Edmund Hillary.



2

The extraordinary history and rich architectural heritage of St George's seep into every millimetre of the Miniature Sheet Special Stamps. The Fan-vaulted Roof First Class stamp shows the roof of the nave completed by King Henry VIII; the Sir Reginald Bray Roof Boss stamp pays tribute to Bray, who left money in his will to fund the construction of the nave; the Quire stamps show banners of members of the Order of the Garter and the magnificent St George's roof boss supported by angels – one of almost 700 roof bosses in the chapel.



3

Love is blossoming The Royal Wedding flowers featured the favourites of Meghan and Princess Diana. White roses, much loved by the Princess of Wales, and peonies, Meghan's blooms of



4



5



6



7



8

choice, were stars of the show on the happy couple's big day. Here you see peonies on a 76p value from the 2011 Morris and Co. set (2) and a Madame Alfred Carrière variety of rose on a 26p value (3) from the Roses issue that was released in 1991.

Birthday cover If Harry happened to use the 'stamps from your birth year' function on Royal Mail's online stamp gallery, www.rmspecialstamps.com, then here above are just a few of the stunning stamps of 1984 that might take his fanc – from the CEPT 25th Anniversary: The Second European Election issue (4) and Cattle (5). And if he and Meghan sat down together to surf the site (how romantic can you get?), maybe she would take a shine to these philatelic gems – from the Butterflies issue (6-7) and Folklore set (8) – released in her birth year, 1981.

Hooray for Henry Everyone is wild about Harry and that includes Royal Mail – if you consider how many historic royal Harries (or Henries, should we say) have appeared on stamps shown right. The Prince's forebears featured on Special Stamps include: King Henry VIII in the 1997 issue The Great Tudor: Henry VIII & the Six Wives (14); Henry IV, V and VI in the 2008 Houses of Lancaster and York set from the Kings and Queens series (9-11); and Henry VIII again, along with his father Henry VII, in the House of Tudor stamp issue of 2009 (12-13).

International relations Surely nothing could better symbolise Harry and Meghan's transatlantic romance than a joint UK-USA stamp set! 2006's Animal Tales: Children's Favourite Book Animals was a collaboration between Royal Mail and the United States Postal Service (USPS). Each bureau used one of the other's stamps. Royal Mail featured the Americans' Very Hungry Caterpillar stamp design (15) in the British version of the set. The USPS used the Maisy's ABC stamp (16) for its own version. There are obvious and inevitable disparities between the US and UK versions of the two stamps – the currency of the value and The Queen's Head, of course, as well as the wording and typography •


9


10



11



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13



14



15



16



Four kings in 50 years A new card salutes half a century of the monarchy on GB stamps and marks this year's National Stamp Celebration Day

This handsome card by BFDC pays tribute to great British stamps with a patriotic picture gallery of historic designs celebrating British kings' reigns from 1901 to 1951. The King's Stamps commemorative card presents images of designs from the time of Edward VII, George V, Edward VIII and George VI.

The card features a Union Flag stamp cancelled by a special postmark illustrated with a royal crown and lion. The mark's postcode is SW1, location of Buckingham Palace. Adding to the patriotic flavour of this magnificent card is a picture of Britannia and a background illustration of Windsor Castle.

The card was released to mark National Stamp Celebration Day on 6 May, and bears the logo of this special event for collectors. On the day, philatelic meetings were held across the country, having been arranged under the auspices of the Association of British Philatelic Societies. Stanley Gibbons also allowed visitors to its headquarters on the Strand in London to post letters for free. The King's Stamps commemorative stamp card costs £22.50 and can be ordered using the BFDC contact details shown on the left •

BFDC Ltd
3 Link Road
Stoneygate
Leicester
LE2 3RA
www.bfdc.co.uk/cards

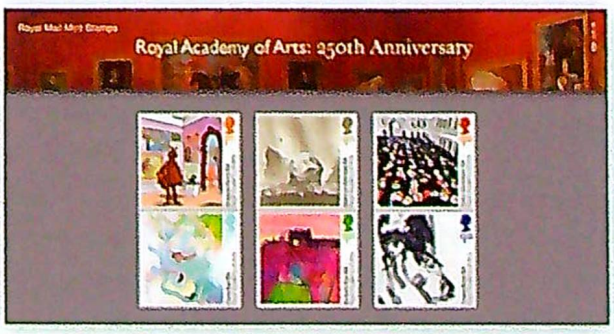


Happy 250th birthday Royal Academy

The Royal Academy of Arts 250th Anniversary issue out this month is a perfectly composed portrait of Britain's brilliant modern art scene

Six highly esteemed contemporary artists – including Grayson Perry and Tracey Emin – have been exclusively commissioned to create the pictures that appear on Royal Mail's visually stunning set marking the 250th anniversary of the renowned Royal Academy of Arts. The chosen artists represent the latest generation of Royal Academicians, special members of the London institution established with George III's royal seal of approval in 1768.

Accompanying the stamp issue, released on 5 June, is a Stamp Souvenir, Postcards, Framed Stamps and a Presentation Pack that offers an illustrated history of the RA. On the following pages, Andrew Neish reveals the artists' extraordinary vision, which has set them among some of the leading names in British art today •



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE LONDON W1
Royal Academy of Arts 250
5.6.2018

Main illustration: courtesy Royal Academy of Arts

Turn over to meet the modern artists behind the art adorning the eye-opening new Special Stamp set out this month. The Royal Academy of Arts 250 issue was previewed in on page 260 of May *Bulletin* ▶



Summer Exhibition
Grayson Perry OBE, RA



Transvestite ceramicist Grayson Perry explores social and political issues, his past, and the story of alter ego Claire on his vases and pots. Imagery appearing on the ceramics covers Chernobyl, child abuse, Brexit, Trump, gender, consumerism and much else.

Perry on art On the ceramic sculpture *Red Alan's Manifesto*, Perry presents his policies on the arts, declaring: 'Bad sculpture should be installed outside companies guilty of financial irregularities' and: 'Artists are not philosophers, comedians, politicians, priests etc, they will be judged on their art'.

Little did we know At his Islington studio, a former film set ('With pale green, flaking paint, it was perfect for period drama murder scenes'), Perry keeps a little golden statue on one of the kilns as a 'kiln goddess'; the artist says his childhood teddy bear Alan Measles looks after a similar statuette.

Perry on the RA 'For me, being a member of the Royal Academy is a joy, for it reflects several facets of my own identity as an artist, my love of tradition, my involvement in the burning social issues of contemporary society, my desire to encourage access to visual art to a wide audience' •



Queen of the Sky
Fiona Rae RA



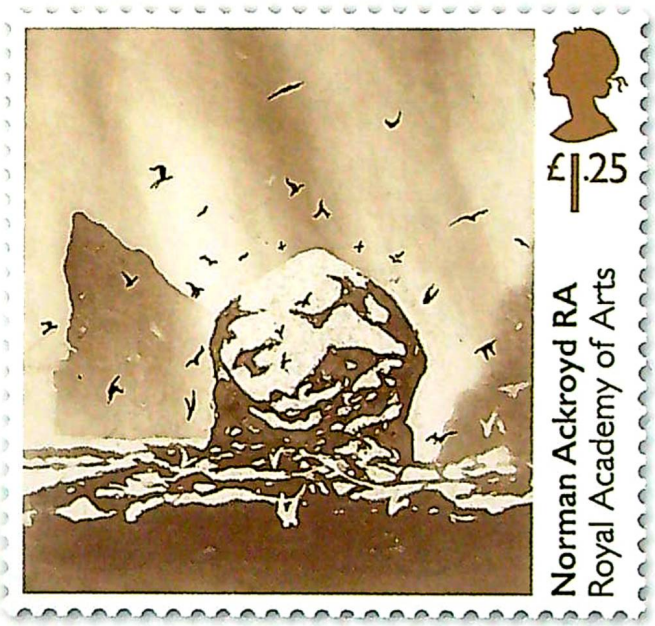
Hong Kong-born Rae is known for her shimmering, vividly coloured abstracts in which, as the Royal Academy put it, a 'series of "paint accidents" – drips and washes –animate the surface'. A Young British Artist, Rae was shortlisted for the 1991 Turner Prize.

Rae on art Rae advises aspiring artists: 'As an artist, if you make work and rely on the approval of others, you don't always get it. So make the work the place where the real excitement is. If the other stuff happens, fantastic. But if it doesn't, then at least you've had a nice life.'

Little did we know Rae and her artist husband Dan Perfect have studios in the same building in London, but travel there and back separately. Says Perfect: 'We're both aware that what we do is deeply strange; It needs an inexhaustible appetite for solitude.'

Rae on the RA 'Being a Royal Academician means having a voice in the room when decisions are made about this world-famous institution and its brilliant art school – it's a room of lively, funny, thoughtful and occasionally downright combative artists and architects, so I feel very privileged, excited (and sometimes slightly scared!) to be part of that' •

Stamp images © Royal Mail Group Ltd. Photographs: © Richard Ansett, courtesy Liverpool Museum, CCA Galleires, © Carolyn Djanology



St Kilda, The Great Sea Stac
Norman Ackroyd OBE, RA



One of Britain's finest printmakers, landscape artist Ackroyd is also a watercolour master. He travels around the country to capture his subjects, his etchings and paintings articulating the likes of the Scottish islands, the Lakes and North Yorkshire.

Ackroyd on art Ackroyd explains his formula for creative perfection: 'What I hope for most when I'm painting is for all my rational thoughts to disappear: my eye, heart and hand become connected, and then I can distil the real essence of the landscape.'

Little did we know Ackroyd enjoys painting at sea, preferably in a storm; he fastens all his materials to a table on the open deck as his hired fishing boat bucks and rolls with the swell.

Ackroyd on the RA 'Two hundred and fifty years on from its foundation in 1768, the Royal Academy of Arts in London has never been more relevant or needed. It brings together a truly independent self-governing body of artists who span all artistic practices, all ages and very diverse persuasions. Without this Academy, I would never have met so many of the extraordinary artists working in the United Kingdom today and over the last 30 years' •



Inverleith Allotments and Edinburgh Castle
Barbara Rae CBE, RA



Barbara Rae's fiercely colourful near- abstract landscapes are influenced by her globetrotting – she has been inspired by trips to Navajo lands in Arizona, Mexican cemeteries during the Day of the Dead festival, and the icebergs of the North West Passage.

Rae on art Rae may paint landscapes but insists: 'I'm not interested in topographical detail. I need to be able to immerse myself in the culture of a place to make art.' She is, however, a lover of the land, and remembers sketching the Highlands during a student job as a grouse-beater: 'I loved being up there walking the hills, seeing the landscape, drawing it.'

Little did we know Rae is an expert fencer, and won a national foil championship before giving up the sport in order to focus on her art.

Rae on the RA 'An elected artist to the Royal Academy of Arts is given a wonderful opportunity to mix with some of the most gifted and imaginative painters on the planet. Each new exhibition of a contemporary artist is filled with interest and anticipation, each exhibition of the great masters a reminder of the first pioneers of the visual arts in whose footsteps we walk' •



Queuing at the RA
Yinka Shonibare MBE, RA



Yinka Shonibare explores empire and post-colonialism in his art. His 2002 installation, Gallantry and Criminal Conversation, comprises a suspended vintage carriage and mannequins of Europeans on the Grand Tour having group sex dressed in costumes made of African fabrics.

Shonibare on art British-Nigerian artist Shonibare says his origins are linked to his artistic convictions: 'I can't be defined without the British-colonial experience of my birth and background. I don't exist without it. My biggest preoccupation is with the idea of universal humanism. We all influence each other. Can you imagine Picasso without African art?'

Little did we know Shonibare's famed 2010 work – *Nelson's Ship in a Bottle*, for the Fourth Plinth in Trafalgar Square – contained tiny fans to prevent condensation forming on the bottle and obscuring sight of his scale model of *HMS Victory*.

Shonibare on the RA 'Being a Royal Academician means validation by my peers and being amongst some of the most creative people both in the UK and internationally. The RA also brings opportunities to see the most inspirational exhibitions and to support the RA Schools. There are also opportunities to show work and to see the work of other Academicians' •



Saying Goodbye
Tracey Emin CBE, RA



Emin works in a huge variety of media, including sculpture, needlework, neon and painting, but is best known for confessional installations, such as My Bed – her own bed complete with dirty sheets, empty alcohol bottles and discarded condoms.

Emin on art 'It isn't about slapping a bit of oil paint on a piece of canvas and making a picture. That is not art,' insists this Young British Artist par excellence. 'There are hundreds of people who can paint pictures of the New Forest that will never be artists. It's impossible.'

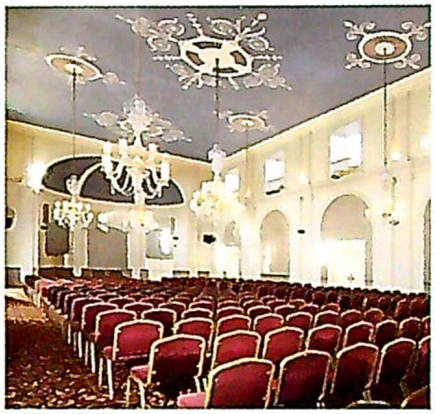
Little did we know Emin designed the trophy for the 2015 Brit Awards – a light pink statuette, complete with rosette and an inscription in her handwriting which said: 'Congratulations on your talent, on your life. On everything you give to others. Thank you.' Her recent use of neon in her art is a glance back to the neon illuminations of the seaside town of Margate where she grew up.

Emin on the RA 'Being a Royal Academician sometimes means I should have a beard and be smoking a pipe and be in another century. As a woman in the 21st century, I feel it gives me a position to change things' •

Photographs © Smithonian Magazine, © David M. Benett/Getty Images.
Stamp images © Royal Mail Group Ltd

Congress Centennial





The 100th ABPS Congress takes place at Jurys Inn Gateshead Quays (far left) Southshore Road, Gateshead NE8 3AE. The RDP ceremony is to be held at the Chandelier Suite in the Assembly Rooms, Newcastle (left) and the Congress Banquet takes place at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. A river cruise to the mouth of the Tyne is scheduled for the Saturday

26 to 29 July 2018

Meet British philately's finest, see extraordinary stamp displays, hear presentations by expert speakers and enjoy the annual banquet at this year's Congress hosted by the Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS) in Gateshead.

Marking the centennial anniversary of the first Philatelic Congress in Manchester 1918, the Philatelic Congress Study Group Static has prepared two displays, entitled '100 Congresses, the First 50 Years 1909-1940' and '100 Congresses, the Second 50 Years 1946-2017'. There are also presentations entitled 'Philatelic Art Gallery', 'The River Tyne' and 'World War One and the Royal Navy'.

Two regular highlight of Congress are the signing of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists (RDP) and the Congress awards ceremony. The new RDP signatories are: Robert Abensur (France), Gustav Douglas FRPSL (Sweden), Cheryl Ganz FRPSL (USA), and Geoffrey Lewis FRPSL (Australia). This year's recipient of the Congress Medal is Erene Grieve, in recognition of her work in schools and with groups of young collectors. Erene has inspired thousands of schoolchildren to take up philately since she first had the idea of setting up stamp clubs in schools in 1997.

The following collectors receive the ABPS Awards of Merit in recognition of their unstinting work for local stamp-collecting societies, specialist societies and federations: Jim Etherington, David Hilton, Rachel McHugh, Brian Morriss, John Smith, Michael Turnbull and John Woodson.

To book for Congress 2018 and to find out more details about the programme of events, visit www.gbcongress.uk •

The Philatelic Congress of Great Britain is organised annually by the Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS). It offers a great opportunity to meet fellow collectors, from newcomers to most seasoned, in an informal atmosphere

Inside Royal Mail

1968 – a year of promise



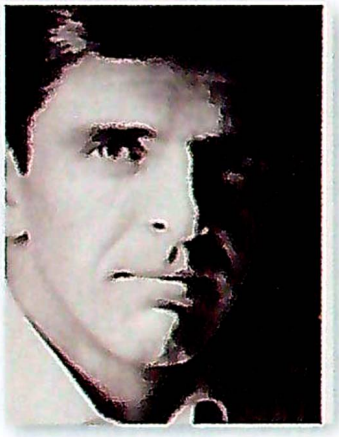
Half a century since the first meeting of an independent body of experts was called to help the Post Office be more creative with stamp design, Richard West traces the history of the Stamp Advisory Committee

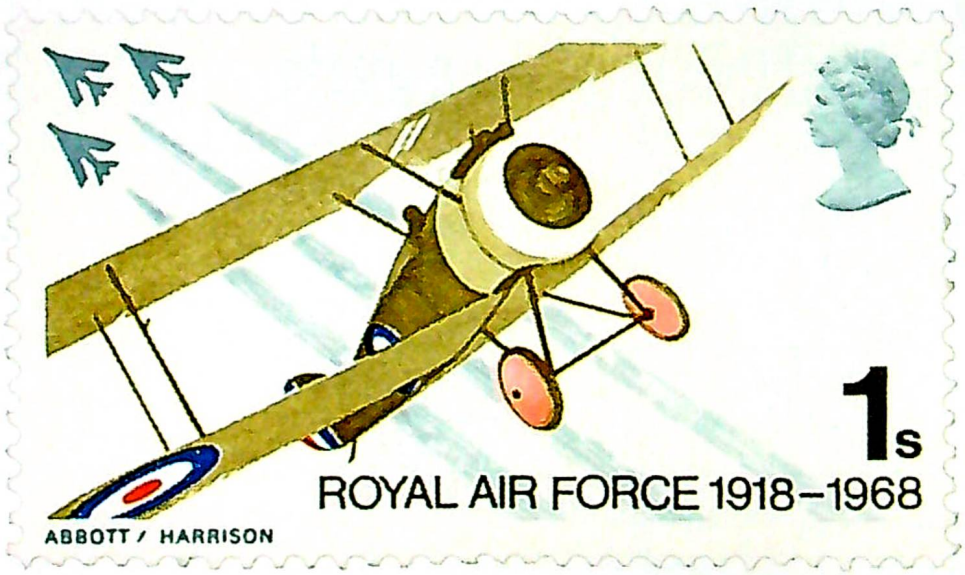
Votes for Women, the Royal Air Force, and Captain Cook and the Voyage of the *Endeavour* all feature in this year's Special Stamps programme from Royal Mail. Fifty years ago, on 29 April 1968, the same subjects featured in a set devoted to 'Anniversaries'. One of the stamps, for the centenary of the Trades Union Congress, was designed by David Gentleman, while the remaining three were the work of Clive Abbott. The designs of Clive Abbott had played quite a significant role back in the mid-1960s, more than might be readily appreciated.

Also in 1968, the Post Office held the first meeting of its own, independent Stamp Advisory Committee: it proved to be a body that would have a profound influence in keeping Royal Mail at the forefront of international stamp design, and is still very much as effective today.

However, the British Post Office had previously sought the advice of others when it came to stamp design. When seeking designs for its very first special issue, to mark the British Empire Exhibition in 1924, it approached the Council of the British Institute of Industrial Art with a view of setting up a committee to assist in finding suitable designs. In the event, the GPO set up a committee of four, albeit each of them connected with the Institute.

Four years later, with designs to be found for the Postal Union Congress in 1929, an approach to the Royal Fine Arts Commission (RFAC). But





Above: Clive Abbot
Right: Abbot's Royal Air Force design, for the Anniversaries special issue of 1968

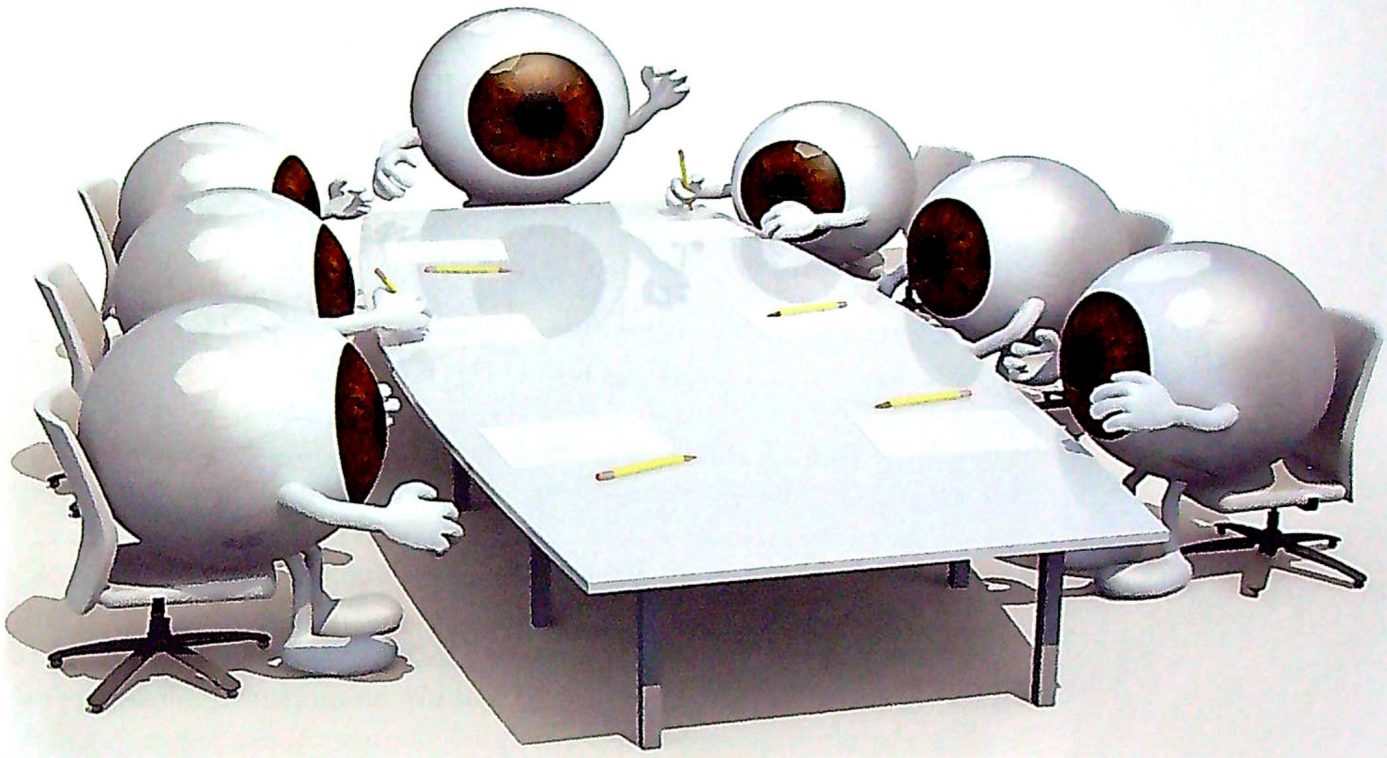
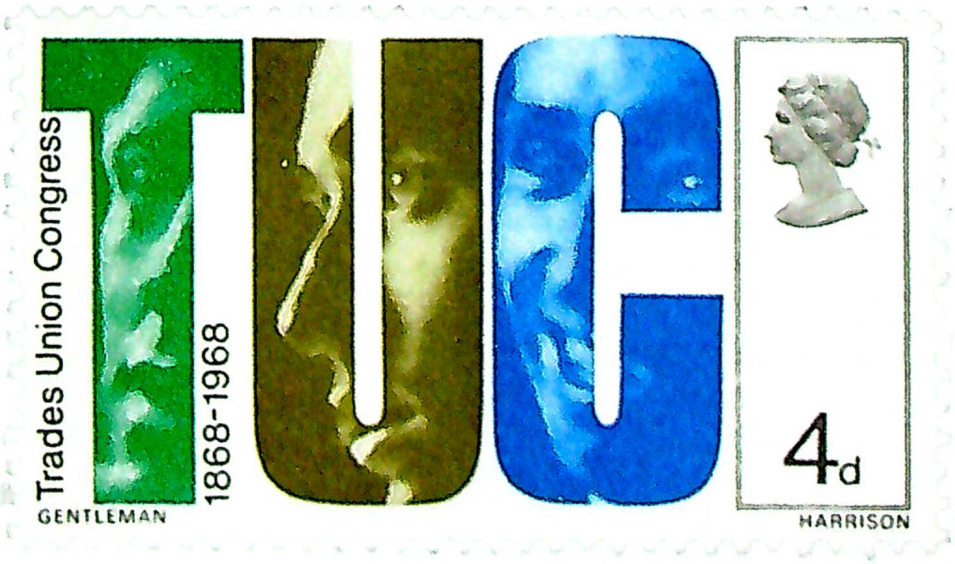
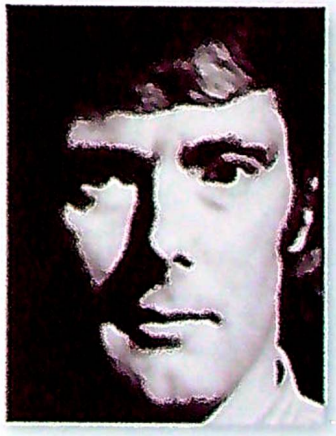


Illustration: © Fabio Berti/dreamstime

not all RFAC members were happy at the idea. So instead the Secretary of the Post Office, Sir Evelyn Murray, issued individual invitations to be part of a special committee and those approached were recommended by the Chairman of the RFAC, Lord Crawford.

It was not until the set to mark the centenary of the first adhesive postage stamp in 1940 that the Post Office again sought the advice of a dedicated committee, this time under the auspices of the Council for Art in Industry. This was one of the bodies that in 1944 would form the Council of Industrial Design (CoID). Consequently it was this body, plus the Fine Art Commission for Scotland, that was approached with regard to designs for the Peace and Reconstruction (Victory) set in 1946. The CoID was consulted in a similar way for the rest of the reign of King George VI ▸





Above: David Gentleman
Left: Gentleman's TUC design for the Anniversaries special issue of 1968



Above: Tony Benn, photographed for a *Bulletin* interview in 2010

With the coming of the reign of Queen Elizabeth II the task facing the Post Office was far more complicated than it had been for several years – a portrait for new definitives and stamps to mark the Coronation all had to be commissioned. During the process it was decided to establish a panel, usually referred to as the Stamp Advisory Committee, under the aegis of the Council of Industrial Design. And thus it remained during the early years of the Queen's reign.

The arrival of Tony Benn It has been well documented that following the election of the Labour Government, Tony Benn became Postmaster General (PMG) on 19 October 1964. He wasted no time in re-defining the criteria for special stamp issues and took a close look at their design. In this he was inspired by the innovative ideas of David Gentleman who rose to Benn's challenge and developed many thought-provoking design proposals, the results of which he brought together in the legendary 'Gentleman Album'.

At the time the Chairman of the stamp advisory panel was James Fitton. Benn's more liberal ideas had already caused some consternation, leading to the resignation of the previous Chairman, Sir Kenneth Clark. When Benn became PMG, the Post Office was already facing calls to mark the 90th birthday of Sir Winston Churchill, which fell on 30 November 1964. On. 25 January 1965, Churchill died; Benn lost no time in deciding that there would be special stamps in his honour.

The usual process for the two Churchill stamps was followed, in that invitations were extended to submit designs, to the printers Harrison and Sons, to David Gentleman and Rosalind Dease (at the time married to each other) and, perhaps surprisingly, to Abram Games – surprisingly because Games was a member of the committee, and it was unusual for a member to be invited to submit designs.



Above: Abram Games, celebrated in Royal Mail's Remarkable Lives Special Stamp set of 2014

Seeing the submitted designs, the committee favoured one by Gentleman and Dease, and one by Games. It was often the practice at the time for the SAC to put forward a second set, so that the Queen would have a choice when making her preference. In this case the second choice was two designs by Gentleman and Dease.

However, having consulted with Lady Churchill, Benn decided to submit to the Queen only the committee's 'second choice' set, thereby overruling its preferred selection.

Further clashes ensued between Benn and the committee over the designs to mark the 25th anniversary of the Battle of Britain. Invitations were sent to Andrew Restall and to David Gentleman and Rosalind Dease. Benn was keen that Gentleman should have the opportunity to develop two of his innovative ideas – to have se-tenant blocks of stamps, and to find alternatives to the Queen's portrait. (Many designers felt that the Dorothy Wilding portrait then in use was too large and restrictive on special stamps.)

The committee, viewing the submitted designs, opted for the conventional approach of three designs to form the set. The very next day Benn discussed

more ambitious ideas with Gentleman, and even took the ideas to Buckingham Palace to place before the Queen. One of these was for a se-tenant block of six designs, with the Queen's portrait appearing on just one of the stamps. Benn insisting it be essayed by Harrison and Sons alongside the committee's own recommendations.

Officials within the Post Office remained less than enthusiastic, indeed obstructive, towards the ideas, and the se-tenant block was neither shown to the advisory committee not included with the recommendations to the Queen. Benn was livid when he realised, so again put forward his own proposals to the Queen, albeit now accepting the portrait should appear on each design.

Credits for creatives Another change that Tony Benn implemented was to include the name of the designer and printer as an imprint on each special stamp design. The first time this occurred was on the two stamps issued on 8 October 1965 to mark the opening of the Post Office Tower in Cleveland Street, London. These stamps were Clive Abbot's first stamp design commission and his successful designs secured his place as the first designer to be named on UK stamps.



Above: 1965 Post Office Tower stamp, the first issues to include the name of the designer and printer

Clive Abbott, born in south London, studied art in the Sixth Form of Wallington Grammar School before going on to Wimbledon Art School. After National Service, he joined C. Vernon & Sons in Great Portland Street as an Art Director. Creative Director of the company was James Fitton who, as we have seen, chaired the stamp advisory panel. Fitton offered to put Abbott's name forward as one to be invited to submit ideas for new stamps, being clear to point out that all submissions were on a competitive basis.

Benn's time as PMG is still remembered but his clashes with the advisory panel are often thought to be the reason the committee was disbanded. However, this is not so: Benn did not disband the committee. Indeed, Benn tried to win its support by attending the meetings. He did not see eye-to-eye with his staff at the Post Office, and maybe even Prime Minister Harold Wilson was having doubts. Whatever the reason, Benn became Minister of Technology and ceased to be PMG, being replaced by Edward Short on 4 July 1966.

Almost immediately on taking up office Short clashed with the committee. Two stamps were to be issued in 1967 to mark the establishment of the European Tree Trade Association (EFTA). Benn had started the design process rolling, initially favouring a design competition among member nations. Similar earlier ideas had not proceeded smoothly, so it was agreed the Post Office would follow the well-trodden path. Designers were approached, as was Harrison & Sons. George York of Harrisons asked Clive Abbott to prepare designs on the company's behalf •.

Richard West's history of the Stamp Advisory Committee continues next month



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

Society meetings for GB Collectors

9 June • National Philatelic Society, 1st Floor, The Postal Museum, 15-20 Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DA, with a 2.45pm display and presentation by the president, Michael Thompson. Visitors and prospective new members welcome.
9 June • Great Britain Overprint Society. Meeting at SWINPEX, the stamp, postcard and postal history fair, at St. Joseph's RC College, Ocotal Way, Swindon SN3 3LR. Society Annual General Meeting at 11am, followed by members' displays to which prospective new members are welcome.
14 June • The Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY. Display from 1pm, presentation from 5pm by Tim O'Connor: 'Dr Franklin will address the Lords on the State of His Majesty's Post'. Non-members of the society are welcome as guests, but required to contact Administration Manager, Jason Webber on 0207 7486 1044 prior to the meeting day.
23 June • Great Britain Philatelic Society. Meeting at The Royal Philatelic Society London , as above. Presentation and display at 11am by David Tett FRPSL on 'Interrupted Mail during WW2'; members' displays from 2.15pm. Prospective new members who wish to attend should contact the society secretary, Phil Waud on 07484 629171 prior to the meeting.

Stamp fairs

1 June • Strand Stamp Fair, The Galleon Suite, Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, London WC1H 0DG, 9am to 4pm, free admission. Enquiries: Kate Puleston, 020 8946 4489.
2 June Huddersfield Stamp Fair, St. Thomas's Community Centre, Manchester Road, Longroyd Bridge, Huddersfield HD1 3HU, 9.30am to 4pm, 4 dealers, tea and coffee available. Enquiries: Alastair Campbell, 01484 681559. • Bilsborrow Stamp Fair, Village Hall, Bilsborrow PR3 0RE, 10am to 3.30pm, up to 12 dealers. Enquiries: Terry Barnett, 0151 486 2610. • Reepham Stamp Fair, Reepham Village Hall, Hawthorn Road, Reepham LN3 4DU, 9am to 4pm. Enquiries: 07786 647103, siskinjo77@yahoo.co.uk. • Leicester Stamp Fair, Holiday Inn, 129 St. Nicholas Circle, Leicester LE1 5LX, 9.30am to 3.30pm, Enquiries: John Suschitzky, 0116 235 0441. • Rawreth Stamp Fair, Rawreth Parish Hall, Church Road, Rawreth SS11 8SH, 10am to 4pm, ten dealers. Enquiries: Steve Search, 01702 323682, stevesearch@hotmail.com.
• Charing Cross Market, 1 Embankment Place, Villiers Street, London WC2N 6RH, 7am to 3pm. Enquiries: Bridget Petticrew, 01252 842906, bridget@charingcrossmarket.com. • Beckenham Stamp and Postcard Fair, Azelia Hall, Croydon Road, Beckenham BR3 4DA, 9am to 3pm, 12 dealers. Enquiries: Ray McQuade, 0208 395 9285. • Haywards Heath Postcard & Collectors' Fair, as above, 10.30am to 4pm, 25 dealers. Enquiries: Rosemary Shepherd, 01892 662132. • RINGPEX Stamp & Postcard Fair, Greyfriars Community Centre,

DIARY DATES 1 JUNE–11 JULY 2018

Photographs: The Local Data Company. Specialist UK Renovations.com

44 Christchurch Road, Ringwood BH24 1DW, 10am to 4pm, 12 dealers. Enquiries: Gordon Masson, 01425 470710. • Deal Stamp Fair, The Landmark Centre, 129 High Street, Deal CT14 6BB, 9am to 1pm. Enquiries: Peter Barrett, 01304 829827.

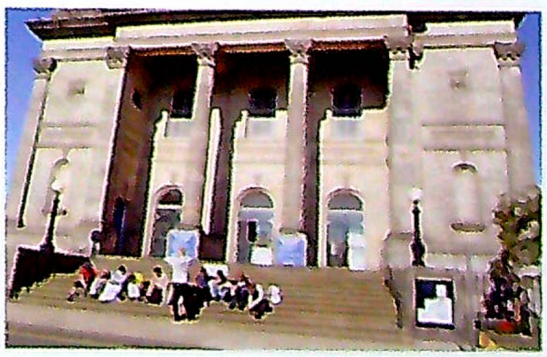


3 June • Wolverhampton Stamp Fair, Bradmore Social Club, 60 Church Street, Wolverhampton WV3 7ER, 9am to 3pm, eight dealers. Enquiries: John Coaten, 07808 864297. • Leicester Postcard Fair, Ramada Leicester Stage Hotel, 299 Leicester Road, Wigston, Leicester LE18 1JW, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: David Neill, dn@davidneill.net. • Bedford Stamp Fair, St. Mark's Church Hall, Calder Rise, Bedford MK41 7UY, 10am to 4pm, 11 dealers. Enquiries: Paul Harris, 01623 621143. • Sevenoaks Stamp Fair, Stag Plaza, Stag Theatre (above right), London Road, Sevenoaks TN13 1ZZ, 10am to 4pm, 12 dealers. Enquiries: Robert Uden, 01303 238807.

6 June • Croydon Postcard Fair, St George's Church Centre, Barrow Road, Waddon, Croydon CR0 4EZ, 9am to 4pm, seven dealers. Enquiries: Peter Duncan, 01444 482620, pjduncan26@gmail.com.

9 June • Liverpool Stamp Fair, St. Columba Church Hall, Hillfoot Road, Hunts Cross, Liverpool L25 0NR, 10am to 3.30pm, seven dealers. Enquiries: Terry Barnett, 0151 486 2610. • Derby Stamp Fair, Nunsfield Community Hall, 33 Boulton Road, Alvaston, Derby DE24 0FD, 9.30am to 4pm, seven dealers. Enquiries: Kevin Johnson, 07808 665472. • King's Lynn Stamp Fair, Gaywood Church Rooms, Gayton Road, Gaywood, King's Lynn PE30 4DZ, 10am to 3pm. Enquiries: Tony Hender, 01328 829318. • Charing Cross Market, as above. • SWINPEX annual event, St. Joseph's Catholic College, Ocotal Way, Swindon SN3 3LR, 10am to 4pm, over 45 dealers. Enquiries: John Puttock, 01793 542767. • Canterbury Postcard and Collectors' Fair, Westgate Hall, Westgate Road, Canterbury CT1 2BT, 10am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: Clive Baker, 01843 862707. • Orpington Stamp and Postcard Fair, Christ Lutheran Church, 227 Poverest Road, Petts Wood, Orpington BR5 1RD. Enquiries: 07746 124846.

10 June • Chelmsford Stamp and Postcard Fair, Old Chelmsfordian Club, Roxwell Road, Chelmsford CM1 2LY, 9am to 3pm. Enquiries: Steve Burnell, 01708 229763. • Wokingham Stamp Fair, St. Crispin's Centre, London Road, Wokingham RG40 1SR, 9am to 3pm. Enquiries: Tristan Brittain, 07957 158299.



13 June • Ripley Stamp Club Fair, Village Hall, High Street, Ripley GU23 6AF, 12.30pm to 3.30pm, ten dealers. Enquiries: Martin Mathewson, 01932 565814.

15 and 16 June • Stafford Stamp Show, Ingestre Suite, Staffordshire County Showground, Weston Road, Stafford ST18 0BD, Enquiries: John and Jane Rice, 01785 259350.

16 June • Scarborough Stamp Fair, Westborough Methodist Church Hall (right), Scarborough YO11 1TS, 10am to 4pm. ▸

• Preston Stamp Fair, Barton Village Hall, Garstang Road, Preston PR3 5AA, 10am to 4pm, 12 dealers, hot and cold refreshments available, free parking. Enquiries: John Roberts, 07943 174958, john.roberts591@virginmedia.com. • Thatcham Stamp and Postcard Fair, Thatcham Memorial Hall, Bath Road, Thatcham RG18 3AG, 9.30am to 2pm, 10 dealers, free admission, refreshments available. Enquiries: Paula Cant, 01256 415699, paula@paulacantstamps.co.uk. • Charing Cross Market, as above. • Shoreham Postcard and Collectors' Fair, Pond Road, Shoreham-by-Sea BN43 5WU, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Rosemary Shepherd, 01892 662132.

17 June • Glasgow Postcard Fair, Bellahouston Leisure Centre, Bellahouston Drive, Glasgow G52 1HH, from 9.30am. Enquiries: 01290 551122 (office hours), restenlake@stenlake.co.uk. • Dronfield Stamp Fair, Coal Aston Village Hall, Coal Aston, Dronfield S18 3AY, 9.30am to 4pm, 10 dealers, free parking and admission, refreshments available. Enquiries: Kevin Johnson, 07808 665472. • Slip End Stamp Fair, Village Hall, Markyate Road, Slip End, Luton LU1 4BU, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845.

23 June • **PHILANGLIA** Burgess Hall, Westwood Road, St. Ives, Cambridgeshire PE27 6WU, 10am to 3.30pm, 28 dealers, refreshments available, free admission and parking. Enquiries: Tony Hender, 01328 829318, info@arunstamps.co.uk. • Charing Cross Market, as above.

24 June • Potters Bar Stamp Fair, Mount Grace School, Church Road, Potters Bar EN6 1EZ, 10am to 4pm, 20 dealers, free parking, refreshments all day. Enquiries: Robert Uden, 01303 238807. • Maidstone Stamp Fair, Royal British Legion Hall, Hall Road, Aylesford ME20 7NL, 10am to 4pm, 6 dealers, free parking. Enquiries: John Perriman, 01903 244875.

30 June Morley Stamp Fair, St. Mary's Hall, Commercial Street, Morley LS27 3HZ, 9.30am to 4pm, 15 dealers, free parking and admission. Enquiries: Kevin Johnson, 07808 665472.

30 June • Chester Stamp Fair, Hoole United Reformed Church, Hoole Road, Chester CH2 3AU, 10am to 3.30pm, 7 dealers, free parking and admission. Enquiries: Terry Barnett, 0151 486 2610. • Milton Keynes Philatelic Society Stamp Fair, Methodist Hall, Queensway, Bletchley, Milton Keynes MK2 2HB, 10am to 4pm, 6 dealers, tea, sandwiches and cakes available. Enquiries: Karen Goodger, 01908 521220, info@miltonkeynesphilatelics. • Charing Cross Market, as above.

1 July • Wolverhampton Stamp Fair, Bradmore Social Club, 60 Church Street, Wolverhampton WV3 7ER, 9am to 3pm, 8 dealers, free parking, Social Club bar available. Enquiries: John Coaten, 07808 864297. • Milton Keynes Stamp Fair, Novotel, Saxon Street, Leybourne Court, Heelands, Milton Keynes MK13 7RA, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845.



4 July • Croydon Postcard Fair, St George's Church Centre, Barrow Road, Waddon (left), Croydon CR0 4EZ, 9am to 4pm, 7 dealers, free parking and admission, refreshments available. Enquiries: Peter Duncan, 01444 482620, pjduncan26@gmail.com.

Photographs: Neil Clifton, Nigel Freeman

5 July • Rugby Stamp and Postcard Fair, Rogers Hall, Deerings Road, Hillmorton, Rugby CV21 4EN, 9.30am to 3pm, free admission and parking, refreshments available. Enquiries: Simon Hemmings, 01455 642248, stamps@midphil.com.

7 July • Huddersfield Stamp Fair, St. Thomas's Community Centre, Manchester Road, Longroyd Bridge, Huddersfield HD1 3HU, 9.30am to 4pm, 4 dealers, tea and coffee available. Enquiries: Alastair Campbell, 01484 681559. • Bilsborrow Stamp Fair, Village Hall, Bilsborrow PR3 0RE, 10am to 3.30pm, up to 12 dealers, hot and cold food all day. Enquiries: Terry Barnett, 0151 486 2610. • Leicester Stamp Fair, Derby Room, Holiday Inn, 129 St. Nicholas Circle, Leicester LE1 5LX, 9.30am to 3.30pm, Enquiries: John Suschitzky, 0116 235 0441. • Rawreth Stamp Fair, Rawreth Parish Hall, Church Road, Rawreth SS11 8SH, 10am to 4pm, 10 dealers, refreshments, free parking. Enquiries: Steve Search, 01702 323682, stevesearch@hotmail.com. • Charing Cross Market, as above. • Cardiff Stamp, Postcards and Collectors' Fair, Cardiff City Hall, Cardiff CF10 3ND, 10am to 4pm, 40 dealers. Enquiries: Malcolm Harrington, 01792 415293, malcolm.harrington@hotmail.co.uk.• Beckenham Stamp and Postcard Fair, Azelia Hall, Croydon Road, Beckenham BR3 4DA, 9am to 3pm, 12 dealers, refreshments. Enquiries: Ray McQuade, 0208 395 9285. • Haywards Heath Postcard & Collectors' Fair, Clair Hall, Perrymount Road, Haywards Heath (right) RH16 3DN, 10.30am to 4pm, 25 dealers, free car parking, refreshments available. Enquiries: Rosemary Shepherd, 01892 662132. • Deal Stamp Fair, The Landmark Centre, 129 High Street, Deal CT14 6BB, 9am to 1pm. Enquiries: Peter Barrett, 01304 829827.



8 July Chelmsford Stamp and Postcard Fair, Old Chelmsfordians Club, Roxwell Road, Chelmsford CM1 2LY, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Steve Burnell, 01708 229763. • Bristol Stamp and Postal History Fair, Easter Compton Village Hall, Main Road, Easter Compton, Bristol BS35 5SJ, 10am to 3.30pm, free car parking. Enquiries: Mark Grimsley, 0117 962 3203, mark_grimsley-stamps@hotmail.co.uk. • Wokingham Stamp Fair, St. Crispin's Centre, London Road, Wokingham RG40 1SR, 9am to 3pm. Enquiries: Tristan Brittain, 07957 158299. • Newhaven Stamp and Postcard Fair, Denton & Mount Pleasant Social Centre, Denton Road, Newhaven BN9 0PX, 10am to 4pm, 7 dealers, free parking. Enquiries: Tony Trevis, 07966 151073.

11 July • Cheltenham Stamp Fair, St. Andrew's United Reformed Church, Montpellier Street, Cheltenham GL50 1SP, 10am to 4pm, free admission. Enquiries: Mark Grimsley, 0117 962 3203, mark_grimsley-stamps@hotmail.co.uk. • Bexhill Philatelic Society Stamp & Postcard Fair, St. Martha's Church Hall, Cooden Sea Road, Bexhill-on-Sea TN39 4SL, 2pm to 4pm. Enquiries: Ray Burnett, 01424 214294, rayburnett@hotmail.com. • Ripley Stamp Club Fair, Village Hall, High Street, Ripley GU23 6AF, 12.30pm to 3.30pm, 10 dealers, refreshments and free parking. Enquiries: Martin Mathewson, 01932 565814 • ▸

National and international events

The twice-yearly York Stamp and Coin Show returns on Friday and Saturday 20th and 21st July at York Racecourse YO23 1EX. This major show features over 95 dealer stands where you will find thousands of items in nearly every conceivable collecting field within stamps and coins. Free parking and admission, together with a large canteen offering a range of hot and cold food. Friday 11am to 6pm and Saturday 10am to 4pm. Further details from Chris Rainey on 01793 513431.

Arrangements for The Centennial Philatelic Congress of Great Britain are well under way, and this event will be at Jurys Inn Gateshead Quays, South Shore Road, Gateshead NE8 3AE, from 26 to 29 July. The highlights of Congress will include the signing of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, and the banquet in a different location - the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Newcastle. Further details of this event are available from Steve Harrison, sharrison500@btinternet.com.

Autumn Stampex will be held from 12 to 15 September at the usual venue of the Business Design Centre in Islington, London.

The Irish national stamp exhibition, Stampa, will be held at the Griffith Conference Centre, Dublin, from 5 to 7 October •

Great Britain Philatelic Society

The meeting of the Great Britain Philatelic Society (GBPS) on 28 April provided members and guests with three displays. Bill Pipe FRPSL, began the day with his display 'British and Irish Railway Company Perfins' – an amazing variety of perfins from railway companies, large and small. As well as the stamps, unusual covers and documents made a very interesting display. Later, Mike Kentzer displayed 'The Life and Times of the King George V Seahorses' followed by Terry Wagg showing 'Great Britain King George VI'. Both gentlemen displayed widely varied and sometimes very unusual items.

Great Britain collectors will be interested to know that the GBPS website now contains an index of contents of the first 36 volumes of the Great Britain Journal. For information on the Society see www.gbps.org.uk.•

Special Stamp-related events



As Royal Mail releases its *Dad's Army* Special Stamp issue to mark the 50th anniversary of Britain's favourite comedy series, the Dad's Army Museum pays tribute with its own celebration. Based in Thetford, Norfolk, where much of the show's exterior scenes were shot, the museum is holding a special event on 28 July, with Home Guard and Second World War displays, and war-era musical performances. Details: www.dadsarmythetford.org.uk. The *Dad's Army* set, featuring Mainwaring, Wilson and friends, is out on 26 June.

The Royal Academy of Arts 250th Anniversary issue will be coming out on 5 June – just in time for the much-loved art institution's legendary Summer Exhibition. The show, on from 12 June to 19 August, is curated by Grayson Perry, whose own painting entitled *Summer Exhibition* appears on a stamp in the new set. The stamps all feature art specially commissioned by Royal Mail, including work by Tracey Emin. Exhibition details: www.royalacademy.org.uk.

From 27 June to 6 October, Westminster Hall at the Houses of Parliament hosts the Voice & Vote exhibition, which explores the relationship between women and parliamentary politics. It follows on from February's Votes for Women set, which detailed the story of the suffragette campaigns •



1



2



3

Isle Of Man The story of the Manx Electric Railway is told through a new six-stamp set presenting colourful images of vintage trains in action around the Isle of Man (1). The pictures were taken by photographers in a competition run by Isle of Man Post Office in association with Isle of Man Railways. The issue, released on 30 June, celebrates the 125th anniversary of the rail network. The first section opened on 7 September 1893, operated for 19 days and carried over 20,000 passengers. Following this initial success, the Manx Electric Railway was extended the following year.

The Isle of Man's Royal Wedding collection (2 and 3) was released last month before the big day in Windsor – in addition to the two-stamp set were stamp sheet sets, presentation pack and a special sheetlet. Orders: www.iompost.com.



4

Guernsey The Channel Island's two-stamp Royal Wedding issue (4), showing images from November's engagement announcement, was also released last month. The royal theme continues with the launch of Alderney's elegant issue marking the 65th anniversary of The Queen's Coronation. The stamps show The Queen attending a variety of events, including her 1954 tour of Australia, Her Majesty's 80th birthday festivities, and Golden and Diamond Jubilee celebrations. The stamps also feature lines from the national anthem, and are out now. Orders: www.guernseystamps.com.

5



6

Jersey marks the 200th anniversary of Mary Shelley's novel *Frankenstein* with a special commemorative issue released on 18 June. The eight stamps, accompanied by a miniature street, show scenes from the novel and quotes from its narrator, Victor Frankenstein.

The efforts of Jersey Overseas Aid to reduce poverty and provide humanitarian aid in disasters around the world, are honoured by a new issue celebrating this independent aid agency's 50th anniversary. The six stamps (right) show the impact of the organisation's work in countries such as Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya and Nepal, Orders: www.jerseystamps.com •



Stamp art



1



2



3

Time to brush up on your art knowledge, because your June quiz features issues displaying the work of artists commissioned by Royal Mail. Just answer the four questions below and you could win a framed set of the Royal Academy stamps released this month



4

1 This First Class stamp from the new Royal Academy of Arts 250th Anniversary issue shows the Grayson Perry painting *Summer Exhibition* featuring the artist's transvestite alter ego Claire. But what is the name of Perry's equally well-known childhood teddy bear?
a Alan Measles
b Scarlet Fever
c Miles Piles

2 Turner Prize-winner Sir Howard Hodgkin created this *Poppies* picture for one of the First World War sets. In which year was it issued?
a 2014
b 2015
c 2017

3 Here is a stamp from the 2017 Songbirds issue, with enchanting paintings by the renowned wildlife artist Federico Gemma. What is the bird?
a Blackbeard
b Blackjack
c Blackcap

4 Shergar rushes to the finishing line on a £1.17 value from 2017's Racehorse Legends. Who painted the pictures?
a Ian Hislop
b Michael Heslop
c Michael Heseltine

Closing date 16 July 2018.
Prizes The first correct entry for each puzzle drawn after the closing date wins a framed set of Royal Academy 250th Anniversary stamps. Two runners-up receive the Presentation Pack.

How to enter

Send your answers – along with contact address or phone number – marked 'Bulletin Stamp Art Quiz' to: Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB

March Vote Now! Solutions 1 Supple Studio. 2 1968. 3 Women of Distinction 2008. 4 1st Class. 5 SW1. *Winners* A Downey, G Levitt, TJL Browne. *Name That Stamp Solution* 'Votes for Women' 2018. *Winners* A Bridgeman, Rev PT Hanna, J Eves.

Rules and regulations 1 Promotions are open to all readers aged 18 and over, except employees of Royal Mail Group Ltd, their business associates and immediate families. 2 Responsibility cannot be accepted for entries which are incomplete, damaged or not received for any reason. Proof of posting is not proof of receipt. 3 Prizes must be accepted as offered; they are not transferable and there are no cash alternatives. 4 Winners are notified within 28 days of closing date stated. 5 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. 6 Promoter's decision on any aspect of the promotions is final. No correspondence will be entered into. 7 Entry implies acceptance of these rules. 8 Prizes are subject to suitability and availability. The promoter reserves the right to a) substitute a prize of equal or greater value if circumstances so demand and b) to suspend or cancel or hold void any of the competitions or prize draws at any time without notice. 9 Winners' names are available 28 days after closing date; send an SAE to The Editor.

You can view many famous artists on stamps at www.rmspecialstamps.com



Cool courage The heroism and professionalism of the Coldstream Guards is recognised in a handsome special cover released this month

Two First World War Victoria Cross winners are honoured for their brave attack on a German machine gun post in this new special cover paying tribute to 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards. Captain C H Frisby and Lance Corporal T N Jackson of 1st Battalion received Britain's highest award for gallantry after storming the position during the Battle of the Canal du Nord in France on 27 September 1918. Jackson, with two comrades, followed his captain across the canal, and the raiding party captured two machine guns, enabling the companies behind to push forward. Later in the morning, Jackson led an attack on a German trench but was killed that same day.

The British Forces Philatelic Service cover, out on 9 June, also marks the renowned battalion's 15th Trooping the Colour for The Queen's Birthday Parade. It features images of the two heroes and the battalion on parade at Trooping the Colour. A first-class stamp is cancelled by the BFPS 3216 bespoke handstamp, which bears the regimental cap star of the Coldstream Guards.

Three versions are available: standard unsigned (£6); limited edition signed by the Commanding Officer 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards; and limited edition signed by the Captain of The Escort of the Colour. Limited editions are all £12 each.

Each cover has an A4 information insert, with a brief history of the 1st Battalion Coldstream Guards. They can be ordered online at www.bfps.org.uk/shop or by sending a cheque payable to 'BFPS CIC' to the address on the right. Profits will be donated to the Household Division Charity •



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Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles issues

1 June — **Issue** 150th Anniversary of the Trades Union Congress: Commemorative Sheet (10 x 1st Class Smilers®, Definitives Seal) with backing card. Details: page 280.



5 June — **Issue** Royal Academy: Special Stamps (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.25, 2 x £1.55 in three vertical se-tenant pairs), Stamp Souvenir, Presentation Pack, Postcards (set of 6), Framed Stamps of six Special Stamps (UK only), 4 x Limited Edition Framed Stamp Enlargement and Stamp – Barbara Rae, Fiona Rae, Grayson Perry, Yinka Shonibare (UK only). Details: pages 260, 303.



20 June — **Withdrawal** Royal Air Force Centenary: Stamps Souvenir Cover, Sheet Souvenir Cover



26 June — **Issue** Dad's Army: Special Stamps (2 x 2nd Class, 2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.45, 2 x £1.55 in four horizontal se-tenant pairs), Stamp Souvenir, Presentation Pack, Stamp Book (6 x 1st Class – 4 Machin Definitives, 2 Special Stamps), Postcards (set of 8), Generic Sheet (10 x 1st Class Dad's Army Special Stamps, Captain Mainwaring and Lance Corporal Jones), Framed Stamps (UK only), Framed Generic Sheet (UK only). Details: page 262.

Order all philatelic items, including the stamp products listed above, at www.royalmail.com/stamps or from Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles PO Box 1373, Sunderland SR5 9PG, UK. (Overseas subscribers will need to use a stamp.) Telephone order line (08.30 to 17.00 Monday to Friday): 03457 641 641. From overseas: +44 131 316 7483. Minimum handling charge UK £1.45, Europe £1.55, rest of world (airmail) £2.15. Please quote 18BUL06, the *Bulletin* media code. Selected items are available at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets at main post offices.

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Royal Mail

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