

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The ROYAL MAIL magazine for stamp collectors

Bulletin

Volume 47 Number 5

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Royal Society and Battersea
Dogs & Cats Home issues



Classic Album Covers: Royal Mail starts the new year with ten special stamps featuring iconic pop culture images – on sale from 7 January.

Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



Cover *Tubular Bells*, the 1973 album by Mike Oldfield, is one of the albums featured in this month's stamp issue. The set was shown in the November *Bulletin*. Photograph by Geoff Dann.

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

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

7 January

Issue Classic Album Covers stamps, souvenir sheet, prestige book, pack, stamp cards, souvenir cover • Olympic & Paralympic Games stamp book: Judo and Paralympic Archery stamps and 4 × 1st definitives

12 January

Withdrawal Design Classics stamps, pack, stamp cards, prestige book and Mini generic sheet

14 January

Withdrawal 'Love' stamp book issued January 2008

21 January

Withdrawal Robert Burns miniature sheet, presentation pack, stamp cards and press sheet

26 January

Issue Business Customised & Smilers stamps – miniature sheet, pack, generic sheet and stamp cards • Silver Stamp Collection No 6: 81p St Magnus Cathedral Kirkwall stamp

26 January

Issue 6 × 1st class stamp book with amended web-site address on inside front cover

2 February

Issue Girlguiding UK miniature sheet, presentation pack, stamp cards and coin cover

11 February

Withdrawal Darwin stamps, miniature sheet, prestige book, stamp cards and press sheet

12 February

Withdrawal Mini medal cover

16 February

Withdrawal 50p, £1, £1.50, £2, £3, £5, 1st and 2nd class (standard and large) definitives without security features • Definitive packs Nos 62 (high values) and 74 (PIP)

21 February

Withdrawal Robert Burns coin cover

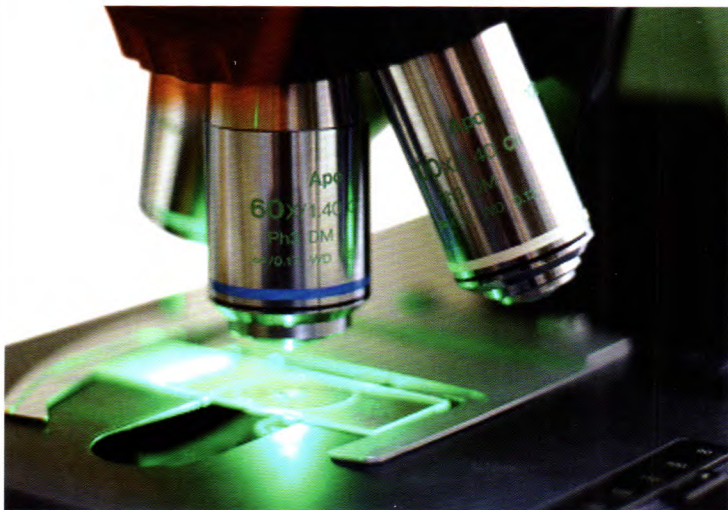
25 February

Issue The Royal Society stamps, presentation pack, prestige book, stamp cards and medal cover • Olympic & Paralympic Games stamp book: Track Athletics and Basketball stamps and 4 × 1st definitives

25 February

Withdrawal Celebrating England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland miniature sheets, presentation packs and stamp cards

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Tullis Russell Coaters The renowned supplier of stamp papers, founded in 1809 and still the world's leader in its specialist field, invites Glenn Morgan to see how modern papers are processed **149**

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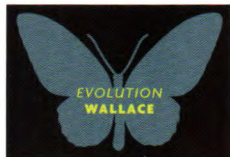
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This month The Editor previews this issue



AS READERS WILL be well aware 2010 is, in the UK, the year of the Festival of Stamps. This comprises not only the international stamp exhibition in London, but numerous other events in the capital and around the country. Whether you are a new or young collector, or an advanced specialist, there will be events of interest to you. The aim of the Festival is to attract more people to the hobby of stamp collecting and to encourage further existing collectors to take a more active role in the hobby. If you make new year resolutions then do consider resolving to join (or rejoin) that philatelic club or society you have long meant to join. Or go along to an exhibition or other philatelic event you haven't previously attended, or haven't been to for a long time. If you are interested in helping to run a philatelic society, now is the year to volunteer or offer to give a display, or write something for the club's publications. If all interested in the hobby – trade, societies, and especially individual collectors – make some effort to become further involved this year, then stamp collecting in the UK will end 2010 in a stronger and healthier state than it started the year.

You will find details of Festival events in this *Bulletin* (and in future issues). In this issue we have Douglas Myall's ever-popular 'Mainly Machins', and regular contributor Glenn Morgan reports on his visit to the papermakers Tullis Russell. Like me I'm sure you will find these of interest. I wish you all a happy and healthy 2010. JOHN HOLMAN, EDITOR ●

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



Exhibition photographs by
Chris Taft, BPMA.

The Museum of the Post Office in the Community

The British Postal Museum & Archive (BPMA) has recently opened its exhibition on the first floor of the Post Office at Blists Hill Victorian Town, near Ironbridge. Moving away from the Victorian era, this is a contemporary exhibition exploring the role of the post office in the community throughout history. It looks at the services the Post Office has provided over the years, and how these have changed, the different ways that the mail has been delivered in the community and at the important and central role the Post Office has played. The

exhibition features many objects from the BPMA's extensive collection, and offers a unique opportunity to see many pieces from the collection gathered together in one place. This is the first time that there has been a modern exhibition at Blists Hill, and it is also the first permanent exhibition for the BPMA. The admission fee for the exhibition is included in the admission charge to Blists Hill.

The exhibition broadly examines four different areas: Post Office Counter Services; Delivering the Mail; Letter Boxes and Changing Times. The wide range of services that have been offered over the counter at the Post Office is explored in the first area; followed by a history of the delivery of mail in the community and then how letter boxes have developed to suit the needs of the local area. The final section examines the history of the UK's postal service to the present day, the loss of Royal Mail's monopoly, and the rise of competitor mail companies.

The Museum of the Post Office in the Community features a Hen and Chicks pentacycle and a BSA Bantam, probably the most widely known make of motorcycle to be used by the Post Office. It will also include objects such as letter boxes, home safes, Post Office Savings Bank books and an early telegram.

The design of the reconstructed Post Office is mainly influenced by the Post Office and stationers that once existed in Shifnal, a town near Blists Hill. However, all of the main settlements in the East Shropshire Coalfield had a post office. The Ironbridge Post Office, for example, was located in the impressive three-storey late-18th century Market Place building.

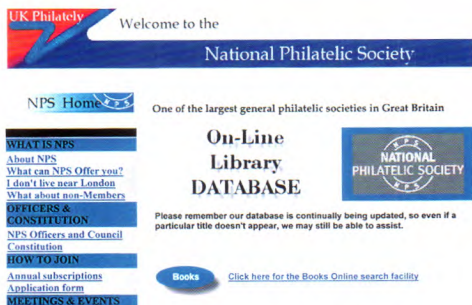
Blists Hill is one of 10 museums that are part of Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust. This is a popular visitor attraction set in the Ironbridge Gorge World Heritage site, the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution. The town consists of both original and reconstructed buildings from the Victorian and Edwardian periods, set in a street scene. Each building is occupied by a business in keeping with the period •



BPMA British Postal Museum & Archive, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL or www.postalheritage.org.uk

Antwerp stamp show The international exhibition Antverpia 2010 will take place from 9-12 April at the Exhibition Centre 'Antwerp Expo' in Antwerp, Belgium. The exhibition celebrates the 120th anniversary of the foundation of the Royal Belgian Federation of Philatelic Associations, the oldest in the world. With over 17,000 square metres in four halls, Antverpia 2010 will host, among others, the international FEPA and national Belgian exhibition of all classes, the international stamp exhibition 'birds' (Birdpex) and competitive philately exhibitions with 2000 frames. Furthermore, there will be more than 50 postal administrations and over 100 stamp dealers all looking forward to welcoming you in the city of Antwerp. This exhibition takes place under the patronage of FEPA and is fully recognized by the FIP. The organisers are also very proud to announce that Antverpia 2010 is under the High Patronage of HM the King and the Queen •

Antverpia 2010 enquiries
www.antverpia2010.com



UK Philately Welcome to the
National Philatelic Society

NPS Home

One of the largest general philatelic societies in Great Britain

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Please remember our database is continually being updated, so even if a particular title doesn't appear, we may still be able to assist.

Books Click here for the Books Online search facility

www.ukphilately.org.uk/nps
The website of the NPS.

Further details regarding the NPS Library may be obtained by visiting the above website, by contacting Mike Bramwell, Hon Librarian, at the BPMA address given opposite, or by sending an email to npslibrary@ukphilately.org.uk

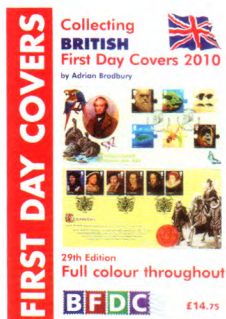
National Philatelic Society Library The recent NPS Philatelic Seminar, entitled 'The National Philatelic Society Library and How to Use It to Best Advantage', provided a history of the library and an insight into its extensive holdings and its current organisation.

The NPS Library is over 100 years old, and is one of the three major philatelic libraries in the UK. It's also keeping up with the internet age and now offers enhanced online search facilities on the NPS website. These new facilities, announced

at the seminar, comprise: Philatelic Exhibition Holdings, now searchable instead of scrolling down a list; and Holdings of Auction House Catalogues, now searchable online (a new facility).

As a result, the Library Search page on the website now allows users to search online from: 7500 philatelic books; 1100 philatelic journal titles, past and present; 1000 exhibitions and shows for their holdings of programmes, catalogues etc; and 2300 auction house catalogues. The site also has links to an online index of the NPS magazine *Stamp Lover* and an Article Index.

NPS members living in the UK may borrow most books and periodicals either in person or by post. Other material may be used for reference purposes at the Library, which is based at the Search Room of the British Postal Museum & Archive, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL. ●



FIRST DAY COVERS

Collecting **BRITISH** First Day Covers 2010
by Adrian Bradbury

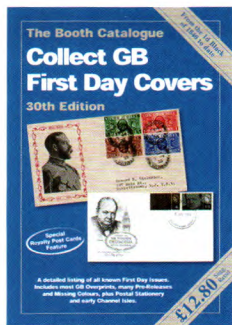
29th Edition
Full colour throughout
BFD C £14.75

Collecting British First Day Covers Available from stamp shops, or in case of difficulty, send £16.50 postage paid to: A G Bradbury, 3 Link Road, Stoneygate, Leicester LE2 3RA or order a copy online at www.bfdc.co.uk (stock code 32534)

New FDC catalogues Press releases for the two main FDC catalogues were received within days of each other.

Collecting British First Day Covers The 2010 edition – now in its 29th year – lists all known special postmarks for each stamp issue and is the only reference work to have been published every year since 1981. The catalogue is stated to be the most complete listing of British first day covers available and this new edition includes all the latest 2009 issues. Each page is a mass of information, with many postmarks and first day covers illustrated. The catalogue is printed in colour throughout and all FDC and postmark types are listed in an easy-to-follow format. Prices for special handstamps are given in a two-column price structure, ie prices for ordinary (or commercial) covers, eg Stuart, Royal Mail, Cotswold etc, and a price for the official (or sponsored) cover. The collector will also find detailed listings of relevant CDs and slogan postmarks on first day covers. All types of definitives are included in a separate section, which is formatted for easy reference with sub-sections including Commemorative Labels, Prestige Stamp Books, Regionals, Booklets and Varieties (changes to perfs, papers, phosphors) etc – again, most of the special postmarks are illustrated. There are thousands of special handstamps listed – far too many to illustrate. However for each commemorative stamp issue there are now files which can be downloaded free from www.bfdc.co.uk/postmarks illustrating all the handstamps which were available for each issue. Available from stamp shops or, in case of difficulty, from the publisher, A G Bradbury (see opposite). ●

Collect GB First Day Covers 'The Booth Catalogue' prices all known GB first day covers. This 30th edition covers all reigns from Queen Victoria to QEII. The new edition offers further improved coverage of Queen Victoria issues, as well as a wealth of detail on KGV and KGVII first day covers. The extensive QEII section has been updated to include all new issues to the end of 2009. A colour feature presents 144 Royalty postcards on 16 pages, covering all reigns from Edward VII onwards. There are full-page illustrations of several rare FDC gems to be found in various parts of the catalogue. All pricing has been updated, including Missing Colours, Overprints and Pre-release covers. The coverage of Postal Stationery has also been expanded. Priced at £12.80, the catalogue comprises 464 pages, ISBN 978-0-9519608-9-9. It is available now from all the usual sources and from the publishers, First Day Publishing Co, PO Box 11, Arundel BN18 9SS ●



Heritage Open Days Colne Valley Postal History Museum (CVPHM) is normally open on a walk-in basis only, during the annual Heritage Open Days weekend and its Summer Open Days. However, this year it will participate in the London 2010: Festival of Stamps events programme set up to celebrate the accession of George V, the 'Philatelist King'. As part of its commitment, it will be staging Public Open Days, with themed displays about George V, his times and the role of the Post Office, on Saturday 29 May, Saturday 10 July and Saturday & Sunday 11-12 September.

The Museum will be open to the public, without an appointment, from 10.00-16.00 on these days. There will be special displays, access to the restoration workshop and activities for children. Special commemorative covers will be available on the day. The CVPHM is open by appointment at any other reasonable time, subject to one of its team being available.

I have mentioned before that visitors are always made very welcome by the curator, Steve Knights, and his family and a visit is well worthwhile ●



CVPHM The museum is in the grounds of The Laurels, 109 Head Street, Halstead, Essex CO9 2AZ. Email enquiries to curator@cvp hm.org or phone +44 1787 474412.

ABPS events diary The new ABPS diary of events is now online, and will interest anyone wishing to attend a display at a national, local or specialist society; major exhibitions, fairs and auctions are also included. Usefully, it is possible to search by geographical area. I would like it to additionally list society meetings and auction sales by type, for example all GB, airmail or thematic events across the UK grouped together, as with area, for I would welcome the opportunity of attending or being aware of relevant meetings and sales. While still in its infancy, this resource is sure to develop into the place to go for information on forthcoming events. This new venture brings together so much useful information in one place, and I hope all societies will support the ABPS, by feeding them data and by joining the organisation. British philately is clearly still very much alive and extremely active ●

Enquiries www.abps.org.uk/events.php?tmnu=2

ATA enquiries To join, write for an application to: PO Box 8, Carterville, IL 62918-0008, USA or email americantopical@msn.com

The ATA's website is www.americantopicalassn.org

ATA turns 60 The American Topical Association, the world's largest group of thematic stamp collectors, recently marked its 60th anniversary. It was founded in 1949 by Jerome D (Jerry) Husak, at the age of 17 in his home town of Milwaukee. In the 1940s topical or thematic collecting was largely unrecognized in the field of philately. As a young philatelist, Jerry recognized and publicized the creativity inherent in thematic collecting. With the founding of the ATA, and the guidance of Jerry and other pioneers in the field, it has assumed its rightful place in philately.

ATA records show that more than 55,800 individuals have been members during the 60 years of the organization's existence, with approximately 25% of its members residing internationally, in 60 different countries. The bi-monthly ATA journal, *Topical Time*, has a distinctly international flair. The organization offers checklists on 540 different philatelic topics in a member-to-member service, while some 60 handbooks and 25 DVDs are available to any collector ●

Ffestiniog Railway Orders and enquiries to: Ffestiniog Railway Letter Service, 1 Kepax Gardens, Barbourne, Worcester WR3 7LB.

Railway letter stamps Last year the narrow-gauge Ffestiniog Railway in north Wales celebrated the 40th anniversary of its railway letter service – see the July 2009 *Bulletin*, page 344. In 1999 the Railway published a history of its letter service, written by the late Harold Creamer, who ran the service for many years. A second volume of this history is now available. Covering the years 1998-2009, it provides an account of the developments during these years, including the introduction in 2004 of prestamped postcards for the use of non-philatelic visitors to the Railway. There is a useful listing of all FR stamps since 1969, with numbers printed, and a list of all the first day and commemorative covers serviced, again with numbers produced. FR and Royal Mail cancellations used on covers are detailed. A useful publication for collectors of the FR issues. Copies of volume 1 are also still available. Prices: volume 1 £10, volume 2 £6.50, postage £1.50. Remittances payable to Ffestiniog Railway Company ●

UPU statistics The International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union has published postal statistics regularly since its foundation. Starting with the first edition in 1875, these statistics have been amended and improved in order to meet as closely as possible the postal world's expectations and need for information. These are a useful source for finding out how postal traffic, number of post offices, etc are affected by current changes, brought about largely by the internet. The figures for 2003-2007 reveal that the total number of permanent post offices worldwide (in thousands) amounted to 662, 663, 666, 658 and 657 – figures are starting to drop back.

Staff comprised 5,306,324; 5,343,162; 5,468,110; 5,509,873 and 5,549,688 workers – all upward figures. Number of letter-post items, domestic service (billions) – 424, 427, 430, 433.6 and 433.3 – all except 2007 show an increase. Number of letter-post items, international service – dispatch (billions) – 6.0, 5.8, 5.5, 5.42 and 5.47 – a slight increase for 2007 over 2006.

It will be interesting to see the figures when the 2008 volumes are released, as the financial crisis is bound to have had a detrimental effect ●

Royal Mail news New issues and products

• 2010 stamp programme • BPMA news



Special issues This month we preview the Royal Society (p144) and Battersea Dogs & Cats Home (p146) sets to be issued on 25 February and 11 March respectively. Next month we will preview the next in the Kings & Queens series (above), to be issued on 23 March. This features seven monarchs from the Scottish House of Stewart: James I-v, Mary, Queen of Scots and James VI. There will also be a miniature sheet, featuring St Andrews University (founded in 1412), the College of Surgeons Edinburgh (1505), Court of Session (1532), and John Knox (the 1559 Reformation).

The cylinders and colours for the Royal Society stamps are: C1 yellow C1 magenta C1 cyan (blue) C1 black C1 phosphor •

Special stamps The issues for 2010 are listed below, with alternative First Day of Issue postmark locations. Please note some changes to the list first published here in March 2009. Stamp values and other details will be published nearer the time of issue. The Classic Album Covers issue was shown in the November *Bulletin*, and the Girlguiding issue in December •

07.01 Classic Album Covers: Oldfield, Keighley

02.02 Girlguiding (centenary): Guide, Blackburn

25.02 The Royal Society (350th anniversary): London SW1

11.03 Battersea Dogs & Cats Home: London SW8

23.03 Monarchs 3, House of Stewart: Linlithgow, W Lothian

13.04 Action for Species 4, Mammals: Batts Corner, Farnham

06.05 Accession of King George V: Sandringham, Norfolk

08.05 The King's stamps: London N1

13.05 Britain Alone (commemoration of 1940): Dover, Kent

15.06 Children's Books: Hartfield, East Sussex

27.07 Olympic & Paralympic Games 2: Rowington, Warwick *

19.08 Stage Musicals: Dancers End, Tring

16.09 Great British Railways: York

12.10 Monarchs 4: House of Stuart: Royal Oak, Filey

02.11 Christmas: Blenheim, Llandoil

Provisional date *

Coming off sale Any remaining stock of the Robert Burns miniature sheet, pack, press sheet and stamp cards will be withdrawn on 21 January 2010 •

Collect British Stamps The 2010 (61st) edition of the ever-popular Stanley Gibbons *Collect British Stamps* colour checklist is now on sale, price £12.95. Since it was first published in 1967, over 3 million copies of this popular catalogue have been sold. It can be ordered from Royal Mail Tallents House (handling charge £1.45 UK, £1.55 Europe, £2.15 rest of world), as well as from Stanley Gibbons, and stamp and book shops •



New Business Customised and Smilers stamps Ten new stamps, designed specifically to meet the needs of customers ordering business customised and Smilers sheets, will be available from 26 January. They will also be offered in a gummed miniature sheet and self-adhesive generic sheet for collectors who do not use the business customised or Smilers services.

The four Smilers stamps comprise two 1st class featuring a birthday cake and wrapped present, a Europe rate stamp depicting a bird with an envelope in its beak, and a Worldwide stamp showing a plane flying a 'Hello' message. The Europe and Worldwide stamps are valid on mail weighing up to 20g. The six Business Customised stamps feature a seal and crown, the 2006 Lest We Forget poppy stamp, and four types of transport – plane, ship, train, and car. The stamps were designed by Hat-trick (seal & crown), Andrew Davidson (transport), Lucy Davey (Europe & Worldwide), and Annabel Wright (cake & present). Both miniature sheet and generic sheet were printed in litho by Cartor. Price £4.58 miniature sheet (£5.10 in presentation pack), £9.70 generic sheet. A set of 11 stamp cards (10 stamps and miniature sheet) will cost £4.40.

Serviced first day covers with Tallents House or Happy Valley, Malvern postmarks can be ordered from Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB by the day of issue, price £5.86 UK customers, £4.99 overseas. Covers may be sent for postmarking on the first day to Tallents House (for the Tallents House postmark only) or to their nearest Royal Mail Special Handstamp Centre for the Happy Valley postmark.

Smilers sheets, with customers' images on the labels, can be ordered from Tallents House. Sheets of 10 1st class Cake or Present stamps will cost £7.58 each, sheets of 20 £13.62 each. Sheets of 10 Europe or Worldwide stamps are £9.58 and £13.62 respectively. The Smilers handling charge is £1.45.

Below: The 10 new stamps in a self-adhesive generic sheet.

To order Smilers, use an order form at PO branches, write to Smilers, Freepost SCO 5817, Edinburgh EH12 9PH, phone 0845 074 2000, or see www.royalmail.com/smilers





Left: The first day cover for the new Smilers and Business Customised stamps, bearing the gummed miniature sheet.

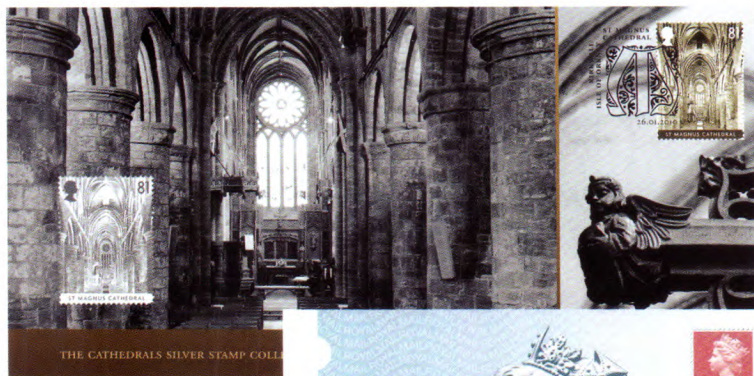
Below: the first of two Games books, to be issued 7 January.

Games stamp books A book containing Judo and Paralympic Archery stamps from the Olympic & Paralympic Games issue (22 October) and four 1st class definitives will be issued on 7 January. A second book with Track Athletics and Basketball stamps and four definitives follows on 25 February. Both will be printed by Walsall in gravure, price £2.34 each.

A new printing of the standard 6 × 1st book will be available from 26 January. This has an amended website address on the inside front cover ●

Castles generic sheet The fourth and final sheet in the Castles series features 10 Welsh castles: Caernarfon, Carreg Cennen, Biwmares (Beaumaris), Cricieth, Harlech, Cas-Gwent (Chepstow), Dinewfwr, Dolbadarn, Dolwyddelan and Conwy. The sheet was designed by Atelier Works and printed in litho by Cartor. It goes on sale on 1 March, price £8.35 ●





Left: the sixth issue in the silver stamp collection of the 2008 Cathedral stamps will be available from 26 January 2010. It features the 81p St Magnus Cathedral, Kirkwall stamp. Price £24.42.

Below: the high value security definitives coin cover issued on 1 December, price £15.95.



Coin cover A new 'High Value Security Definitives' coin cover bearing the £1.50, £2, £3 and £5 high value stamps with security features and a 2009 £1 coin is now available, price £15.95. The coin is a new design by Matthew Dent introduced in 2008. The design features the shield of the Royal Arms; parts of the design are shown on other denominations, making up a composite image. The stamps are cancelled by a special Windsor postmark. The cover design features the Machin head as used on definitive stamps, and the 'ROYAL MAIL' wavy-line background as on the security definitives. The filler card gives histories of UK high value stamps and £1 coins, and profiles of Arnold Machin and Matthew Dent. Machin designed the first decimal coinage (1968) as well as the definitive stamp, and Matthew Dent won a competition to design the new coins. Limited edition of 12,500 •

Definitives withdrawal The following definitives without security features will be withdrawn from philatelic sale on 16 February: 50p, £1, £1.50, £2, £3, £5, and 1st & 2nd class (standard and 'Large'). Packs containing high values and the Pricing in Proportion (PIP) stamps will also come off sale •

Favourite stamp poll If you haven't voted yet for your favourite stamps and *Bulletin* author of 2009 there is still time to return the voting form sent out with the December *Bulletin*. All forms are entered in a prize draw. Return your form by 15 January to: 2009 Bulletin Poll, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail Letters, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ •

British Postal Museum & Archive Now on show, until April, is the special exhibition honouring the eminent stamp designer David Gentleman, who has designed more than 100 issued stamps for Royal Mail since 1962. The exhibition features artwork for many of these and other designs not previously shown in public, and the revolutionary 'Gentleman Album' of 1966, which greatly influenced British stamp design – see articles by Douglas Muir (June 2007 *Bulletin*) and Richard West (June 2009). A new exhibition, of Treasures from the BPMA, will be shown from May 2010.

The BPMA is open on Monday to Wednesday and Friday between 10.00 and 17.00, on Thursday from 10.00 to 19.00, and also on certain Saturdays – see website for dates, and for details of BPMA lectures and other events. The BPMA contains the collections of the former National Postal Museum and Post Office Archives •

THE BRITISH POSTAL MUSEUM & ARCHIVE

The BPMA Freeling House,
Phoenix Place, London WC1X
0DL (near Mount Pleasant).
Phone 020 7239 2570 or see
www.postalheritage.org.uk

Storing your Bulletins Binders and box files are available for storing this and the *Postmark Bulletin*. The sturdy box files, in maroon for the *Philatelic Bulletin* and green for the *Postmark Bulletin*, are available from Royal Mail Tallents House, priced £9.95 each. Order codes: PB349 (*Philatelic*), PB350 (*Postmark*). The files will store 30 copies of the *Philatelic* and about 50 of the *Postmark Bulletin*. The traditional binder for the *Philatelic* and *Postmark Bulletin* cost £8.50 (order codes PB001 and PB322 respectively) •

Submitting covers Readers are reminded that when submitting covers for special handstamps to Royal Mail's Special Handstamp Centres, the outer cover must bear full postage. Mail posted without payment, marked 'Free-post' (which does not apply to SHCs), or sent in the Royal Mail plastic 'see-through' envelopes used for the return of covers to collectors, may be subject to delay and refusal. Readers are also reminded that covers and cards submitted for handstamping must bear a return address – Royal Mail reserves the right to return any unaddressed items uncanceled. The address can be typed, handwritten (in ink or pencil), rubber-stamped, or by using an address label. However 'Post It' notes should not be used for this purpose as they can easily become detached.

The addresses of Royal Mail's Special Handstamp Centres are shown opposite •

London Special Handstamp Centre Royal Mail, Mount Pleasant, London EC1A 1BB

Wales & The West Special Handstamp Centre 220-228 Penarth Road, Cardiff CF11 8TA

Scotland & Northern Ireland Special Handstamp Centre Rutherglen DO, Duchess Place, Rutherglen, Glasgow G73 1BT

Northern England Special Handstamp Centre South Shields DO, Keppell Street, South Shields NE33 1AA

Midland Special Handstamp Centre Birmingham Mail Centre, St Stephens Street, Birmingham B6 4AA

Special draw Win one of five mystery prizes

THIS MONTH WE HAVE another of our popular Mystery Prize draws, with good prizes to be won by the senders of the first five cards drawn. To enter send your name and address on a postcard (or back of a sealed envelope) to: Mystery Prize Draw, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ to arrive by 30 January 2010 •

From Rome to London Richard West visits Italia 2009 and anticipates London 2010



IN WHAT has been a busy year for international stamp exhibitions, the last major event for 2009 was held at the Palazzo Dei Congressi in Rome, 21-25 October. The hall was well suited for such an event, with room for the dealers and exhibits, although it was necessary to attach a marquee to the entrance to accommodate the postal administrations. Once inside the main hall, the first stand encountered was that of the Italian Post Office.

Good resources, smooth operation The Italian po had put a great deal of its resources into organising the event, not least financial. Much use was made of its computer system, especially in organising the competitive exhibits that came from Europe and Scandinavia, as well as from Australia, Canada, South Africa and the USA. The event had the recognition of FIP (the international federation of philately) and the patronage of FEPA (the European federation). It proved a very smooth and successful operation.

It will probably be one of the last major stamp exhibitions to enjoy such involvement by the host country's own Post Office, except perhaps for some countries in Asia. However, we must not fool ourselves – the money has to come from somewhere or someone, and that someone will inevitably be the collector. Every day of the exhibition new items were released, and these were in addition to 'publicity' sets issued up to 18 months before the event. Among these items were sheetlets, miniature sheets and postal stationery. Many special handstamps were in use, offering visitors posting souvenirs a choice on every day.

This exhibition had a 'philatelic passport' for those wanting to visit the stand of each administration and from each affix a stamp (usually costing about 1 Euro, or £1 at the current exchange rate), which then received a suitable cachet. Among the administrations was Royal Mail, represented by its agents in Italy, and, of course, an Exhibition 'Smilers' Sheet was produced for the event.



In the main, the dealers were Italian, offering Italian material, although several UK dealers and auctioneers had made the journey. Not all were entirely satisfied with the result, as the attendance could have been better, especially on the first three days, Wednesday to Friday. The exhibits, including 15 from UK collectors, filled four areas.

In general the weather was warm and bright, except for one day of torrential rain. The marquee could not cope, and for a while water poured in through a 'join' before the organisers remedied the situation. The entire organisation ran smoothly, although there were complaints about the location of the hall, and especially of the official exhibition hotel. Those who live in Rome, and are familiar with its transportation system, probably had no difficulty finding their way to the Palazzo Dei Congressi: for a stranger it was a different story. The hotel in particular was rather isolated, with few nearby amenities such as restaurants, and no public transport nearby. With the value of the pound now so low against the Euro, it makes the cost of taxis, or of eating in restaurants, seem somewhat expensive.

Lessons for London Since the attention of the international philatelic community will now turn to London, one wonders if there are lessons to be learned. The main cause of complaint in Italy has, of course, long since been addressed. The exhibition venue, at the Business Design Centre in Islington, is well served by London's extensive public transport system, with many restaurants and shops within easy walking distance. The official hotel – adjacent to the exhibition hall – could not be closer, and there are many other hotels in the area, to meet all requirements.

London 2010 will offer superb exhibits and a fine array of dealers and auctioneers from around the world. Such is the demand to have a stand at an international stamp exhibition in London that there is a waiting list of dealers hoping that an opportunity may arise that a stand will become available. Plus of course, the exhibition is part of a 'Festival of Stamps', so there will be much more for the philatelist to enjoy in London at the time.

And the time, of course, is May, with the international stamp exhibition open 8-15 May. Don't forget this will virtually be two exhibitions in one, as the exhibits will change after four days, so that during the final four days different displays will be on view compared with the first four days. And May in London? Well, while one cannot exclude the possibility of rain, hopefully Spring will be at its best, to welcome the many visitors ●

UK winners at Italia The following medals were won by UK exhibitors at Italia 2009.

Gold Alfred Bonnici, Mail by Messageries Impériales to and via Malta 1853-66; Kenneth Clark, Japanese Military Mail of Korea 1894-1910; Jim Etherington, 1940 – A Desperate Year for Britain; Idor Gatti, Bulgaria – The Austrian Post Offices; Otto Hornung, Postal History of Carpatho Ukraine; Jane & Michael Moubray, Transatlantic Mail from and through Great Britain 1840-82

Large Vermeil Ron Backhouse, Anyone for Tennis?; John Hayward, The Iron Steed; Edward Proud, Inter-continental Airmails Vol 1 – Transatlantic and Pacific & Vol 2 – Asia and Australasia (Literature)

Vermeil Alan Becker, Port of Livorno Maritime and Disinfected Mail; Eddie Bridges, The 1d Ship Issue of the Union of South Africa 1926-54; Brian Hyner, Airship Breaks Treaty (One Frame); Arthur Woo, The Fifth South American Zeppelin Flight of 1933

Silver Martyn Cusworth, Il Servizio Aereo Condor – Lati per La America Latina 1939-41; Frank Wilson, Railway Letter Stamps 1957-2007 (Literature)



The Royal Society A special issue marking



TEN 1ST CLASS stamps featuring prominent scientists and their important works go on sale at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and Royal Mail Tallents House on 25 February to mark the 350th anniversary of the founding of the Royal Society, the UK's premier scientific organisation. The Society was founded in November 1660 when 12 scientists met and decided to found 'a Colledge for the Promoting of Physico-Mathematicall Experimentall Learning'. The group included Christopher Wren, Robert Boyle, John Wilkins, Sir Robert Moray and William, Viscount Brouncker. Today there are some 1400 Fellows of the Society; the current President is Lord Rees of Ludlow.

The stamps depict: Robert Boyle (chemistry); Isaac Newton (optics); Benjamin Franklin (electricity); Edward Jenner (vaccination); Charles Babbage (computing); Alfred Russel Wallace (evolution); Joseph Lister (antiseptic surgery); Ernest Rutherford (atomic structure); Dorothy Hodgkin (crystallography); and Nicholas Shackleton (earth science). The stamps are 35mm square, designed by hat-trick Design and litho printed by Cartor.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Orders for serviced FDCs must reach Tallents House by the day of issue. Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (Tallents House postmark), or to the nearest Royal Mail Special Handstamp Centre (London SW1 postmark) marking the outer envelope 'FD1007' or 'FD1008'. For details of sponsored handstamps and the addresses of the Handstamp Centres see the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House (£12.25 UK/Europe; £24.95 elsewhere). For a free sample copy write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail Letters, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ •

350 years of remarkable progress in science



The Royal Society prices

Set of stamps	£3.90
Presentation pack	£4.40
Prestige stamp book (PSB)	£7.72
FDC envelope	£0.30
Serviced FDC: stamps (UK customers)	£5.06
Serviced FDC: stamps (overseas customers)	£4.31
Serviced FDC: PSB pane (UK customers)	£4.05
Serviced FDC: PSB pane (overseas customers)	£3.45
Stamp cards set (10 cards)	£4.00



THE ROYAL SOCIETY – THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF LONDON FOR IMPROVING NATURAL KNOWLEDGE, TO GIVE IT ITS FULL NAME – IS THE UK AND COMMONWEALTH'S ACADEMY OF SCIENCE. FOUNDED IN 1660, THE ORIGINS OF THE SOCIETY LIE IN AN UNBOLIC COLLEGE OF NATURAL PHILOSOPHERS WHO FIRST MET IN THE MID 1640S AND WERE UNITED BY A COMMON DESIRE TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE WORLD AND THE UNIVERSE THROUGH OBSERVATION AND EXPERIMENTATION.



ROBERT BOYLE (1627–99)

In Robert Boyle, one of the Royal Society's dozen founder-members, we can see how knowledge and learning in Europe evolved from its basis of received authority and 'scholastic' reasoning and moved to a system based on empirical observation. A formidable biblical scholar with a strong belief in alchemy, Boyle was also one of the first recognisably modern chemists. His practical approach to science saw him performing controlled experiments and publishing his method, results and conclusions.

With his assistant Robert Hooke he built a vacuum chamber or air pump, and disproved the previous view that a vacuum was not possible in nature. He is best known for proposing Boyle's Law, which states that the volume of a gas decreases, the pressure it exerts increases proportionally. Boyle also helped to define the modern idea of an element, and devised many chemical tests.



ISAAC NEWTON (1642–1727)

Newton methodically and voraciously consumed the knowledge of his age, and then added to it, in everything from mathematics and astronomy through to the government's mint of currency.

His *Philosophiæ Naturalis Principia Mathematica*, which describes gravity and lays down three laws of motion, is one of the most important scientific books ever written. Newton built the first practical reflecting telescope and showed that white light can be decomposed through a prism to the colours of the visible spectrum. He also studied the speed of sound and developed differential and integral calculus. He is undoubtedly one of the most significant scientists of all time.

In a 2005 poll to consider whether Isaac Newton or Albert Einstein had made the greater contribution to science, 86 per cent of Society Fellows voted for Newton.



BENJAMIN FRANKLIN (1706–1790)

Even in the distinguished century of the Royal Society, Franklin is arguably one of the most remarkable members in the Society's history.

With only two years of formal education, he achieved wealth as a printer, author and publisher. He invented biocells and the Franklin stove, which he refused to profit from. As a diplomat and statesman, he helped to lead Britain's American colonies to independence. But all his American virtues – hard work, self-improvement, inventiveness and patriotism – should not obscure his achievements as a scientist and inventor. Franklin was a major Enlightenment figure, mingling with the leading thinkers of the day during his time spent in London and Paris. His landmark discoveries in electricity led to his unanimous election to the Royal Society, and his legacy lives on every tall building in the form of the lightning conductor.



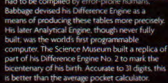
EDWARD JENNER (1749–1823)

Country doctor, dairy farmer and pioneer of the smallpox vaccine, Jenner's interests as a generalist were actually far more extensive. As a member of the Royal Society, he advised on the most important tests and work involving the smallpox vaccine, which was finally published in 1796. But Jenner's work was not limited to the smallpox vaccine. He was also a pioneer in the use of the smallpox vaccine in the treatment of smallpox. He was also a pioneer in the use of the smallpox vaccine in the treatment of smallpox.



CHARLES DARWIN (1809–1882)

Biologist and geologist, Darwin is best known for his theory of evolution. He invented an 'artificial' language, which was used to communicate with the 'artificial' beings. He was also a pioneer in the use of the smallpox vaccine in the treatment of smallpox.



ERNEST RUTHERFORD (1871–1937)

The son of a New Zealand farmer, Rutherford was a pioneer in the use of the smallpox vaccine in the treatment of smallpox.

THIS SPIRIT OF EMPIRICAL OBSERVATION IS ENCAPSULATED IN THE SOCIETY'S LATIN MOTTO, NULLUS IN VERBA, WHICH CAN BE ROUGHLY TRANSLATED AS 'TAKE NOBODY'S WORD FOR IT'. A LIST OF THE SOCIETY'S FELLOWS THROUGH THE YEARS READS AS A WHO'S WHO OF KEY FIGURES INVOLVED IN THE GROWTH OF MODERN SCIENCE. TO THIS DAY, FELLOWSHIP OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY IS ONE OF THE GREATEST HONOURS THAT CAN BE CONFERRED ON ANY SCIENTIST.



ALFRED RUSSEL WALLACE (1823–1913)

Wallace came from a modest background, but his practical training and work as a surveyor served him well when his interest in naturalism prompted him to travel to the Amazon and the Malay Archipelago to study flora and fauna. His Malay expedition was the making of his reputation as a scientist and it was from here that he wrote his famous letter to Charles Darwin, outlining his ideas on evolution. It was this correspondence that prompted Darwin to finally publish his own theory of natural selection following years of deliberation.

Working in the shadow of Darwin, Wallace's humble reputation has suffered. His interests in mesmerism, spiritualism and his opposition to vaccination have also clouded his high achievements as a biologist, explorer and

and his research led to the introduction of a number of terms that are commonplace today, such as 'half-life', alpha rays, and 'nuclear'. He conducted numerous experiments that enabled him to unlock the structure of the atom. This 'half-life' model of the nucleus, with a number of tiny electrons orbiting around it, remains the symbol for atomic energy in the popular mind to this day.

As director of the Cavendish Laboratory at Cambridge, he gathered a team of brilliant young scientists around him, and laid the foundations of nuclear physics. He served as President of the Royal Society from 1923 to 1930.



DOROTHY HODGKIN (1910–94)

Dorothy Hodgkin (née Crowfoot) pioneered the use of X-ray crystallography in the study of molecular structure.



ERNEST RUTHERFORD (1871–1937)

The son of a New Zealand farmer, Rutherford was a pioneer in the use of the smallpox vaccine in the treatment of smallpox.



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The son of a New Zealand farmer, Rutherford was a pioneer in the use of the smallpox vaccine in the treatment of smallpox.

Presentation pack

The pack (left), gives a brief illustrated history of the Royal Society and the individuals portrayed on the stamps. It was written by Eugene Byrne, designed by hat-trick, and printed by Walsall.



Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbird Road
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

Royal Mail Talents House 21 South Gyle Crescent Edinburgh EH12 9PB

Battersea Dogs & Cats Home An issue to



The stamps feature some of the many animals re-homed and rescued by Battersea Dogs & Cats Home. From top left: Pixie, Burton, Herbie, Mr Tumnus, Tafka, Boris, Casey, Tigger, Leonard and Tia.

TEN 1ST CLASS STAMPS featuring dogs and cats that have been rescued and cared for by the world-famous Battersea Dogs & Cats Home go on sale at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and Royal Mail Tallents House on 11 March to mark the Home's 150th anniversary. Battersea Dogs & Cats Home is a charity that aims never to turn away a dog or cat in need of help. It was founded in 1860 as 'The Temporary Home for Lost and Starving Dogs' in Holloway, and moved to its present site in Battersea in 1871. Cats have been taken in since 1883. The stamps, 35mm square, were designed by CDT Design Ltd and litho printed by Cartor.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Orders for serviced FDCs must reach Tallents House by the day of issue. Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (for Tallents House postmark), or to their nearest Royal Mail Special Handstamp Centre (London SW8 postmark) marking the outer envelope 'FD1009' or 'FD1010'. For details of sponsored handstamps and addresses of the Handstamp Centres see the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House (£12.25 UK/Europe; £24.95 elsewhere). For a free sample copy write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail Letters, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ •



Dogs and cats on stamps Previous stamp issues on this subject include: 1979 Dogs; 1990 RSPCA (20p and 37p showing a kitten and a puppy); 1991 Dog Paintings; 1995 Cats; 2001 Cats & Dogs (left); 2005 Farm Animals (Border Collie dog, left); and 2008 Working Dogs •

celebrate 150 years of rescue and re-homing



Battersea Dogs & Cats Home prices

Set of stamps	£ 3.90
Presentation pack	£ 4.40
FDC envelope	£ 0.30
Serviced FDC: stamps (UK customers)	£ 5.06
Serviced FDC: stamps (overseas customers)	£ 4.31
Stamp cards set (10 cards)	£ 4.00
Medal cover	£14.95



"...an extraordinary monument of the remarkable affection with which English people regard the race of dogs..."

CHARLES DICKENS - 'TWO DOG SHOWS', 1 AUGUST 1851

The story of Battersea Dogs & Cats Home

In 1800, Mrs Mary Tealby opened 'The Temporary Home for Lost and Starving Dogs' in a stable yard in Holloway because she was so concerned by the number of animals roaming the streets of London. Mrs Tealby died in 1805, aged 94, and sadly little more is known about her.

In 1871, the Home moved to its present site in Battersea, and was renamed 'The Dogs' Home' Battersea, although the Home began taking in cats in 1883. In 1883, Her Majesty Queen Victoria became patron of the Home, and it has remained under royal patronage ever since.

Battersea Dogs & Cats Home is a charity that aims never to turn away a dog or cat in need of help. The Home's owners, when the original owners cared for until new homes can be found educates the public about responsible

Every year the Home cares for over 11 to the site in south-west London, the based at Old Windsor, Berkshire and

In July 2005, the name of the charity 'Home in recognition of the work the 1 thousands of cats.

1. Mrs Mary Tealby's signature. 2. Archive photograph Charles Dickens wrote an article in his journal, *All the Year's End* dogs were housed at the Battersea site, in progress



Behind the scenes at

Battersea Dogs & Cats Home accepts at night, 365 days a year. Dogs and cats are unable, or unwilling, to care for them a given a thorough health check by a vet

Throughout their stay at the Home, all by Battersea's Animal Welfare. Veterinarians all their needs are met. Prior to rehoming behavioural and temperament assess as possible about the animal's character of home that would suit them best.

Battersea Dogs & Cats Home 150th Anniversary

Royal Mail First Day Cover

Battersea rehomes dogs and cats to homes across the whole of the United Kingdom. All prospective owners are interviewed and this information is used to match them with the dog or cat which suits their home and lifestyle.

Although the majority of Battersea's dogs are rehomed to domestic homes, it is sometimes felt that a particular dog would benefit from the added stimulation of a working home. A number of Battersea dogs have thrived in a wide range of practical roles including assistance dogs, sniffer dogs and as working sheepdogs.

5. A view of Battersea Dogs & Cats Home's London site. 6. A dog is groomed for a microchip - it is microchipping that makes many of Battersea's success stories possible. 7. Battersea's Behaviour Advice Line is a service for people whose dogs or cats are having behavioural problems. 8. One of the Home's vet nurses examines a new arrival.



Philatelic products The pack (left), was written by staff of Battersea Dogs & Cats Home. It was designed by Thoughtful design group, and printed by Walsall Security Printers.

Mrs J Robinson
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The Royal Society prestige stamp book

The book will contain four panes:

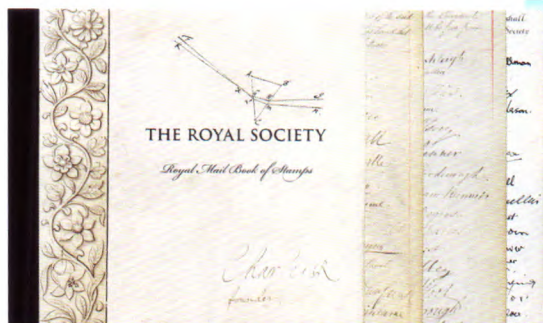
Pane 1 Newton, Rutherford (2) & Franklin stamps

Pane 2 Machin definitives: 4 × 22p and 4 × 54p with a central label showing the arms of the Society

Pane 3 Wallace, Babbage, Boyle & Shackleton stamps

Pane 4 Hodgkin, Jenner (2) & Lister stamps

A NEW PRESTIGE STAMP BOOK, entitled *The Royal Society*, will be issued on 25 February. The book has been written by Eugene Byrne and designed by Russell Warren-Fisher, and litho printed by Cartor. The serviced FDC will bear the definitives and label pane, as shown below •



THE ROYAL SOCIETY
350 YEARS

Royal Mail First Day Cover

Royal Mail Talents House 21 South Gyle Crescent Edinburgh EH12 9PB

Tullis Russell Coaters Glenn Morgan visits the renowned supplier of papers for stamps

ASIDE FROM A FEW notable exceptions, postage stamps have always been printed on a paper substrate, using either water-activated gum (WAG), or pressure-sensitive adhesive (PSA), more commonly referred to by philatelists as self-adhesive gum. Unless you are a specialist collector, there is a good chance that you will never have given much thought to the considerable technology that goes into the production of modern stamp papers.

WAG stamps for Royal Mail, whether printed at Walsall, Cartor or De La Rue, are on paper that bears sophisticated coatings and gum that has been applied by Tullis Russell Coaters Ltd on to the finest base papers that they purchase from trusted partners. This British company with a full ISO-9001 accreditation has a long history, is profit-making and is the world leader in this specialised field.

The company Last year the Tullis Russell Group celebrated its 200th anniversary, and an opportunity to visit them at this special time could not be passed by. My hosts for the visit were Michaela Quinn, Product and Sales Manager, and Frances Darbyshire, Marketing Manager, who first provided background information about the company.

A management-led employee buyout took place in 1994 with the support of shareholders, which means that all TRC staff own shares in the company, in much the same way that the John Lewis Partnership operates. There is a loyal workforce of around 115, who are all totally committed to giving the best quality product, performance and service to its customers in 120 countries worldwide. The Bollington site has received over £1 million of investment in the past 18 months to ensure that the company stays at the forefront of the industry.

TRC is the only manufacturer of WAG stamp papers specialising in this product; for other companies, stamp papers account for only a tiny part of their total paper output. A look at the new issues section of stamp publications will reveal just how often Tullis Russell Coaters papers are used. ►

Below: a view of Bollington, with the premises of Tullis Russell Coaters at bottom right. Photograph courtesy of Jon Hill.





Above: views of some of the procedures and machinery at Tullis Russell Coaters.

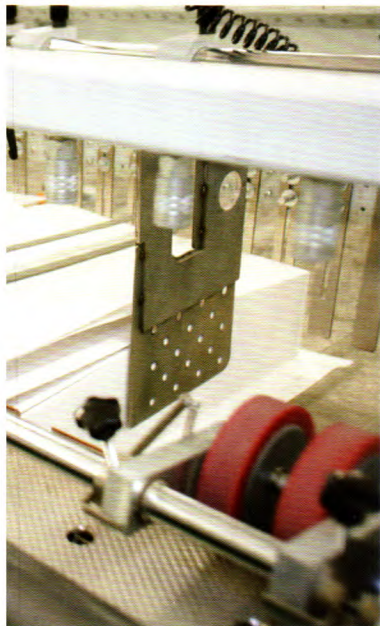


Product range In 2008, a new range of umbrella product names was introduced, each with the prefix 'tru' (from the English word 'true'). The 'tru-cal' products are created at its wholly-owned South Korean plant, where waterslide papers for the pottery industry and other products, such as designer coverings for bike helmets, are made. The 'trutextile' products, which are also made in Korea, include textile transfer papers, as used on fashion clothing and bags, etc.

Postage stamp and all other security printing papers – such as those used for tax stamps, passport visas, phonecards, tickets, vouchers and security labels – all come under the 'trusecurity' name. The Bollington site has made stamp papers for over 35 years for more than 120 security printers and postal authorities, who can be confident that anyone who tries to counterfeit their stamps will be detected. Stamp papers are manufactured in a totally secure environment and are functional enough to withstand the world's postal systems, and are continuously evolving.

This evolution has seen the recent introduction by TRC of its environmentally-friendly and bio-degradable ECO range of stamp papers, which is sourced both from sustainable forests under Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) control, or is recycled. These papers also give the customer the option of specifying an environmentally-responsible adhesive.

Components and security features Production of WAG stamp papers starts with the base paper, typically 60-75gsm and OBA-free, UV dull, wood-free and chlorine-free. It also possesses excellent lay-flat qualities, bears gum that is suitable for all climates and is dust-free when perforating.



Some readers may be surprised to learn that it is not possible to produce just one paper type for all stamps, as each printing process requires a different recipe to the coating to enable the best possible result to be achieved from the printing presses.

The paper can be coated to an in-house formula, or be left uncoated to a smoothness and absorbency to meet customer's requirements. The paper can even have 'frangibility' built-in, which is to say it will break as soon as removal is attempted – not an ideal feature for collectors of used stamps, but crucial for preventing potential re-use of uncanceled stamps.

The clay coating is the foundation on which layers of additional security features can be added. These features can include ultra-violet inks, phosphorescent, fluorescent or infra red tagging to allow machine reading, and even the addition of materials which can cause a chemical reaction, thus making the stamp tamper-evident by changing its colour, primarily to make the removal of postmarks (so-called 'stamp washing' scams) impossible.

There are a host of other covert and overt features which can be incorporated, including the placement of translucent images (watermarks) into the paper, the inclusion of randomly distributed planchettes (small plastic disks), or the use of fine polymer fibres integrated into the PVA gum.

Encrypted, micro-embossed images which can be verified by a decoding lens, security inks and holograms are among the features that the printer can add to the paper supplied from Bollington, but only because the coating is applied to such a high standard. A lesser quality coated paper would present many difficulties to the printer and would result in a visibly poorer finished stamp. ►



A coating machine at Tullis Russell Coaters.

The coating and gumming process The following description of how TRC produces their WAG and PSA stamp papers does not remotely convey the technical complexities of the true process that I witnessed, but in today's aggressive economic environment, it is not desirable to reveal too much of the precise procedure, for fear that a competitor might benefit.

With the WAG papers, converting a reel of base paper for stamp production will involve the application of specified coatings, security features and gum. The reel will then pass through drying units, similar to when stamp printing is undertaken, and end up on a spool at the other end of the machine. The paper is then either sheeted or left in reels for use by the customer, or the reels are further converted for use as the top sheet of a self-adhesive stamp paper.

The PSA papers go through a different production process, as it involves the marriage of two separate sheets of paper. A reel of release liner paper is given a non-stick surface to ensure that the finished stamp is able to be peeled off without difficulty. Then the reel of pre-produced top layer paper, as later used to print the stamp design onto, is adhered to the liner, with the self-adhesive gum between the two sheets. Drying, spooling and sheeting (if required) complete the operation.

The laboratories I have visited dozens of printers and paper mills down the years, but never have I seen so much emphasis and commitment placed on the testing of materials than at TRC. Hazel Westwood, Senior Technical Manager, demonstrated how everything is quality checked throughout the entire production process, from the coatings to the finishing, and from the security additives to the adhesives.

A vast array of technical paper testing and verification equipment is at Hazel's disposal to ensure that nothing but a top quality product ever leaves the plant, be it in reels or in sheets, water-activated gum or pressure-sensitive adhesive.

Once the paper has been produced and then checked, it is packed and shipped to its destination to be converted by the printer into postage stamps that are later used on mail, or are added to our stamp collections.

I will never look at a postage stamp or sheet of paper in quite the same light again, and I thank Tullis Russell Coaters for permitting the visit and for giving collectors a look at what is involved in the production of stamp papers ●

1809: Robert Tullis founds R Tullis & Co ● 1865: Leigh Slater founds a paper coating business ● 1875: Mr Slater moves to Bollington ● 1896: Henry & Leigh Slater (HLS) formed ● 1906: David and Robert Russell become MDs; name becomes Tullis Russell & Co Ltd (TR) ● 1980: TR buys Britains Decalcomania Papers, Hanley ● 1982: Coated Papers Ltd (CPL) founded in Cheddleton ● 1984: CPL taken over by TR ● 1989: HLS closes; CPL takes over at Bollington ● 1994: Management-led employee buyout at TR ● 1999: Kwang Duck Korean facility bought ● 2002: Hanley and Bollington sites are amalgamated under the name Tullis Russell Coaters (TRC) ● 2006: Hanley site closes and moves to Korea facility ● 2009: TRG celebrates 200 years

The world of online philately by Glenn H Morgan FRPSL

THE KING GEORGE V Silver Jubilee site is dedicated to the omnibus stamps of 1935. It includes the first common colonial stamp designed for a reigning monarch's jubilee, and is of particular significance at this time because of King George's great interest in stamps and the fact that 2010 sees the 75th anniversary of the launch of this issue.

There are over 500 pages of information at the site and webmaster Neil Donen has made it easy to navigate. The appearance is stylish, and in the background of each page, a pale 'watermark' of The King's head and surround (as used on most colonial issues) makes for strain-free viewing. The sections and contents covered are as follows.

GENERAL INFORMATION Background to KGV's life, events and hobby interest; a history of Windsor Castle (the main stamp design element used); historical background to the three printers (Bradbury Wilkinson, De La Rue and Waterlow); and all issue dates, which spanned 1 May - 12 July, are detailed. (The actual anniversary was, appropriately, 6 May.) There is also information on a study circle, dealers, auctioneers, useful links, an extensive bibliography and a philatelic glossary.

POSTAGE STAMPS The common Castle design was used for 44 countries, while a further 10 (including GB) used their own designs. All the information likely to be needed is held here including ancillary items such as perfins, postal orders, essays, colour trials, proofs, specimens, booklets, varieties and errors where these exist.

POSTAL HISTORY These stamps were widely used on mail, producing many types of interesting postal history items. It is good, therefore, to see usages such as Book Post, Flying Boat and Rocket Mail covered, as well as the more common day-to-day mail items. There are also extensive postage rate charts for all the colonies, maps, and scans of philatelic items.

VARIETY LOCATION This section is designed to help collectors find the location of a variety with respect to its plate, row or column number. It includes those where the position is known, and those where the variety has yet to be correctly positioned within its sheet.

SITE INFORMATION, SEARCHES AND CONTACT From here it is possible to find full help details, examine the content of the entire site via the Site Map, read about all amendments made since 2000, and see a record of people, organisations, companies and government agencies that have provided assistance down the years. Searching is, perhaps unusually, done by examining an A-Z listing of content, rather than by entering a search term into a box. Finally, contact by email with the webmaster is actively encouraged.

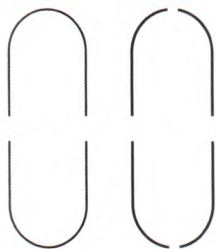
This site shows how one omnibus issue can provide enough interest to last a lifetime, and anyone thinking of recording their own knowledge on a philatelic subject via this medium could do no better than to visit this site ●



www.philatel2.com/jubilee

The home page of the King George V Silver Jubilee website.

Mainly Machins Recent developments and



Security slit shapes on De La Rue (left) and Walsall issues.

Security stamps These were introduced almost a year ago, and have now been in use long enough for any teething troubles to have been identified and remedied. One problem I have encountered myself, especially with the De La Rue large letter business sheets, is that one, and sometimes both, of the die cut ovals will occasionally be left behind when removing a mint stamp from its backing. The security cuts did not need to go as deep as the simulated perforations and it needed precision engineering of a very high order to allow the mint stamps to be peeled off complete. Both De La Rue and Walsall carried out perforation trials before the stamps were issued. The two firms settled upon slightly different methods. In a previous article I mentioned that De La Rue's ovals had two cuts (at the sides), while Walsall's had four (with additional cuts at the top and bottom), and I named these as Type 1 and Type 2 respectively (see illustration at left, as shown on page 20 of the *Bulletin* for September 2009). Ovals with four cuts remain attached to the rest of the stamp in four places; those with two cuts are attached at only two places. It is a fine line but it seems that that this made all the difference as the partial removal problem did not, as far as I know, occur with the Walsall stamps. It seems that the problem I had has been solved with a modification of the security slits. From late August last year De La Rue's business sheets began to appear with four cuts, although the two additional ones were much narrower than Walsall's, and were hardly more than a nick. I have named this Type 2a. This change would have required a new rotary die cutter. Assuming that this change is permanent, it means that De La Rue's security stamps with Type 1 slits will not be issued in future. Make sure you have them in your collection.

Collectors have had varying degrees of success in obtaining used examples of the security stamps for their collections. Although I still favour collecting them on piece, it is possible, with care, to peel them off. Curiously, this seems to be easier with the 2nd class stamps, and some have suggested that these have an adhesive with a slightly different formula to that used on the gold stamps.

Missing overprint Used security stamps with no iridescent overprint have been offered on eBay recently from vendors in the UK and Singapore. It has been suggested that these are 'escapees' from the trials mentioned above as those are thought to have involved pre-security stamps and thus without the overprint. They may, on the other hand, simply be the result of a printing failure, similar to the inadvertent omission of phosphor overprints. No mint examples have yet come to light. The ones offered for sale have all been found in kiloware, some with Exeter or Camden postmarks.

Two new Machins On 17 November last, two new stamps with the Machin head were issued. They combine the 1st class postage for letters and large letters and the fee (presently 75p) for the Recorded Signed For (RSF) service. This service is most usually used for important documents, where the

two new stamp issues: Douglas Myall reports

free proof of posting is not considered sufficient. This provides proof of delivery by obtaining the recipient's signature and making it available online. The item is carried in the normal mainstream appropriate to its class, and compensation is limited to a maximum of £39, or 100 times the price of a 1st class letter. For tracking en route and for higher levels of compensation, one of the Special Delivery services should be used. These also provide electronic proof of delivery. Prices for these services start at £4.95. The new stamps cost £1.14 (39p standard letter postage plus the 75p fee) and £1.36 (61p large letter postage plus fee). They are valid only when used for the RSF service, although an exception was made for their use on a first day cover. Unlike other Non Value Indicator stamps, these cannot be used on other inland mail or on mail for overseas delivery.

Why have these stamps been considered necessary, and why are they limited to 1st class mail? They were introduced 'because of an operational need at Post Office counters'. This need arose because, while mail weighing under 100g combined with the RSF service could be dealt with by the Horizon label machines in use in post offices, the extra work of keying in the certificate of postage, address and signed for slip meant that it was quicker to use a stamp. It is possible that similar stamps will eventually be issued for the 2nd class RSF services.

The stamps are self-adhesives and have several striking features. They are wider than normal because each has a 4mm wide yellow strip at the left containing the words **RECORDED SIGNED FOR** reading downwards. This is printed by the same cylinder that prints the postage section with the Machin head. Because gold text on a yellow background would not be very legible, this cylinder prints in flame red. This used to be the normal colour for the 1st class NVI before it was changed permanently to gold in June 2002. The colour is one from the Jeffery Matthews palette, and has been out of use since the change to gold.

These stamps have the security features introduced last year, and have Type 2a slits (see earlier in this article). There is no hidden code, as the origin of these printings cannot be in doubt and anyway, the letters R, S and F are already taken. In all other respects, except one, the postage sections are the same as their gold counterparts. The exception concerns the large letter flame stamp which is perforated 14×14 whereas the gold version is $14\frac{3}{4} \times 14$, which is sometimes expressed as 15×14 . (I prefer to state perforation gauges to the nearest quarter.) The stamps have 4.5mm blue fluor phosphor bars at left and right. ►



Cylinder blocks of the new Recorded Signed For stamps. One of the boxes in the grid of four at lower left is filled in, indicating its original position on the printer's sheet of 200.

Both stamps were printed by De La Rue in counter sheets of 50 from cylinders D1 D1 D1/D1. These are rouletted to allow single stamps to be sold over the counter. The matrix (the unprinted paper around the stamps) has been removed except for strips about 9 to 10mm wide at left and right which form the sheet margins. Cylinder blocks come from the usual position at the bottom of the left margin (see p155). The top of the left margin of both standard and large letter stamps has the colour name **FLAME**; the yellow colour is not named. The top of the right margin contains the barcode and letters **RSF** or **RSFL** as appropriate, printed in flame. The bottom half contains the date of printing in black added by inkjet. For the record, those I have seen were: standard, 19/10/09 0199814; large, 21/10/09 0072730.

Coming soon A new prestige book (7 January) features some classic designs of music album sleeves. It has the usual four panes, but this time two contain special issues and two contain Machins. Pane 3 has 2 × 62p, 2 × 54p and 4 × 20p with a central label depicting a vinyl record. Pane 4 has 2 × 22p, 5 × 10p and 2 × 5p with no label. I will look at this in detail next time. ●

Text © Douglas Mvili 2010

Commemorative covers New this month



Chapman & Mitchell Covers FDC (edition of 250) shows Singapore Cricket Club by Phyllis Mackenzie from the MCC Art Collection series. A 7 July special handstamp, for the England v Australia Women's match at Lord's, cancels a 1st class England lion stamp with Women's Ashes label. **Price** £15, postage £1.50. ●



Cambridge Stamp Centre Cover to mark the sinking of the *Scharnhorst* by *HMS Duke of York* on 26 December 1943. A 1st class stamp is cancelled by a 70th Anniversary WWII postmark of 11 November 2009. Signed by Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach, who served on the *Duke of York*. **Price** £24.95 plus postage. ●



Nene Valley Railway Cover featuring Danish locomotive No 656 *Tinkerbell*, to raise funds for her restoration. Three NVR railway letter stamps featuring the locomotive are tied by a pictorial cachet, and a Royal Mail 1st class stamp is cancelled 12 September with a NVR TPO datestamp. **Price** £3.50, postage 50p. ●



The Stamp Centre A limited edition FDC was produced with The Sherlock Holmes Museum. The Sir Arthur Conan Doyle stamp from the Eminent Britons set is cancelled with a Baker St, London W1 postmark. **Price** £7.99 plus £1.25 postage (£2.50 overseas). Credit cards accepted with no transaction charges. ●



Buckingham covers Cover produced with the Stained Glass Museum. A Christmas miniature sheet is cancelled by a Stained Glass Museum, Ely, postmark. Another cover, based on the TV drama *All the Small Things*, bears the Christmas stamps postmarked in Glossop on the day of issue. **Price** £10.95 unsigned, £19.95 signed by Stained Glass Museum curator Susan Mathews MBE or £24.95 signed by *All the Small Things* actor Neil Pearson ●

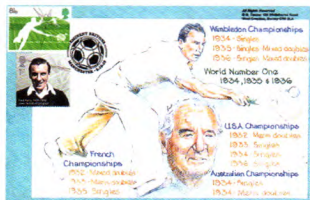


GB Covers A limited edition of 40 official FDCs, each authorised and numbered, has been produced for the Classic Album Covers stamp issue. **Price** £16.50, plus £1.50 postage, payable to GB Covers ●



Baker Street Regulators 20 sets of five maxi-cards, published in 1993 as invitations to the Sherlock Holmes Museum, feature Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and Sherlock Holmes; each card bears one 1993 Holmes stamp postmarked Adventures of Sherlock Holmes 18.1.94. The new Conan Doyle stamp has been added and dual postmarked Adventures of Sherlock Holmes 8.10.2009. **Price** £21.99 postpaid ●

Cover producers wishing to announce a recent or forthcoming cover should submit copy of up to 75 words in the style above. The text should briefly describe the cover, state the stamps and postmarks it will bear, and give retail prices and an address for orders and enquiries. Announcements are published on a first-come-first-served basis and may be modified or shortened at the Editor's discretion. Copy for consideration for the March Bulletin should be sent to The Editor (address on p131) by 8 January. Copy for April should arrive by 9 February. Royal Mail cannot enter into correspondence or telephone conversations concerning announcements in this Covers section.



M Tanner A Fred Perry cover (15 numbered copies) with a filler postcard, bearing the Fred Perry 1st class Eminent Britons stamp and a 1977 tennis stamp, postmarked Manchester, 8 October 2009. **Price** £14.99 plus £1.50 worldwide postage; postcards 60p plus postage if ordered separately. Maxicard with same image/postmark £9 plus postage ●



Island of Rona FDC bearing four local stamps (local carriage labels) featuring Highland cattle, cancelled 1 October by the island postmark; a Royal Mail stamp is postmarked Portree, Isle of Skye. **Prices** FDC £5.50; stamps £2.20. Cover supplied with a card showing Highland cattle in winter and bonus 2008 Viking stamp. Minimum order £3, postage extra ●



Methodist Philatelic Society FDC featuring the Newbigin Methodist Chapel, to mark its 250th anniversary. A 2009 Flowers stamp is cancelled by a 30 August Middleton-in-Teessdale anniversary postmark. **Price** £2.50 postpaid, including informative filler card. For MPS details send SAE to T M Smart, 11 Northwood Park, Woodlesford, Leeds LS26 8PE ●

Orders and enquiries

Baker Street Regulators The Secretary, 35 Watford Close, Battersea, London SW11 4QS

Buckingham Covers Warren House, Shearway Road, Folkestone, Kent CT19 4BF Telephone 01303 278137. www.buckinghamcovers.com

Cambridge Stamp Centre 9 Sussex Street, Cambridge CB1 1PA. Telephone 01223 363980. www.cambridgecovers.co.uk

Chapman & Mitchell Covers Bletchley Park Post Office, The Mansion, Bletchley Park, Milton Keynes MK3 6EB. Telephone 01908 631797. www.bletchleycovers.com

GB Covers 102 Regal Way, Kenton, Harrow HA3 0RY. e-mail derek@gbcovers.co.uk

Island of Rona Bill Cowie, Rona Lodge, Rona, Portree, Isle of Skye IV51 9RA. Telephone 07831 293963

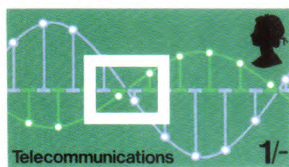
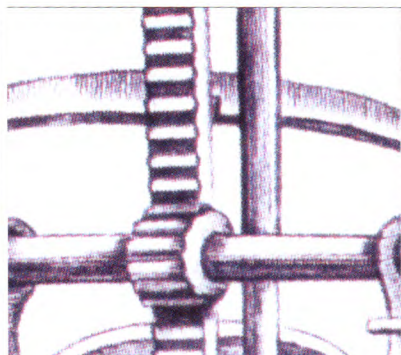
Methodist Philatelic Society R J Macmillan, Clunly, 11 Cullaloe Court, Dalgety Bay, Dunfermline KY11 9NW

Nene Valley Railway (Stamps) Wansford Station, Stibbington, Peterborough PE8 6LR. Telephone 01780 784444.

The Stamp Centre 79 Strand, London WC2R 0DE

M Tanner 180 Whitehorse Road, West Croydon CR0 2LA. Fax/Answerphone 020 8684 9757 (for credit card orders only)

Competitions Enter for a chance to win the 2009 Yearpack



October identify The detail was from the 1969 Post Office Technology 1s stamp. The winner was Mrs O Willcock of Suffolk.

October knowledge The answers: 1) Siobhan Keaney; 2) £1.53; 3) Birmingham Philatelic Society. The winner was Mr D Winters, Spain.

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

- 1 Who designed the 1995 Cats stamps?
- 2 Which stamp issue featured the Greyhound of Richmond?
- 3 Who featured on the 1st class British Museum stamp of 2003?

Send your answer (addressed to either January *Identify* competition or January *Knowledge* competition), name and address on a postcard or back of a sealed envelope to: British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail Letters, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ. The senders of the first cards to be drawn in each competition on 6 February will each receive a 2009 Yearpack. Runner-up prizes of presentation packs, FDCs, or stamp cards will be awarded in each competition. The competitions are not open to Royal Mail employees ●

Events

Until Spring 2010 David Gentleman exhibition at British Postal Museum & Archive, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1. **Enquiries** 020 7239 2570, e-mail info@postalheritage.org.uk

Until 9 January 2010 Philatelic Exhibition at Birmingham Museums & Art Gallery for 125th anniversary of Birmingham PS. Includes material from the Society and from the Thomas Evans collection. Admission is free. **Enquiries** A Spencer, 0121 459 7650

1 February - 30 October King George V exhibition at Bath Postal Museum, 27 Northgate Street, Bath. **Enquiries** 01225 460333

24-27 February Spring Stampex at Business Design Centre, London N1.

27 March Westbex 2010, Kennet School, Thatcham, Berks. Organised by Thatcham & District PS.

5-6 May International Stamp & Cover Show (Philatex Extra) at Lawrence Hall, Royal Horticultural Halls, Greycoat Street, London SW1. 5 May 11.00-19.00, 6 May 10.00-18.00. **Enquiries** 01793 513431, www.stampshows.net

8-15 May London 2010 International Stamp Exhibition (Festival of Stamps) at Business Design Centre, London N1. For details of events to be held during 2010 see the June (page 297) and December (page 100) 2009 issues of the *Bulletin*.

22-25 July Philatelic Congress of GB at Holiday Inn, Kenilworth ●

Late news



London 2010 The competitive exhibits at the international exhibition, at the Business Design Centre, London N1, 8-15 May 2010, will be divided into two halves. On show from 8 to 11

May will be the entries in the Traditional (approximately 130 entries), Postal Stationery (35 entries), Revenue Philately (13), One-frame (20) and Youth (20) classes. On 12-15 May Postal History (approximately 130 entries), Thematic Philately (40) and Aerophilately (12) will be shown. Entries are from almost 60 countries; the largest number are from the UK, followed by the USA, Australia, Italy, Sweden and Switzerland. A full list of the exhibits will be shown on the exhibition website (www.London2010.org.uk) early in 2010, and will also be in the catalogue, which will be available at the exhibition for £5.

Great Britain entries include the Victorian line-engraved stamps, Edward VII proofs and essays, the College stamps of Oxford and Cambridge, and pre-decimal Machins (Traditional class); and Victorian stamped-to-order envelopes and the Mulready envelope (Postal Stationery). The One-frame class, restricted to the George V era, will include material issued in Bechuanaland, British Honduras, Canada, and Rhodesia. In the Youth Class, three young collectors from the UK are exhibiting 'All the World's a Stage', 'Blood, Toil, Tears and Sweat', and 'A Childhood in Stamps'. The Postal History class has the widest range of material, including 'Blindman's Mail', 'Argentine Pre-philately', 'Hong Kong under Japanese Occupation (1941-45)', 'Postal Correspondence of the Russian Navy Personnel (1850s-1918)', and 'German Exchange Control 1918-25'. Thematic exhibits will include 'A glimpse into the World of Beer', 'Hunting: Necessity, Sport or Extinction?', 'The American Civil War, 1861-65', and 'The Conquest of the Unprofitable World'. Aerophilately exhibits include 'Development of British Airmails 1933-39', plus airmail services of Newfoundland, Sarawak, Italy, Switzerland, Italy, Finland, Bulgaria, Colombia and Argentina.

Thematic competitions head north Competitions organised this year by the Friends of Thematica will be staged as part of Scottish Congress at the Dewar's Centre in Perth, 16-17 April. The Congress, organised by the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies, will be part of the Festival of Stamps. For 2010 The Inter-Federation Thematic Competition has been expanded, to provide Federations with a better opportunity to display the best thematic entries from their area. Every Federation can now submit three entries, each of 16 pages. The John Fosbery Competition caters for those who have not previously won a 'national' medal for thematic philately. This competition requires 16 sheets, and will be judged by the visitors. Young collectors, up to 18 years, can enter the Barclays Cup Young Collectors Competition. For details and entry forms write to: Brian Sole, 3 Stockfield Road, Claygate, Esher, KT10 0QG. Completed applications by 12 March.

Julian Chapman Memorial Scholarships for 2009

The Scholarship Committee has announced that the Scholarships for 2009 have been awarded to Derek Diamond FRPSL (UK) for study of the first pictorial issue of New Zealand 1895-1911, and to George Stewart (New Zealand) for a study of the Southern Rhodesia 1937 definitive. Enquiries to: Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London, W1G 6JY.



Jersey Girl Guides stamps

The subjects featured on the stamps are: 37p Healthy Lifestyles, 42p Global Awareness, 45p Skills and Relationships, 61p Celebrating Diversity and 80p Discovery. Shown here at 75% actual size.

Jersey Guides stamps Jersey Post will issue five stamps to mark the centenary of the Girl Guides on 12 January. The designs include paintings by Colleen Corlett and were printed in Austria using stochastic screen printing. Enquiries: Jersey Philatelic Bureau, Postal Headquarters, Jersey JE1 1AB, or e-mail stamps@jerseypost.com.

Historic Pillar Boxes Collection

Royal Mail is pleased to offer these 1/19 scale miniatures of four iconic boxes, cast in pewter and hand finished in the UK.



Science & Arts Used in Edinburgh, Manchester, London and Dublin, only two now survive.

Penfold Our miniature is based on an example in the BPMA, one of the five different styles produced.

Double Aperture This classic design was first made in 1899. Our miniature is a reproduction of a George VI box, only three of which now remain in use.

Airmail Model based on Box 13, which stood outside the London Chief Post Office in King Edward Street, London.

Throughout the UK, the familiar red pillar box is a popular item of 'street furniture', and there is a thriving society whose members study, photograph and record our boxes. Posting boxes featured on stamps in 2002 and again this year.

Science & Arts Designed by the department of that name in 1857, only 50 of these ornate boxes were made ● **Penfold** This elegant box, named after its designer J W Penfold, was the standard pillar box of 1866-79 ● **Airmail Box** Used from 1930-38 for posting air-mail letters, this was notable for its colour and 'AIR MAIL' plate ● **Double Aperture** A classic design with double aperture for letters for London & Abroad and Country, found primarily in large cities.

Order codes and prices Science & Art: VA136, £26.95 ● Penfold: VA134, £26.95 ● Air-mail: VA133, £26.50 ● Double Aperture: VA135, £28.95. **Handling charge** £2.95 UK, £5 Europe, £14 elsewhere



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overseas +44 131 316 7483
www.royalmail.com/shop

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