

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The ROYAL MAIL magazine *for stamp collectors*

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Bulletin

2007 definitives list • Insects
• Northern Ireland sheets



Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



Cover An Adonis Blue butterfly, one of the insects featured in the next Action for Species stamp issue, previewed this month. Photograph © Peter Eeles.

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), Newcastle upon Tyne, Norwich, Nottingham, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Princes Risborough, 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

29 December	Withdrawal 37p Machin definitive
31 December	Withdrawal 2005 Yearbook (standard and de luxe versions) and Yearpack
8 January	Issue James Bond stamps, miniature sheet, prestige book, presentation pack, stamp cards, press sheet
8 January	Withdrawal Beatles stamps, miniature sheet, presentation pack and stamp cards
15 January	Issue Stamp book containing 4 × 1st definitives and two 'Love' stamps with 'Be My Valentine' and 'SWALK' labels
15 January	Issue Generic Smilers sheets ('Smilers all Round') with 10 or 20 × Union Flag, Hello, and Love stamps
31 January	Withdrawal Sea Life stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards • Postcode advert stamp book (issued 1 Feb 2007)
5 February	Issue Working Dogs stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards
12 February	Withdrawal The Sky at Night stamps, pack and stamp cards
28 February	Issue Monarchs: Houses of Lancaster and York stamps, miniature sheet, presentation pack, stamp cards, press sheet and cachet cover
28 February to be confirmed	Issue Retail book: 6 × 1st class Smilers (mix of 2005 and 2006 issues)
29 February	Withdrawal World of Invention stamps, miniature sheet, pack, stamp cards and prestige book

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The British Philatelic Bulletin is published monthly by Royal Mail, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ. ● **Editor** J R Holman ● **Price** £1.20 each from Post Office Ltd philatelic outlets ● **Annual subscription** £12.95 UK & Europe; £17.95 elsewhere. Send subscriptions to Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. ● **Binders** (to hold 24 issues) £8.50, storage boxes (about 30 copies) £9.95 available by post from Royal Mail (Edinburgh address, above). ● Royal Mail also publishes the fortnightly *British Postmark Bulletin*, giving details of forthcoming special handstamps. Available on annual subscription from Edinburgh address above: £12.25 UK and Europe, £24.95 rest of the world. ● **Copyright** Design & text Royal Mail Group Ltd, unless attributed to a specified author. All requests to reproduce any articles should be sent to the Editor, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail Letters, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ. ● **Design** Robert Maude ● **Printed** in Great Britain by Beacon Press ● **ISSN** 0953 6119 ● Royal Mail is a trading name of Royal Mail Group Ltd. Registered in England and Wales no 4138203 registered office 148 Old Street, London EC1Y 9HQ

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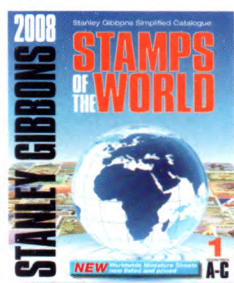
Glenn Morgan

Mail volumes The Office for National Statistics records interesting information about British mail volumes, and states: 'In October 1871 the half-penny postage was introduced in the United Kingdom and in the same year the number of letters delivered stood at 867 million. By the time of the First World War the number of letters, newspapers, halfpenny packets and postcards delivered had almost quadrupled. In 1938, prior to the Second World War, more than 8 billion letters, newspapers and postcards were posted. During the war years the number posted declined to slightly over 6 billion. However, between 1941 and 1944 the number of airmail letters posted increased from 10 million to 224 million. Since then the growth in airmail has been slower and in 1999, 693 million airmail letters were posted. The number of letters posted has increased steadily since 1981 and almost 20 billion were posted in 2000.'

Post-2000 records are not available from ofns at this time, but Royal Mail's unaudited accounts to September 2006 record that some 83 million items of mail are sent daily, deliveries are made to around 27 million UK addresses and there are now 113,000 street pillar boxes, 70 Mail Centres and 1400 Delivery Offices nationwide process the mail and a 30,000 strong vehicle fleet and 33,000 bicycles help to distribute and deliver the mail.

14,299 Post Office branches serve almost 25 million distinct customers every week who, between them, make 36 million visits; while Parcelforce delivered some 168 million parcels in the first six months of 2006.

With 188,000 directly employed staff, Royal Mail Group is still a major force to be reckoned with, despite current problems that are not, of course, restricted to this country but are a worldwide cause for concern ●



Stamps of the World The 2008 edition of Stanley Gibbons' full-colour *Stamps of the World* A-Z catalogue has recently appeared. Comprising five volumes, it has a newly designed cover and now includes miniature sheets for the whole world. Simplified in its nature, indeed it used to be known as 'the Simplified' (and still is by many older collectors), the set costs £175 retail. With the number of stamps used for mail purposes diminishing year-on-year and the number of stamp issues ever-increasing worldwide, we are only a few years away from the 500,000th stamp. Available from Stanley Gibbons, 399 Strand, London WC2, or order through your favourite philatelic dealer or bookseller. Enquiries: www.stanleygibbons.com ●

Speed restrictions From 1 January 2008 a lower speed limit of 56 mph (90kph) for vehicles weighing more than 3.5 tonnes was introduced in the UK. This is because of EU legislation and applies to all vehicles in the EU and the UK. Royal Mail's network has adapted to the new limit, but is keeping to a commitment that mail will be delivered by 2pm each day (or 3pm in rural areas), despite it now taking longer for its fleet to get from A to B ●

Croydon 2007 exhibition The seventh national exhibition organised by the Association of British Philatelic Societies was held at the Fairfield Halls, Croydon, 23-24 November. It followed previous shows in Newcastle, Hove, Glasgow, Chester, Basildon and Torquay.

It was good to see a fair number of visitors actually looking at the competition displays which seemed predominantly postal history material rather than stamps. One eminent collector commented to me 'Stamps are dead, everyone is collecting postal history now – at least those who enter competitions.' There was much to interest collectors of GB material. Entries in the Postal History Class included British *po* in Colombia 1821-81, Maltese and Spoon cancels, and local studies of Bristol, Daventry, Scottish Highlands & Islands, and Suffolk. The 'London's Postmasters' exhibit attempted to identify the receivers and the location of their offices. Peter Wood's Ireland Postal History 1590s-1890s included a Corsini letter from Cork to London, 1591; a letter from Commonwealth forces in Ireland, 1649; Dublin Bishop marks of the 1720s; and the 'Mermaid' handstamp unique to Ireland used in 1808-14. The 'Secured mail and the introduction of Registration within GB 1560-1862' exhibit contained some significant historical documents – an Exchequer warrant from Elizabeth 1's Lord High Treasurer to Richard Mynsterley as Queen's messenger for riding into Wales; a Charles 1 proclamation 'concerning the Post-master of England for Forreigne parts'; and rare examples of London private postal markings applied in 1680-82 by Robert Murray and William Dockwra.

The 'Traditional Class' (ie stamps) included a display by 'Red-Alert' entitled '5 billion and still counting!' – the number of '1d star' stamps printed by Perkins Bacon, 1854-64 – showing a large block from plate 27 with plate number and marginal inscription, Wyon head medals in silver and bronze, and Archer trial perforations on cover. The 1955 Castle High Values exhibit, by 'Granite', included a presentation card signed by the designer Lynton Lamb, varieties, school specimen and 'Cancelled' overprints and examples used on cover and on HVP (High Value Packet) labels. An Edward VII booklets entry featured early privately produced books and a curious document of the Half Penny Letter Post Co Ltd offering patent envelopes with sheet of paper and embossed penny postage stamp for 1/2d (5s3d for box of 120).

Croydon 2007 included the 89th Philatelic Congress of GB, with papers presented by Peter McCann (Montserrat Postal History) and Tony Walker (Machin definitives), the latter printed in the exhibition handbook/catalogue. Alas for exhibition souvenir enthusiasts, there was no exhibition postmark, cover or other souvenirs.

I enjoyed the exhibition, but felt it needed a focal point when entering the Hall, perhaps an information stand or a general interest display (eg stamp design or printing) to attract new or young collectors. In some rooms the lighting was too poor to see the displays properly. The Thematic exhibits, although listed in the catalogue, were actually at the Thematica/Eurothema exhibition in London, held concurrently; this should have been mentioned in the catalogue. Shortcomings apart, it was a good show and I look forward to Harrogate next May. Eurothema report next month ●

Enquiries and booking Send a SAE to Christopher Oliver, National Philatelic Society, c/o British Postal Museum & Archive, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL or visit www.ukphilately.org.uk/nps where a booking form is also available.

Philatelic research seminar Research is essential in writing up a collection and for competing, especially in classes such as thematic or social philately. It might also unearth hidden gems among otherwise common stamps or postal history or help avoid those embarrassing moments that occasionally occur at philatelic society meetings. The National Philatelic Society will be devoting an afternoon seminar to the subject at the Phoenix Centre, Phoenix Place, London WC1 (next door to Freeling House), on 17 January 2008. The seminar will start at 14.00 and finish by 16.30, and will be led by David Beech FRPSL.

David will be discussing methods, sources and disciplines for successful and enjoyable philatelic research, in the light of developments such as the internet. He will be following up the seminar with an article on the subject, in a future issue of *Stamp Lover*, the NPS magazine.

The meeting has been organised through the British Postal Museum & Archive in the adjoining Phoenix Centre, where Royal Mail is kindly providing a meeting room. The NPS Library will be open to all attendees from 11.00 until 18.30 on the day of the seminar.

There will be a charge of £5 (£3 for NPS members). Places are limited and the deadline for applications is 12 January 2008. For further details and a booking form, see details at left ●

Enquiries Richard Wheatley, 7 Manor Croft, Leeds LS15 9BW. Telephone 0113 260 1978, or e-mail secretary@harrogate2008.org.uk

ABPS Harrogate 2008 This show is expected to be 'the best show ever held in Yorkshire' according to John Sussex, Chairman of ABPS Harrogate 2008.

It will be the 8th National Stamp Exhibition to be held outside London, and there are expected to be about 175 frames of competitive philately and 25 frames of Yorkshire Postal History, as well as frames of youth entries. A large number of dealers have already booked stands and around 80 are expected to attend. In the Court of Honour material from the collection of HM The Queen and others will be displayed.

The show will be held on 2-3 May 2008 at the Harrogate International Centre, Hall Q, Kings Road, Harrogate, and now is the time to ensure that you have put the dates in your new diary as it promises to be an exciting two days of philately. It will also be the last opportunity for British collectors to qualify for the London 2010 international.

Diversions exist for the less philatelic-minded, as Harrogate offers fashionable shopping, a glamorous heritage and a trendy café culture, all in a spa setting. Nearby are the Turkish Baths and Health Spa, Royal Pump Room Museum, and Valley Gardens. Slightly further out of town are the Royal Horticultural Society Gardens at Harlow Carr, and the stunning Yorkshire Dales. Harrogate is readily accessible from Leeds-Bradford and Manchester airports, London or Edinburgh by rail via Leeds or York, Leeds by rail or bus, and by main road from all directions. There is ample B&B, cosy guesthouse and smart hotel accommodation to suit all tastes.

For information about the show visit www.harrogate2008.org.uk and for queries regarding the competitions contact Richard Wheatley (see left) from whom information, rules and entry forms for the National and International classes will be available shortly ●

Stampex Spring Stampex will be held at the Business Design Centre, Islington, London N1 from 27 February to 1 March. The main display, on the Village Green, will be mounted by the Austrian Philatelic Society, to celebrate their 60th anniversary. About 20% of dealers will be from overseas, and an updated list of attending dealers can be found on the PTS website (www.philatelic-traders-society.co.uk). In addition the BFPO and Bletchley Park Post Office will both be there, and the ABPS and NPS will run a joint information stand. The Royal Mail stand will sell all the current philatelic products, and the Houses of Lancaster and York stamps go on sale on the second day of the exhibition. Mail posted at the exhibition will receive a special Stampex postmark, and a Stampex First Day of Issue postmark will be available on 28 February. Visitors will receive a free postcard, and a Stampex Smiler will be on sale; the sheet has a travel theme featuring cars, trains, ships and planes. Societies meeting at Stampex include the Egypt, Concorde, Ceylon, Aden, Yemen & Somaliland, Malta, and Ascension study circles and the British Postmark Society •



Busy Autumn Stampex, 2007.

For further Stampex details telephone 01252 628006, or email info@philatelic-traders-society.co.uk

Bath Postal Museum The Museum has received a major award for the outstanding way it communicates with its visitors. The Interpret Britain and Ireland Commendation was presented to BPM representatives Colin Baker and Ivan Holliday by Frank Kelly, the popular Irish actor, in Ireland on 26 November. The awards recognise the very best examples of interpretation – the art of helping people explore and appreciate our world. The awards scheme, which is now in its 23rd year, is run by the Association for Heritage Interpretation (AHI) with support from English Heritage, the Countryside Council for Wales, and Scottish Natural Heritage. The BPM applied for an award following its move to new premises in 2006 – see our report in the January 2007 *Bulletin* •

BPM enquiries Telephone 01225 460333 or see www.bathpostalmuseum.org

Wildlife Stamp Event 2008 Edinburgh Zoo, in conjunction with the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies (ASPS), will host another Wildlife Stamp Event at Edinburgh Zoo on Saturday and Sunday 9-10 February. The activities include an exhibition of philatelic material depicting wildlife, to be mounted by collectors drawn from across Scotland; a special stamp trail through the zoo; activities and craft area for children and adults; and philatelic competitions for adults and children. In addition, there will also be a chance to purchase philatelic material from local dealer Robert Murray who will be present on both days. All events over the weekend are included in the normal admission price to Edinburgh Zoo. Members of Philatelic Societies (along with their families) can obtain vouchers for discounted entry by sending a SAE to Alan Watson, Secretary ASPS, 44 Rennie Street, Falkirk FK1 5AL. The Zoo, which attracts over 600,000 visitors a year, is open every day of the year including Christmas Day •

Enquiries Alexandra Robb, Education Officer, Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, Edinburgh EH12 6TS. Phone 0131 314 0335.

Auctions Cavendish Auctions held a postal sale of philatelic literature back in September. The dearest item sold was lot 2126 which comprised 44 part-bound volumes from 1 to 44 of *The British Philatelist*. This is believed to be one of the few remaining complete runs of this classic GB philatelic periodical (ex Bierman). It had a £750 estimate, but sold for just £600. There were two lots of stamp albums, both comprising a pair of unused Frank Godden Deluxe Oversize albums with 50 interleaved pages in each album. These bore an estimate of £240, but sold for a healthy £440 – almost double. For those with less deep pockets, several lots sold for under a tenner. Enquiries: Visit www.cavendish-auctions.com •

The next postage stamp sale from Bonhams auction house will be sale 15779 comprising Stamps & Covers of the World. It will be held at Knightsbridge on 19 March 2008. Enquiries: visit www.bonhams.co.uk for the on-line catalogue •

Belgian multiples A new franking system has been introduced in Belgium for its domestic mail. The previous system comprised an array of complex prices, which is now replaced by an apparently simple system of multiples.

Rather than having a euro face value, domestic stamps now bear an encircled 1, 2, 3, 5 or 7. Customers have to 'simply multiply this number by the base price (currently 0.52 euros) to find the right stamp'.

① = 0.52 euros for standardised domestic mail 0-50g; ② = 1.04 euros for non-standardised domestic item 0-100g; ③ = 1.56 euros for non-standardised domestic item 100-350g; ⑤ = 2.60 euros for non-standardised domestic item 350g-1kg; and ⑦ = 3.64 euros for non-standardised domestic item 1kg-2kg.

Presumably, if you have a item of mail that is 1.6kg, you use either a ⑦ stamp on its own, or any combination such as a ③+②+①+①, a ⑤+②, etc. Apparently 'this is great news for philatelists, as the new system gives them the opportunity to expand their collection' •



Audrey Hepburn The German Post Office was scheduled to issue a stamp in 2001 that depicted this much-loved actress, but the family objected because of the cigarette-holder in her mouth, and it was not released. As often happens, an unknown number escaped destruction and this stamp has become a great rarity, known as the 'Blue Mauritius of Germany'. A fourth postally-used copy has recently surfaced, and it was displayed by Ulrich Felzmann at the recent Sindelfingen stamp fair. Felzmann has now been responsible for auctioning three of the four stamps found and an incredible 170,000 euros (almost £119,000) was paid for the first example found, with each subsequent copy found presumably selling for less •

Eagles Smilers A single stamp taken from an Eagle Coaches Business Customised Stamp sheet that used the Hallmarks 'Cheers' stamp realised £28 in a recent eBay sale. This item, whether it is a single stamp or the full sheet, rarely comes on to the market, but a full sheet was recently sold for a staggering £2200 in an online auction sale •

Royal Mail news 2008 issues • Stamp poll • New issues and products • 2008 postmarks



Stamps from the first three of this year's new issues: next month's Working Dogs (to be issued 5 February) and Great British Monarchs (28 February) will follow James Bond (8 January).

2008 issues The James Bond stamps, which go on sale on 8 January, are expected to be very popular, similar to the Beatles issue last January. If you still need the Beatles stamps for your collection order now, as they will go off sale on 8 January. There are two sets of new special stamps next month – Working Dogs (5 February) and Great British Monarchs (28 February) – previewed in the October and November issues of the *Bulletin*. In March we will issue a Celebrating Northern Ireland miniature sheet (previewed on the following page) and a Rescue at Sea set, previewed last month. The Insects issue (15 April) is also previewed this month.

The Cathedrals stamps (13 May) will depict Lichfield Cathedral, Belfast Cathedral (St Anne's), Gloucester Cathedral, St David's Cathedral, Westminster Cathedral and St Magnus Cathedral, Kirkwall, Orkney. A miniature sheet of four stamps features St Paul's Cathedral in London, to mark the 300th anniversary of its completion.

The set entitled Carry on Hammer (10 June) recalls the popular Hammer Horror and Carry On series of films. The Airshows stamps (17 July) mark the centenary of the first powered flight in the UK, which took place at Farnborough. The Olympic Handover from Beijing to London will be commemorated with a stamp issue on 26 August, and the RAF Uniforms set will be issued on 18 September, continuing the series started by the Army Uniforms set in September.

A miniature sheet will be issued on 29 September marking the 50th anniversary of the country (regional) stamps. The Women of Distinction stamps (14 October) are linked to the 150th anniversary of the birth of Emmeline Pankhurst. The Christmas stamps go on sale on 4 November, the theme being Traditional Pantomime. The final Lest We Forget miniature sheet (6 November) marks the 90th anniversary of the end of the First World War •

Collect British Stamps The 2008 (59th) edition of the ever-popular Stanley Gibbons *Collect British Stamps* colour checklist is now available from Royal Mail Talents House, as well as from Stanley Gibbons, and stamp and book shops, priced £9.95 •



Generic and Smilers sheets with circular labels, on sale from 15 January.

For full details of the Smilers service see the leaflet in Post Office branches, phone the Smilers helpline on 0845 074 2000, or visit www.royalmail.com/smilers

New style Generic/Smilers sheets New-look Generic and Smilers sheets will be available from 15 January. The Generic sheet contains a mixture of 20 Union Flag, Love, or Hello stamps, with circular-shape adjoining labels, priced £7.35. Smilers sheets, with customers' own image on the labels, are £7.50 for sheets of 10 or £13.50 for a sheet of 20 (£12.50 each for two or more sheets) plus handling charge. The Smilers can be supplied with Union Flag, Love, or Hello stamps – please state clearly which is required when ordering •

Coming off sale The Beatles stamps and miniature sheet will be withdrawn from sale on 8 January, and the Sea Life issue on 31 January •

Houses of Lancaster & York press sheet These press sheets have the name 'Walsall' in the printer's information strip, which is normally used for internal administration purposes (left-hand edge as you read the portrait sheet). Cartor applies the name of the business supplying the order to the printed sheet, and in this case the instructing order comes from Walsall Security Printers. WSP receives the instruction from Royal Mail, and administers the project internally giving Cartor a site-to-site instruction to print and deliver to the agreed Royal Mail specifications and schedule •

New stamp books A stamp book containing four 1st class definitives and two 'Love' 1st class stamps with adjoining 'Be My Valentine' and 's.w.a.l.k.' labels will be available from 15 January, priced £2.04. The book (right), is intended for customers sending Valentine cards, and was printed by Walsall in gravure. The book's Love stamps have vignette phosphor bands, the 1st class definitives have solid bands. No cylinder numbers appear in the books, as the edge band has a pictorial design.

A new book of six 1st class stamps is in preparation, containing a mix of 2005 and 2006 Smilers stamps. The provisional issue date for this book is 28 February 2008 •



2008 First day postmarks The special issues are listed below, with the alternative First day of issue postmarks. Miniature sheets are abbreviated (MS) •

08.01 James Bond London SE1	17.07 Airshows Farnborough, Hants
05.02 Working Dogs Hound Green, Basingstoke, Hants	26.08 Olympics Handover to be announced
28.02 Houses of Lancaster & York Tewkesbury, Glos	18.09 RAF Uniforms London NW4
11.03 Celebrating N Ireland (MS) Downpatrick, Co Down	29.09 Country Definitives anniversary (MS) to be announced
13.03 Mayday – Rescue at Sea Poole, Dorset	14.10 Women of Distinction to be announced
15.04 Insects Crawley, W Sussex	04.11 Christmas Bethlehem, Llandailo
13.05 Cathedrals London EC4	06.11 Lest We Forget (MS) London SW1
10.06 Carry On and Hammer Films Bray, Maidenhead, Berks	

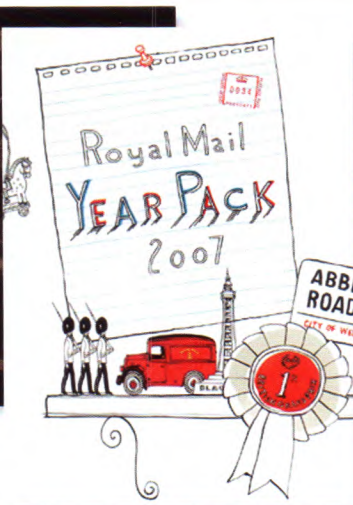
Rescue at Sea Please note that the 69p Rescue at Sea stamp (shown in December *Bulletin*) features a rescue helicopter based at Lee-on-Solent – this supports the RNLI lifeboat at Selsey and the stamp was originally to be inscribed Selsey as mentioned in the text. The inscription on the stamp was subsequently changed. We regret any confusion caused. The *Bulletin* illustrations are of proofs and have normal perforations – the issued stamps will have interrupted perforations as described in the text •

New Royal Mail Managing Director Mr Mark Higson was appointed Managing Director of Royal Mail's letters business from 5 November, heading the senior management team responsible for the collection, sorting and delivery of over 80 million letters a day by almost 170,000 postmen and women, and frontline managers. He was previously Divisional CEO and Group Operations Director with BPB plc, the world leader in plasterboard and plaster buildings materials. Mr Higson, aged 51 is an engineering graduate of Imperial College London and also holds a Masters Degree in Business from the London Business School and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Prior to joining BPB in 1996, he held a number of posts at Courtaulds plc, H J Heinz Ltd, and British Aerospace plc

Adam Crozier, Royal Mail Chief Executive, said: 'I'm delighted Mark is joining Royal Mail... I'm looking forward to working with him in this crucial phase of Royal Mail's development' •



The 2007 Yearbook, above, and Yearpack, right.



Above: the 2007 Presentation Pack Collection and Miniature Sheet Year Pack.

Year Collections The 2007 Yearbook and Yearpack, containing all the year's special stamps, are now on sale. Both contain all the special stamps of 2007 and the Beatles, Machin, Harry Potter, Royal Diamond Wedding, and *Lest We Forget* miniature sheets. The standard version of the Yearbook costs £64.95, or £99.99 for the de-luxe, leather-bound version.

The colourful Yearpack, price £57.45, includes concise background information on each of the special issues, with technical details of the stamps and illustrations of the alternative 'First Day' postmarks for each issue. 2007 Miniature Sheet Year Pack and Presentation Pack Collections are also available, priced £24.45 and £59.75 respectively ●

British Postal Museum & Archive Currently on show is an exhibition marking the 40th anniversary of the Machin stamp – see August *Bulletin*, pages 368-69. Details of lectures and film shows are given in our Events listing. The BPMA, located at Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL (near Mount Pleasant), contains the collections of the former National Postal Museum and Post Office Archives. For further information contact the BPMA on 020 7239 2570 or see website www.postalheritage.org.uk ●



Storing the Bulletin 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, price £9.95 each. Order codes PB349 (*Philatelic*), PB350 (*Postmark*). The files will store 30 copies of the *Philatelic* and about 50 of the *Postmark* Bulletins. The traditional binders for the *Philatelic* (BB001) and *Postmark* (PB322) Bulletins cost £8.50 each ●

Philately online Ron Negus reviews an expertising website

PHILATELIC EXPERTS

HOW YOU CAN IDENTIFY THEM
This worldwide list gives you the names and areas of specialisation of about 1 820* individual stamp experts, past and present, who have back stamped or hand signed postage stamps, or issued certificates. Some 700 scans are included for the deciphering of stamp expert marks. TO THE LISTINGS:

By name: A to F	By country: A to E
By name: G to L	By country: F to G
By name: M to R	By country: H to R
By name: S to Z	By country: S to Z

Please note: the lists are somewhat large files.
By first names - (Very large file: All names in one file)

UPDATED Certificates - Fancy marks - Manuscript marks - Unidentified

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kock@suomi24.fi or g.kock@luukku.com

Addresses have to be typed. Or use the Contact Us link — Address of this page: www.filatelia.fi/experts/

TO THE SITE MAP

Search this site:

Search

NEW!
The currently active philatelic experts worldwide
NEW!
Image archives of certificates
NEW!
Main history of expert marks and postmarks de Hilt case
NEW!
Forged postmarks: German, Italian, Commercial, Worldwide
NEW!
The biggest issue: German, Austrian, Swiss
NEW!
Still a little known: Danish, French
OTHER PAGE:
Comprehensive Stamp Forgery

www.filatelia.fi/experts Although conducted from Finland and run by a Finnish collector, this site is written in English. It has been in existence since 2000 and has been updated regularly since then. It is an excellent reference point for anyone seeking the services of an expert to advise on forgeries, and similar suspect specimens.

mark or signature. In another section of the site are images of the philatelic certificates issued by many of these experts, which are useful for comparison purposes.

Expert opinions are sought when a collector believes that a particular specimen in his possession has been forged or altered in some way, to increase its market value. It is appropriate, therefore, that this website also contains a significant amount of information about stamp forgeries.

The section entitled Stamp Forgery Guide, for example, provides 140 selected forgery links, plus a bibliography of forgery literature. A separate series of pages gives examples and details about forged postmarks, and there is an index to stamps that have been forged. The latter is supported by images of some forged material displayed side by side with the genuine stamps, with the notable points of difference highlighted using arrows.

Mr Kock has also produced a *World Forgery Catalogue*, which is now out of print. A revised and expanded edition will be published in 2008, and details of its content are listed on the site. This indicates that the new catalogue will contain the details of 3000 different forged sets or individual stamps from a total of 270 countries. The forged stamps will be identified by the year of issue, the denomination, and Scott and Michel catalogue numbers. Interested collectors can submit their e-mail address on the website so that they receive notification of the exact publication date for this new edition.

This website provides another good example of how the internet can be employed to circulate philatelic information that may only have a limited audience, but which is potentially of interest to all serious collectors. If the same data were to be published in printed book form, sales would probably be very small •

WHEN EXAMINING displays of stamps at exhibitions or local society meetings, collectors sometimes find reference to the fact that a particular rare specimen on show has been expertised. This normally takes the form of the name of an individual or organisation that was responsible for giving an opinion, plus a certificate number. In a few cases, the actual certificate is displayed alongside the stamp.

In the UK, the certificates most commonly seen in displays are those issued by the Royal Philatelic Society London, or by the British Philatelic Association. However, there are stamp experts in most countries and there is a website (see address above) providing details of who they are and their particular areas of expertise. This website, which is maintained by a Finnish philatelist, G Kock, claims to list more than 1800 philatelic experts.

His initial work was based upon the list of experts who were members of the German society, the BPP (Bund Philatelistische Prüfer). This was expanded, to become a worldwide listing, by the addition of members of the AIEP (International Association of Philatelic Experts). The changes in the membership of both these important bodies is monitored by Mr Kock and additions/deletions made to the site as needed. The date of the last amendment is noted on the site's home page.

Access to the listings of experts is available by two routes: by their name or by their country of specialisation. For those organisations with expert committees, links to their own websites are given. A large number of the entries in these lists have a 'hyperlink'. These reveal a scan of the expert's

Celebrating Northern Ireland

A miniature sheet and new Generic and Smilers sheets



The sheet was designed by Silk Pearce and printed in litho by De La Rue Security Print.

A NEW MINIATURE SHEET goes on sale on 11 March, the third in the series of country sheets. The sheet features two new Northern Ireland 1st class stamps depicting Carrickfergus Castle and the Giant's Causeway (both definitive stamp size) and two special stamp size 78p stamps featuring a representation of St Patrick and the 'The Angel of Thanksgiving' sculpture and The Queen's Bridge in Belfast. The 15-metre sculpture symbolises the need for thanksgiving across a once-troubled city. Many people worked hard to make the statue a reality, principally the late Myrtle Smith, a well-known practitioner, lecturer and author on the healing of Christian Science, who raised a large part of the funding for the project.

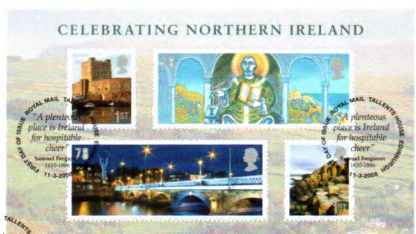
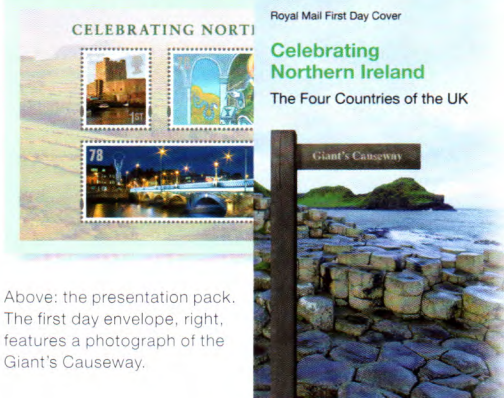
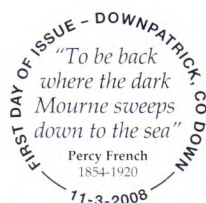
The sheet is 123 x 70mm; the two 78p stamps are 60 x 24mm. The illustrations on the 1st class stamps are by David Lyons (Carrickfergus Castle) and Ric Ergenbright (Giant's Causeway). The illustration of St Patrick is by Clare Melinsky (designer of the 1997 Saints Columba and Augustine stamps) and the photograph of the Angel sculpture and The Queen's Bridge is by Tony Plcavin. The sheet background features a rural scene.

The colourful presentation pack includes a map of Northern Ireland showing the varied scenery, architecture and culture, surrounded by quotations about the country, and two traditional Irish blessings. It was written by Esther Kennedy and printed by Walsall.

Serviced covers with Tallents House or Downpatrick, Co Down first day postmark must be received at Tallents House by the day of issue. The postmarks feature quotations by Samuel Ferguson and Percy French. Details of sponsored postmarks will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin*.



Generic sheet The sheet was designed by Rodney Miller, and printed in litho by Cartor. 20 Northern Ireland 1st class country stamps (patchwork fields) adjoin labels featuring scenes in the Province. Price £7.35.



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Generic & Smilers sheets A 'Glorious Northern Ireland' generic sheet will be issued on 11 March. The stamp and labels will be printed in litho on self-adhesive paper, making this the first self-adhesive country stamp for Northern Ireland. Similar sheets in this series were issued for Wales, England and Scotland on 1 March, 23 April and 30 November 2007. A 'Glorious UK' sheet will be issued in September 2008.

To order Smilers versions, with your own image on the labels, phone 0845 074 2000 (UK orders) or +44 131 316 7489 (overseas) or pick up a Smilers leaflet/order form at a Post Office branch. Orders using digital photos can also be placed at www.royalmail.com/smilers •

Celebrating Northern Ireland prices

Miniature sheet	£2.24
Presentation pack	£2.75
Stamp cards set of five	£1.50
FDC envelope	£0.30
Serviced FDC (UK orders)	£3.11
Serviced FDC (overseas)	£2.65

Northern Ireland on stamps As well as the regional/country stamps issued since 1958, aspects of Northern Ireland have featured on a number of UK stamps. The impressive Carrickfergus Castle has been depicted on High Value stamps – 2s6d of 1955 (later reissued as a 50p value in 2005), £1 of 1988 and £3 of 1995.

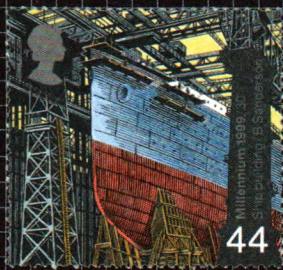
Special issues depicting Northern Ireland include the 1964 Geographical Congress 4d (shipbuilding), 1966 Landscapes 6d (Antrim), 1970 Rural Architecture 1s6d (Ulster Thatch), 1971 Ulster Paintings, 1979 Dogs 13p (Irish Setter), 1981 National Trusts 22p (Giant's Causeway), 1984 Cattle 31p (Irish Moiled Cow), 1990 Astronomy 22p (Armagh Observatory), 1994 Prince of Wales Paintings 30p (Mourne Mountains), 1996 Football Legends 60p (Danny Blanchflower), 1997 Post Offices 63p (Ballyroney), 1998 Lighthouses 20p (St John's Point), 1999 The Workers' Tale 44p (shipbuild-



ing), 2000 Life & Earth 2nd (ECOS, Ballymena), 2000 Stone & Soil 2nd (Strangford Stone, Killyleagh), 2000 Spirit & Faith 45p (St Patrick's Centre, Downpatrick), 2002 Coastlines 27p (Portrush), and 2004 British Journey – Northern Ireland.

A well-produced Northern Ireland prestige book was issued in 1994 – this included a pre-stamped postcard bearing an impression of the Giant's Causeway stamp of 1981 revalued at 35p for overseas postcard use. See *Bulletin* June 1994 for details of this book and information on Northern Ireland, and three articles, by Brian Warren, on Northern Ireland country stamps in the *Bulletin* in August 1998, April 1999, and September 2000.

St Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, features on stamps from the Republic of Ireland, including the 286d, 5s and 10s high values of 1937, and 1961 issue marking the 1500th anniversary of his death •



Insects The next Action for Species stamps:



TEN 1ST CLASS STAMPS featuring insects go on sale at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and Royal Mail Tallents House on 15 April – the second in the Action for Species series, which began with the Endangered Birds stamps last September. The stamps depict: Adonis Blue butterfly, Southern damselfly, Red barbed ant, Barberry carpet moth, Stag beetle, Hazel pot beetle, Field cricket, Silver-spotted skipper, Purbeck mason wasp, and Noble chafer beetle. They were designed by Andrew Ross, his second set for Royal Mail, using photography from the Natural History Museum, London. The stamps are printed in litho by De La Rue, size 35mm square. Sheets of 30 will be issued to Post Office branches; sheets of 60, with gutter margins, will be available from Post Office philatelic outlets and Royal Mail Tallents House.

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 (Crawley postmark) marking the outer envelope 'FDO811' or 'FDO812'. 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.

PHILATELIC PRODUCTS A well-illustrated presentation pack (opposite) has been written by Richard Lewington, designed by Iris Associates, and printed by Walsall Security Printers. ►

ten of the UK's rarest insects fight for survival



Insects prices

Set of stamps	£3.40
Presentation pack	£3.90
First day cover envelope	£0.30
Serviced first day cover (UK customers)	£4.47
Serviced first day cover (overseas customers)	£3.81
Stamp cards set	£3.00



Talents House (FD0811) and Crawley (FD0812) postmarks.



The presentation pack, left, has been written by Richard Lewington, and designed by Iris Associates.

SMALL BUT IN DANGER

The UK's rarest insects fight back

"In the last fifty years or so, the sheer number of individuals has declined dramatically, causing a knock-on effect to birds and animals which rely on insects for food."

WRITER
Richard Lewington

Insects, in all their diversity, are the most successful animals ever to have existed on Earth, occurring in virtually every habitat. They play an essential role in our environment, helping as pollinators, breaking down vegetation, dung and animal corpses, thus returning vital nutrients back into the soil. They also provide food for vast numbers of other creatures higher up the food chain, without them the Earth would be unrecognizable, as we know it. Around a million species of insect have been described, with probably several million more yet to be discovered, and it is estimated there are 200-300 million to every human being on Earth. The greatest number and diversity occur in the tropics, but even in temperate regions large numbers

INSECTS

UK Species in Recovery

Royal Mail First Day Cover



occur, and few people would imagine, for example, that in Britain alone there are more than 6,000 species of fly.

However, despite these impressive statistics, many species are struggling to survive as the ever-increasing human population continues to make demands on land for agriculture, roads and building development. Some species have become extinct, and, from records submitted over the years from a huge number of naturalists, it is clear, in the last fifty years or so, that the sheer number of individuals has declined dramatically, causing a knock-on effect to birds and animals which rely on insects for food.



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Insects stamps Previous issues on this theme include the 1981 Butterflies set, 1985 Insects, 1998 Endangered Species, 2000 Mind & Matter 2nd class and 2001 Pondlife 65p. An Emperor Dragonfly was shown on the cover of a 50p stamp book issued in May 1986 •



Small Tortoiseshell



Large Blue



Peacock



Chequered Skipper



Buff Tailed Bumble Bee



Seven Spotted Ladybird



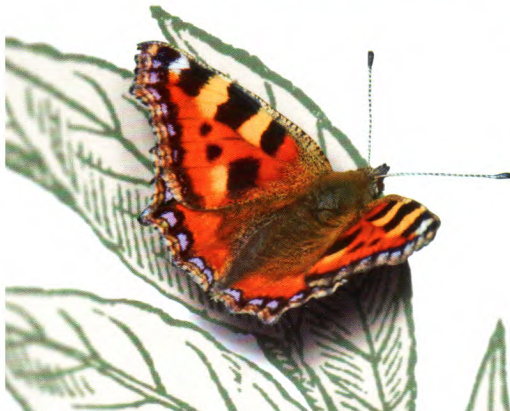
Wart-Eater Bush-Cricket



Emperor Dragonfly



43 **ENDANGERED SPECIES**
Mole cricket
Gryllotalpa gryllotalpa



Royal Mail Special Stamps 2007

Glenn Morgan reviews the 2007 Yearbook – a unique look at the British way of life



ROYAL MAIL SPECIAL STAMPS 2007 Year Book was published on 8 November, following the release that day of the second *Lest We Forget* miniature sheet. It continues in the same format that was established back in 1984, when the first edition appeared, and has now reached its 24th year of continuous publication.

The innovation, started last year, whereby all stamp designs were featured in colour below pre-affixed clear Hawid-type mounts continues, so that even when the stamps are not positioned in the book it still looks as if it is complete. This approach also helps in the correct insertion of the stamps. The one-piece presentation box, also introduced last year, is compatible with the first 22 volumes in the series which had utilised a slip-in case and, therefore, maintains a continuity of appearance on the bookshelf.

The stamps continue to be supplied on stock-sheets slipped inside the book. I recommend that the stamps are 'mounted' on their pages, as the sheets are not intended for long-term storage.

This year the imagery in the book utilises striking black-and-white photography, with areas of spot colour and background tints. This has the effect of making the colourful stamps stand out more on the page (except the Diamond Wedding set, of course, where the stamps have also been printed in black).

The text pages offer three main storylines for each issue. Firstly, there is the opportunity to get general background information about the subject covered by the issue. We learn, for example, that at any given moment someone, somewhere on the planet is listening to a Beatles record.

Secondly there are the facts about each individual stamp design. Where required, clever use has been made of unique pictograms that clearly indicate which stamp is being described, without the need for lengthy text explanations. One entry describes how the population of the Dartford Warbler bird had crashed to just a few pairs in the 1960s, but is now recovering as a result of our increasingly mild winters. ►



The third storyline relates to how the designers approached their commission. The Scouts issue was illustrated by English artist Gez Fry, and he chose a manga-style visual approach, because it was felt that this would have a strong appeal to youngsters who love the new wave of comic-book art. Clearly, my age now explains why this is my least favourite issue in an otherwise highly attractive year of stamp issues!

Many website addresses are shown throughout, for the first time, enabling further information to be obtained, such as how to learn more about the British Army (www.army.mod.uk). This is a useful innovation in the short-term, although with the web being so transient by nature it is perhaps not surprising to find that the website listed for the Donington Collection of Grand Prix cars was already returning the message 'unable to display' during several days of entering its URL into my browser.

The final text page includes technical details for each issue in an ‘About the Stamps’ section.

with most of the information that the collector would hope to find listed in a stamp catalogue. The phosphor bar types are simply described 'as appropriate'.

The text has been written by Maev Kennedy, with additional contributions from Tim Shackleton, and an interview with Sir Stirling Moss by Richard Rae. The main photographs are by Phil Sayer, with additional picture research done by Kathy Lockley. The Yearbook was designed by Atelier Works, printed by Fulmar Colour Printing of Croydon, and bound and finished by F F Allsopp of Nottingham. This year, for the first time, the book has a printed paper cover, rather than embossed 'Balacron'. The edition is limited to 21,420 numbered copies.

Royal Mail's Special Stamps Year Book 2007 continues its reputation for being a high-quality acquisition for collectors of modern British issues and for those non-collectors who have an interest in the British way of life, its popular culture and its history •

Checklist of 2007 definitives

We hope this list will prove helpful to collectors in completing their collections. Please read the following notes carefully. We quote Royal Mail order numbers (prefixed DS, YB, etc) as given on Tallents House stock lists. Those stamps issued only in books may be bought from Royal Mail only in complete books.



Notes Printers are designated C (Cartor), D (De La Rue), E (Enschedé), and W (Walsall), and printing process G (gravure) or L (litho) • Unless otherwise stated, definitive and country stamps have PVA gum, perforation gauge 15 x 14 (with ellipses at lower left and right sides) and two phosphor bands (2nd class standard size, one band) • The dates quoted are those the stamps were first available from Tallents House; in some instances they may have been available at post offices earlier to meet postal needs • All 2nd class Machin definitive stamps are printed in bright blue, 1st class in gold.

Machin definitives

27 March 16p pink (DS160), 48p rhododendron (DS480), 50p light grey (DS507), 54p rust (DS540), 78p emerald green (DS780), all D

5 June £1 ruby in sheets of 200 (DS104), Machin miniature sheet (MZ041) and Machin PSB (YB030)

5 June 2nd class NVI gummed, sheets of 200 D (DS244)

20 September 46p, 54p in Army Uniforms prestige book, E (previously D) (YB031) ▶

Pictorial 'Smilers' definitives (self-adhesive)

16 January 1st LOVE stamp, elliptical perfs, 6 × 1st book, W. (UB275) (first printing with elliptical perfs)

Country stamps

1 March Wales 1st class (Dragon) self-adhesive in 'Cymru Wych-Glorious Wales' generic/Smilers sheets. No elliptical perfs, L, C (generic sheet AT031)

27 March 48p: England (ES480), Scotland (SS480), Wales (WS480), Northern Ireland (IS480). 78p: England (ES780), Scotland (SS780), Wales (WS780), Northern Ireland (IS780). All D

23 April England 1st class (St George flag) in 'Celebrating England' miniature sheet (MZ040)

23 April England 1st class (Crowned Lion) self-adhesive in 'Glorious England' generic/Smilers sheets. No elliptical perfs, L, C (generic sheet AT032)

20 September N Ireland 2nd and 1st class printed in gravure (previous printings litho), D (IS240, IS340)

20 September 1st class country stamps (Wales, England, N Ireland, Scotland), E litho in *British Army Uniforms* prestige book (YB031). Previous printings of England, Scotland and Wales gravure

8 November 78p England, Scotland, Wales and N Ireland printed litho (previous printings gravure) in 'Lest We Forget' miniature sheet, D (MZ045)

30 November Scotland 1st class (Lion Rampant) self-adhesive in 'Glorious Scotland' generic/Smilers sheets. No elliptical perfs, L, C (generic sheet AT039)

Mixed value stamp panes and miniature sheets

1 March Pane of 3 × Scotland 2nd class and 3 × Wales 44p in *World of Invention* PSB, G, D (YB029)

1 March Pane of 4 × 5p definitive and 4 × 1st class definitive (standard PIP design) plus central label of Rowland Hill in *World of Invention* PSB, D (YB029)



23 April 'Celebrating England' miniature sheet containing 1st class England St George flag stamp (new design) and current 1st class England Crowned Lion stamp, plus two special stamps, D (MZ040)

17 May Wembley Stadium miniature sheet containing two 2nd class and two 78p England stamps, plus special Crowned Lion stamp, D (MZ038)

5 June Pane of 2 × £1 definitive ruby colour plus label showing Machin head in *The Machin* prestige book, D (YB030)

5 June Pane of 4 × 2p, 2 × 46p and 2 × 48p definitives plus central label showing Queen's head trial for new definitives in *The Machin* prestige book, D (YB030)

5 June Pane of 1 × 2nd class, 1 × 1st class standard definitives, 2 × 2nd class and 2 × 1st class 'Large' definitives (all PIP design) plus central label showing Sir Rowland Hill in *The Machin* PSB, D (YB030)

5 June Miniature sheet containing £1 definitives in mauve and ruby plus two special stamps featuring Arnold Machin and the 4d Machin stamp of 1967 (MZ041)



Far left: self-adhesives from Glorious Wales, England and Scotland generic sheets.

Left and below: mixed value panes from the Army Uniforms and Machin prestige stamp books, September and June.

Left: definitives issued 27 March and 5 June; Country stamps; and the Northern Ireland 2nd and 1st class Country stamps printed in gravure, 20 September.



20 September Pane of 2 × 1p, 4 × 46p, & 2 × 54p definitives and central label showing military badge in *British Army Uniforms* prestige book, E (YB031)

20 September Pane of 1st class country stamps (Wales, England, N Ireland, Scotland) plus five labels showing military badges in *British Army Uniforms* prestige book. Litho, E (YB031)

8 November Lest We Forget miniature sheet No 2 containing one each of England, Scotland, Wales and N Ireland 78p country stamps, and 1st class special stamp (Poppy), L, D (MZ045)

Stamp books

16 January 5 × 1st class definitive (PIP) & 1 pictorial definitive 'LOVE' stamp, all with elliptical perfs (previous Love stamp without elliptical perfs), W (UB275)

1 February 6 × 1st class standard definitive, with postcode message printed on the inside front cover, W (UB276)

1 March *World of Invention* prestige book containing panes of definitive, country and World of Invention stamps, D (YB029)

5 June 6 × 1st class standard definitive, Machin 40th anniversary information on the inside front cover and facsimile of Arnold Machin's signature on the flap, W (UB277)

5 June 12 × 2nd class standard definitive, 6 × 1st class standard definitive and 12 × 1st class standard definitive, with PIP validity notice on back cover, W (UB280, UB278, UB279)

28 August 6 × 1st class standard definitive, with Harry Potter stamps advert on inside front cover, W (UB284)

20 September 6 × 1st class standard definitive, with bilingual postcode message on inside front cover, W (UB281)

20 September *British Army Uniforms* prestige book containing panes of definitive, country, and Army Uniforms stamps, E (YB031)

Business sheets (self-adhesive)

27 March 50 × 2nd class Large definitives; 50 × 1st class Large definitives, W (DP049, DP048). (Continued on following page.) ▶

Business sheets (self-adhesive) continued

5 June 100 × 2nd class standard definitive, 100 × 1st class standard definitive, sheet headers with PIP information, W (DP052, DP051)

Generic sheets

1 March 'Cymru-Wych/Glorious Wales': 20 × Wales 1st class, self-adhesive (all previous printings were gummed). No elliptical perfs, L, C (AT031)

23 April 'Glorious England': 20 × England 1st class (Crowned Lion), self-adhesive (all previous printings gummed). No elliptical perfs, L, C (AT032)

30 November 'Glorious Scotland': 20 × Scotland 1st class (Lion Rampant), self-adhesive (all previous printings gummed). No elliptical perfs, L, C (AT039)

Presentation packs

27 March 16p, 48p, 54p and 78p new definitives, D (DP047) • 48p and 78p country stamps for England, Scotland, Wales and N Ireland, D (CP024)

23 April 'Celebrating England' miniature sheet containing England 1st class Crowned Lion and St George flag definitives, D (AP278)

5 June Machin Anniversary miniature sheet containing £1 mauve and £1 ruby definitives, D (DP050) • Machin definitives low value collectors pack, with 1p-£1 stamps, 1st and 2nd class (standard and Large), and three universal airmail stamps, D, W (DR006)

8 November Lest We Forget miniature sheet No 2 containing four 78p country stamps and 1st class special Poppy stamp, L, D (AP287) •

Eminent collectors Sir John Marriott, by Ron Negus

FOR 85 YEARS FROM 1910, there were only four Keepers of the Royal Collection: John Tilleard, Edward Denny Bacon, Sir John Wilson, and Sir John Marriott. Sir John Marriott held this important post from 1969 to 1995. Upon his retirement, the Queen conferred upon him a knighthood and invested him with the insignia of a Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order. With typical modesty, he later referred to this occasion as 'a very pleasant little ceremony'.

John Brook Marriott was born in Stretford, in Lancashire on 27 July 1922. He was educated at Merchant Taylor's School and won a scholarship to St John's College, Cambridge, to read Mathematics. There he played cricket and rugby, and was prominent in the Cambridge Chess Club. He graduated with first-class honours.

Leaving university, he was called up for military service. As a member of the Army Operational Research Group, he worked on calculations regarding the effective use of anti-aircraft guns. Shortly afterwards, in 1944, his abilities with chess and mathematics were noticed by the Foreign Office and he was transferred to a secret project.

This turned out to be the work done at Bletchley Park to decrypt the enemy communications generated via the famous Enigma coding machines, and Marriott worked there until the end of the war. He married his wife, Mary, in 1952 and they had two sons, Martin and Andrew.

Back in civilian life, John Marriott took a post as mathematics master at Charterhouse public school. He remained at the school until his retirement in 1982. From 1960 to 1975 he was a housemaster, and he also spent a number of years in charge of cricket coaching. One of his protégés was Peter May, who later became captain of the England cricket team.

His appointment as Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection in 1969 was made possible because the headmaster and the Governing Body of Charterhouse agreed to release him from some teaching duties so he could attend the Palace on a couple of days each week. Marriott was able, therefore, to continue as a housemaster.

John Marriott said his interest in stamps began when he was about 12 years old. His first collections were typical 'schoolboy' accumulations, al-

though he said he always preferred complete sets with a uniform design or a unifying theme. Later, he tried a number of Commonwealth countries as a basis for his collections, but settled on Trinidad as his main interest. Interviewed by James Watson for *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* in 1969, he said he 'distinctly remembered the appeal [Trinidad] had. It seemed to have everything to satisfy the fairly serious-minded beginner: an engraved classic issue within the scope of one's pocket, good variety in the later issues, including the surface-printed Queen's head and Britannia designs, down to the most attractive pictorials of 1935.'

Eventually, by judicious buying at all the major Trinidad auctions, John Marriott became known as the leading authority on this colony. Material from his collection was entered at International exhibitions, and he was awarded Gold Medals at many of them. At that time, a Gold Medal was the highest award; the Large Gold did not appear at Internationals until later. He was the author of the handbook *A Philatelic History of Trinidad to 1862*, published in 1963.

In 1964, John Marriott decided to explore other fields, and began he collecting whole-world classic issues on cover. This soon grew into another major collection, containing many fine and unusual items. Parts of the collection were displayed at the Stanley Gibbons gallery in 1980, at a mini-exhibition entitled 'Covers of the World'.

He said that his philosophy was to avoid 'bloated' collections, which he felt were boring and kept good material from being enjoyed by others. For this reason, he tried to avoid having more than a single copy of any rarities in his collections.

At the beginning of 1951, John Marriott joined the Royal Philatelic Society London, and was a regular attendee at meetings for nearly half a century. He became a Fellow of the Society in 1960, and was invited to join their Expert Committee in 1965. He took part in their deliberations until 1998. From 1969, his membership of this Committee enabled appropriate specimens submitted for expertising to be compared with copies in the



Royal Collection, a continuation of the link established and practised by all the former Keepers.

His work for the Society also included spells as Vice-President from 1979 to 1983, and as President from 1983 to 1986. In the latter role, he worked hard to raise money for the refurbishing of the Society's premises in Devonshire Place. During the

whole of this period, John Marriott still had his duties to perform at the Palace, entailing many trips for overseas exhibitions, often as a juror. His work for the Society was acknowledged in 1993, when he was made an Honorary Fellow.

He had already received other Society awards over the preceding years. In 1968, he received the Tilleard Medal, given for the best display of the season, for his showing of Trinidad. The Tapling Medal followed, in 1975, for the descriptions published in *The London Philatelist* which outlined the material he had presented from the Royal Philatelic Collections at that year's opening meeting of the Society. Finally, in 1986, he was given the London Medal in recognition of the presidential activities he had undertaken during the previous six years.

His role within organised philately had been recognised earlier, with his election to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in 1972. He also served as a member of the RDP Board of Election from 1977 until 1988. Further notable awards came in 1982, when he received the Lichtenstein Award from the Collectors Club in New York, as well as the Lindenburg Medal from Germany, thus becoming one of the very few philatelists who had received both these honours.

Sir John Marriott became ill at the beginning of 2000, and was rarely able to attend meetings of the Royal Philatelic Society London from then on. Despite this, his death, on 3 July 2001, came as a shock. In a personal tribute to him, Ronald Butler, former President of the Royal, wrote that 'John Marriott was one of the greatest contributors to philately of all time, and a coming generation of collectors would be proud to relate that they had met him' ●

Remembering 2007 Richard West looks back at the highs and lows of another eventful year for the philatelic world

ANOTHER YEAR has passed. A year that has seen two occasions that merit philatelic celebration on a wide scale – the centenary of Scouting and the Diamond Wedding Anniversary of The Queen and Prince Philip. Royal Mail, surprisingly perhaps, issued its stamps to mark the latter over a month in advance of the actual anniversary date. It's been a record year as far as new British issues are concerned, but at least the subjects, and the designs, have been varied. Surely there has been something to appeal to everyone. Some may criticise a particular issue, but have you ever agreed with all that has been released in a year?

The Harry Potter saga seems to have created the most controversy. Surely one can understand the logic of trying to promote the idea of stamp collecting by association with such a worldwide phenomenon as the books by J K Rowling. What I don't understand is why some are so anxious to have their hands on the latest 'icon', that they are prepared to queue for hours to be among the first to buy when midnight arrives. Mind you, 40 years ago I would be among those waiting at midnight at the Trafalgar Square Post Office for each new stamp issue to be put on sale.

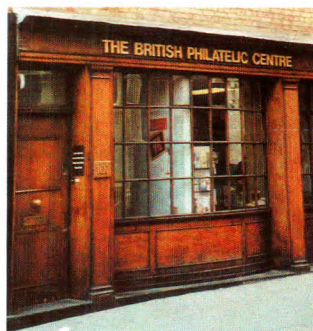
However, one must feel sorry for those at Royal Mail who, over one fateful weekend in October, saw hopes of an extra bonanza fade swiftly away. How would regaining the Rugby World Cup and winning the Formula 1 World Championship have been celebrated? I have been pondering this, and wonder whether miniature sheets may be the best answer. Is the public aware of these sheets, and do they know what to do with them? I appreciate that the production costs may be higher, but why not a special self-adhesive stamps book? The 1st class stamps inside could be slightly more than twice the size of definitives, making it possible to accommodate four horizontal and two vertical designs in the standard booklet format. If such books were widely available, through both Post Office and non-Post Office outlets, I am sure that many would not only be pleased to use the stamps

– and how good it would be to see special stamps used more often on the mail – but also might keep a book or two as a souvenir. On the cover the '1st' could also be adapted to good effect to convey the spirit of the occasion.

In 2007 our friends in the Channel Islands introduced a new collecting theme, called SEPAC (see Stamp Scene, March and October *Bulletin*), which comprises the small European postal administrations. Thinking of Europe, the competition among thematic collectors of Europe, held every two years, came to London in November. Called Eurothema, it was staged as part of the Thematica II exhibition at the Carisbrooke Hall. The year also provided the familiar round of exhibitions, although Autumn Stampex was a day shorter, now not opening on Sunday. Attendance was down, by roughly the number who have previously come along on the Sunday. Is Stampex a four-day show, or does it need five days to satisfy all the potential customers? Midpex, the exhibition held every two years in Coventry and aimed at members of the specialist societies, was, in my opinion, the best so far. Certainly the halls were packed throughout the opening hours.

Again this year, the national competitions were staged as part of an exhibition arranged by the Association of British Philatelic Societies. The venue was the Fairfield Halls in Croydon, during the same weekend in November as Eurothema/Thematica. Is it right to stage two such events at the same time, or, as both were in the London area, does it give collectors a chance to visit both? A similar debate has raged when Stampex and Philatex have clashed in spring. Croydon proved to be a popular destination in 2007, as the Croydon Philatelic Society, to mark its centenary in September, also used the Fairfield Halls.

For a while it looked as if there would be no full international stamp exhibition in 2007. Then the Russian Federation came to the rescue, rather late in the day (not announcing the event until November 2006), with an exhibition to be held in St



Top left: the venue for the St Petersburg World Stamp exhibition in June. Top right: the British Philatelic Centre, which closed in March. Above: examples from three of the year's significant (and controversial) Royal Mail stamp issues.

Petersburg in June. Unfortunately, the organisers were not the best at communicating information about the event, and the immigration and Customs formalities could easily deter. It is a great pity in both cases, as the event itself was very well organised, and the people were extremely friendly. I would certainly recommend a visit to the city – but travel with an organised tour, and let the tour organisers worry about the formalities.

However, at least the situation regarding the next international in London in 2010 was clarified. Suggestions of a rival event disappeared, so there is now no doubt that the core exhibition will be held at the Business Design Centre, Islington, while further events, designated as the Festival of Stamps, are being arranged at other locations by the leading philatelic bodies in the UK including the British Postal Museum & Archive and The Royal Philatelic Collection.

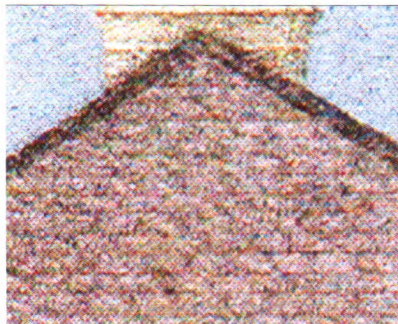
The year has had its sad moments. The world of philatelic journalism has lost some of its key names. Following the death of Ken Chapman in

2006, it was sad to record also the deaths of Allan Daniell and Jim Mackay in 2007 (March and October *Bulletin*): their writing will be greatly missed. Major Richard Pratt, or 'Dickie' to all who knew him, also died (May *Bulletin*). A lively figure, he was President of the National Philatelic Society.

Another sad event of the year, for many, was the closure of the British Philatelic Centre. Once seen as being the answer to the wishes of many collectors, unfortunately the Centre was not used to its full potential, the meeting room lying empty for most of the week and, in the end, two of the floors had to be let to outside tenants. With the go-ahead now given for the Crossrail scheme, the tracks of which will pass right beneath the building, and with the new Farringdon Station to be built just across the road, those using the Centre would have faced the prospect of a few years existing amidst a building site.

So now we start a New Year, with James Bond. How Royal Mail must wish it had been possible a year earlier: in 2-007 •

Competitions Enter for a chance to win the 2007 Yearbook



October identify The detail is from the Diamond Wedding 1st class stamp of 2007. The winner was T Smith of Fife.

October knowledge Answers: 1) Philip Sharland; 2) Four; 3) Freeling House, Phoenix Place London WC1X 0DL. The winner was I Brown of Israel.

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 1993 Sherlock Holmes issue?
- 2 Which stamp issue featured Little Morton Hall, Cheshire?
- 3 Which philatelic society is mounting a display at Spring Stampex?

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 8 February will each receive a 2007 Yearbook. 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 April 2008 'A Timeless Classic – The Evolution of Machin's Icon' exhibition at the British Postal Museum & Archive, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1. **Enquiries** 020 7239 2570

17 January National Philatelic Society seminar by David Beech. See page 134 details.

9-10 February Wildlife Stamp Event, in conjunction with the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies, at Edinburgh Zoo. See page 135 details.

21-23 February Philatex, Royal Horticultural Society Lawrence Hall, Greycoat St, London SW1. **Enquiries** 020 8946 4489 or website www.stampshows.net

27 February - 1 March Spring Stampex at Business Design Centre, Upper Street, London N1. See page 135 for details •

Prize draw

THIS MONTH for our prize draw, we have a copy of David Gentleman's book *Artwork*, which offers an insight on the design of some of his landmark stamps. To enter, send your name and address on a postcard (or the back of a sealed envelope) to: Artwork Book Draw, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail Letters, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ to arrive by 31 January 2008 •



Late news

Night Mail DVD The BPMA, British Film Institute, and Royal Mail have jointly produced a new digitally re-mastered Collector's Edition of the iconic film *Night Mail* – a fascinating account of the Euston-Glasgow TPO with Benjamin Britten's innovative score and verse by W H Auden. Included are three other short films – *The Way to the Sea*, *Thirty Million Letters* and *Spotlight on the Night Mail*. Price £15.99 from BPMA, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL. Telephone 020 7239 5125 or see www.postalheritage.org.uk/shop •

People news David Gentleman, perhaps the best-known designer of British stamp issues, received the Prince Philip Designers Prize for 2007 from HRH The Duke of Edinburgh at a ceremony in Gateshead. The Prize, awarded annually since 1959, recognises a design career which has upheld the highest standard of design in business and the public sector, and contributing to design education. David Kester, Chief Executive of the Design Council, said 'The lives of most of us, whether we realise it or not, have been touched by David's work. From his many stamp designs, in which he gradually transformed the way The Queen appears, to his timeless corporate logos for companies such as British Steel and the famous Eleanor Cross mural at Charing Cross underground station, David Gentleman's designs have shaped and exemplified changing design trends.' •

Gerald Sattin, who died in November, was a noted collector of writing implements and built up an impressive FIP Championship Class collection of Soldiers' Rates of the British Empire to 1898, sold by Spink in 2004. He exhibited at the Rare Stamps of the World Exhibition in London in 1997 •

John Duggan, who died in October aged 75, was a prominent aviation historian, philatelist and postal historian. As an exhibitor he pioneered the concept of 'Commercial Zeppelin Mail' as a classification away from all the manufactured philatelic mail shown by many. He will be remembered for his writings; he edited the journal of the Zeppelin Study Group for many years •

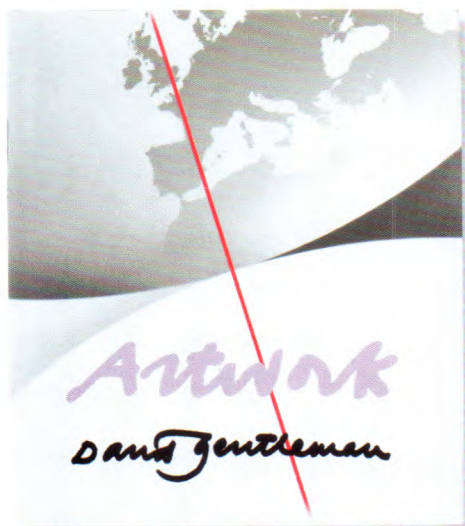
Clive Feigenbaum, who died in November, was a dealer noted for selling local stamps for Scottish offshore islands, including Easdale, a small island he owned. His involvement with Stanley Gibbons in the 1980s led to the suspension of the company's share dealings on the Stock Exchange •

Postal statistics In connection with World Post Day (9 October) the Universal Postal Union has announced some impressive statistics on world postal services. Some five million postal employees process and deliver 431 billion domestic letters and parcels, 5.6 billion international letters and six million parcels. There are over 660,000 post offices around the world. Edouard Dayan, UPU Director General, said that in July 2007 over 2.5 million copies of the newest *Harry Potter* book were delivered by post. The UPU, founded in 1874, has 191 member countries •

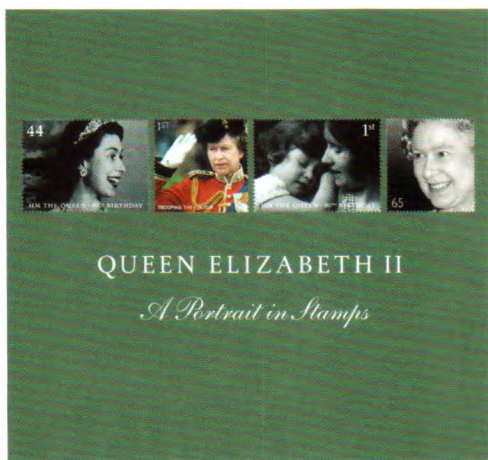
Auctions Grosvenor's Specialised GB sale on 19-20 November included many fine errors on modern commemoratives. The two missing Queen's head errors – 1961 Parliamentary and 1980 Sports 12p (November *Bulletin*, p69) – made £17,000 and £23,000 respectively (both estimated at £10,000-12,000). A 1963 Red Cross 3d phosphor, red cross omitted, made £16,000 (£15,000-18,000); a block of nine 1962 NPV 3d with Queen's head omitted on one and partially omitted on two made £2200 (£800-1000); a unique 1990 Stamp World miniature sheet with black recess printing omitted went for £25,000 (£10,000-12,000); and an example of the rare 4d Machin Head B made £1200 (£800-900). Enquiries about future sales: telephone 020 7379 8789, or see www.grosvenorauctions.com •

Dulac exhibition 'The Age of Enchantment' exhibition at the Dulwich Picture Gallery, London SE21 until 17 February includes work by Audrey Beardsley, Edmund Dulac and other British book illustrators from the 1890s to the 1920s. Dulac is remembered by philatelists for his George VI and Wilding definitive designs, and 193d Coronation stamp. Enquiries: 020 8693 5254 •

Four books for philatelists



Artwork Design biography of David Gentleman, Britain's best-known stamp designer. Hardback. £27, order code PB363



Queen Elizabeth II: A Portrait in Stamps The Queen's reign, told through stamp issues. Revised paperback edition, 2007. £9.95, order code PB400



Stanley Gibbons Collect British Stamps The annual full-colour listing of all British stamps since 1840. 2008 edition. £9.95, order code PB404



A Timeless Classic: the Evolution of Machin's Icon Douglas Muir of the BPMA traces the development of the Machin definitive design. Paperback. £19.95, order code PB397



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Artwork, *Queen Elizabeth II* and *A Timeless Classic*: £2.95 UK, £5 Europe, £14 elsewhere.

