

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The ROYAL MAIL magazine *for stamp collectors*

Bulletin

Volume 45 Number 6

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Postal stationery • Carry On
Hammer • Cathedrals issue



Cathedrals: new stamps celebrate our great cathedral churches, and the 300th anniversary of St Paul's.



Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



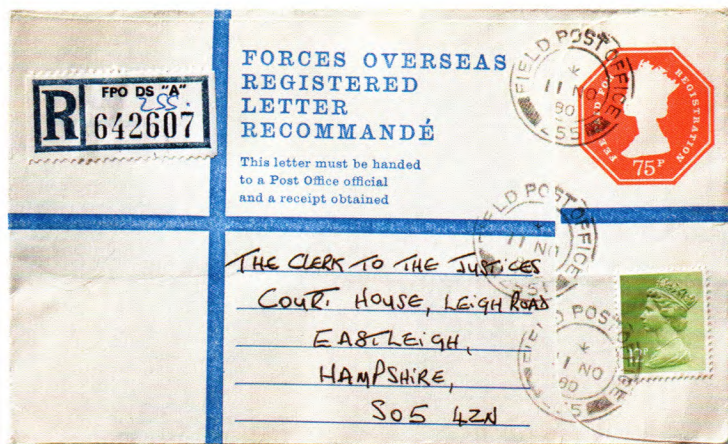
Cover St Paul's Cathedral, with the General Post Office building, St Martin's le Grand, left, by James Pollard c1840. Royal Mail's Cathedrals issue is previewed on page 174. © BPMA

Availability All items available from Royal Mail Tallents 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 Tallents 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

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	Issue Retail book: six 1st class Smilers (mix of 2005 and 2006 issues)
29 February	Withdrawal World of Invention stamps, miniature sheet, pack, stamp cards and prestige book
11 March	Issue 'Celebrating Northern Ireland' miniature sheet, presentation pack and stamp cards; 'Glorious Northern Ireland' Generic and Smilers sheets (contain self-adhesive NI 1st class country stamp)
13 March	Issue Mayday – Rescue at Sea stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards
21 March	Withdrawal Abolition of the Slave Trade stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards
31 March	Withdrawal British Journey series (Scotland, N Ireland, Wales, South West England, England) stamps, presentation packs and stamp cards
31 March	Withdrawal 50p definitive, sand colour, issued 1 April 1997
31 March	Withdrawal Welsh airletter – single and discount pack, issued January 2005

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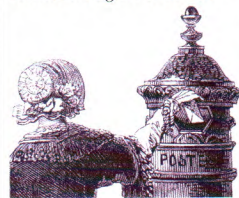
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Stamp scene News and upcoming events:

Glenn Morgan keeps you posted



Glenn Morgan

Croydon exhibition results Two Large Gold medals were awarded at the ABPS national exhibition at Croydon in November, both to Joseph Hackmey for 'Cape Triangulars' and 'Classic Roumania'. Gold medals went to: David Lethbridge (Falmouth Packet Mail), Michael Roberts (Liverpool Maritime Postal History), 'Mayflower' (Secured Mail & the Introduction of Registration within GB), Graham Booth (First 25 years of Cayman Islands Post Office), Graham Horton (Edward VII Booklets with Forerunners & Trials), Raymond Simpson (Origins & Development of Stamp Perforation in GB), John Davies (Jubilee Reminiscence), Christopher Board (Union of South Africa Commemorative Stamp 1910), and 'Impish' (Line-Engraved Imprimaturs). The judges awarded a further 15 Large Vermeil, 27 Verm-eil, two Large Silver, 12 Silver, two Silver Bronze, and two Bronze medals. A report on the exhibition was published last month •

Enquiries Telephone Mike Czuczman: 01252 628006 or email info@philatelic-traders-society.co.uk

Spring Stampex Organised by the Philatelic Traders' Society, Spring Stampex will be held at the Business Design Centre, Islington, (near Angel Tube Station) from 27 February to 1 March. As usual, entry will be free. Opening hours are: Wednesday 11.30-19.00, Thursday and Friday 10.30-18.00, and Saturday 09.30-17.00

The main display, on the Village Green, will be mounted by the Austrian Philatelic Society for its 60th anniversary, and promises a plethora of exciting exhibits in the 200 frames. There will again be a postcard, number 14 in the series, free to all visitors and only available at the show. Another Stampex Smilers sheet will be available. Entitled 'A Century of Travel', it shows some of the cars, trains, ships and planes that have contributed to the travel experience since 1908.

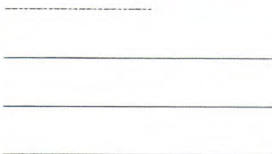
The National Youth Stamp Group will provide a host of activities for young collectors, including a chance to amass points to spend in the free auction on the Saturday. Also on display will be the entries for the Stamp Active Competitions. For the older collector, the Egypt, Concorde, Ceylon, Aden, Yemen & Somaliland, Malta, and Ascension Study Circles and the British Postmark Society will hold meetings on the Saturday •

Swiss timing In some parts of Switzerland as many as 60% of parcels cannot be delivered during the daytime because the addressee lives alone and is probably at work. Trials are therefore underway to deliver in the evening, which makes perfect sense. Now you can also collect your parcels where it suits you best: at another post office, a railway or petrol filling station. Over 300 collection points throughout Switzerland offer the PickPost service.

More people than ever in the UK are also living alone. Government statistics reveal that one in three households now has just one occupant, compared to one in five at the start of the 1970s. In the UK mail can be delivered to a post office for collection using the 'Local Collect' service •



PRŮMYSLVÝ PALÁC
VÝSTAVIŠTĚ
PRAHA
.....
Místo konání
výstavy



PRAGA 2008 A postally-valid commemorative postcard, issued last April, features the exhibition's venue, the Palace of Industry. The printed stamp recalls the first Czech postage stamps of 1918.

PRAGA 2008 A world philatelic exhibition, under FIP auspices, will be held in Prague (12-14 September 2008) at Prague Exhibition Grounds, Prague 7. International and world 'PRAGA' exhibitions, sponsored by the FIP, have a long tradition in the capital of first Czechoslovakia and then the Czech Republic. It began with the international exhibition PRAGA 1938, followed by similarly named exhibitions in 1950, 1955, and 1998. At its traditional venue, Prague Exhibition Grounds and the art nouveau Palace of Industry, the PRAGA philatelic exhibition was celebrated as a world exhibition for the first time in 1962, continuing in 1968, 1978 and 1988. Since then, they have been held at regular ten-year intervals, continuing in 2008.

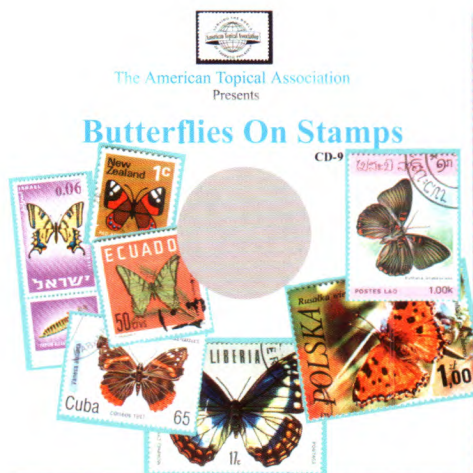
Organized philately in Prague, Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic also has a long tradition, dating back to the days of Austria-Hungary. The first club of Czech philatelists was founded in Prague in 1887 and it is still active today. The Union of Czechoslovak Philatelists was one of the seven founding members of the FIP in Paris in 1926. In 1989 it became a founding member of the Federation of European Philatelic Associations (FEPA).

PRAGA 2008 is being held in honor of the 90th anniversaries of the issue of the first Czechoslovak stamps and of the Postal Museum in Prague, and the 15th anniversary of the founding of the Czech Republic. The presenters of the world exhibition PRAGA 2008 are, as they have been traditionally, the Czech Post and the Union of Czech Philatelists, together with the 11th annual international trade fair Collector.

PRAGA 2008 is inviting philatelists and exhibitors from around the world to participate in the following FIP competition classes: traditional philately, postal history, philatelic literature and an experimental class for one-frame exhibits. The competition classes, the honorary class and the championship class, if any, will be in the Palace of Industry together with the Salon of Young Czech Philatelists. The class for philatelic literature will be hosted in the picturesque Postal Museum building ●

For further details about the exhibition visit website www.praga2008.cz

To exhibit, write to the British Commissioner, Mrs Yvonne Wheatley, at Weltevreden, 7 Manor Croft, Leeds LS15 9BW enclosing £1 in mint British stamps for the cost of mailing the prospectus, or first email her at whyareuu@talktalk.net



Enquiries Write to the ATA, PO Box 57, Arlington, TX 76004-0057, USA, or email americantopical@msn.com

The ATA shows can be rented for \$5, postpaid, or bought for individual or club libraries for \$10. Clubs can buy these and loan them to members. The CDs can also be sent overseas for an additional \$2 to cover postage. After viewing, presentations can be donated to stamp clubs, schools, libraries, hospitals, or senior activity centres, to entertain and inform others about topical stamp collecting •

Enquiries www.smilers-info.com (be sure to bookmark it, as the website is frequently updated).

Smilers website This website continues to get better and better, and now includes links to other world post offices that issue Smilers-type products. It also has a comprehensive update to the printed catalogue (available to buy online) which includes all sheets issued since then, including generic sheets, personalised themed sheets and Business Customised Sheets (BCS). Smilers appear to be holding the interest of collectors, and the recent introduction of circular labels can only help stimulate that interest •

Enquiries See www.royalmail.com/portal/rm/postbus for all route information and a list of full service timetables.

Postbus services Julian Stray of the British Postal Museum & Archive gave a fascinating lecture last November that charted 40 years of the Royal Mail Postbus. The service continues to play an important role in rural communities where other forms of public transport may be limited.

The first British 'Postal Bus' service opened on 20 February 1967, and Gladys Stevens was the first passenger to be carried in a Morris J2 vehicle, which served a route stretching from Llanidloes to Llangurig. Over the intervening years, routes expanded to over 200, with the largest numbers being concentrated in Scotland and South East England. As recently as 1993, Postbuses were covering a million miles and carrying 100,000 passengers annually. Today 54 services remain, but they still carry over 50,000 passengers every year. Fares typically average from £2 to £5 for a single journey, depending on the route and distance travelled, with concessions for the under-16s and for senior citizens. Julian encouraged us all to have at least one trip on a Postbus •

ATA Topical CDs Remember the days when stamp club meetings often included a slide show, with a slide projector, a screen, and a script read by a club member using a flashlight? Well, times have changed, and slide shows are joining the ranks of 8mm movies as history. If you attend a stamp meeting today, you will find that PowerPoint and CD presentations, shown either on a projector or a TV screen, have now all but eliminated that old technology. In 2006, the American Topical Association (ATA) started a programme in which three members made 18 CD presentations with voice-overs for use by individuals or stamp clubs. These include: Americana, Art, Flowers, Butterflies, Lions International, Olympics, Pyramids, Ships, Orchestration, Trains, Watercraft, and World-wide Railroads. Others are in preparation.



Paper trail Stamps without paper? Unthinkable (except for the odd ‘novelty’ stamp printed on wood, leather, metal, etc). The Paper Trail project is a unique activity-based industrial ‘exploration’ centre built around an historic, fully working paper mill. Located in Hemel Hempstead at Frogmore Mill and Apsley Mill – the birthplace of paper’s industrial revolution – the project allows visitors to learn about and experience: the past of an industry that helped shape the modern world, the present of commercial recycled papermaking (on a Victorian, steam driven machine), and the future of one of the world’s few inherently sustainable industries – paper.

Frogmore Mill became the world’s first commercial mechanised paper mill in 1803, and today still produces speciality papers for commercial customers and the public.

Group tours can be arranged by appointment or on specified open days and while it is recognised that the specialist technique of applying special coatings and gums to make modern stamp papers will not be covered, a visit still sounds well worth a day out. Some readers may recall that John Dickinson was involved with the evolution of the Penny Post, having produced paper with silk security threads in it at the Apsley Mill, so there are postal connections with this site •

Enquiries Apsley Paper Trail, Apsley Mills Cottage, London Road, Hemel Hempstead HP3 9RL. Phone 0870 950 9272, email postbox@thepapertrail.org.uk, or visit website www.thepapertrail.org.uk

Auctions Corbitts auction in Gateshead on 15 November included much GB material. As well as the ubiquitous Penny Blacks and other Victorian issues, there were some interesting items of postal history, FDCs, stamp books, and modern issues. A cover sent by Recorded Delivery on the first day of the service, 1 February 1961, made £50 (est £40), and a collection of 449 FDCs of the years 1979-2001 (in six albums) achieved £350 (£150). Another collection of 76 covers signed by celebrities such as Archbishop Dr Robert Runcie, David Attenborough, Ronnie Barker, and Spike Milligan went for £350 (£100). A 6d Wilding (mult Crown watermark) with pre-printing paper fold so showing split design made £82 (£80) •

Enquiries For details of future Corbitts auctions telephone 0191 232 7268 or visit www.corbitts.com

Connoisseur Publications 2
Pinewood Avenue, Sevenoaks
Kent TN14 5AF. Telephone
01732 743387. e-mail info@
connoisseurcatalogue.net

Connoisseur Machin Catalogue online Collectors have had to wait for more than a decade since the previous edition of this Machin specialised catalogue last appeared. During that time, electronic publishing has moved forward leaps and bounds and so the publisher has decided that an efficient way to keep the catalogue up-to-date is to go online. The website www.connoisseurcatalogue.net has been established, and it is possible to register to receive email information as to when this site will be up and running. In the meantime, a sample chapter is available to read as a PDF file. The catalogue will be known as 'The Connoisseur Catalogue of Machin Stamps and Decimal Definitives – Online Edition' with the tag line 'Machins Made Intelligible'. While the website is being developed, access will be free to everyone. Later, users will be asked to pay a small annual subscription to access the information on the site, although some general information will still be free. The cost of this subscription will be significantly lower than a new printed edition and will always provide users with the most up-to-date version of the catalogue •

Subscription forms Send to: the Treasurer, Alan Sabey 46 Thorncliffe Road, Norwood Green, Southall UB2 5RQ. (If you are not able to download an application, Alan can post a form to you.)

Exhibition Study Group This group consists of over 100 people who have a wide-ranging interest in exhibitions, from the Great Exhibition of 1851 to the next World Fair. It is devoted to the conservation and study of all matters relating to exhibitions – including philatelic shows. Members receive a journal four times a year, and a two-day convention is held on the last full weekend of September. This has been held at various venues around the country, but mostly in the south of England. The annual dinner is held on the Saturday night. UK subscription is £8 (£12 for couples), or £13 overseas, due on 1 October each year. Download an application form from www.studygroup.org.uk and send it with a cheque (payable to the Exhibition Study Group) to Alan Sabey at the address opposite. Email Alan at wembleyman@btinternet.com with any queries about membership •

Rushstamps 50 British stamp dealers Rushstamps (Retail) Ltd have started their golden jubilee year with a special Rush Telegraph no 40. The 88 pages contain a wide range of GB single offers and updated listings of other material, many with special discounts. Available by post, or by download from their website. Enquiries: Rushstamps (Retail) Ltd, PO Box One, Lyndhurst SO43 7PP, or www.rushstamps.co.uk •

Customised stamp sheets The Stamp Centre has produced two limited edition customised stamp sheets, for the 2007 *Doctor Who* series (with David Tennant as The Doctor and Freema Agyeman as his assistant), and for the first series of *Torchwood*, a spin-off from *Doctor Who* (both shown left). 1500 of each have been produced. Price £24.95 each plus postage: £2 UK, £3.50 overseas. Orders and enquiries: The Stamp Centre, 79 Strand, London WC2R 0DE. Telephone 020 7836 2341 •





Kensal Green Cemetery The General Cemetery of All Souls, Kensal Green, London is one of Britain's oldest and most beautiful public burial grounds. If you like the idea of your final resting place being among folk that relate to your favourite hobby, then this is the place for you! However, if you have made alternative plans, then perhaps a day's visit might be appropriate so that you can pay your respects to some philatelically significant figures.

Anthony Trollope (1815-82), a PO Surveyor and novelist, introduced the letter box to Jersey and subsequently the UK mainland. William Mulready RA (1786-1863), designed the illustrations used on the postal stationery letter sheets and envelopes that bear his name. Thomas de la Rue (1793-1866) founded the mighty De La Rue Group, which is the world's largest commercial security printer. Warren de la Rue (1815-89), the son of Thomas, invented an envelope-folding machine while working in his father's business. Sir Francis Freeling (1764-1836), Secretary of the GPO, introduced postal reforms including local penny posts in large towns. Jacob Perkins (1766-1849) introduced engraving of banknotes on steel, and his company – Perkins Bacon – produced the Penny Black. Frederick John Melville (1882-1940) was a prolific writer on philatelic matters and founder of the Junior (now National) Philatelic Society.

The cemetery, covering 72 acres between the Grand Union Canal and Harrow Road in west London, is open to visitors every day of the year •



Graves of Anthony Trollope, left, and William Mulready, in Kensal Green. Photographs by the late Harry Reeves, who used to work at the National Postal Museum (see also April, May and June 2006 *Bulletin*).

The Friends of Kensal Green Cemetery website at www.kensalgreen.co.uk has details of Sunday guided tours.

Cross Post The Autumn 2007 issue of this informative magazine makes for a great read within its 52 full-colour A4 pages, ably edited by Richard West. The main articles include The Machins in Use (Michael Lockton), The 'Ludlow' (Julian Stray), Delving into the Unknown (Don Staddon), Carrying mails within the UK (Cyril Parsons) and People in the Post Office: John Wright. Book reviews, an update on BPMA activities, letters and details of Friends' activities complete a full issue.

Published by the Friends of the British Postal Museum & Archive, other benefits of membership, aside from this exclusive journal, include the BPMA quarterly Newsletter for free, plus annual events guide; 15% discount on BPMA paid events and shop products; exclusive Friends events, including private views of exhibitions; plus opportunities to volunteer and see behind the scenes at the BPMA •

Friends of the BPMA Annual membership costs £15 (UK) or £20 (overseas) per year. Cheques should be payable to 'The Friends of the BPMA'.

Enquiries Avice Harms, 13 Amethyst Avenue, Davis Estate, Chatham ME5 9TX.

Royal Mail news 2008 special issues • New issues and products • New postal rates

2008 issues There are two sets of special stamps next month – Working Dogs (5 February) and Great British Monarchs (28 February) – previewed in the October and November issues of the *Bulletin*. The plate numbers and colours of the Monarchs stamps are: c1 grey c1 yellow c1 magenta c1 cyan (blue) c1 black c1 phosphor. The ‘c’ numbers indicate printing by Cartor, a partner of Walsall printers. This month we preview the Cathedrals and Carry on Hammer issues – 13 May and 10 June.

This year’s special issues are listed below, with the alternative First Day of Issue postmarks. Miniature sheet is abbreviated ‘ms’ •

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

Medal covers and ingots New medal covers marking the centenary of the Territorial Army and 300th anniversary of St Paul’s Cathedral will be available from 1 April and 13 May respectively – details to follow.

The penultimate issue in the Edward VIII and George VI stamps Ingot Collection will be available from 29 April, price £27.95. This features the 1948 1s Olympic Games stamp. A new silver stamp collection will start in May to accompany the Cathedrals issue •



Coming off sale The Sky at Night and World of Invention issues will be withdrawn from sale on 12 and 29 February respectively. The Abolition of the Slave Trade set will come off sale on 21 March, and the five sets in the British Journey Series – Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales, South West England, and England – on 31 March.

The 50p sand-coloured definitive (issued 1 April 1997) will be withdrawn on 31 March, as will the Welsh language airletter of January 2005 (single and discount packs) •

British Postal Museum & Archive On show until April is an exhibition marking the 40th anniversary of the Machin stamp – see August *Bulletin*, pages 368-69. A new exhibition, marking the 50th anniversary of the Regional (now Country) stamps, will open on National Stamp Day, 6 May. 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 their website: www.postalheritage.org.uk •

New postal rates New postal rates come into effect on 7 April. Basic 1st and 2nd class inland rates (standard size to 100g) will increase to 36p and 27p, letters to Europe (up to 20g) 50p, and worldwide airmail (to 10g) 56p.

Three new definitives will go on sale on 1 April: 15p shocking pink, 56p lime green, and 81p sea green, also new 50p and 81p country stamps in existing 48p and 78p designs. The 9p definitive (orange) will be reintroduced at Post Office branches. Further details next month ●

Royal Mail Chairman and review The Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise & Regulatory Reform has announced that Mr Allan Leighton will continue as Chairman of Royal Mail Group Ltd until March 2009. The government has also announced a review of the postal industry to monitor the impact of liberalisation and private operators following the ending of Royal Mail's letter monopoly ●

Generic and Smilers sheets New 'Glorious Northern Ireland' generic and Smilers sheets, containing 20 Northern Ireland 1st class stamps and adjoining labels showing Northern Ireland buildings, scenery, and landmarks will be available from 11 March, price £7.35 for the generic sheet. Both stamps and labels are self-adhesive. Generic sheets are defined as those with pre-printed labels; Smilers have a customer's image printed to order.

For details of how to order Smilers sheets phone 0845 074 2000 (UK customers) or +44 131 316 7483 (overseas), or pick up a Smilers leaflet/order form at a Post Office branch. Orders using digital photos can also be placed over the web: www.royalmail.com/smilers ●

New stamp books A new 6 × 1st class stamp book (shown right) will be issued on 28 February. The book contains a mix of Smilers stamps from 2005 and 2006: Hello, Flower, Union flag (first issued in 2005), Balloons, Fireworks and Champagne Bottle (issued 2006) ●



Obituary We are sorry to record the death of Professor Richard Guyatt, who designed the 266d 700th Anniversary of Parliament stamp issued in 1965 (which caused quite a stir at the time because of its length), and the 1977 Silver Jubilee stamps. Guyatt, a Professor at the Royal College of Art, numbered the stamp designers David Gentleman and Brian Tattersfield amongst his students. He served on the PO Stamp Advisory Committee 1963-74. He died last October at the age of 93 ●

Bulletin back issues Mr W I Thompson offers a near complete run of the *Bulletin* from 1969 to date (eight missing issues) to anyone willing to collect from him or pay for delivery. A donation to a charity of his choice would be appreciated. Contact him at The Old Bobbin Mill, Gill Lane, News-holme, Oakworth, Keighley, West Yorkshire BD22 0QP; telephone 01535 644809 ●

One man and his dog With the Working Dogs stamps on sale this month, we tell the story of assistance dog Endal



IN 1991 ALLEN PARTON, a weapons electronics officer in the Royal Navy, waved goodbye to his wife Sandra and their two children, Liam and Zoe, heading out to the Gulf War. A month later his military car was wrecked in an accident, and Allen's body with it. He woke six weeks later in a British military hospital, his right side devoid of feeling and his memory horribly obliterated, and unable to recognise his family. He had to learn to talk again, and was confined to a wheelchair. After five years of hospitalisation and rehabilitation, Allen at last returned to his home in Hampshire, 'a stranger to the person he had once been'.

Sandra, who gave up her job as a nurse to care for him, had volunteered as a puppy walker for Canine Partners, an organisation that trains dogs to help disabled people. One morning in 1997 the bus that took Allen to a day centre failed to arrive. Rather than leaving Allen at home, Sandra took him with her to the Canine Partners training centre. Allen sat in his wheelchair in a corner, self-conscious and withdrawn, until his eye caught a young dog resting from a training session. The dog wandered over to the wheelchair, accepted Allen's welcoming pat on the head and promptly dived onto his lap. The dog's name was Endal.

Everyone saw the instant bond between Endal and Allen. After a few more meetings, Allen decided to apply to take Endal as an assistance dog. While completing the forms, Allen understood and accepted the importance of the psychological step he was taking: 'I had to describe my dis-

abilities, and this was the first time I had admitted there was something wrong with me. It was a cathartic experience. Until I met Endal, I was in the depths of despair. Now I suddenly saw a chink of light.'

Endal's ability to understand the sign language which Allen sometimes used to communicate was central to their relationship. A pat on Allen's head meant 'fetch my cap'; a touch on his cheek, and Endal was off to fetch his razor case; hands held up, and Allen's gloves appeared. Endal was soon as adept at shopping as he was around the house. When Allen tapped in his PIN, Endal gently took the money and card from the cash dispenser.

The differences that Endal brought to Allen's everyday world weren't just practical. Where five years of intensive speech coaching had seen little progress, Allen's urge to talk to Endal made him more articulate, and broadened his vocabulary. 'Endal provides a talking point', explained Allen, 'People stroke and chat about him, which helps me to socialise.'

Most importantly of all, Endal helped restore Allen to his family. Sandra says 'Life will never be the same again but, thanks to Endal, Allen has a second chance... the children lost their old dad but Endal has given them a new one.'

In 2001 Allen was knocked from his wheelchair by a reversing car. Endal rolled his companion's unconscious form into recovery position, draped a blanket on him, nudged his mobile phone close to his face and then went off to fetch help. These actions earned him the PDSA Gold Medal, presented by HRH Princess Alexandra. This medal is awarded to animals that have shown outstanding devotion to their duty in time of peace. Endal is now one of only three dogs to have received the Medal since its introduction.

Endal is now 11 years old, and there will come a time when he will be too old to fulfill his duties. When that time comes, Allen will be there to look after him, repaying what he acknowledges to be an unrepayable debt ●

Philately online Ron Negus revisits Bath's postal museum



www.bathpostalmuseum.co.uk Readers who would like to support the work being done at this educational project by volunteers can become 'friends'. Further information can be obtained from the Bath Postal Museum, 27 Northgate Street, Bath BA1 1AJ, or by e-mail at bathpostalmuseum.org

ous boxes, which can be purchased online from the museum's ebay shop. A direct link to this is provided on the site.

Finally, in the 'Explore' part of the site, access is made available to the Digital Collections held by the museum. These include images which have been scanned from the Postcard and early Valentines Collections, which were originally the property of the eminent postal historian, Frank Staff. Similar scanned images of Wreck Covers are also included here, on loan from the estate of Adrian Hopkins, the well-known collector who was also a former Mayor of Bath.

To add a touch of nostalgia, there are examples from the museum's holding of song sheets – sheet music of songs concerning postal matters, which were popular in Victorian and Edwardian days. They pre-date both radio and television as reminders of popular entertainment. Finally, the opportunity to explore is brought to an end with some photographs of postal workers. The Digital Collections are merely an introduction to the museum's current holdings, and more images are to be added in future.

Another main section of the website is headed 'Education'. This explains how the museum encourages visits from schools, adult groups, or researchers. Visitors can use the services provided by the volunteer staff, or design their own learning experience by using the museum's learning packs for each of the galleries.

The words which I used at the close of my earlier review of the previous website still seem relevant, and I repeat them here. 'The site is a fine example of how information of interest to stamp collectors can be combined with the commercial approach needed to attract visitors to the museum itself. Even if you cannot make the journey to Bath, you can still enjoy a virtual visit. You will find it worthwhile.' ●

SINCE I LAST REVIEWED the site run by the Bath Postal Museum (*Bulletin*, December 2001), there have been a number of changes. The museum itself has moved to new premises, after receiving a grant of nearly a quarter of a million pounds in 2005 from the Heritage Lottery Fund. In October of last year, their website was completely revised. Some parts of the previous website have been removed and some new sections have been introduced.

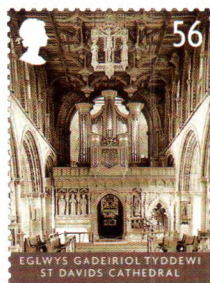
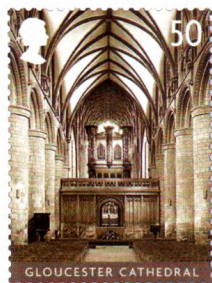
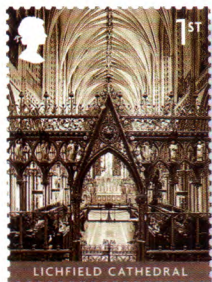
On the home page, the statement that 'Bath has played a vital role in the development of the British postal service and boasts many firsts...' is a good summary of why the museum exists. Two navigation links below this encourage the user to 'Read more about the museum' or to 'Explore the museum'.

Those who choose to explore are then offered a choice of four subject pages. The first provides biographies of three key personalities who were involved with post office development, and who were also associated with Bath. These three are: Ralph Allen, John Palmer and Thomas Moore Musgrave.

The second section is headed 'History of the Post' and is the title given to a timeline that provides a guide to postal activities from 2000 BC to the present day. For the earliest dates, the museum has examples of a letter written on an Egyptian clay tablet, and another written on papyrus.

After this, the third section provides a history of British postboxes from 1854 to 1998. This part is illustrated with metal cast models of the vari-

Cathedrals Six new stamps and a miniature



The stamps are designed by Howard Brown and printed in litho by Joh Enschedé Stamps of the Netherlands.

SIX STAMPS and a miniature sheet, to be issued on 13 May, will feature some of Britain's most interesting cathedrals. The six stamps are: Lichfield Cathedral (1st class); St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast (48p), Gloucester Cathedral (50p), St David's Cathedral (56p), Westminster Cathedral (72p) and St Magnus Cathedral, Kirkwall, Orkney (81p). The four stamps in the miniature sheet – 2 × 1st class and 2 × 81p – feature St Paul's Cathedral in London, to mark the 300th anniversary of its completion.

The stamps measure 27 × 37mm (perf 14). Sheets of 25 will be supplied to Post Office branches, and sheets of 50, with gutter margins, to Tallents House and Post Office philatelic outlets.

The miniature sheet stamps are 41 × 30mm (perf 14.5 × 14), and the sheet is 115 × 89mm. The sheet will also be available in a press sheet format, in a limited edition of 2008.

PHILATELIC PRODUCTS The presentation pack, which includes both the six stamps and the miniature sheet, was designed by Russell Warren-Fisher. Maev Kennedy writes about cathedrals in general, and the Dean and Chapter of St Paul's have provided text about their Cathedral. The illustrations include the famous Whispering Gallery of St Paul's. There will be a set of 11 stamp cards, featuring the six stamps, the four miniature sheet stamps, and the sheet itself. A St Paul's medal cover will be available, as will number one in a new Cathedrals ingot series. Details will be given nearer the time.

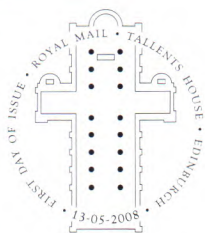
FIRST DAY FACILITIES Orders for serviced first day covers must reach Tallents House (address given below) by the date of issue. Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (for the Tallents House postmark), or to their nearest Royal Mail Special Handstamp Centre (for the London EC4 postmark) marking the outer envelope 'FDO813' or 'FDO814' respectively. Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for the London postmark.

Details of sponsored handstamps will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin*, which is available on subscription from Tallents House (at £12.25 UK/Europe; £24.95 elsewhere). To receive a free sample copy write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ •

sheet celebrate our great cathedral churches

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL

BENEATH LIES BURIED THE FOUNDER OF THIS CHURCH AND CITY,
CHRISTOPHER WREN, WHO LIVED MORE THAN 90 YEARS,
NOT FOR HIMSELF BUT FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD.
READER, IF YOU SEEK HIS MONUMENT, LOOK AROUND YOU.



Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbie Road
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB



Royal Mail First Day Cover

Royal Mail, Talents House, 21 South Oaks Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PS



Cathedrals Prices (miniature sheet is abbreviated MS)

Set of stamps	£3.43	Serviced FDC: stamps (overseas)	£ 3.84
Miniature sheet	£2.34	Serviced FDC: MS (UK customers)	£ 3.23
Presentation pack (stamps and MS)	£6.30	Serviced FDC: MS (overseas)	£ 2.75
FDC envelope	£0.30	Stamp cards set (11 cards)	£ 3.30
Serviced FDC: stamps (UK customers)	£ 4.51	Miniature sheet press sheet	£63.50

Carry On Hammer A new issue to mark the



SIX STAMPS featuring posters for Carry On and Hammer horror films go on sale at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and Royal Mail Tallents House on 10 June. The issue marks the 50th anniversaries of *Dracula* and the first of the Carry On films – *Carry On Sergeant*, an adaptation from R F Delderfield's novel *The Bull Boys*. The stamps depict posters for *Carry On Sergeant* (1st class), *Dracula* (48p), *Carry On Cleo* (50p), *The Curse of Frankenstein* (56p), *Carry On Screaming* (72p) and *The Mummy* (81p). The stamps were designed by Elmwood design group of Leeds, who designed the 2003 Pub Signs stamps, and printed in litho by Walsall, size 41 × 30mm. Sheets of 25 will be issued to Post Office branches; sheets of 50, with gutter margins, will be available from Post Office philatelic outlets and Royal Mail Tallents House.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES The FDC features a length of cinema film. 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 their nearest Royal Mail Special Handstamp Centre (Bray, Maidenhead, Berks postmark) marking the outer envelope 'FD0815' or 'FD0816'. 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 pack has been written by Kim Newman, designed by Webb and Webb Design Limited, and printed by Walsall. The pack features scenes from the films *Carry On Cleo* (1964), *Carry On Cowboy* (1965), *Carry On Doctor* (1968), *Carry On Camping* (1969), *Carry On Henry* (1971), *The Reptile* (1966), *Frankenstein Created Woman* (1967), *Countess Dracula* (1971), *Dr Jekyll & Sister Hyde* (1971) and *The Legend of the 7 Golden Vampires* (1974).

Film stamps Previous issues on this theme include the British Film Year stamps of 1985, 1996 Centenary of Cinema, and 1997 Tales and Legends – Horror Stories. Articles on the cinema theme, by Donald Malcolm and Karen Foy, were published here in April 1996 and September 2007 •



Methodist Philatelic Society A special cover was serviced for the 75th anniversary of the signing of the Deed of Union at the Reuniting Conference of the Methodist Church of Great Britain at the Royal Albert Hall, London, on 20 September 1932. The cover features the Royal Albert Hall and bears a 1st class Army Uniforms stamp cancelled by a London SW1 special handstamp. Price £1.50 plus postage. (The MPS was founded in 1970 and publishes a quarterly Newsletter. For details contact T M Smart, 11 Northwood Park, Woodlesford, Leeds LS26 8PE.) ●

Orders and enquiries R J Macmillan, Cluny, 11 Cullaloe Court, Dalgety Bay, Dunfermline KY11 9NW.



Royal Naval Philatelic Society A cover was serviced on 11 November in commemoration of the Royal Naval Division. The covers bear a Poppy stamp (or Union Flag stamp on Special Covers) cancelled by a Forces Post Office special handstamp inscribed 'Lest We Forget'. The cover is available in five editions: Plain £7.75, Special £10.75, Double Signed £9.75, Extra Special/Triple Signed £12.75, and Multi Signed £25.75. Discount for members of the RNPS (except Multi Signed Covers). Numbers produced range from 20 to 140, with 410 covers serviced in total ●

Orders and enquiries Royal Naval Philatelic Society, 19 College Road, HM Naval Base, Portsmouth PO1 3LJ.



Association of GB First Day Cover Collectors The Association produces limited edition FDCs for its members. This cover for the Houses of Lancaster and York stamps shows Clifford Tower, York and Ashton Memorial in Lancaster. Limited edition of 70. Price £11 ●

Orders and enquiries Martyn Parry, 8 Queen's Road, Prescot L34 6JA. Telephone 0151 4931127.

Cover producers wishing to announce a **recent** or **forthcoming** cover should submit typed copy of up to 100 words. Please follow the style above: the text should give a brief description of the cover, state the stamps and postmarks it will bear and give retail price and address to which collectors should send orders or write for further information. Announcements are published on a first-come-first-served basis, and may be modified or shortened at the Editor's discretion. Copy for consideration for the April 2008 Review should be sent to The Editor, *British Philatelic Bulletin*, Royal Mail, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ by 8 February. Copy for May should arrive by 7 March. The Editor regrets he cannot enter into correspondence or telephone conversations with collectors or cover producers concerning covers announced in this Review.

Review

The information service *for*
collectors and cover producers

FEBRUARY 2008

Special announcement to cover producers The number of requests for announcements in this Review has grown rapidly in recent months. Regrettably we must now restrict announcements to one cover per producer per month •

GB Covers Hand-made, limited edition, full-set official FDCs are produced by the founder and Life President of the GBFDC (the Association of Collectors of GB First Day Covers) for Association members. The FDC for the Christmas stamp issue features a small child reflected in a Christmas tree bauble, watching Father Christmas on his sleigh. An issue of 40, each signed and numbered (also a miniature sheet FDC picturing the Nativity). A few covers are always set aside for non-members at £15 (plus £1.50 P&P) per cover. Remittances payable to GB Covers •

Orders and enquiries GB Covers, 102 Regal Way, Kenton, Harrow HA3 0RY. E-mail derek@gbcovers.co.uk

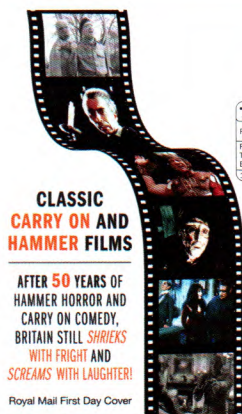
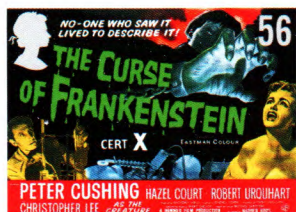


M Tanner To celebrate the 40th anniversary of the launching of the *Queen Elizabeth 11*, built on Clydebank in 1967, M Tanner has published this colour cover limited to just 15 numbered copies, which also comes with a free colour filler postcard of the overall cover image. Self-adhesive 1st class Union Jack and 2nd class blue XVI stamps are postmarked Launch QE2/40th Anniversary 20/9/2007 Clydebank, Glasgow. The artist is Kevin Mitchell. Price £15.99 plus £1.50 worldwide postage and packing per one/two items. Additional postcards cost 60p each plus postage if ordered separately. Some other shipping covers and maximum cards still available. VISA/Mastercard credit cards only are accepted, via mail or phone/fax, also sterling UK cheques by mail. Enquiries must enclose SAE and state areas of interest •

Orders and enquiries M Tanner, 180 Whitehorse Road, West Croydon CR0 2LA. Fax/answerphone 020 8684 9757 for credit card orders only.



50th anniversary of these two popular series



Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbie Road
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

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

The first day envelope, at left, features a length of film. The pack, below, has been written by Kim Newman, designed by Webb and Webb Design, and printed by Walsall.

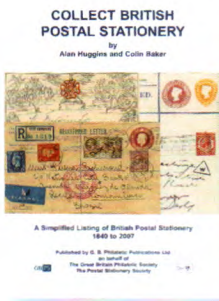


Carry on Hammer Prices

Set of stamps	£3.43
Presentation pack	£3.95
FDC envelope	£0.30
Serviced FDC (UK orders)	£4.51
Serviced FDC (overseas orders)	£3.84
Stamp cards set	£1.80
Stamp book	£2.16



Developments in postal stationery Colin Baker describes changes of the last 35 years



This catalogue is the product of four years of hard work by Alan Huggins and Colin Baker. It provides a comprehensive listing of everything issued for use in the UK up to the end of 2007.

PROBABLY MOST OF US have one or two items of postal stationery in our collections. After all, pre-paid stationery and adhesive stamps were both issued on 6 May 1840, and so it makes sense that we should include some of each in our albums. But for many years stamps have been much more popular with collectors. This probably stems from the days when pre-printed stamp albums first appeared, which encouraged people to fill up all the pages with postage stamps, rather than complete envelopes or postcards. This in turn led the catalogue producers to drop postal stationery from their listings, and thus it fell into the doldrums.

Although postal stationery collectors were given a boost in 1970 with the publication of a new and comprehensive catalogue by Dr Alan Huggins, it was still considered by many to be a secondary collecting area. With high inflation just around the corner, prices quoted in this catalogue went out of date far too quickly, and it is not surprising that postal stationery continued to be considered inferior to stamps. But after more than 35 years, a new catalogue has been published which, it is hoped, will bring the collecting of postal stationery into the philatelic mainstream. *Collect British Postal Stationery* is a joint venture between Alan Huggins and myself, and was published at the end of 2007. It includes all known issues of postal stationery, both Post Office and private, up to the end of that year.

Some of the sections in the new catalogue have varied little from the original publication of 1970, particularly those dealing with Post Office issues up to the time of decimalization in 1971. However, other sections have been radically revised to include new issues and varieties that have come to light in the intervening years.

There have also been significant changes to postal stationery since decimal currency was introduced in the UK in 1971. The increasing use of bulk mail and the business reply service offered to large companies brought about the demise of the stamped to order (STO) facility in 1974. You might be forgiven for thinking that this was the end of privately produced stationery. But that is not the case, and STO stationery continues to be used today, although the minimum order for these items has been increased from tens to thousands at a time. With modern printing methods it is no longer necessary to produce master dies for the stamps used in STO work today, with the result that there are minor variations in many of the stamps on these envelopes. All the major varieties are listed in the new catalogue.

Inflation in the mid 1970s resulted in almost annual postage rate increases, leading in turn to the introduction of 'non value indicator stamps' in 1983, or NVIS for short. This move avoided the need to overprint or destroy old stocks of postal stationery held by the Post Office. Both 1st and 2nd class stamps have been impressed on Post Office and STO envelopes, and are also known on STO postcards. Three designs of NVI stamps have been used since their introduction, with variations in the latter two types. In a

12th CONVENTION 1972

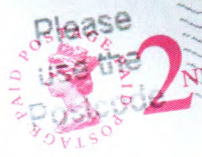
Wiltshire Philatelic Federation



The County Badge



Royal Mail
Northern
Ireland
Post Office
12 456789



By air mail
Par avion
Aerogramme



Great Britain
Postage
Paid

Postage is pre-paid to anywhere in the world.



To open slit flaps



To open slit flaps





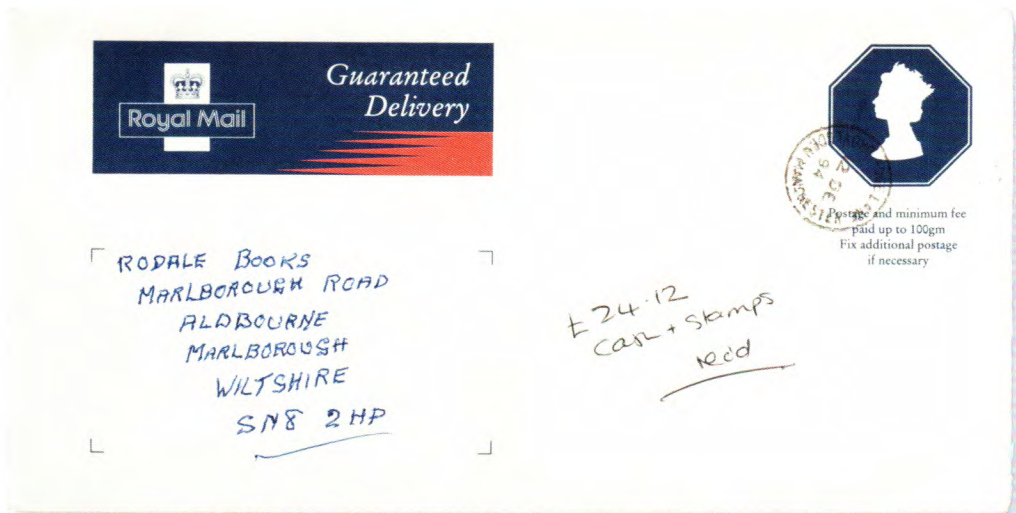
surprising move not announced in the press, the current design was altered to include 'Postage Paid – *Talwydy Post*' in a circle around the Queen's head, printed on STO envelopes for Welsh organisations. These are much less common than the standard design and are well worth looking out for.

Different styles of NVI stamps have also been used on all the various issues of registration, special delivery, Airsure and other types of envelopes. There are too many to describe in this short article, but they are all listed in detail in the new catalogue.

Modern printing methods and materials have also had an effect on other stationery. In 1878, when registration envelopes were first put on sale, they were made from tough paper reinforced on the inside with an open weave of linen. This was to prevent coins carried in the post from being lost in transit. The material was so successful that it continued to be used until 1991, when plastic envelopes with self-sealing flaps were introduced. They serve exactly the same purpose, although they do not have quite the same appeal to the traditionalist collector. Another problem collectors face is the difficulty in storing or displaying them due to their size. Nearly all are larger than A4, and some are double that.

Plastic can degrade much more quickly than paper, with disastrous results. Collectors need to take special care in storing these envelopes if they are to maintain their 'new' appearance in the future. It is best to keep all plastic materials away from any kind of light, by keeping albums in closed cupboards and at a steady cool room temperature, with the humidity not too dry or damp. The new envelopes will survive better if stored at a constant temperature, rather than in conditions that fluctuate a great deal.

It is not just the listing of modern stationery that shows a significant change over recent years. New items of official stationery produced for use by government departments in the Victorian and Edwardian periods have come to light, leading to an expansion of the list in the new catalogue.



The Board of Agriculture has kept records of farms and livestock for centuries, and from 1866 letter sheets stamped with the outward and return postage were sent to all farmers for completion and return. Because of the confidential nature of the information, all letter sheets were destroyed once the information had been extracted. Only those that were not returned to the appropriate department have survived, often as a result of solicitors filing them with other correspondence.

It was not until recently that a letter sheet in Welsh was discovered for the year 1866, leading to speculation of how many other Welsh examples there might be. We may never know the answer to this. It took 140 years for the only known example to be identified. Because of the way in which these forms were used, and the relatively small numbers printed, it may now be unique. Vaccination certificates specially prepared for use in Scotland from 1893 have also come to light in recent years. All known official letter sheets are now listed by the user rather than strictly chronologically, to make it easier for collectors to identify individual items.

The introduction of the Official Paid symbol in 1904 brought an end to most official STO envelopes and letter sheets, although some envelopes are known to have been produced for the Privy Council up to 1919. It had always been believed that no more pre-paid official envelopes would be seen, but in 1993 an official envelope with a 1st class NVI stamp came into use in connection with the national census. As far as is known, similar items are still being used today.

When the 1970 catalogue was published airletters were widely used, costing a fraction of the cost of sending a small envelope. The Olympic Games in 1948 saw the first commemorative airletter, followed by one for Queen Elizabeth II's coronation in 1953. In 1964 two airletters for the Shakespeare Festival were issued, followed in 1965 by the first Christmas airletter, starting a tradition that has continued almost every year to the present day. ►



Senders name and address
(please show post code)

An Airletter should not contain any
enclosure - if it does, it may be surcharged
or sent by ordinary mail.

Designed by Peter Gault FSIAD
Printed by McCorquodale Printers Limited.

SECOND FOLD HERE

By Air Mail Air Letter
Par Avion Aérogramme



TO OPEN SLIT HERE

In 1973 a Welsh airletter was issued. This was a definitive version with an additional panel on the front showing a Welsh woman in traditional costume. The following year saw Scotland's first commemorative airletter. Again, this was a definitive issue, with a vignette of the Prince Charles monument, Glenfinnan, Loch Shiel on the front. These were followed over the next 35 years by a huge number of special issues, many for Scotland, but a few celebrating anniversaries relating to the other countries of the British Isles.

Cheap international telephone calls and electronic messaging have reduced the need for airletters, and sales have fallen considerably over recent years, bringing to an end the frequent issue of this highly colourful item of stationery. None have appeared since 1999 except for the Christmas issues. Even these designs have continued for two years rather than one recently; who knows for how much longer these will be sold. The world is changing fast, and the way we communicate with it •

Text © Colin Baker 2008

What makes Stampex tick? Richard West talks with Mike Czuczman, organizer of the twice-yearly Stampex exhibition



An auction for young collectors is a regular fixture at Stampex.

BRITAIN'S OLDEST established stamp exhibition, Stampex, is held twice a year, at the end of February and in September, at the Business Design Centre in Islington in London. It is staged by the Philatelic Traders' Society (PTS), with the organisation being handled by Mike Czuczman. Here, Mike answers a few questions about himself and the event.

Richard West: How long have you been involved with the organisation of Stampex?

Mike Czuczman: I joined the PTS in July 1997 and ran my first Stampex in September that year. It was a fairly steep learning curve.

RW: How did you get involved with Stampex, and its owners, the Philatelic Traders' Society?

MC: I had left my previous company and was on one year of 'gardening leave' when an interested friend told me the position of Secretary of

the PTS was vacant. I had already decided that I did not want to go back into 'industry' and this seemed an ideal way to work at my hobby. I often state that it is like being a professional golfer but without that sort of level of remuneration.

RW: When do you start planning Stampex?

MC: That's an interesting question, because it depends upon which particular part of Stampex is under discussion. The displays, for instance, are already arranged until Spring of 2010, the sort of time frame necessary to ensure those mounting the displays can complete their preparations. This in turn, along with any knowledge of proposed Royal Mail issues, tends to set the theme so I can be working on advertising and items such as the 'Smilers' sheet about a year ahead.

About 80 per cent of standholders normally do both shows each year, and will indicate their intentions at the end of the current show. Then there are others who do one show a year, and at almost every show that I have run so far there will be some 'new' members coming in to try it out. I am happy to say that usually they are successful and return. Thus immediately after the show, the contracts for the next show are sent out. We have to meet most of the costs of staging the event before the show takes place so it is essential that this takes place quickly.

About two months before a show we ask for information from each standholder, enabling me to plan and order items such as furniture, safes, electrical equipment and supply, and catering. There is then the paperwork to be sent to overseas members to allow them to complete the Customs and Revenue procedure on entry. Then two days before the show there will be something I have forgotten!

RW: The forthcoming exhibition will run from Wednesday, 27 February to Saturday, 1 March. Sometimes in the spring there is an overlap with Philatex. How do you view such a clash?

MC: Clashing dates are not ideal for either side and numerous meetings have been held to try and resolve the matter. Unfortunately, changing dates with the venues is not that easy, as there are not many vacant dates available, and those that are there, are not ideal for either side.

RW: Why has Stampex now dropped the Sunday opening, and do you think the decision might ever be reversed?

MC: Numbers of visitors on the Sunday had dropped to such a level that financially it was not viable. It was costing around £50 to bring each visitor in through the door. Whilst some of our members rue the loss of the Sunday, many did no business at all. The declining numbers have taken place over a number of years and it is difficult to say why. Perhaps our collector members are being 'taken' to other attractions such as the local supermarket or to large shopping centres. Will it ever be reversed? Who knows? I was taught early in my career never to say 'never', but there would need to be a significant change to the visitor pattern.

RW: Many people complain about moving the venue from the Horticultural Society Halls to the Business Design Centre. Although the move took place before your involvement, what have you to say to those who don't like the BDC as a venue?

MC: Actually we had a visitor at the last show complaining about the move from the Central Halls, Westminster, and I leave you to work out how long ago it was that Stampex was held there. I used to visit the old venue as a collector and the Business Design Centre is way ahead. It was difficult and expensive to park (as it is everywhere in London), there were not that many places to eat, and the environment was somewhat spartan. I think that it is not a case of people not liking the venue, but being creatures of habit, not liking a change. Some from the South say that it is easier to get to Victoria, but from the other side of London, Islington is easier. Having said that, our visitors are now coming from all over, including the continent and the new Eurostar terminal located at St Pancras will make their visit even easier.

RW: How easy is it to fill the dealer stands, and to have a good balance in respect of the material on offer? Do you have actively to sell the stand space, or are dealers anxious to have a stand?

MC: We are fortunate that each show has about 80 per cent of the stands pre-booked by regular standholders, and I am pleased to say that the percentage is increasing. I do not actively sell the

stand space, other than reminding some that they had said they wanted to attend. A lot of dealers are anxious to come, but take some time to pluck up the courage to put their toes in the water.

RW: I believe the PTS still operates a system whereby only its members can have a stand?

MC: Correct, although the Committee has the power to allow in specially selected standholders. This mainly applies to overseas Post Offices.

RW: How do you set about finding additional attractions, particularly for the area known as the Village Green as you enter the exhibition hall?

MC: We have a very good ongoing relationship with both the British Postal Museum and Archive and the British Forces Post Office, who have been exceedingly active with displays at Stampex and, in the case of the BPMA, have been kind enough to allow us to reproduce various items from their archives for our postcards given free to visitors. In general, however, luckily the displays find me. There are organisations and societies eager to use the space – they simply have to discover for themselves if they can cope with the complexities of putting on a display.

RW: For some years the national competitions were held at Autumn Stampex. How do you view the fact that these are now staged by the Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS) in various parts of the UK? Would you like to see them return to Stampex?

MC: If Stampex had not taken on the annual competitions on the demise of the British Philatelic Federation (BPF) there would have been no competitions at all for a number of years. The British Philatelic Trust then took over the organisation, with eventually involvement by the ABPS. Personally, I think it was a mistake to move them out around the country, as there appears to be no continuity. It was said that they were now 'back in the hands of the collectors'. They were always in the hands of the collectors – Stampex simply provided the space and facilities. Would we like to see them back? Of course. They offer an added attraction for a large number of collectors.

RW: For each exhibition, you now have a Smilers sheet. How did you decide to have these? How is the subject matter and design chosen? Presum-

ably they are popular with visitors: do you envisage them continuing for some time to come?

MC: For many years, according to the records, Stampex had produced a memento of some kind. In fact, these were quite lucrative for a while, although eventually their production resulted in a loss. Because of this history the Stampex Committee was always looking for ways to resurrect these items, but was reluctant simply to produce non-postal souvenir sheets of dubious value. The Committee did investigate overprinting booklets or even specially commissioned booklets, but the outlay was too large. Once the Business Customised Sheets became available, we decided to give them a try. These have proved very popular, and whilst we do not make a profit, we break even and it is an added attraction for the show. The design is reached by argument among the Committee, followed by consent. Usually subject matter will bear some relationship to the display taking place or a Royal Mail issue, although not necessarily the latest one. In the case of last autumn we went back one issue with British Garden Birds.

RW: It is now becoming common practice for Royal Mail to issue a new set of stamps on the Thursday of Stampex. How important is this co-operation for the exhibition?

MC: I would hesitate to use the word 'vital' but it is certainly an added and welcome co-operation. My thanks to those inside Royal Mail (they know who they are) for bringing this about.

RW: What was your employment before you joined the PTS?

MC: Strictly speaking, I was a 'house-husband' (and I enjoyed it), but prior to that I was the Managing Director of a manufacturing subsidiary of a quoted company.

RW: Are you a collector? When did you begin collecting, and how has your collection developed over the years?

MC: Yes. I began more years ago than I care to remember, having been 'mentored' by my father-in-law, a keen thematic collector, although he did not belong to any society. At first, like most of us, I collected GB but soon gave up after seeing a few high-level displays at the local society. It developed from there.

RW: I believe your principal collection is now Safety at Sea. What was its inspiration?

MC: Probably my grandfather, who worked for Trinity House, although he died when I was five. Having gone off GB I was looking for something else and decided on Lighthouses. After a time this got a bit boring, as it seemed to be simply acquiring hundreds of lighthouse stamps as they were issued and finding that either I could not afford the major items I wanted, or they simply weren't available. It therefore broadened to Safety at Sea, which kept to the general maritime theme, while bringing in new areas. Since then it has spun off two other collections: Anchors which I entered in the Open Class at The Stamp Show 2000; and a postal history collection of harbour cancellations called 'One in Every Port'.

In addition I am now amassing material on Late Fees and on Chelsea Pensioners. One day I will get to write them up!

RW: How much of your time is taken up with other PTS matters besides Stampex? Very briefly, what is the ethos of the PTS?

MC: I have never actually kept a log, but it is probably about 50 per cent each. This might surprise some people but there is a considerable amount of work generated by the PTS.

The objective of the PTS is to provide a society that brings advantages to its members through association with a set of ethics. Our code states that 'All forms of business and business practice in connection with stamp dealing shall be carried out creditably and with professional integrity to the highest commercial standards, and the principles of good trading shall be upheld.' This code is also communicated to the general public, so that they know that they can deal securely and safely with our members who show the PTS logo.

RW: The PTS has moved from having a central London office, for a time at the British Philatelic Centre. Do you feel you now operate better?

MC: Yes. The London offices were unnecessary and expensive. In six years there I had two direct visitors other than the occasional visit by a member who had called on the other occupants of the Centre, the British Philatelic Trust or the National Philatelic Society, and wanted a coffee.

RW: In 2010, the next London international stamp exhibition will be staged at the BDC. Have you any views on the use of the venue? Will there still be a Spring Stampex in 2010?

MC: In view of the financial constraints with any major exhibition, the BDC is as good, if not better, than any other place proposed. Of course if there were unlimited funds (and the ability to swallow a large potential financial loss) there are other venues but, handled properly, the BDC can be a success. The Spring Stampex prior to The Stamp Show 2000 was a resounding success for many standholders. Stampex will happen as usual for Spring 2010. If we did not, we would probably lose our 'slot', and someone else would step in anyway.

RW: How do you see the future of stamp exhibitions in the UK? Do you feel there is still a place for at least six major London events, with Stampex, Philatex and Thematica each held twice a year? Would you consider holding Stampex in other parts of the UK?

MC: Yes, without a doubt. Until the visitors and standholders vote with their feet these six shows will continue. We have actively considered other parts of the UK, but have currently concluded that these are well supplied by local events and would not be viable.

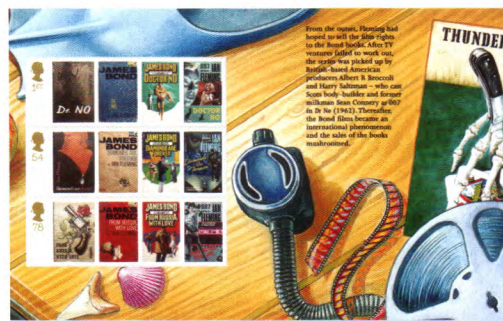
RW: Do you plan any changes to Stampex?

MC: Always under consideration, but it is a question of finding the right changes. You would not expect me to break that sort of commercial confidence at this stage! ●



Stampex organiser and Secretary of the PTS, Mike Czuczman

Fleming had his first heart attack in 1961, and it was during his convalescence that he wrote the children's classic *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, for his young son. This has all the Fleming ingredients; magic gadgets, bizarre villains, oodles of panache and unusual names such as Caractacus Potts and Truly Scrumptious. This was used as the basis for a very successful feature film starring Dick Van



The front cover of the new prestige book shows Fleming's typewriter and artefacts from a casino with Bond's favourite tippie. The back cover has a picture of the author and his obituary. In be-

[illegible]

The first pane has eight 1st-class nvis around a label showing the famous Imperial typewriter. This was custom-made for Fleming and was gold plated. No doubt that is why the label and stamps around it were printed in gold. Each of the next two panes has three vertically se-tenant stamps in the long landscape format previously used for some special stamps, such as the 2003 Extreme Endeavours issue. The stamps are 1st, 54 and 78; the letter 'p' is omitted on the value stamps. These pre-pay the 10g and 20g worldwide airmail letter rates. I think that the middle stamp should have

As well as the PSB and sheet stamps, there is a full range of other products. These comprise a miniature sheet, a press sheet, a first day cover, a presentation pack and a set of stamp cards.

Text © Douglas Myall 2008

issues, last year's Christmas stamps being an example. The uncertainty may be caused by the fact that they appear on the same product as the NVIS which are certainly definitives, but this is not unusual today, witness the Celebrating England etc miniature sheets. Perhaps the most compelling reason to regard them as definitives is that they have never been issued in counter sheet form, but even that is not decisive, as neither did the 60p stamp of 1994 •



The Valentine stamp book issued on 15 January. This is similar to the book issued in January last year, in time for Valentine's Day. The stamps are self-adhesives, gravure printed by Walsall.

Eurothema Highlights from the exhibition, by John Holman

IN THE November *Bulletin* Simon Moorcroft previewed this exhibition, held in conjunction with Thematica at the Seymour Hall, London W2 on 24-25 November.

Twenty five excellent displays were provided by thematic collectors from the UK, Belgium, France, the Netherlands and Denmark, plus three entries in the 'National Class' (in conjunction with the Croydon exhibition), and an 'Honorary Panel'.

The six displays by British collectors included Jim Etherington's '1940: A Desperate Year' which exhibited mail from the London Blitz, including one handstamped 'BOMBED AREA / NOT CALLED FOR'. Stuart Henderson's 'Legacy of WWI' featured stamps showing soldiers in action, battle-ships, and an Austro-Hungarian stamp showing the proposed memorial church for Archduke Ferdinand whose assassination sparked off the War. Peter Wood's interesting 'Irish Life' looked at the country's culture and history as well as its people and the Irish diaspora. He showed the 'IRELAND' handstamp used in London on mail from Dublin to Britain, 1777-1810, a cover signed by Daniel O'Connell as a MP under the franking privilege, stamps showing people of Irish descent, and even a GB stamp with a shamrock perfin, used by the Hibernia Works in Sheffield.

A similar look at a country and its people comprised the exhibit by Gert Svane Jensen, about his home country of Denmark. His display, arranged in nine sections covering history, politics, transport, trade, geography, flora & fauna, religion and culture, was nearly all Danish philatelic material,

but there were stamps from San Marino showing Copenhagen, and the British 1964 2s6d Shakespeare stamp featuring Hamlet.

Birds and animals were the theme of a number of exhibits. Two were on bees – by Geraldine Forestier (France) and H ten Have (Netherlands), who included the GB 1972 Tutankhamun stamp which shows a tiny bee in the background design. Two exhibits from John Hansen (Denmark) were fine studies of 'The Kingfisher' and 'The Owls – the Silent Hunter of the Twilight'. Leif Rasmussen (Belgium) looked at how humans use and abuse animals, ranging from elephant to silkworm, including horses, dogs, pigs, penguins, turtles, oysters, sheep, goats, fish, and snakes. Animals supply us with food, relieve us of hard work, and provide entertainment and luxuries such as furs and skins, pearls, foie gras and caviar.

Jacques Pottie (Belgium) provided a fine entry on Rubens which included a stamp reproducing his portrait of Marie de Medici, together with a letter of 1613 bearing her signature. Henrik Tranberg (of Denmark) recorded the career of Buddy Holly and other 1950s entertainers, and Richard Wheeler's entry on Puppets included stamps featuring Mr Punch as well as a GB stamp book with 'Punch' adverts on the front cover. (A page from this display was shown in the November *Bulletin*.)

Roger Swindells' 'A Glimpse into the World of Beer' (in National Class) and 'From Cereal Grain to Bread' by Jean Louis Blot (France) provided us with two fine studies of the manufacture of basic products. I was intrigued to see if Barry Stagg's



Eurothema patron Margaret Morris (right) presents the Team Trophy to the Netherlands representative.

Parachutes display included any GB material as I couldn't think of any relevant issues – he featured a Parachute Regiment cachet, a Scottish aereogramme (Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders), and 1970s postmarks with parachutes in the designs.

All in all, there were some well-presented and thought-provoking displays and I continue to be amazed at the research undertaken by thematic collectors in obtaining material relevant to their topic. The quality of the writing-up was also impressive, and I liked the use of eight large pages (as opposed to 16 standard size) in the presentation by D Speksnijder (Netherlands) in his George Washington display. The lighting of the exhibits was generally good, but the frames used (as with many exhibitions), make it difficult for short and tall visitors to respectively view pages in the top and bottom rows.

The entries from the Netherlands were awarded first prize; Belgium came in second, GB third, France fourth, and Denmark fifth. This was the second win for the Netherlands, having taken the honour in 2001.

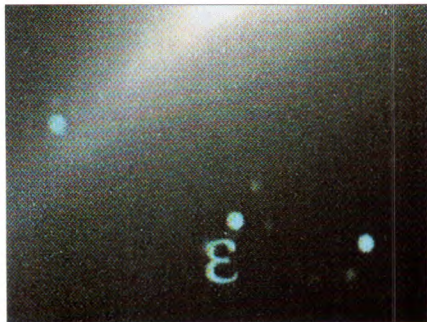
Thematic collecting There are a number of organisations to help thematic collectors. The British Thematic Association publishes *Themescene* magazine and holds a thematic library. Membership is £12 pa (£5 juniors). Contact P Denly, 9 Oaklands Park, Bishops Stortford CM23 2BY, or see www.brit-thematic-assoc.com for further details. We hope to give addresses for specialist societies for particular themes in a future *Bulletin* •

Posting boxes

THANKS TO JOHN MEEK, we show this month a posting box of the 1850s, from an illustration in *The Illustrated London News*. It was described as a new form of letter box, imported from Belgium. It consists of a bronzed columnar design, raised upon a granite spocle; the opening for the receipt of letters being in the upper part of the column, and having a projection to keep out the rain, and a door for the removal of letters being provided towards the base. It was placed in Rue de la Paix, in Paris •



Competitions Enter for a chance to win the 2007 Yearbook



November identify The detail is from the Millennium Christians' Tale 26p. The winner was A Domenico di Rome.

November knowledge The answers: 1) Stewart blue and Paris green (blue and green accepted); 2) A2; 3) Charles Wesley. The winner was P Cross of Suffolk.

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

- 1 What is the colour of the current 48p Machin definitive?
- 2 Which set of Millennium stamps featured a narrow gauge railway?
- 3 Who is the Secretary of the Philatelic Traders' Society?

Send your answer (addressed to either February *Identify* competition or February *Knowledge* competition), name and address on a postcard or back of a sealed envelope to: British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ. The senders of the first cards to be drawn in each competition on 14 March will each receive a 2007 Yearbook. Runner-up prizes of presentation packs, first day covers or stamp cards will be awarded in each competition. The competitions are not open to Royal Mail employees. ●

Events

Until April 'A Timeless Classic – The Evolution of Machin's Icon' exhibition at British Postal Museum & Archive, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1. **Enquiries** 020 7239 2570.

21-23 February Philatex International Stamp and Cover show, at Royal Horticultural Society Lawrence Hall, Greycoat St, London SW1. Open: Thursday 11.00-19.00, Friday 10.00-18.00, Saturday 10.00-17.00. **Enquiries** 020 8946 4489 or website www.stampshows.net

27 February - 1 March Spring Stampex at Business Design Centre, Upper Street, London N1. Display by Austria Philatelic Society. **Enquiries** Stampex 01252 628006.

8 March Streetly PS Annual Stamp Fair, Collingwood Centre, Collingwood Drive, Pheasey, Birmingham B43 7NF, 10.00-16.30. Stamp dealers, members displays, light refreshments, car parking. Admission 20p, children 10p. **Enquiries** Brian Hyner, telephone 0121 357 5340 ●

Special prize draw

ONCE AGAIN we offer our popular Mystery Prize draw, with some excellent prizes! To win one of the 10 prizes, send your name and address on a

postcard to: Mystery Prize Draw, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ, to arrive by 29 February ●

Late news

New books Stanley Gibbons has published *Collect Autographs*, listing and pricing autographs of the great and good from many walks of life: Art, Authors, Aviation/Space, Film tv and Theatre, Military, Models, Music artists, Music classical, Music groups, Politics, Royalty, Sport, and Various. Each of these sections includes many good colour illustrations of signed photos, letters, documents, etc. There are useful introductory notes on autograph collecting and investment, and a good index. 272 pages, card covers. Available at the SG shop in the Strand, or by mail order from Stanley Gibbons Ltd, Parkside, Ringwood, Hants BH24 3SH. Price £9.95 plus postage •

The 2008 *Picture Postcard Annual* includes all the usual essential reference information for postcard collectors, as well as a number of interesting feature articles including: Raphael Tuck's Types and Series, Historical Pageants, Shipwrecks, and Surrealism in picture postcards. Nicely produced, 96 pages, illustrated in colour. Price £4.75 plus £1.00 postage (UK) from Reflections of a Bygone Age, 15 Debdale Lane, Keyworth, Nottingham NG12 5HT. Telephone 0115 937 4079 •

Grimsby & District Philatelic Society The Society meets at 19.15 at the Public Library in Town Hall Square, Grimsby on the first and third Wednesday of each month, except August. Meetings include an informal gathering to sell and exchange material. The forthcoming meetings are: Quiz Evening (6 Feb), Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos (20 Feb), Members Evening (5 Mar), and Auction (19 Mar). The Society's annual Christmas stamp auctions have raised £5000 for the St Andrew's Hospice. Membership, including use of a society library of catalogues and reference books, is £10 pa (75p for collectors aged 10-16). The Society was founded in 1923. For further details, contact the Secretary, Mr R Tarrant, on 01472 220329.

Auctions Cavendish's 28-29 November auction included a large GB section. Mulready envelopes were much in favour: an up-rated Mulready with additional 1d black made £2185 (est £1200), and

two second-day usage envelopes went for £1955 each (£500 & £850). Two Mulready caricatures realised £1840 and £1035 (£600 & £500). In the GB Postal History section, a St Kilda 'float mail' cover of 1899 went for an amazing £7475 (£500). Enquiries about future auctions: 01332 250970 •

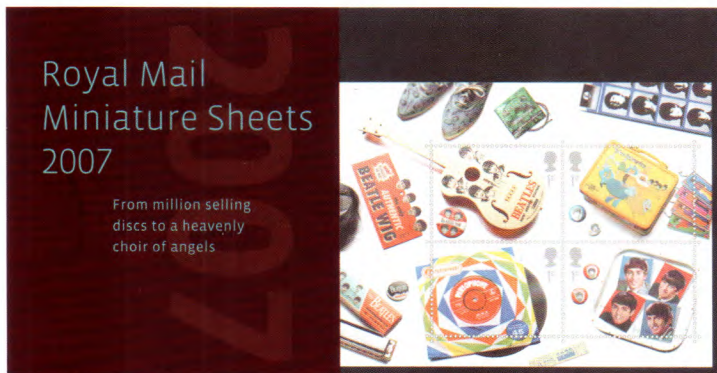
Spink's 7 December GB auction realised a total of £376,610. A document from Rowland Hill's private papers made £13,000 (£8000-10,000), a Prince Consort essay £7000 (£1000-1200), and a cover bearing a 1d back with Maltese Cross and Poulton Penny Post cancels was sold for £4800 (£5000-6000). The sale also included modern GB errors – a 2004 Ocean Liners miniature sheet imperf with 42(p) and 53(p) values instead of £ and 57p went for £1200 (£1000-1500). For details of future auctions see www.spink.com •

Harmers 12 December auction included a 1935 Silver Jubilee 2½d Prussian blue error of colour, which made £8208 (est £5500), and a set of the 1929 PUG issue of notepaper with first day cancels which sold for £6308 (£4000). Also included were essays by eminent stamp designer Jennifer Toombs: essays for a 1971 Bahamas Christmas stamp sold for £606 (£500), and for a Bahrain Women's Costumes issue £727 (£500). For details of future auctions, see www.harmers.com •

The Stanley Gibbons 18 December auction included two of the 1988 Christmas stamp error of value – 13p instead of 14p. A mint copy went for £4600 and one used on FDC £2600. A cylinder block of the 4d Wilding deep ultramarine with double impression achieved £8500. A May 1840 entire bearing a pair of 1d blacks, plate 1A, made £2600 (est £500-600). For details of future sales contact Stanley Gibbons Auctions on 020 7557 4416 or see www.stanleygibbons.com/auctions •

Insects Please note that the prices of the stamps, pack and FDC will increase as a result of the postal rate changes from 7 April. The stamps will cost £3.60, the pack £4.10 and serviced FDCs £4.71 UK and £4.01 overseas. The first day postmarks will be dated 15-4-2008 and not as shown in January *Bulletin* (page 147) •

Royal Mail collections: ideal gifts



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Order code PA728. Handling charge £2.95 UK, £5 Europe, £14 rest of world

2007 Miniature sheet Collection

Price £24.45.

Order code PA727. Handling charge £1.45 UK, £1.55 Europe, £2.15 rest of world

Presentation Pack Collection The 16 packs of 2007 are all contained within a stylish black box, embossed in silver with 'Royal Mail'.

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