The magazine for collectors of UK stamps

April 2019 | £2.15

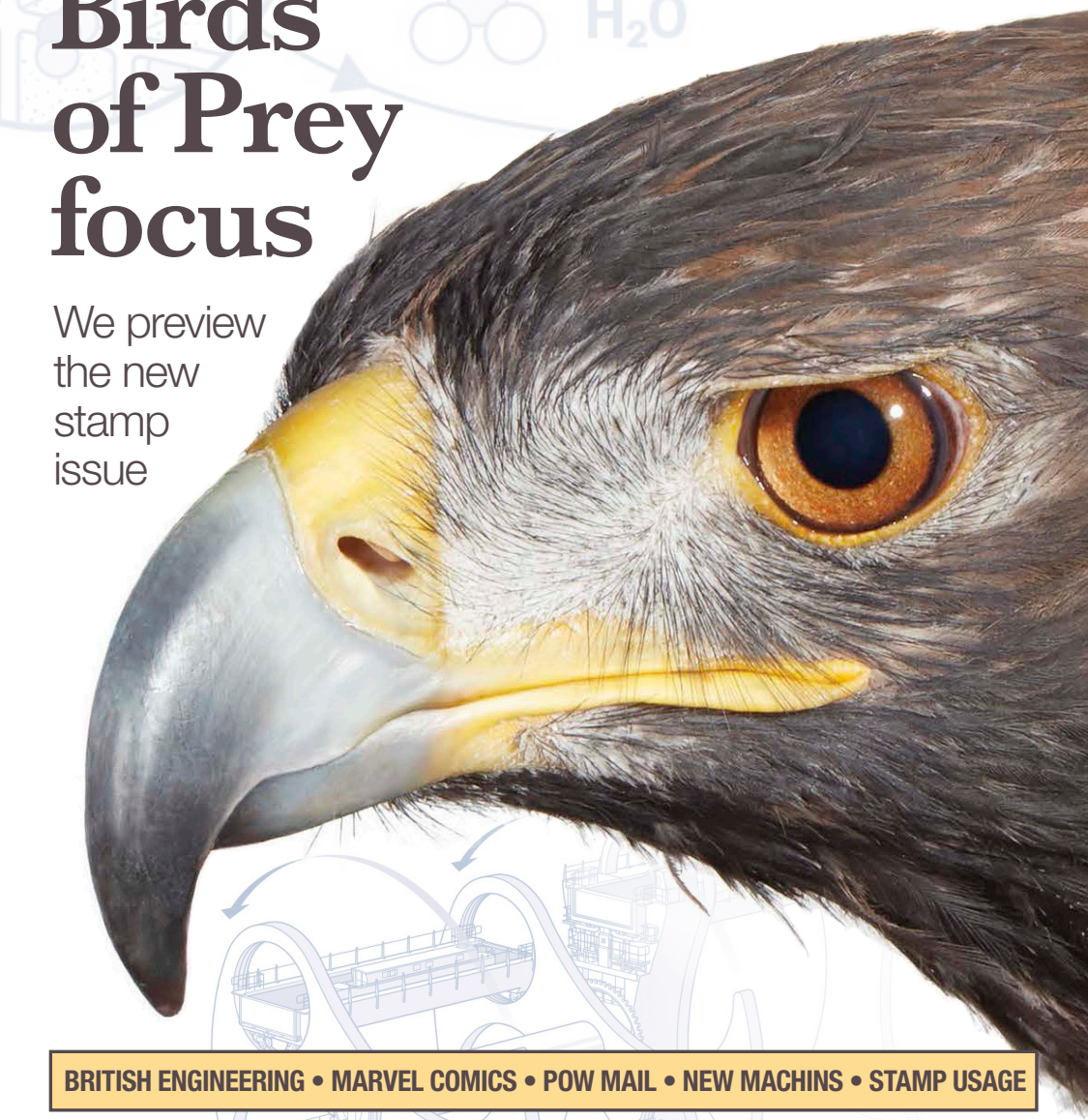
Royal Mail

Philatelic Bulletin

Volume 56 No.8

Birds of Prey focus

We preview the new stamp issue



BRITISH ENGINEERING • MARVEL COMICS • POW MAIL • NEW MACHINS • STAMP USAGE

Your favourite stamps revealed!

This is how you voted for the 2018 stamps and stamp sets

STAMPS



1st

Large Blue Butterfly
First Class
Issued 17 April



2nd

Barn Owl
First Class
Issued 11 May



3rd

Captain James Cook
First Class
Issued 16 August



4th

We are making a new world
£1.55
Issued 13 September



5th

Flypast
First Class
Issued 20 March



Congratulations to Margaret A Wright of Hutton, Driffield, who is the winner of the Favourite Stamp Poll prize draw and will receive the Royal Mail Yearpack 2018.

The Yearpack which houses all the year's stamps can be purchased at www.royalmail.com/stamps

STAMP SETS



1st

Owls
Issued 11 May



2nd

RAF Centenary
Issued 20 March



3rd

Reintroduced Species
Issued 17 April



4th

Hampton Court Palace
Issued 31 July



5th

Captain Cook and the Endeavour Voyage
Issued 16 August

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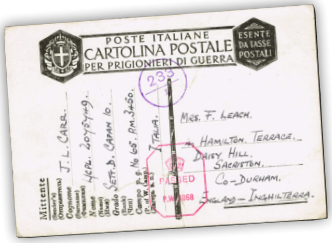






Masters of the skies The Eagles have landed, along with other Birds of Prey – we preview the fabulous new wildlife issue **615**

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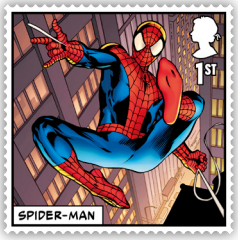


Stamp Scene Ensure you're up to date with all the various events, meetings and activities happening in the UK throughout April **629**

Mixed frankings Differing stamp issues and types are considered in this month's Usage article **632**

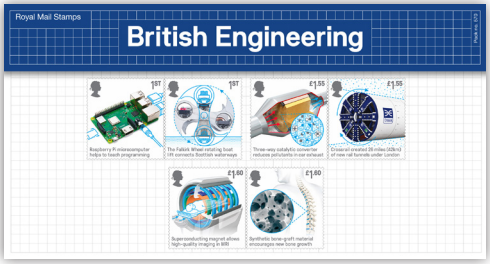


Roll back the years Return to your youth and meet the Marvel superheroes that have thrilled generations – we focus on the comic-strip collectible Special Stamps **618**





Editor Tim Noble, Royal Mail, 185 Farringdon Road, Floor MP-03, London EC1A 1AA ● **Design and content creation** Ian Boardman, Adesso Creative Ltd ● Price £2.15 from Post Office Ltd philatelic outlets or by order from Post Office branches ● **12 months' subscriptions** £20.95 UK and Europe; £26.95 rest of the world. Send subscriptions to Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles, PO Box 1373, Sunderland SR5 9PG, UK or subscribe online at royalmail.com/bulletin ● **Binders** (to hold 24 issues) £8.68 and storage boxes (about 30 copies) £9.95, are also available by post or online ● Copyright and editorial rights are reserved by Royal Mail Group Ltd ● All rights reserved ● Reproduction in whole or parts is prohibited without prior permission of Royal Mail Group Ltd ● **Printed** in Great Britain by Zenith Print & Packaging Ltd ● **ISSN** 0953 8119 ● Royal Mail is a trading name and registered trade mark 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.



Britain leads the way Royal Mail celebrates magnificent British engineering innovations **638**

2019 welcomes six new Machin Definitives



FD1904-TH



FD1904-PL



FD1904-NP

Royal Mail introduced new postal rates on 25 March, and six new beautiful Machin Definitives were released on 19 March in conjuntion with the new charges. The new tariffs which pertain to Royal Mail International Standard Letters and Large Letters are explained below.

Orchid Mauve *£1.35* – weight up to and including 20g Royal Mail International Standard Letter Europe, and World Zone 1 and 2 up to 10g.

Amber Yellow *£1.60* – weight up to and including 100g Royal Mail International Standard Letter Europe.







Gooseberry Green *£2.30* – weight up to and including 100g World Zone 1 and 2.

Spruce Green *£2.80* – weight up to and including 100g Royal Mail International Large Letter Europe.

Dark Pine Green *£3.45* – weight up to and including 100g Royal Mail International Large Letter World Zone 1.

Bright Orange *£3.60* – weight up to and including 100g Royal Mail International Large Letter World Zone 2.

Machin Definitives 2019 – Stamp Specifications	
Date of issue	19 March
Number of stamps	Six
Design	The stamp features the bas-relief portrait by Arnold Machin OBE, RA, with typography by Jeffery Matthews MBE, FCSD, FRSA
Stamp format	Definitive
Stamp size	20mm x 24mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Gravure
Perforations	15 x 14
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	Self-adhesive
Number per sheet	25



First Day Cover with Tallents House handstamp

Below: the Presentation Pack that houses all six new tariff Machin Definitives and the Presentation Pack Inner that offers background history of the development of the iconic Machin stamps



For further information of prices, letter and parcel specifications visit www.royalmail.com/price-finder. Information defining the geographical zones can be found at www.royalmail.com/international-zones. All Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles can be purchased at www.royalmail.com/stamps ●





Country Definitives the new £1.35 and £1.55 tariffs





England stamps – designed by Sedley Place: the English oak and the English Tudor Rose were sculpted by David Dathan with photography by Chris Ridley.





Northern Ireland stamps – designed by Rodney Miller Associates: the linen slip case is courtesy of the Irish Linen Centre and Lisburn Museum with photography by David Pauley; Parian china is courtesy of the Ulster Museum, Museums and Galleries of Northern Ireland with photography by Tiff Hunter





Scotland stamps – designed by Tayburn: the thistle was sculpted by Tim Chalk and the tartan was supplied by Kinloch Anderson with photography by Julyan Rawlings





Wales stamps – designed by Tutssels Enterprise IG: the daffodil was created in Welsh slate by Ieuan Rees and The Prince of Wales Feathers were crafted from Welsh gold and silver by Rhiannon Evans./Dyluniwyd stampiau Cymru gan Tutssels Enterprise IG: crëwyd y genhinen Bedr o lechen Gymreig gan Ieuan Rees a saernïwyd Plu Tywysog Cymru o arian ac aur Cymreig gan Rhiannon Evans

Country Definitives – Stamp Specifications

Date of issue	25 March
Number of stamps	Eight
Stamp format	Definitive
Stamp size	20mm x 24mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	15 x 14
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA
Number per sheet	25





MERLIN
Falco columbarius



KESTREL
Falco tinnunculus



HOBBY
Falco subbuteo



PEREGRINE FALCON
Falco peregrinus



SPARROWHAWK
Accipiter nisus



GOSHAWK
Accipiter gentilis



BUZZARD
Buteo buteo



RED KITE
Milvus milvus



GOLDEN EAGLE
Aquila chrysaetos



WHITE-TAILED EAGLE
Haliaeetus albicilla

Heavenly Birds of Prey



Feast your eagle eyes on the magnificent Birds of Prey Special Stamp issue swooping down to you this month. This high-flying, ten-stamp set features some of the UK's deadliest hunters, including the golden eagle, kestrel and a flight of falcons and hawks. It's accompanied by a Presentation Pack, Stamp Souvenir, Retail Stamp Book, Framed Set, a Signed Framed Set and Postcards. In a special Royal Mail commission, the eminent wildlife photographer Tim Flach photographed all the birds on the stamps at the International Centre for Birds of Prey in Gloucestershire. The Signed Framed Set bears his name. Centre director Jemima Perry-Jones MBE, a leading authority on birds of prey, wrote the Presentation Pack and Filler Card.



Stamp by stamp The ten Birds of Prey Special Stamps are all First Class, and printed in landscape format by lithography.

White-tailed Eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla* This very large eagle catches fish or sea birds with a low, slow approach, dropping its feet into the water to snatch the prey and then taking it to shore. These eagles were persecuted to extinction by 1918, but in 1975 a release programme was started on Rùm in Scotland. The population in Scotland is now around 60 breeding pairs, with more than 200 adult birds. Since eagles readily feed on carrion, they get blamed for killing animals they are unlikely to kill.

Merlin *Falco columbarius* The merlin, which belongs to the falcon family, is the smallest UK raptor and can be found in spring and summer on the uplands, nesting on the ground underneath heather. A specialist bird-catcher, it feeds its young on larks and meadow pipits in the summer. Females are brown, as are juveniles, while adult males have a blue-grey back. Once the autumn arrives, these birds move to lowlands for the winter. ►

The Presentation Pack (above) offers fascinating insights into the physiology, habits and history of UK birds of prey. It reveals, for example, that the golden eagle's wingspan is at least two metres, and the female of the species can weigh more than five kilos. It explains that the eyes of goshawks and sparrowhawks start yellow, then turn orange and red as they age. The Pack also shows how the wing shapes of various species reflect and support their habits: the short, rounded wings of the goshawk, for example, support the rapid, agile flight of this forest-dweller through the trees



FD1909-TH



FD1909-PL



FD1909-NP

Hobby *Falco subbuteo* Larger than the merlin, this little falcon migrates from Africa to the UK in the spring to breed. With its long, sickle-shaped wings, it resembles a giant swift and is incredibly nimble in flight. Feeding on dragonflies and other insects, the hobby is often seen near large bodies of water. It nests in abandoned crows' nests, and during the breeding season it hunts for swallows and swifts to feed its young.

Buzzard *Buteo buteo* By the 1970s, the common (or Eurasian) buzzard was rare in the UK other than in the far west. Since then, however, there has been a huge increase; thanks to more nesting areas and to rabbits surviving myxomatosis, and buzzards are now breeding in every county. They are usually seen on fine days soaring and calling, with a mewing cry, or sitting on poles, on fences by roads or on the ground, particularly when ploughed in the winter. They scavenge roadkill, which can cause them traffic injuries, or feed on insects on the ground.

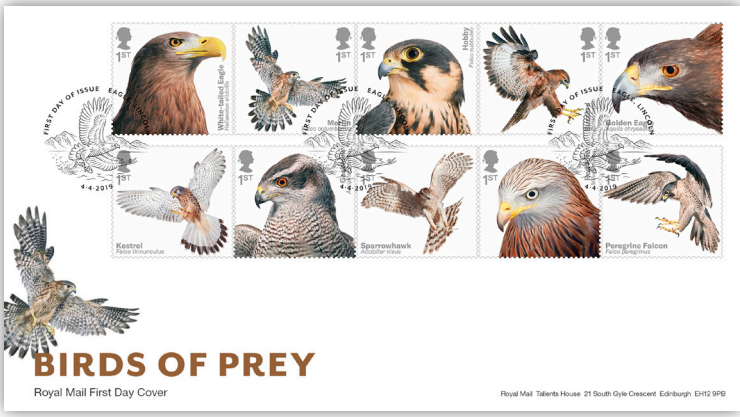
Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* The golden eagle prefers remote moorlands and mountains in Scotland, usually nesting on cliff ledges. It soars over the Highlands, catching rabbits, hares and birds with its very powerful feet. It also consumes carrion, in some areas relying on dead animals during the winter. Golden eagles pair for life. Juveniles have a mottled white and brown tail with a black band, which turns brown over the years. The golden feathers that give this eagle its name are on the head and the neck.

Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* Once the UK's most common raptor, observed hovering by roads and motorways, this falcon has seen a decrease of 40 per cent over the past two decades. A key reason for the decline is the lack of sufficient nest sites and suitable grasslands for hunting. Kestrels are characterised by a beautiful chestnut-red colour over their bodies. The female has a red tail with bars, while the adult male has a grey head and grey tail with a black band at its tip. These birds are best known for hunting mice and voles by hovering, often descending in stages to drop on their prey.

Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis* This aggressive, forest-dwelling hunter was probably extinct as a breeder until the middle of the 20th century. Its wing shape allows it to twist and turn through trees, and its long legs and powerful feet are well suited to hunting birds and mammals up to the size of a hare, with a short,

Birds of Prey – Stamp Specifications	
Date of issue	4 April
Number of stamps	Ten x 1st Class
Design	Royal Mail Group Ltd, based on original designs by GBH
Photography	Tim Flach
Acknowledgements	All birds featured courtesy of the International Centre for Birds of Prey
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	37mm x 35mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	14 x 14.5
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA

Birds of Prey – Prices	
Set of 10 Special Stamps	£7.00
Special Stamps First Day Cover	£9.00
Presentation Pack	£7.80
Stamp Souvenir	£9.00
First Day Envelope	30p
Postcards (10 in set)	£4.50
Retail Stamp Book	£4.20
Framed set of 10 Stamps	£29.99
Signed, framed set of 10 Stamps	£59.99
Limited Edition, Print of Peregrine Falcon	£69.99



The Birds of Prey First Day Cover will be released on 4 April with a Tallents House handstamp, featuring an illustration of a hobby falcon zeroing in on a dragonfly. The other two postmarks have a bird-themed location – Eagle, Lincoln. The pictorial alternative version has a drawing of a white-tailed eagle plucking a fish out of the water

Orders for Serviced First Day Covers (ie stamped and post-marked) have to reach Royal Mail by 4 April 2019. Customers may also send stamped envelopes on the day of issue to Tallents House for the Tallents House, Edinburgh postmark. Please quote the *Bulletin* media code 19BUL13

often surprise attack. Adults are grey and white, with fine horizontal bars on the breast; juveniles are brown, with vertical brown stripes. Goshawks build large stick nests and lay up to four eggs.

Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus* This little hawk is most commonly seen in gardens catching small birds. Its defining features are very long, thin legs and yellow eyes. Males are tiny in comparison to females. Both hunt birds, but females can take birds up to the size of a pigeon. The sparrowhawk is often blamed, wrongly, for the demise of small birds, while in fact it is cats, cars and pesticides that are responsible. Sparrowhawks build a stick nest and rear up to five young.

Red Kite *Milvus milvus* By 1903, red kites had been persecuted close to extinction, with the last few remaining in the mountains of Wales, when a farmer started to feed them. Now, with four feeding stations, there are 900 pairs in Wales. There have been very successful translocation programmes in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland, so kites are now seen soaring together in many places. Long wings, a long, forked tail and red colour make the red kite easy to identify. These birds are mainly scavengers, feeding on roadkill and animal remains.

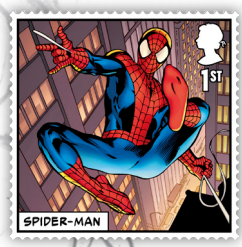
Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* Brought to low numbers by pesticides in the middle of the 20th century, the peregrine has recovered dramatically. Many peregrines are now urban birds, nesting on cathedrals, other tall buildings and bridges. Probably the fastest living creature, the peregrine hunts birds up to the size of large gulls, almost always on the wing. It has a short tail and long, pointed wings. The juveniles are brown, while the adults have a grey-blue back. In the UK, these birds are sedentary, but peregrines in other areas can be migratory



The Retail Stamp Book contains the Buzzard and Hobby Special Stamps and four First Class Definitives

First class heroes

Boom! Blam! Pow! WOW! An amazing, action packed stamp set salutes the battling superheroes of the famous Marvel Comic books









Marvel – Stamp Specifications	
Date of issue	14 March
Number of stamps	10 x 1st Class
Design	Interabang
Illustrations	Alan Davis
Stamp format	Square
Sheet format	25/50
Stamp size	35mm x 35mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	14.5 x 14.5
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA

It also pays tribute to the artistic superpowers of British Marvel illustrator Alan Davis, who drew the exclusive pictures of Spider-Man, the Hulk, Black Panther and pals for the stamps. In a special commission from Royal Mail, Alan also created an original comic strip story that runs across the stamps of the set's Miniature Sheet. Released in March to mark the 80th anniversary of the launch of Marvel Comics, the Marvel Special Stamp issue itself is of truly heroic proportions. It's accompanied by a Stamp Pack, Miniature Sheet Pack, Presentation Pack, Stamp Souvenir Cover, Miniature Sheet

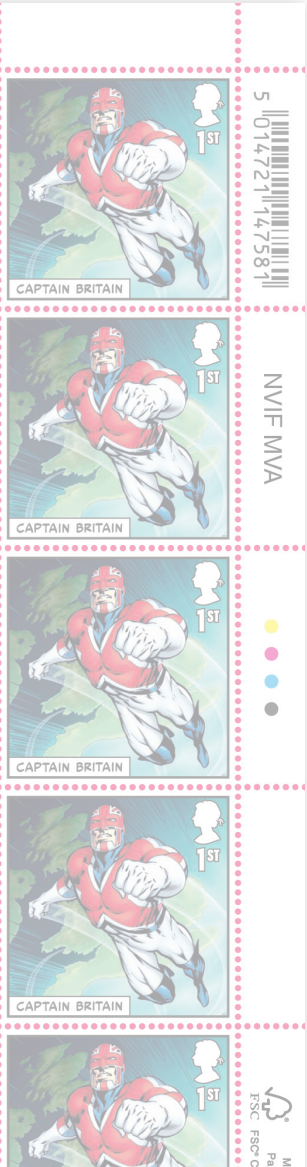


Souvenir Cover, Prestige Stamp Book, Limited Edition Prestige Stamp Book, First Day Cover Prestige Stamp Book Pane, Generic Sheet, Retail Stamp Book, Medal Covers, Stamp Cards, Press Sheet, Classic Comics Stamp Souvenir Folder, Stamp Artwork Collector Set, and a range of Framed products, including Framed Stamps and Miniature Sheet signed by Alan Davis, and Framed Stamps signed by another leading Marvel artist, Neil Edwards.

Stamp by stamp The ten Marvel Special Stamps, all First Class, are square format, designed by Interabang and printed in lithography. While, of course, Marvel is an American icon, the stamps acknowledge the phenomenon's British heritage: Captain Britain Weekly was launched here in 1976, featuring the adventures of the first British Marvel superhero, followed by another British character, Union Jack. Captain Britain was drawn by Alan Davis in the 1980s. ▶

First Day Cover with the Tallents House handstamp





Spider-Man Peter Parker is Spider-Man, New York's amazing web-slinging hero. Bitten by a radioactive spider as a teenager, Peter gained arachnid-like abilities and, after his Uncle Ben was murdered, swore to use his abilities to help others – having realised that with great power comes great responsibility.

Captain Marvel Carol Danvers was an air force officer when she met Kree hero Captain Mar-vell. After her DNA mixed with his during an explosion, she gained superpowers and took the name Ms Marvel. Following the original's death, Carol took on the mantle of Captain Marvel to honour his legacy.

Hulk When mild-mannered scientist Bruce Banner was struck by radiation from a gamma bomb, he was transformed into the incredible Hulk. The green-skinned behemoth is one of the planet's most powerful and misunderstood heroes – feared by a world he has saved numerous times.

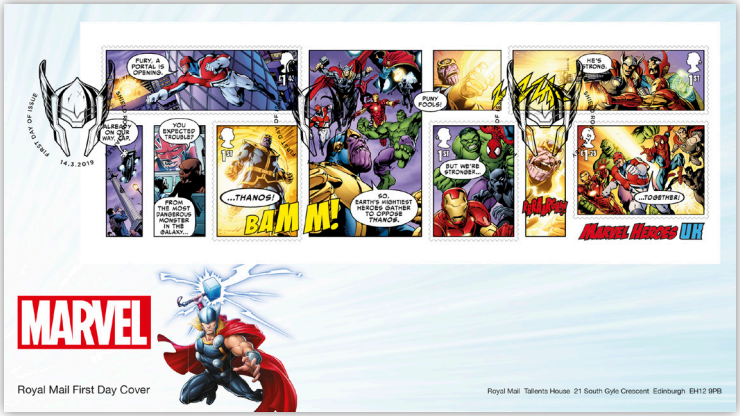
Captain Britain Brian Braddock was chosen by Merlyn to be Britain's greatest protector. Granted amazing powers, Brian became Captain Britain. He soon learned he was part of a multidimensional Captain Britain Corps, and has fought alongside Excalibur and the Avengers to keep his country – and the world – safe from harm.

Doctor Strange Once a brilliant yet vain surgeon, Stephen Strange sought out the help of the Ancient One when his hands were badly damaged in a car crash. Strange's path led him to become a Master of the Mystic Arts and Earth's Sorcerer Supreme, protecting the world from evil forces.

Peggy Carter When working for the French Resistance in the Second World War, Peggy met and fell in love with Captain America. The two fought the Axis powers together before they were separated by the conflict. Peggy went on to become a leading agent of SHIELD (Strategic Homeland Intervention, Enforcement and Logistics Division).

Iron Man When terrorists captured billionaire inventor Tony Stark, they forced him to create weapons. With shrapnel near his heart and endangering his life, Stark tricked the terrorists, building a suit of powered armour to defeat them. It was the birth of the armoured Avenger – the invincible Iron Man.

Union Jack The original Union Jack was Lord James Falsworth, who fought in the First World War. When his descendant refused to take on the role, the mantle was passed to Joey Chapman, a working-class hero from Manchester,





Miniature Sheet First Day Cover with the alternative handstamp and the Prestige Stamp Book Pane First Day Cover



FD1903-TH



FD1903-PL



FD1903-NP

who has gone to fight alongside the Knights of Pendragon and the Invaders.

Black Panther T'Challa is the Black Panther, ruler of the technologically advanced African nation of Wakanda and protector of its valuable vibranium supply. T'Challa first travelled to America to learn more about that country's heroes, and soon became a leading member of the Avengers.

Thor The Norse God of Thunder, Thor was cast out of Asgard for his pride, and was trapped on Earth as the injured doctor Donald Blake. Thor's banishment is long ended, and now he protects both Earth and Asgard as an Avenger.

Miniature Sheet Award-winning Marvel artist Alan Davis debuts a beautifully succinct exclusive story – with a British twist – that soars across a ten-panel narrative on the Miniature Sheet. It's such a smart execution that even the edited version of this mini-story works across the Sheet's five stamps. These stamps come in a number of values: three First Class, one £1.25 and one £1.45 value. This thrillingly drawn episode pits Marvel's finest from the Special Stamps, led by Captain Britain, against the Mad Titan, Thanos, as he launches an attack on the world. London is neatly referenced, with Nelson's Column and the Gherkin building popping up in the panes. ►

The Miniature Sheet and opposite: the Presentation Pack, Presentation Pack Outer, and Presentation Pack Inner



Also in the issue is the Presentation Pack, which folds out to reveal a specially commissioned, vividly coloured 'heroes vs villains' illustration by Marvel Comics artist Neil Edwards. In it, all the Special Stamp superheroes battle with a nasty-looking bunch of bad guys, including The Fury, Red Skull and Abomination. The Presentation Pack also features a potted biography of each character, good and evil. The Pack includes a Sticker Sheet of comic strip sound effects – from 'blam' to 'boom', 'bar-oom' to 'shoom' – speech bubbles and logos, so children and grandchildren can create their own superhero adventure on the illustration (if you let them near your Presentation Pack, that is).

The Prestige Stamp Book is a fascinating mix of dazzling stamp panes (of course), cracking illustrations and intriguing facts from the history of Marvel on both sides of the Atlantic. As well as telling the story of Alan Davis's Marvel career, it also reveals that Neil Tennant, of British pop sensation the Pet Shop Boys, was an early editor of Marvel UK. Other pages present a stunning montage of classic Marvel Comics covers, and explain how the comic strips were created. Each story was the work of a small team, not simply an artist, as some might think. First a writer or editor would come up with a story idea, which would be developed into a script, much like a script for a TV drama. The script was then given to an artist, who would create rough pencil sketches called 'pencils'. Next, an 'inker' added black lines to the pencil sketches to

Marvel – Miniature Sheet Specifications	
Date of issue	14 March
Number of stamps	Five
Value of stamps	3 x 1st Class, 1 x £1.25, 1 x £1.45
Design	Interabang
Illustrations	Alan Davis
Stamp format	Bespoke
Miniature Sheet size (exc. margin)	192mm x 74 mm
Miniature Sheet size (inc. margin)	204mm x 74.25 mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	Bespoke
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA



create definition. Finally, the colourist and letterer would complete the pictures and the words for the speech bubbles and narrative boxes.

The Prestige Stamp Book explains that while Marvel comic stories were full of fantastical characters and stories, the narratives didn't shy away from featuring social issues that readers in the 'real world' could identify with – including political unrest, alcoholism, drug addiction and bankruptcy. The five Prestige Stamp Book Panes contain the Special Stamps, Miniature Sheet stamps, and eight Definitive stamps with 1p, 20p, £1.25 and £1.45 values.

Marvel's best-loved characters are showcased in the issue's Medal Cover collection, with brilliant uncirculated and silver versions for each of the Spider-Man, Hulk and Avengers Covers (the Avengers Cover is out on 26 April). Each Cover maps the evolution of the characters in comic strip-style. In the Hulk Cover, for example, the strip illustrates Hulk's many incarnations, including Red Hulk, She-Hulk and Totally Awesome Hulk. The Medal Cover handstamps contain Marvel references and clever puns a-plenty: the Spider-Man stamp shows a spider's web picture with the location of Webbington, Axbridge; on the Hulk handstamp is the Hulk's fist, and Bannerdown, Bath – in a nod to the human character behind the green superhero, scientist Bruce Banner; the Avengers Cover has the Avengers badge and the place name Starkholmes, Matlock on its handstamp, linking it to one of the Avengers heroes, Iron Man – aka inventor Tony Stark. ►





Left: the Prestige Stamp Book front cover and panes one to five

The Marvel First Day Cover was released on 14 March with a Tallents House handstamp, showing an image of Hulk's fist. Two alternative postmarks have the location Shield Row, Stanley, which is a double play on words: first, because it links to SHIELD, the superhero organisation; second, because Stanley is a pun on Stan Lee, the legendary Marvel editor. The pictorial alternative version features a drawing of Thor's helmet. You can buy the Marvel Special Stamp issue at royalmail.com/stamps ●

Marvel – Prices	
Set of 10 Special Stamps	£7.00
Miniature Sheet	£4.80
Stamp Set Character Pack	£7.29
Miniature Sheet Pack	£5.19
Presentation Pack	£12.55
First Day Cover Stamps	£8.60
First Day Cover Miniature Sheet	£6.20
First Day Cover Prestige Stamp Book Pane	£6.00
Stamp Souvenir Cover	£8.60
Miniature Sheet Souvenir Cover	£6.20
First Day Envelope – Hulk	£0.30
First Day Envelope – Thor	£0.30
Prestige Stamp Book	£17.85
Smilers® (Generic Sheet)	£8.00
Retail Stamp Book	£4.20
Spider-man BU Medal Cover	£24.99
Spider-man Silver Medal Cover	£99.99
Hulk BU Medal Cover	£24.99
Hulk Silver Medal Cover	£99.99
Postcards	£7.20
Classic Comics Stamp Souvenir Folder	£24.99
Stamp Artwork Collector Set	£34.99
Limited Edition Prestige Stamp Book	£64.99
Press Sheet	£95.05
Framed Stamps and Miniature Sheet	£49.99
Framed Collector Sheet	£39.99
Framed Gallery Prints	£79.99







Left: the Avenger Medal Envelope, Hulk Medal Envelope and Spider-Man Medal Envelope (unique themed handstamps below)







Mini Marvel *Quiz*

1 A member of which pop group worked as editor for Marvel UK?
a) Pet Shop Boys
b) Wham!
c) Duran Duran

2 Who was the Avenger that Peggy Carter fell in love with?
a) Ironman
b) Thor
c) Captain America

3 Who was the original Union Jack?
a) Lord James Harrington
b) Lord James Falsworth
c) Lord James Townshend

4 Who is the Mad Titan?
a) Merlyn
b) Kree
c) Thanos

5 In what year was *Captain Britain Weekly* launched?
a) 1973
b) 1976
c) 1980

How to enter Please send your answers, with your contact address or phone number, marked 'Mini Marvel Quiz', to: Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. Or by email to tim.noble@royalmail.com.
Prizes The first five correct entries drawn after the closing date win the Marvel Presentation Pack.
Closing Date 15 May 2019.

January solutions – The Bumper Quiz
1a 2c 3b 4b 5b 6c 7a 8a 9a 10b 11c 12a 13b 14b 15b 16a
Winners
Mr K C Bishop, Solihull; Mr T Dungate, Broadstone; Anthony H Harker, Oxford; Reverend Peter T Hanna, County Cork; George Coates, Chelmsford.



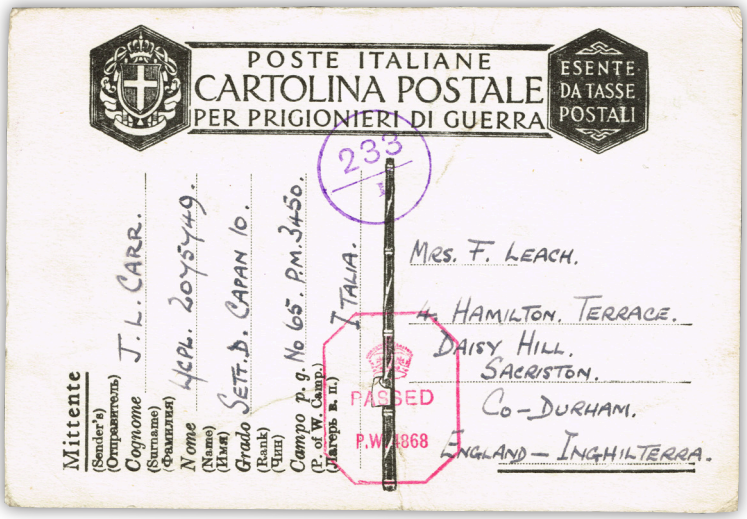
Terms and conditions Promotions are open to any reader aged 18 or over, except employees of Royal Mail Group Ltd, their business associates and immediate families. Responsibility cannot be accepted for entries which are incomplete, damaged or not received. Proof of posting is not proof of receipt. Prizes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

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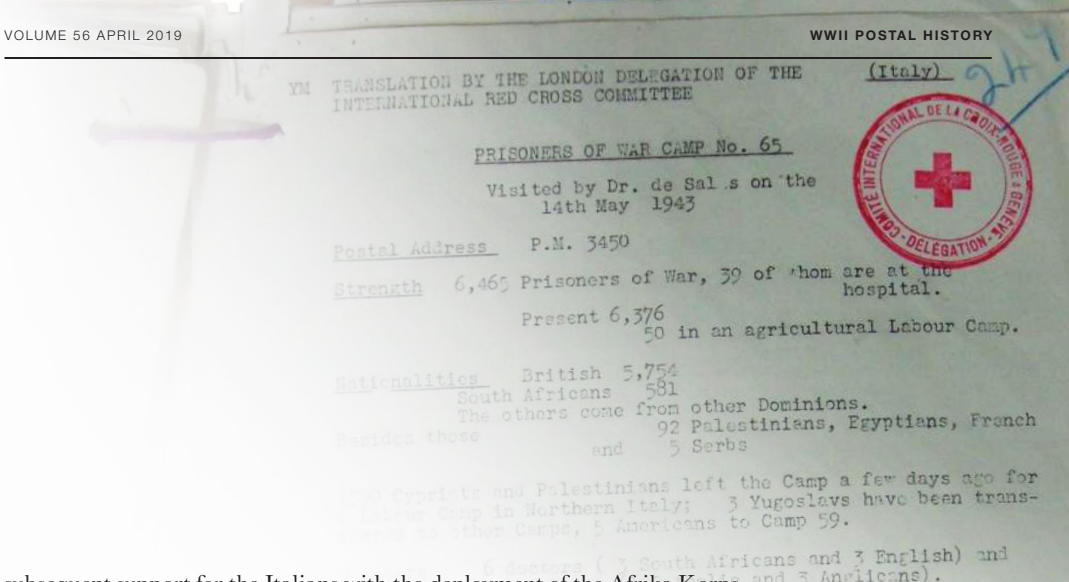


Interned but in touch

On 18 June 1940 when Winston Churchill dared to contemplate a successful Nazi invasion of Britain, he shuddered at mankind's potential 'sink into the abyss of a new Dark Age,' but conversely expressed words of optimism that the world would move toward 'broad sunlit uplands'...if the Battle of Britain could be won. The outcome was of course decided in the blue skies over southern England when the RAF's victory over the Luftwaffe ensured that not so much as a single Nazi goose step be placed on the pastures green below. If Churchill considered this to be the British Empire's finest hour, what he considered almost commensurate in its ignominy, was the capitulation of the British Army having been out-thought and out-fought by Erwin Rommel and the Afrika Korps at Tobruk. British forces had previously enjoyed the upper hand in the searing heat of North Africa's desert conflict – routing Mussolini's fascist troops and taking control of the Libyan coastal town. However, Hitler's



Lance Corporal Carr was a Royal Engineer serving in Field Company 232. The whole company including Carr were captured during the Battle of Gazala, west of Tobruk in Libya on 1 June 1942 – 20 days before Allied troops finally capitulated to Rommel's panzer division at Tobruk on 21 June. Records at the War Office Casualty Section suggest Carr was injured in Gazala, being listed as a casualty on 1 July. The postcard for prisoners of war (CARTOLINA POSTALE PER PRIGIONIERI DI GUERRA) was free of postal charges (ESENTE DA TASSE POSTALI). The card identifies the sender's name, service number, rank and prisoner of war camp – Campo p.g. (prigioniero di guerra) No 65 (Gravina Altamura). P.M. (Posta Militare/Military Post) 3450 identifies the camp district. The Italian mauve censorship cachets were often applied in Rome, the red/magenta British equivalents were struck by censors in Britain.
Carr was among the prisoners that were transported to Germany after the Allied invasion of Italy and was held at Stalag 4f, Hartmansdorf Chemnitz for the remainder of the war

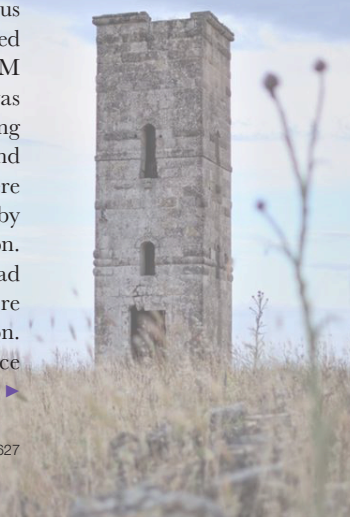


subsequent support for the Italians with the deployment of the Afrika Korps orchestrated by Rommel, resulted in Axis forces regaining control of Tobruk. It also resulted in the capture of 25,000 British combatants who surrendered to the Germans despite significant numerical advantage. By the time the tide had turned once again in the Allies' favour under the astute leadership of 'Monty' – Montgomery with victory at El Alamein, most of the captives from Tobruk had been transported to Italy and interned in POW camps.

The Gravina Altamura POW camp in a 'healthy and pleasant district' of Puglia was established in March 1941 and housed many of the British POWs captured during the North African campaign. On 14 May 1943 the camp was visited for at least the third time by a Swiss delegation from the International Red Cross who counted 5,754 British inmates among the 6,376 present. The conditions were described as relatively healthy with regular supplies of food and drug parcels combined with good medical attention given by Italian doctors and visits from a local dentist. Although the sanitary installations were good, the report acknowledged a problem with water supplies.

Accounts from prisoners suggested that hunger was a problem and that parcels from the British Red Cross and Canadian Red Cross were synonymous with the survival of some internees. Evidently envious eyes were on the opened Canadian packages which contained 'real' butter and large tins of KLIM (dried milk). However, that life was generally reasonable in the camp was underscored by POW reports that a library was created, there were boxing rings and football teams organised. One compound even indulged West End fantasies having formed a theatre company and orchestra! Instruments were supplied by Italians – some by bartering possessions and evidently a visit by Catholic Cardinal Ribera left the orchestra enhanced with a piano accordion.

An earlier Red Cross delegation had acknowledged that prisoners had been granted the opportunity to notify families back home of their capture within a week of incarceration in compliance with the Geneva Convention. Reports also acknowledged that the camp had a large general post office which was run by British POWs. The facility was divided in two sections ▶



– for incoming and outgoing mail respectively. Captives were allowed to send one card on a weekly basis, the pre-printed cards enabled communications that were restricted to ten lines of writing as the example below. Despite these cards facilitating only minimal news, their speed of processing and success of delivery was far superior to the fortnightly letters that they were also able to post. Complaints from POWs also suggested that incoming mail was far more likely to be received than their own correspondence being successfully delivered. Precise information relating to these circumstances are difficult to glean but it is known that incoming mail was generally efficiently processed by the International Red Cross in Geneva before distribution via Rome.

After one camp inspection, the subsequent report highlighted the complaint of Welsh prisoners pertaining to the censor returning mail that was written in Welsh. On the basis that they claimed that this was the only language in which they could write, the assessing Red Cross inspectorate acknowledged that the letters should not have been rejected and that they would champion the claims of Welsh POWs. The inspectors also noted a prisoner's postal request for some Union Jacks to be sent to the camp – in the event of the death of servicemen, to ensure that the British flag covered coffins at burials.

In 1943 Churchill's wish to attack 'the soft underbelly of the Axis' finally came to fruition with the invasion of Sicily in July, and the subsequent removal of Mussolini, paving the way for an Allied amphibious landing at Salerno. News of this and the subsequent Italian surrender filtered through to the POWs. Italian governors vacated the Gravina Altamura camp leaving the running of it to the prisoners who had been given instructions by the British command to stay put as Allied troops were close to liberating them. Some decided to take their chances and leave the camp, for those that remained, utter dismay followed with the arrival of Nazi troops who took control of the camp and transferred POWs to German camps for the remainder of the war. There will be more on the plight of those prisoners in the next issue of the *Bulletin* ●

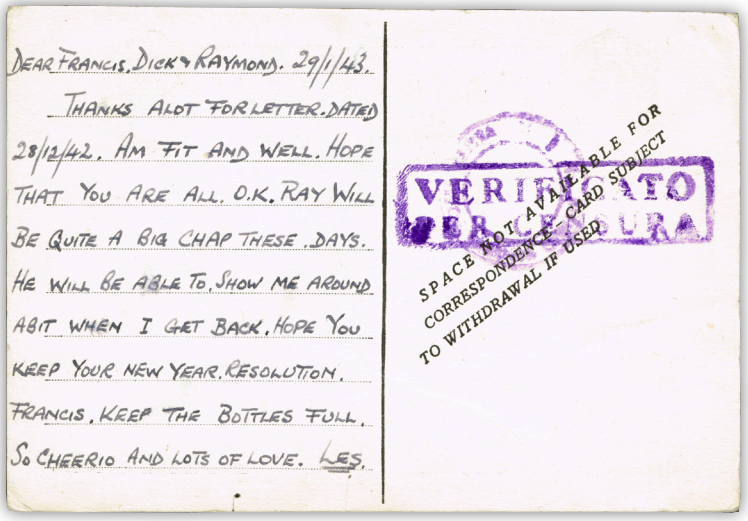
The derelict headquarters of the Gravina Altamura camp today. Hopefully plans to develop a museum on the site will come to fruition





The message on this card dated 29/1/43 was compliant with the directive to restrict words to ten lines and keep the right side clear. Failure to do so would invalidate the card and lead to its withdrawal as stipulated on the pre-printed angled type. The note written by Lance Corporal Carr (signed Les – evidently his middle name) expresses his well being and wish that back home a new year resolution is kept – 'keep the bottles full'. The Italian censors didn't have a problem with that, as endorsed by the VERICATO PER CENSURA cachet. However there is a suggestion that this message was encoded! We shouldn't underestimate the wily Sappers!

Images of Gravina Altamura are reproduced with the kind permission of Pietro Amendolara who also has further content on his Facebook site



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

1 April Bedford Stamp Fair, St. Mark's Church Hall, Calder Rise, Bedford MK41 7UY, 10am to 4pm, 11 dealers. Enquiries: Paul Harris, 01623 621143.
6 April Durham - NEPA Stamp Fair, Bowburn Community Centre, Durham Road, Bowburn, Durham DH6 5AT, 10am to 4pm, refreshments available. Enquiries: Mike Lewis, 07742 153669.
• Liverpool Postcard & Stamp Fair, Lark Lane Community Centre, Aigburth, Liverpool L17 8UU, 10am to 4pm, 36 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Helen Prescott, 07712 722116, h.prescott@yahoo.co.uk.
• Lichfield Stamp Fair, Boley Park Community Hall, Ryknild Street, Lichfield WS14 9XU, 10am to 4pm, 6 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: John & Jane Rice, 01785 259350, stamps@john-rice-stamps.co.uk.
• Leicester Stamp Fair, Derby Room, Holiday Inn, 129 St. Nicholas Circle, Leicester LE1 5LX, 9.30am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: John Suschitzky, 01162 350441.
• Rawreth Stamp Fair, Rawreth Parish Hall, Church Road, Rawreth SS11 8SH, 10am to 4pm, 10 dealers, refreshments available. 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.
• Cardiff Stamp, Postcard & Collectors' Fair, Cardiff City Hall, King Edward VII Avenue, Cardiff CF10 3ND, 10am to 4pm, 40 dealers. Enquiries: Malcolm Harrington, 01792 415293, malcolm.harrington1@hotmail.co.uk.
• Beckenham Stamp & Postcard Fair, Azelia Hall, Croydon Road, Beckenham BR3 4DA, 9am to 3pm, 12 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Ray McQuade, 0208 395 9285.
7 April Alfreton Philatelic Club Stamp Fair, The Genesis Centre, King Street, Alfreton DE55 7DQ, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: John Hales, 01773 417004, halesj@sky.com.
• Hopton Stamp Fair, Hopton Village Hall, Station Road, Hopton NR31 9BE, 9.30am to 2pm. Enquiries: Terry Allaker, 01502 563759.
• Oxford Stamp Fair, Botley W.I. Hall, North Hinksey Lane, off Botley Road, Oxford OX2 0LT, 10am to 1.30pm. Enquiries: Tristan Brittain, 07957 158299.
• Ripley Stamp Club Fair, Village Hall, High Street, Ripley GU23 6AF, 12.30pm to 3.30pm, 10 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Martin Mathewson, 01932 565814, martin.mathewson100@gmail.com.
• Maidstone Stamp Fair, Royal British Legion Hall, Hall Road, Aylesford ME20 7NL, 10am to 4pm, 6 dealers. Enquiries: John Perriman, 01903 244875.
• Newhaven Stamp & Postcard Fair, Denton & Mount Pleasant Social Centre, Denton Road, Newhaven BN9 0PX, 10am to 4pm, 7 dealers. Enquiries: Tony Trevis, 07966 151073.
12 April Strand Stamp Fair, The Galleon Suite, Royal National Hotel, Bedford Way, Russell Square, London WC1H 0DG, 9am to 4pm. Enquiries: Kate Puleston, 0208 946 4489. ►



Events and Meetings

• Meetings of the Great Britain Philatelic Society in April and May will be held at the Royal Philatelic Society London, at 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY from 11am. The morning session on Saturday 27 April will be a display by Peter Wood FRPSL entitled 'Ireland: 1839 to the Easter Rising'. In the afternoon from 2pm, '1666 and All That' and 'What the Victorians Did for Us' will be shown and explained by Malcolm Allinson. The following meeting on Saturday 18 May will again consist of two sessions. At 11am will be the President's Display, where John Davies FRPSL will consider and review 'The Future of Philately in Great Britain', following which at 2pm, Chris Harman RDP HonFRPSL will show 'The work of Perkins Bacon - Great Britain and the British Colonies'. Visitors are welcome to attend.

• The 90th Scottish Philatelic Congress will be on 12-13 April in the Dewar's Centre in Perth. There will be approximately 130 competitive frames on view with all normal classes of exhibits represented, as well as much else to attract and interest every philatelist and stamp collector.

APR 19 DATES

• The location of the RPSL is soon to change to be within what is termed 'the City of London', but for the next few months the final meetings of the 2018/19 season will be at the address maintained since 1925. This is at 41 Devonshire Place, where on 4 April there is a display from 1pm by members of the Royal Belgian Academy. On 11 April, the major display will be for the 150th Anniversary Celebrations of the society, and on-show will be philatelic treasures from collections of Her Majesty The Queen and Past Presidents' of the society. On 25 April, Bryant E. Korn will give a display entitled 'Postal Stamps and Postal History of Liberia 1820-1920'. On 9 May, Georg Størmer will entertain and inform with a PowerPoint presentation on 'Norway 1855-1868'. Non-members of the society are welcome as guests, but are required to contact Administration Manager, Jason Webber, on 0207 486 1044 during weekday office hours prior to the meeting day.

• The April meeting of the National Philatelic Society is at the Postal Museum, 15-20 Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DA, where on Saturday 13 April, Jeremy Gaskell will display from 2.45pm on 'British & Foreign Treaty Ports in China'. Visitors and prospective new members are most welcome with tea, coffee and food being available.

13 April Norton (Teesside) Stamp Fair, Norton Methodist Church Hall, High Street, Norton TS20 2QQ, 9.30am to 1.30pm. Enquiries: Mike Lewis, 07742 153669, mikeval9b@yahoo.co.uk.

• Middlewich Stamp Fair, Middlewich Community Centre, Civic Way, Middlewich CW10 9BX, 10am to 3.30pm, 7 dealers. Enquiries: Fred O'Reilly, 01226 765069.

• Telford Stamp and Card Fair, Belmont Community Hall, Tan Bank, Wellington, Telford TF1 1LT, 10am to 3pm, 15 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Bob Pilkington, 01299 211737, sbpilkington02@outlook.com.

• Charing Cross Market, (as entry on page 629)

• Ruislip Stamp & Postcard Fair, Methodist Church Hall, Ickenham Road, Ruislip HA4 7BZ, 10am to 4.30pm. Enquiries: David Milton, 01895 637283, david.milton139@gmail.com.

• Canterbury Postcard & Collectors' Fair, Westgate Hall, Westgate Road, Canterbury CT1 2BT, 10am to 3.30pm, 60 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Clive Baker, 01843 862707, info@clivebaker.co.uk.

• Bridgwater - Michael Hale Stamp Fair, Westfield United Reformed Church Hall, West Street, Bridgwater TA6 7EU, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Michael Hale, 01749 677669.

14 April Slip End Stamp Fair, Village Hall, Markyate Road, Slip End, Luton LU1 4BU, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845.

• Chelmsford Stamp & Postcard Fair, Old Chelmsfordians Club, Roxwell Road, Chelmsford CM1 2LY, 9am to 3pm, 7 dealers, tea and coffee available. Enquiries: Steve Burnell, 01708 229763.

• Uckfield Stamp Fair, Ridgewood Village Hall, New Road, Ridgewood, Uckfield TN22 5TE, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: John Perriman, 01903 244875

18 April Clyst St. George Stamp & Postal History Fair, Clyst St. George Parish Hall, Woodbury Road, Exeter EX3 0RE, 10am to 3pm. Enquiries: Mark Grimsley, 0117 962 3203, mark_grimsley-stamps@hotmail.co.uk.

20 April Preston Stamp Fair, Barton Village Hall, Garstang Road, Preston PR3 5AA, 10am to 4pm, 12 dealers, hot & cold refreshments available. Enquiries: John Roberts, 07943 174958, john.roberts591@virginmedia.com.

• Kenilworth Stamp Fair, Kenilworth School, Leyes Lane, Kenilworth CV8 2DA, 10am to 4pm, 8 dealers. Enquiries: John & Jane Rice, 01785 259350, info@john-rice-stamps.co.uk.

• Bury St. Edmunds Stamp Fair, Moreton Hall Community Centre, Symonds Road, Bury St. Edmunds IP32 7EW, 9.30am to 3.30pm, 12 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Rod Finn, 01379 898292, rod1finn@aol.co.uk.

• Charing Cross Market, (as entry on page 629)

• Dover Stamp & Collectors' Fair, Biggin Hall, Biggin Street, Dover CT16 1BD, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: Jan Shepherd, 07729 967206, keithstamps61@aol.com.

• Wimborne - Ferndown & West Moors Club Fair, Hamworthy Club, Magna Road, Canford Magna, Wimborne BH21 3AL, 10am to 4pm, 20 dealers, hot & cold refreshments available, and club bar. Enquiries: Alan King, 01202 064298, alan.king2010@hotmail.co.uk.

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

• Shoreham Postcard & Collectors' Fair, Shoreham Centre, Pond Road, Shoreham-by-Sea BN43 5WU, 10am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: Janette McCutcheon, 07810 564299, forestfairs.janette@gmail.com.

• Exeter - Michael Hale Collectors' Fair, The America Hall, De La Rue Way, Pinhoe, Exeter EX4 8PX, 10am to 4pm, 12 stamp dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Michael Hale, 01749 677669.

21 April Knowle Stamp Fair, Knowle Village Hall, St. Johns Close, Knowle, Solihull B93 0NH, 9.30am to 3pm, 10 dealers, tea, coffee and light refreshments available. Enquiries: Dave Burnett, 07765 792998.

22 April Loughborough Stamp Fair, Charnwood Bowls Club, Browns Lane, Loughborough LE11 3HE, 10am to 4pm. Enquiries: John & Jane Rice, 01785 259350, info@john-rice-stamps.co.uk.

• Aylesbury Stamp Fair, Church of the Good Shepherd, Churchill Avenue, Southcourt, Aylesbury HP21 8ER, 10am to 3pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845, shawdunton@aol.com.

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

26-27 April South England Stamp & Postcard Show, Bracknell Leisure Centre, Bagshot Road, Bracknell RG12 9SE, Friday 10am to 5pm, Saturday 10am to 3.30pm. Enquiries: Melvyn Philpott, 01406 350896.

27 April Grampian Stamp & Postcard Fair, Queen's Cross Parish Church Hall, Albyn Place, Aberdeen AB10 1YN, 10am to 3pm. Enquiries: Chad Neighbor, 01674 832823, chad@cneighbor.plus.com.

• Morecambe Annual Stamp Fair, The Platform, Morecambe Station Buildings, Marine Road Central, Morecambe LA4 4DB, 10am to 3pm. Enquiries: Lesley Vincent, 07587 147703, lesleyvincent1@sky.com.

• Chester Stamp Fair, Hoole United Reformed Church, Hoole Road, Chester CH2 3AU, 10am to 3.30pm, 7 dealers. Enquiries: Terry Barnett, 01514 862610.

• Great Barr Stamp Fair, Collingwood Centre, Collingwood Drive, Great Barr, Birmingham B43 7NF, 10am to 4pm, 14 dealers, full refreshments available. Enquiries: Dave Burnett, 07765 792998.

• Kettering Spring Stamp Fair, Ise Lodge Community Centre, St. Vincent's Avenue, Kettering NN15 5DR, 10am to 4pm, 8 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Gordon Tregidgo, 01536 746800.

• Ealing Stamp Fair, Ealing Parish Church, St. Mary's Road, Ealing W5 5EU, 9am to 1pm. Enquiries: Tristan Brittain, 07957 158299.

• Charing Cross Market, (as entry on page 629)

• Addlestone Stamp & Postcard Fair, Community Centre, Garfield Road, Addlestone KT15 2NJ, 10am to 4.30pm. Enquiries: David Milton, 01895 637283, david.milton139@gmail.com.

• Beckenham Stamp & Postcard Fair, Azelia Hall, Croydon Road, Beckenham BR3 4DA, 9am to 3pm, 12 dealers, refreshments available. Enquiries: Ray McQuade, 0208 395 9285.

• Chichester Stamp & Postcard Fair, Donnington Parish Hall, Stockbridge Road, Chichester PO19 8QR, 9.30am to 3pm. Enquiries: Chris Rapley, 01795 478175.

28 April Sandy Stamp Fair, Scout Headquarters, Sunderland Road, Sandy SG19 1QY, 10am to 3pm. Enquiries: Simon Shaw, 07534 496845, shawdunton@aol.com.

• Bracknell Stamp Fair, Red Cross Centre, 21 Martins Lane, Bracknell RG12 9EN, 9am to 1pm. Enquiries: Tristan Brittain, 07957 158299 ●

London 2020 FIP Exhibition in the UK – Deadlines

There will be a major stamp exhibition at the Business Deign Centre, Islington, London between Saturday 2 May and Saturday 9 May 2020. This will be an international, which has been granted FIP Patronage, with competitive classes in Championship, Traditional, Postal History, Thematic, Revenue, Postal Stationery, Aerophilately, Open, Picture Postcards, One Frame, Modern, Literature and Youth.

To ensure that as many exhibitors as possible can be accepted, the frames will be used twice during the week with exhibits being swapped on Tuesday 5 May. The UK Commissioner is Mike J Y Roberts FRPSL. Further details, application forms and rules can be found on the website www.london2020.co. Importantly the closing date for London 2020 is 30 June 2019.

Any queries, please email the commissioner at mjyr@btinternet.com

Mike Roberts
UK Commissioner, London 2020

Usage collecting



Mixed frankings – stamps of different issues or types used together on the same cover – are a popular type of usage collecting, although as far as GB stamps are concerned, generally not one that has been studied in great detail. They arise naturally when stamp issues are replaced, and 'visually illustrate the process of change' as intrepid pair of researchers Ray Simpson and Karl Louis put it[1]. This article will look at some of the possibilities.

Types of stamp replacement Replacements of one stamp issue by another in post office stocks can be broadly classified as follows:

Gradual – values are replaced piecemeal over a period until the new set is complete. Most replacements of definitive issues have been done this way, with the new stamps being phased in as and when ready.

Immediate – a new set of stamps is issued to completely replace the previous set, which is withdrawn from sale. In practice this almost never happened, with the issue of decimal low values in 1971 being an important exception.

Partial – only certain stamps in the set are replaced. Typically happens when changes to the set of values in use are required; the decimal Machin issues have in effect undergone a rolling partial replacement ever since 1971 due to regular increases in postal rates.

Temporary – values are replaced by another issue with a limited period of sale, then the original stamps are used again. This is the way in which commemoratives have usually been issued.



Fig 1: London to Constantinople registered letter of 2 September 1862, from the period where corner letters were added to the design of the surface printed stamps. This has the first replacement stamp – the 4d issued in January – in combination with the original 'no letters' 1s and 6d, which would not be replaced for another three months.
1s 1d first step postage + 9d combined registration fees (6d British + 3d Prussian) for the route via Belgium, Prussia, Austria, and the Ottoman port of Kustendjie on the Black Sea (now Constanta, Romania)

1 In an article in The GB Journal, the magazine of the Great Britain Philatelic Society (www.gbps.org.uk). As mentioned in the first article in this series, these gentlemen are preparing a book which looks at the various types of Victorian GB mixed frankings in detail, including a census of the more difficult combinations. This is due to be published later in 2019



Fig 2: October 1968 Post Office stationery card issued for pre-two tier post 3d postcard rate, uprated with both 1d Wilding and 1d Machin to send a radio record request at the new first class rate (both replacements from 16th September 1968)



Fig.3: Postcard sent inland on 8 April 1905 with a late use of the Edward VII ½d blue-green, redirected abroad on the 26th with a current ½d yellowish-green added to make up the 1d foreign postcard rate. Surcharge raised as an original franking was only counted if redirection was within one day. An example of change because of problems with combinations: the blue-green stamp was replaced as it could be confused with the blue 2½d under the typical yellowish artificial light sources of the time

Parallel – both issues are on sale simultaneously for an extended period. Not usually done as a specific policy other than to use up stocks of old stamps, but an exception is the issue of regional stamps for the same denominations as the 'national' issue, which has been standard practice since 1958. From the above, you will see that most of the time, mixed franking covers will have different values from each issue. Covers with stamps of the same value from two issues – what Simpson and Louis call the 'gold standard' – are much scarcer and of particular interest. They often result from older stamps remaining in the hands of the public.

Typical mixed frankings of definitive issues Set replacements in practice usually meant the introduction of a different design, which might be a small modification to the current one (Fig 1) or something completely new (Fig 2). There are, however, also cases where values within a set were re-issued in a different colour, typically for operational reasons (Fig 3) or the unavailability of materials (Fig 4). Gold standard mixed frankings of this kind are striking items. ►

Fig.4: c1942 long cover at sixfold airmail rate to USA (1s 3d per ½oz). Presumably dates from the period shortly after the 2s 6d Arms in brown was replaced by the green version, and this large company had both in its postage stocks. The colour change was due to problems obtaining sufficient supplies of the brown ink needed in wartime conditions



Mixed frankings due to changes of monarch There have been five changes of monarch since 1840, all of which naturally resulted in new issues of stamps. 'Mixed reign' combinations are attractive and popular items, and the normal gradual replacement of definitive sets gives plenty of scope for finding them (Fig 5/6). They generally only bear stamps of two monarchs, but the 'Year of the Three Kings' in 1936 resulted in some triple reign combinations. The original plan was to replace the George V stamps with Edward VIII equivalents, but only four values had been issued by the time the Abdication put paid to that one. A George VI series was issued instead in 1937-39, but as the first few replaced the Edward VIII stamps, commercial combinations of all three kings (Fig 7) are tricky to find. (Philatelically prepared covers are common, as collectors were not slow to spot the opportunity!)



Fig 5: The first new monarch of the stamp era: a 1902 'gold standard' triple rate registered cover with 2½d values of both Victoria and Edward VII, posted on the 13th day of issue of the latter (possibly the point at which stocks of the former ran out at this London office). The addressees were the distributors for the famous American Waltham Watch Company

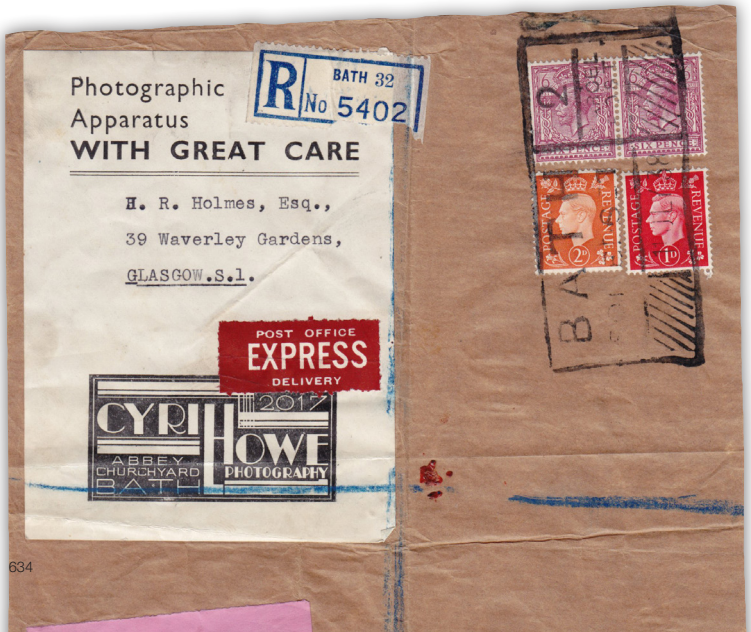


Fig 6: Piece from a 1938 registered express parcel (6d basic parcel rate for up to 3lb + 3d registration + 6d express fee) with George V 6ds (first issued 1924) and George VI 1d and 2d (issued 1937 and 1938). A combination with a stamp – the letterpress 6d – that had not been replaced by a stamp in the 1934-36 George V photogravure issue: the value was commonly used fiscally, and difficulties printing it in photogravure in a fugitive ink that would prevent removal of a pen cancellation had not been overcome in time. Its George VI replacement (in photogravure) was finally issued in 1939



Fig 7: July 1937 foreign rate registered letter with 'Three Kings' franking (2½d postage + 3d registration), in a printed Lloyds Bank envelope. The George VI ½d and 1d had been on sale for two months, but the 4d was not issued until 1938.

Mixed frankings with commemorative stamps

The general procedure with commemorative issues was to sell them instead of the corresponding definitives while stocks lasted or until withdrawn, unless the definitives were specifically asked for. This means that commercial 'gold standard' combinations with definitives of the same value are unusual, but can be found, presumably where users bought the stamps at different times (Fig 8). Combinations of stamps from different commemorative sets are also surprisingly uncommon on covers not posted by stamp dealers, even in the period from 1963 onwards when a decision was made to issue several sets a year (Fig 9). ►



Fig 8: 1½d letter rate cover of 3 June 1929 paid with a combination of the current ½d definitive and two of the Postal Union Congress commemoratives: 'The first four denominations [ie the low values]… will be put on sale in replacement of the ordinary stamps of the same denominations on the 10th of May next… and will remain on sale until further notice' [Post Office Circular, 24 April 1929]



Fig 9: Sevenfold Zone B printed matter airmail rate (7d per ½oz) sent 26 August 1969 from a British publisher to a library in Iowa, paid with commemoratives of January, March and August that year. The franking was doubtless chosen to be appealing, but the stamps were all recent issues that could have been in stock in the company post room

Mixed currency frankings The change to decimal currency on 15 February 1971 resulted in a particularly interesting type of mixed franking, with £sd and £p stamps used together. A new set of decimal high values with exact equivalents in shillings were issued in 1970, enabling postal clerks and company post rooms to get used to the new sheet format with values in relatively infrequent use – 10p, 20p, and 50p (2s, 4s, and 10s), plus the £1 in a new sheet size (Fig 10). After 'D-Day', £sd stamps were valid for use until the end of February 1972 at values corresponding to the official £sd-to-decimal conversion charts (Fig11).



Fig 10: November 1970: one of a batch of parcel tags apparently used by the National Bank of Australasia to send packages to Zone C (including Australia) at the 1s 9d per ½oz letter rate. The £7 franking is an exact 80-fold rate, though payment often seemed to be split over more than one tag. A very unusual 'gold standard' combination of the 10s and 50p stamps, with a block of £1 stamps from the decimal format sheets (see the Stanley Gibbons Specialised Catalogue volume three for details of how to distinguish the printings)



Fig 11: November 1971 registered letter at the new 23p basic registered rate (3p first class postage + 20p registration on letters), and which, given the format and address, probably contained punched computer cards. Paid with combination of two current 7½p commemoratives, a ½p decimal Machin, and one old 1s 6d Machin, equivalent to 7½p

Other types of mixed franking Regional stamps were mentioned above in the context of 'parallel' issues – as they are only issued for the main basic rates, 'national' stamps used for all other values. Since this constitutes the set of issued stamps in the region, it is a debatable point whether regional/national combinations of different values should really count as a significant 'mixed franking'. (A similar caveat applies to many combinations of commemoratives and definitives, of course.) However, 'gold standard' frankings definitely qualify, although these are among the more awkward usages to find and may require unusual circumstances in order to occur (Fig 12).

Postage dues were first used in the UK in 1914, and replacements generally followed the 'gradual' pattern, as with definitives. However, as the design was not changed until decimalisation in 1971, it is very difficult to spot combination covers with dues from more than one issue! Occasionally it is possible to identify different issues based on the pattern of values or the printing process. There were however three distinct issues of decimal dues with different designs; 'gold standard' combinations are unusual but can be found (Fig 13).

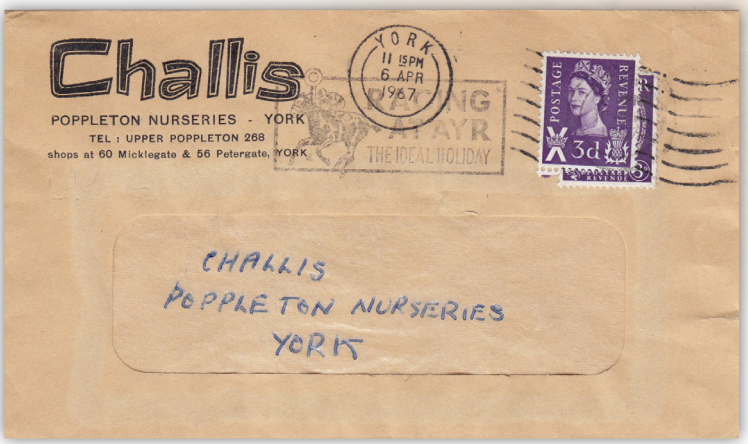


Fig 12: 1967 window envelope used twice at the printed papers rate – sent first from York to Ayr with a national 3d Wilding, and returned with a Scottish regional 3d stuck over the top. Presumably the first use was to send a bill, and the second to send the payment. (Mixed frankings due to envelope reuse are more commonly seen as a result of paper conservation efforts during and shortly after WWII.)

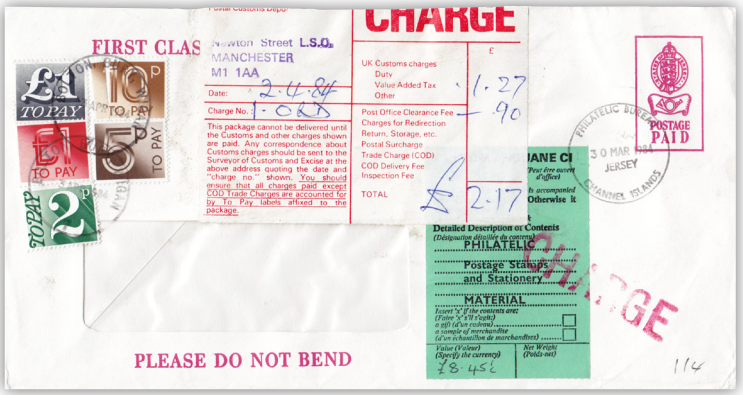


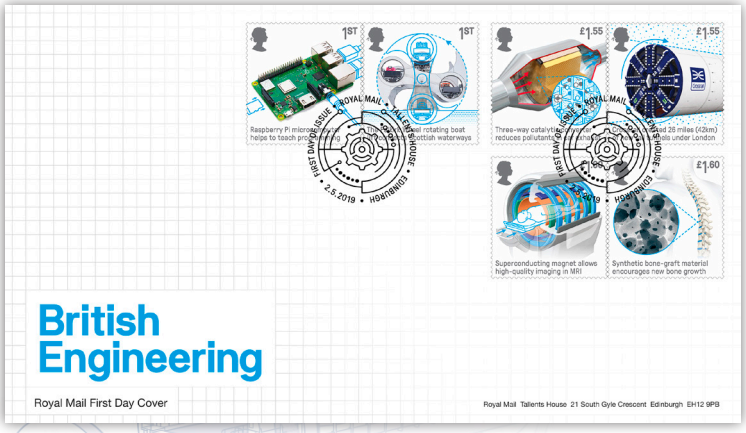
Fig 13: 1984 cover from Jersey Philatelic Bureau with £2.17 to pay for VAT and the clearance fee, collected with a mixture of the 1971 and 1982 issue postage dues including both £1 values. The dues are cancelled with rubber datestamps for the 'Bolton, Bury and Wigan' area – it is not clear whether the recipient had some arrangement with the local delivery office to use an interesting combination of dues, or simply had a stroke of luck!

Finally, for the hardcore, in principle it's possible to collect mixed frankings of non-visual changes, such as new watermarks or phosphor types. The latter would require use of a UV lamp to distinguish (although any found would also be of interest to postal mechanisation collectors). However, that is positively straightforward compared to determining the watermark of a stamp on cover …which is, as they say, left as an exercise for the reader!

By Maurice Buxton a longterm collector, and webmaster for the Great Britain Philatelic Society ***www.gbps.org.uk***

First Day Cover with Tallents House handstamp and (opposite) the Miniature Sheet First Day Cover with the alternative pictorial handstamp

Orders for Serviced First Day Covers (ie stamped and postmarked) have to reach Royal Mail by 2 May 2019. Customers may also send stamped envelopes on the day of issue to Tallents House for the Tallents House, Edinburgh postmark. Please quote the *Bulletin* media code 19BUL13



The stamp issue celebrating the great in Britain

Britain's reputation for innovative engineering has long been established. The country's status continues to grow whether it be through large civic engineering projects or in electrical, chemical or biomedical fields. The six stamp set celebrates outstanding achievements of the last 50 years – and includes winners of the prestigious MacRobert Award that has run concurrently with this period. The highly esteemed award is bestowed by the Royal Academy of Engineering.

Raspberry Pi *First Class* – It might be small – only the size of a credit card, but the Raspberry Pi has achieved sales of over 20 million. These microcomputers have revolutionised education in computer science and programming worldwide.

Falkirk Wheel *First Class* – British engineers and architects collaborated to produce the world's first and only rotating boat lift. The Falkirk Wheel is a magnificent structure that joins two major Scottish canals for the first time in 70 years.

British Engineering – Prices	
Set of 6 Special Stamps	£7.70
Miniature Sheet	£4.50
Presentation Pack	£13.00
First Day Cover Stamps	£9.85
First Day Cover Miniature Sheet	£6.00
Stamp Souvenir	£9.85
Miniature Sheet Souvenir	£6.00
First Day Envelope	£0.30
Harrier Medal Cover	£16.95
Postcards (11 in set))	£4.95
Press Sheet	£59.40

British Engineering– Stamp Specifications	
Date of issue	2 May
Number of stamps	Six
Value of stamps	2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.55, 2 x £1.60
Design	Common Curiosity
Illustrations	Martin Woodward
Stamp format	Portrait
Stamp size	35mm x 37mm
Sheet format	30/60
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	14.5 x 14
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate





FD1910-TH



FD1910-PL



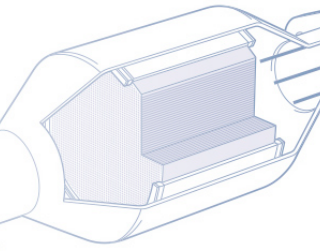
FD1910-NP

Catalytic Converter *£1.55* – Poor air quality in our urban centres is an ongoing concern, however today's cars are far more environmentally friendly than they were 50 years ago, and that's synonymous with the three-way catalytic converters scrubbing car exhausts of harmful gases.

Crossrail *£1.55* – The Crossrail project created a new railway line running from Essex in the East, to Reading in the West. The task required that 13 miles (21km) of twin tunnels be bored under London, navigating existing sewers, tube train tunnels and buildings. The line will increase central London's rail capacity by ten per cent.

MRI Scanner *£1.55* – Common place in hospitals now, MRI scanners are utilised globally in the diagnosis of maladies such as cancer, internal bleeding and infections. British engineers at Oxford Instruments developed superconducting magnets to make possible what is now routine imaging of our bodies.

Bone-graft *£1.60* – Dr Karin Hing and the team at Queen Mary University of London developed bone-graft substitutes able to enhance the body's natural ability to rebuild bone tissue by looking at their structure and chemistry. The engineered materials are now used in complex orthopaedic surgeries worldwide.



Miniature Sheet The Harrier Jump Jet, that was originally developed by British aircraft manufacturer Hawker Siddeley celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2019. In recognition, Royal Mail honour the Jet in the British Engineering Special Stamp issue with a Miniature Sheet that features two First Class stamps and two £1.55 values. The full range of the stamp issue's products will be featured in next month's *Bulletin*, including a beautiful Harrier Medal Cover. Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles can be purchased online at www.royalmail.com/stamps ●

British Engineering – Miniature Sheet Specifications	
Date of issue	2 May
Number of stamps	Four
Value of stamps	2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.55
Design	Turner Duckworth
Photography	Richard Cooke
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	41mm x 30mm
Miniature Sheet size (exc margin)	192mm x 74mm
Miniature Sheet size (inc margin)	204mm x 74.25mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	14.5 x 14
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA

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New Issues and Withdrawals

4 April



Issue Birds of Prey: Stamps (10 x 1st Class). Presentation Pack. Stamp Souvenir. Postcards (10 in set). Stamp Book (4 x 1st Class Machin definitives, 2 x 1st Class Special Stamps). Framed Stamps (10 stamps, UK only) – plus limited edition of 100, signed by the artist. Framed print of peregrine falcon, (limited edition, unsigned, UK Only. Affixed and uncancelled stamp on the label on the back of the frame).

15 April

Withdrawal Stamp Classics: Stamp Sheet Souvenir.

2 May

Issue RAF Centenary: Limited Edition of 100 framed Red Arrows Miniature Sheet signed by the Red Arrows Team. (UK delivery only.)

2 May

Issue British Engineering: Stamps (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.55, 2 x £1.60 – 3 se-tenant pairs). Miniature Sheet (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.55). Presentation Pack. Stamp Souvenir. Stamp Sheet Souvenir. Postcards (11 in set). Press Sheet (12 per sheet). Harrier Medal Cover – featuring the Miniature Sheet.



13 May

Withdrawal Leonardo Da Vinci: Stamp Souvenir.

19 May

Withdrawal The Old Vic: Stamps (2 x 67p, 2 x £1.25, 2 x £1.45, 2 x £1.55). Presentation Pack. Stamp Souvenir. First Day Envelope. Postcards (8 in set).

19 May

Withdrawal Owls: Stamps (10 x 1st Class). Presentation Pack. Stamp Souvenir. Postcards (10 in set). Framed Stamps (10 stamps).



19 May



Withdrawal The Royal Wedding: Miniature Sheet (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.55). Presentation Pack. Stamp Sheet Souvenir. Souvenir Pack. Press Sheet. Bundle. BU Coin Cover. Silver Coin Cover. Gold Coin Cover.

24 May

Issue Queen Victoria Bicentenary: Stamps (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.35, 2 x £1.60 – 3 horizontal se-tenant pairs). Miniature Sheet (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.55). Presentation Pack. Stamp Souvenir. Stamp Sheet Souvenir. Postcards (11 in set). Prestige Stamp Book (pane one: £1.35, 2 x £1.60, pane two: Machin definitives – 4 x 1st Class, 2 x 50p, 2 x 2p; pane three: 2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.55; pane four: 2 x 1st Class, 1 x £1.35). Press Sheet (15 per sheet). BU Coin Cover. Silver Coin Cover. Gold Coin Cover.

29 May

Issue 2019 FIP Exhibition – Sweden: Smilers® Sheet (20 x 1st Class).

You can order any of the Royal Mail stamp products listed above, by visiting **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.) Or use the Royal Mail telephone order service on 03457 641 641 (08.30 – 17.00 Monday to Friday). For overseas customers: +44 3457 641 641. Minimum handling charge UK £1.45, Europe £1.55, rest of world (airmail) £2.15. Please quote **19BUL13**, the *Bulletin* media code.

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