

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The ROYAL MAIL magazine *for stamp collectors*

Volume 46 Number 4

DECEMBER 2008 £1.20

Bulletin

House of Tudor issue • 2008
poll • Pantomime on stamps



Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



Cover Details from some of the many stamps in Dorothy Martin's pantomime-themed collection. Mrs Martin writes about the story of pantomime in this *Bulletin*, beginning on page 108. Royal Mail's Christmas issue was previewed in the August *Bulletin*.

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 December

Withdrawal 2006 Yearbook (standard and de luxe and softback versions) and Yearpack

7 January

Withdrawal James Bond stamps, presentation pack, miniature sheet, prestige stamp book, stamp cards and press sheet

13 January

Issue Design Classics stamps, presentation pack, prestige stamp book, stamp cards and generic sheet (Mini stamp)

22 January

Issue Robert Burns miniature sheet, presentation pack, press sheet and coincover

27 January

Issue Cathedrals Silver Stamp Collection No 2

Christmas gift suggestion A subscription to this magazine makes an ideal Christmas present for a philatelic friend or relation. It keeps them informed of new Royal Mail issues and events in the philatelic world, and provides interesting articles by leading philatelists and postal historians. To book a subscription send the name and address of your friend or relative to Tallents House (address opposite). Annual subscription £12.95 UK and Europe, £17.95 rest of the world (airmail). Binders and storage box files are available, priced £8.50 and £9.95 respectively.



Contents



Another year passes The events of the past year have been unforgettable in many ways; Richard West looks at some of the highs and lows in philately, and looks ahead to the coming year **116**

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 Talents 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 Westerham Press ● **ISSN** 0953 8119 ● Royal Mail is a trading name of Royal Mail Group Ltd. Registered in England and Wales no 4138203 registered office 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ

Issues and withdrawals 98

Stamp scene News and events in the philatelic world – Glenn Morgan keeps you posted **100**

Royal Mail news New issues programme; Year Collections; Christmas Smilers; BPMA news; New Silver Stamps **105**



Prize draw Win a copy of Royal Mail's deluxe 2008 Yearbook **107**

Pantomime Dorothy Martin tells the story of a traditional Christmas entertainment **108**



The House of Tudor A preview of the second set in the Great British Monarchs series **112**

Favourite stamps poll Vote for your favourites of 2008 **114**

Philately online Ron Negus visits a Masonic philatelic website **119**

Book review Martin Robinson on volume 2 of the Maltese Crosses Encyclopaedia **120**

Mainly Machins Report for specialist collectors, by Douglas Myall **121**

Commemorative covers A review of some of the new covers on offer **124**

Competitions Win the 2008 Miniature Sheet Collection **126**

Events **126**

Late news **127**

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

London 2010 enquiries www.london2010.org.uk

London 2010 Festival of Stamps Further information about this series of events has recently been released. There will be several linked exhibitions, often lasting several months, being held throughout the UK, in addition to the stamp show at the Business Design Centre, Islington, 8-15 May.

Events already announced are: exhibition at the British Museum Money Gallery, London, May-November; and Empire Mail, George V and the GPO, Guildhall Art Gallery, London, 7 May - 25 July. Exhibitions and displays will also be staged at the following venues, dates to be announced: Bletchley Park, National Codes Centre, Milton Keynes; British Library Philatelic Collections, London; BPMA Search Room, London; Marylebone Cricket Club Museum, Lord's Cricket Ground, London; the Museum of World Rugby, Twickenham Stadium, Middlesex; and Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum, Wimbledon.

Up to 19 other events are also going to be held at regional stamp shows nationwide, hosted by the regional federations of the Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS) on various dates. Tours, talks and activities at the BPMA Archive, London and at their Museum Store at Debden in Essex will also be held throughout 2010 ●

Perforated Hearts Available from the American Topical Association. Price: \$18 (\$15 existing or joining ATA members). Postage to addresses in the UK is \$7. Write to the ATA, PO Box 57, Arlington, TX 76004-0057, USA; email americantopical@msn.com or see the ATA website at www.americantopicalassn.org

Perforated Hearts A retired cardiologist, Benedict A Termini, has taken his thematic collection and written a book that covers the subject of hearts. In addition to the checklists of stamps and postal stationery picturing hearts he set himself two goals. First, he wanted to encourage stamp collectors to explore the world of heart stamps. Secondly, he wanted to make sure that the information, which he had gathered over many years, was available to stamp collectors. Additionally, his book serves as an aid to the novice collector, as he relates how he organizes his thematic collections, and where and how he locates the sources who supply him with both information and philatelic material.

His first chapter is 'Mending Broken Hearts – Cardiology on Stamps'. In layman's terms, he discusses and identifies stamps showing the human heart and how it works. This is followed by all other aspects of this fascinating subject, which was made so popular in the UK by Steve Boorn's major award-winning exhibit on this theme. Steve has shown his 128-page exhibit at many exhibitions both here and abroad and has even shown it in hospitals to raise awareness of our hobby ●

Malmö seminar Details and application forms from Jonas Hällström, Billingstorpssvägen 13B, SE-541 32 Skövde, Sweden. Telephone/fax +46 (0) 500 48 91 87, email j.hallstrom@telia.com

Malmö seminar The Swedish Philatelic Federation is organizing a joint seminar weekend about Postal History and Thematic Philately, from 21-23 August 2009. The seminar is limited to 50 participants, paying the compulsory seminar fee. The final date for applications is 30 April 2009, and the applicant will receive a confirmation and an invoice for the seminar fee (plus charges for other orders concerning accommodation and meals) ●

National Competitions back at Stampex Following the success of the One Frame class at the ABPS Harrogate National Exhibition in May, there will be a new National One Frame Competitive Exhibition at Spring Stampex, 25-28 February 2009. The PTS will support the competition, which will be an added attraction for this popular event. Chairman of the National Exhibitions Committee, Brian Trotter, commented 'There was a lot of interest in the One Frame entries at Harrogate. It provided the opportunity to see a wide range of different topics, often presented in an original way. It is a great way for people to try out a new subject or take their first steps in competitive philately.'

The Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS) has reached agreement with the Philatelic Traders Society (PTS) for the national stamp competitions to return to Stampex in Autumn 2009 (16-19 September). All classes of the competitions will be back, and the national competitions will also include an Inter-Federation Cup Competition where the top local collections from around the country will be on display, hoping to bring back the top award for their region.

Commenting on the decision to go back to Stampex, Phil Kenton, ABPS Chairman, said: 'I am delighted that we have reached agreement with PTS to return to Autumn Stampex in 2009. It is the premier stamp exhibition in the UK and will provide a great opportunity for collectors to see some of the best collections of stamps and postal history in this country. We will then review the ongoing situation with the PTS.' Brian Trotter, Chairman of ABPS Exhibitions Committee, said: 'The 2009 ABPS National Exhibition and Inter-Federation Cup Competition will be an important event in the run-up to the 2010 International Exhibition which is also being held at the Business Design Centre. The UK remains one of the leading countries in the world for exhibiting the very best collections. I am expecting a great Show.'

The ABPS actively represents the interests of UK collectors and societies at home and abroad •

You may just have time to register for an NPS/ABPS seminar on one-frame displaying (16 pages of material), to see how the class is organised and to discuss its merits. Cost is £5 (£3 NPS members). The venue is the Royal Philatelic Society London (see opposite) on 4 December at 2pm •

Delta Stamps I recently found a website that will be of great interest to any collector of modern British stamps. Delta Stamps contains reports on new printings of definitives and other stamp issues from Royal Mail, as well as having the material for sale, thus helping you to build up your modern GB collection. The site's pages have a black background, so the stamps stand out well. Navigation is easy and book, coil and sheet printings are separately recorded, making it simple to find what you seek. Payment can be made by PayPal, ensuring that your card details are not sent over the internet, or by pro-forma invoice to customers known to the dealer. Cleverly, the system calculates postage and packing for anywhere in the world, and by your preferred despatch method, with just a couple of mouse clicks. Worth visiting on a regular basis to see what has been added: www.deltastamps.com •

Stampex One Frame Entry forms available from: Susan Ellis, British Philatelic Trust, Suite 101, Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, London N1 0QH. Telephone 020 7688 8423 or email susanellis@btconnect.com

ABPS For more information, contact the membership secretary: Alan Godfrey, 8 Gerard Road, Alcester B49 6QG; telephone 01789 765385; or email alanguodfrey@hotmail.com

Royal Philatelic Society London 41 Devonshire Place, London W1. Booking forms available at www.ukphilately.org.uk/nps



Above: the Royal Mail stand at Post-Expo (left) and a Post and Go unit at the show; note that the monitor screen was not displaying the Post Office branding.

Opposite page: the Wincor Nixdorf demonstration model at the show was, in effect, a Post and Go unit to be used in Post Office branches from this month, but with Wincor Nixdorf livery.



Post-Expo 2008 This postal industry show was staged in September at the ExCeL exhibition centre in London's Docklands, and what a fascinating event it proved to be. Almost all items on display were, understandably, non-philatelic, but it enabled me to get a good understanding of the new developments and product ranges available to postal authorities. Bag tagging systems, weighing devices, cycles and vans, mailbags and seals, letter boxes, software solutions and much more besides were all on display. Stand holders were reporting lots of interest in their products, despite the downturn in world economies.

The highlight of the show for me had to be the Wincor Nixdorf stand, where they were proudly displaying their latest self-service stamp-vending units. One was branded in the orange colour of TNT Post from the Netherlands, and another was in the red and white livery of the new Post and Go units from Post Office Ltd. These had yet to be introduced in the UK at the time of Post-Expo, and so the machine was dispensing dummy labels on plain yellow paper and the monitor screen was not displaying the Post Office's branding.

What was immediately obvious to me was that the machines are extremely easy to use, and even technophobes among the *Bulletin* readership should enjoy using these Post and Go units. With more of these machines apparently due for installation in the coming months, there should be no difficulties in obtaining examples of the issued labels. I suspect that there will be a lot of collector interest. Visit www.wincor-nixdorf.com and enter 'ProPostal 2000' in the search box for more information.

Wincor Nixdorf was not alone in displaying microprocessor controlled stamp vending machines, as Nagler, IER, Escher and Pesa all had their own versions, either for dispensing self-service stamps or for POS or parcel applications. However, it was Danish company aCon A/S that impressed me the most with their self-service kiosks with functionalities that can replace a complete post office. Jesper Andreassen, their Program Manager, told me that they already have these machines in use in Denmark, Netherlands, Faroes and Norway, and that more are sure to follow.

aCon has also produced a franking label printer that can be sold to retail outlets and businesses so that they can print to order any stamps they require. Linked to the internet, the machine holds a roll of 2500 labels that are overprinted with the postage rate and with any additional information requested by the Post Office. It is even sophisticated enough to know when the roll of labels is beginning to run out, and will post a replacement automatically. Visit the website www.acon.dk for more information about this new equipment, and the company behind it.

Post-Expo 2009 will be held in Hannover, Germany, at the end of September •



ATA website In a recent *Bulletin* I promised to take a look at the revamped American Topical Association website. The homepage states that ‘Topical (thematic) stamp collecting is the fastest-growing facet of stamp-collecting today’, and I think that this could be true, for even die-hard members and fellows of the Royal Philatelic Society will sometimes let slip to me that they have a thematic collection! Actually, the days when this discipline was seen to be the poor relation is now well behind us, and rightly so.

The ATA serves members in 65 countries, and is the largest philatelic society devoted to this specific area of stamp collecting anywhere. Organised in 1949, the ATA has over 56 years of service to its members and claims that it is ‘the best source of information, fellowship and authority in the topical stamp collecting field’. It is to be expected, therefore, that their website will be of a high standard.

To give an indication of the scope of this site, I can do no better than to list the contents shown in the menu bar. Main links: Home Page, About the ATA, Benefits, Chapters, Member Links, Membership, News, Officers, Preferred Advertisers, Stamp Shows, Study Units, Topical Time. Related Links: Articles, Audio/Visual, Checklists, Exhibits, Handbooks, Radio Shows, Specials, TT Indexes. Other Links: Chat Room, Code of Ethics, Collecting for Seniors, Interactive ATA Course, Links.

Space precludes an in-depth review, but I found the reference material particularly interesting, especially the detailed analysis of the many ‘elements’ that can be included within a thematic exhibit and, by default, those items that should not be shown competitively. Sadly, none of the radio broadcasts could be found by the servers on the days that I checked.

If you collect thematically, then this is a useful online resource, particularly as it is possible to purchase many handbooks, checklists and articles from the ATA magazine *Topical Time*.

The ATA continues to create and release topical DVDs. Music on Stamps and Horses on Stamps are the two latest programmes that have been put on disc by Harvey and Terri Edwards. The ATA now has over 20 available titles, and a list of these is available from the address at right •

ATA PO Box 57, Arlington
TX 76004-0057, USA. email
americantopical@msn.com
or see their website at www.americantopicalassn.org

The Centenary Edition 1908-2008 Volume 100, No. 3, June 2008

Stamp Lover

The National Philatelic Society

In this issue

The Ideal Stamp
1908 Exhibition and Games
USA 1908
So What's Changed?
British Stamp Exhibitions
Transatlantic Air Mails
Social Philately
Machins
Thematics
Postal Stationery
Computers
Checklist of Articles
Guide to Philatelic Research
plus all the National news



Stamp Lover's first cover is shown overleaf

Introducing Social Philately

Social Philately is a new concept in collecting stamps. It is not about the stamps themselves, but about the people who collect them. It is about the social aspects of stamp collecting, such as the exchange of stamps, the collection of stamps, and the collection of stamps.

The first of Social Philately is to present a historical view of the social aspects of stamp collecting. This is done by looking at the social aspects of stamp collecting in the past, and then looking at the social aspects of stamp collecting in the present. This is done by looking at the social aspects of stamp collecting in the past, and then looking at the social aspects of stamp collecting in the present.

Lettering Stamps

A letter stamp is a stamp which has been used to send a letter. It is a stamp which has been used to send a letter. It is a stamp which has been used to send a letter.

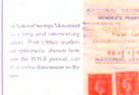


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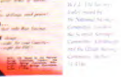
What to Collect

What to collect is a stamp which has been used to send a letter. It is a stamp which has been used to send a letter. It is a stamp which has been used to send a letter.



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The centenary edition of the National Philatelic Society's magazine *Stamp Lover* has proved very popular. Copies are still available, at £3 each.

Centenary Stamp Lover I understand from the Honorary Secretary of the National Philatelic Society that you have been taking up the offer of purchasing a copy of the centenary edition of *Stamp Lover* in large numbers, and several purchasers have subsequently joined the Society. For those who have yet to take up the offer, be aware that copies are still available to *Bulletin* readers from the Honorary Secretary, National Philatelic Society, c/o British Postal Museum & Archive, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL, for a very reasonable £3 each to cover postage and packing costs. Cheques should be payable to National Philatelic Society.

Stamp Lover, published six times a year, is free to members of the National Philatelic Society, which Society holds its monthly meetings in London and occasionally elsewhere in the UK. All meetings, except the AGM, are open to all. If you are interested in attending or would like to know more about these, the regular issues of *Stamp Lover*, or the Society's renowned philatelic library, please contact the Honorary Secretary, Peter Mellor, at the above address or visit www.ukphilately.org.uk/nps •

Missing Bulletin A major overseas philatelic library has made contact and advised that it is just one copy away from owning a complete set of the *Bulletin*. If any reader has a spare copy of the November 2004 issue (Vol 42 No 3), I will ensure that it is passed on to them. Send to me c/o Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ •

Stamp events listing Some of the events for the remainder of this year and next year are listed here •

10 December 2008 Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, London

25-28 February 2009 Stampex, Business Design Centre, Islington, London

6-10 May IBRA/Essen 2009, Essen, Germany

27-31 May Bulgaria 2009, Bulgaria.

30 July - 4 August Korea 2009, Seoul, Korea

Late August Hong Kong 2009, Hong Kong

16-19 September Stampex, BDC, London

Royal Mail news New issues and products

2008 stamp poll Once again we invite you to vote for your favourite stamps and *Bulletin* writer of the year. The special stamps issued during 2008 are shown on pages 114–115. Tell us your top three sets and favourite individual stamp on the enclosed form. The favourite set of 2007 was Birds; the Lest We Forget stamp was the most popular individual stamp of the year.

We also invite you to vote for your favourite FDC envelope and presentation pack of 2008 – please vote for the design of the envelope and pack, not for the stamps for that issue. In 2007 your favourite FDC and pack designs were for the Harry Potter issue.

Finally we seek your votes for your favourite *Bulletin* author. Last year's winner was Douglas Myall, with the late James Mackay in second place.

All voting forms received go into a prize draw and the first five 'out of the hat' will each be sent a 2008 Yearbook. Remember to return your form by 16 January – we look forward to hearing from you •

2009 issues Details of the Design Classics (13 January) were given in September; Robert Burns (22 January) and Darwin (12 February) in October; and Celebrating Wales miniature sheet (26 February) and Pioneers of the Industrial Revolution (10 March, brought forward from 17 March) in November. This month we preview the second set of the Monarchs series •

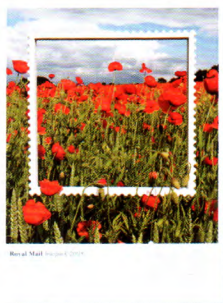
Year Collections The 2008 Yearbook and Yearpack, containing all the year's special stamps, are now on sale, and will remain available until the end of 2010. Both contain all the special stamps of 2008 and the Lest We Forget miniature sheet. The standard version of the Yearbook costs £58, or £95 for the de-luxe, leather-bound version.

The colourful Yearpack, price £52, 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.

2008 Miniature Sheet Year Pack and Presentation Pack Collections are available, price £29.99 and £59 respectively.

The Lest We Forget Collection contains the three Poppy stamps (printed se-tenant) and the 2006, 2007, and 2008 Lest We Forget miniature sheets, price £26.95 (not £18.95 as stated in the October *Bulletin*; the correct price was given in November. We apologise for any confusion caused). The strip of Poppy stamps is affixed to the folder and cancelled with a special hand-stamp; the mint miniature sheets are displayed in transparent mounts. The folder includes a 'Lest We Forget' postcard in the style of the embroidered postcards of the First World War. A photograph of ladies embroidering these cards is among the interesting images shown. There are illustrated sections on the wartime postal services, both 'at the front' and at home •

Buy now Any remaining stocks of the 2006 Yearbook (standard, de luxe and paperback versions) and Yearpack will be withdrawn on 31 December, so order now if you still require these for your collection •



The front cover of the 2008 Yearpack.

Security features for definitive stamps Changes are being made to 1st and 2nd class standard and 'Large' definitive stamps, and the 50p, £1, £1.50, £2, £3 and £5 values. Future printings will all be self-adhesive (except rolls), and will feature four small semi-circular slits within the stamp which prevent the removal of stamps from envelopes. In addition each will be printed with an iridescent ink featuring a security pattern on the darker background colour around the Queen's head. The stamps will be printed in gravure by De La Rue, now in sheets of 50 instead of the current 200 (standard, 50p, £1 and high values) and 100 (Large). The change will also affect books (6 × 1st, 12 × 1st and 12 × 2nd standard, 4 × 1st and 4 × 2nd Large, business sheets of 100 2nd and 1st class standard and of 50 2nd and 1st class Large Letter stamps, and stamp rolls (500 and 1000 1st and 2nd class standard). The new stamps are due to be issued on 17 February 2009. First day services will be provided as these are regarded as new stamps. Separate serviced FDCs will be available bearing the NV1, 50p, and £1 stamps and the high values, with either Tallents House or Windsor postmarks. Prices to be announced. Two packs will be available – NV1, 50p and £1 stamps price £3.60, £1.50-£5 stamps £12. Collectors will also be able to service their own covers or send covers to Tallents House or to the nearest Special Handstamp Centre for the Windsor postmark ●

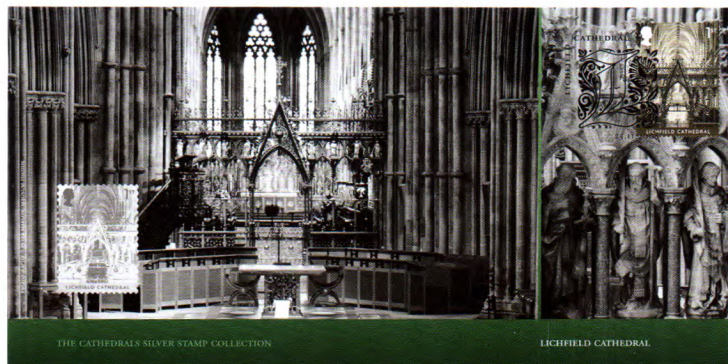
Christmas Generic and Smilers sheets This year's colourful Christmas Generic sheet contains eight each of the 1st and 2nd class and four 81p Christmas stamps with adjoining labels showing a pantomime townscape, pantomime characters such as Captain Hook, and pantomime cries including 'He's behind you!', 'Oh No it isn't!' and 'Hiss!'. Price £8.85.

Smilers sheets are available for customers wishing to have their own image on the attached labels. These sheets contain 20 or 10 1st class, 20 2nd class, or 10 81p stamps. The 20 × 2nd and 20 × 1st class sheets are available with rectangular or circular adjoining labels on which the customer's image is printed. The sheet backgrounds include backdrops to pantomime productions, theatre curtains and popular pantomime audience responses. Smilers sheet prices: 1st class £13.50 (£12.50 each for two or more sheets); 2nd class £8.50 (£8 each two or more), and 81p £13.50 (£12.50 two or more). The 1st class stamp will also be available in sheets of 10, priced at £7.50 each.

To order, use a Smilers leaflet/order form at a Post Office branch, phone 0845 074 2000 or go to website www.royalmail.com/smilers ●



Post & Go Further to the details given here last month on the recently introduced Post & Go machines, stamps with The Queen's head can be printed for airmail up to 10g and 20g, thus making five variations. The stamps are printed in gravure by Walsall, with two phosphor bands. One of these stamps was shown in the November *Bulletin* (page 95), and one of the labels from the machines is shown opposite ●



The first issue in a new Silver Stamp Collection features the Lichfield Cathedral stamp. On sale 25 November.

New collectables The first in a Silver Stamp Collection, following the popular Castles Stamp Ingot Collection (2005), is now available. The silver stamps reproduce the designs of the Cathedrals stamps issued in May, beginning with the 1st class value featuring Lichfield Cathedral. The silver stamp was manufactured in 999 sterling silver using processes pioneered and patented by the Royal Dutch Mint, Utrecht, Netherlands, and is housed in a sealed blister to protect the high quality finish and help prevent tarnishing. Silver stamps are not valid for postage. The collection includes a card with two views of the cathedral, bearing the 1st class Lichfield Cathedral stamp (issued in May) cancelled by a special Lichfield postmark for 25 November. The Cathedrals Silver Stamp Collection no 1 will be available from Tallents House, price £24.95. Limited edition of 3000. The next in the series will be issued in January. Collectors placing a regular order will receive a booklet about Cathedral stamps and a collection box ●

British Postal Museum & Archive Readers are reminded that in addition to its regular opening times (Monday to Wednesday and Friday 10.00-17.00, Thursday 10.00-19.00), the BPMA is also open on Saturday 6 December (10.00-17.00). Details of lectures and film shows are given in our Events listing. The BPMA contains the collections of the former National Postal Museum and Post Office Archives ●

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

Collect British Stamps The 2009 (60th) edition of Stanley Gibbons' *Collect British Stamps* colour checklist is available, price £9.95, from Royal Mail Tallents House and from Stanley Gibbons and stamp and book shops ●

Prize draw Win the de luxe 2008 Yearbook

THIS MONTH we have a de luxe (leather bound) 2008 Yearbook as our prize. Four runners-up will be sent the Christmas presentation pack and stamp cards. To enter, send your name and address on a postcard (or back of a sealed envelope) to: Yearbook Draw, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ to arrive by 9 January 2009 ●

Pantomime Dorothy Martin tells the story of



As this year's Christmas stamps depict Pantomime characters – the Two Ugly Sisters from *Cinderella*, the Genie in *Aladdin*, Captain Hook from *Peter Pan* and the Wicked Queen from *Snow White* – I feel an article about Pantomimes would be appropriate.

THE WORD PANTOMIME derives from the ancient Greek *Pantomimos*, meaning 'imitator of all' or 'we can act anything', which developed into 'acting without words' or 'miming'. From the 1st century BC to the 5th century AD, 'pantomime' was used to describe solo comic performances where cross-dressing was not uncommon. The 'pantomimus' wore various masks which identified each of his characters, but which also deprived him of speech and facial expressions, therefore making his posture and expressive gestures most important. He was accompanied by musical instruments such as flutes, trumpets and pipes, and sometimes also by dancers. These 'dumb' shows took place throughout the year.

Travelling entertainment Over the centuries, the meaning of the word pantomime changed dramatically. 'Commedia del Arte' emerged during the 16th century in Italy, a theatrical form that flourished and spread throughout Europe. It was the kind of entertainment which travelled well, consisting of dance, music, acrobatics, and comedy. Troupes performed in streets, fairgrounds and marketplaces, and were often made up of members of a family who inherited their talents, characters and stories from their parents and grandparents. Characters such as Harlequin and Columbine, her father Pantaloon and his servant Pulcinella the Clown, who played practical jokes, were included. Commedia del Arte eventually reached England about the middle of the 17th century, where it proved a great success, and became very popular.

The origin of British pantomime probably dates back to the Middle Ages – a blend of the music hall traditions and the Italian Commedia del Arte. Before the 18th century, the nobility enjoyed the masques, burlesques and Mummers plays with the traditional figures. In the early 1800s, Harlequinades became popular in the English Theatre, by which time speech had been introduced. Harlequin the lover took the leading role, with Clown as the trusted servant.

The first British pantomime A performance opened at Lincoln's Inn Fields Theatre in 1716 and could be considered to be the beginning of the British pantomime. John Rich was the manager and part owner of the theatre; he also founded Covent Garden Theatre in 1732, and staged shows based on Commedia del Arte at both theatres, playing the part of Harlequin himself until his death. The first production to be billed as a pantomime was staged in 1723 at Lincoln's Inn Fields Theatre. Pantomime continued to evolve, and David Garrick introduced his first pantomime production, *Queen Mab*, in 1750.

a traditional form of Christmas entertainment



Sheriden put on the pantomime *Robinson Crusoe* in 1781 – this is one of the oldest Pantos, and remained popular until Victorian Times. *Aladdin and His Wonderful Lamp*, originally from *The Arabian Nights*, was produced at Covent Garden Theatre on Boxing Night 1788. Gradually, fairy tales crept into pantomime; two of the oldest are reputed to be *Little Red Riding Hood*, which was performed at Sadlers Wells in 1803, and *Mother Goose*, staged at Covent Garden in 1806, both fairy tales written by French author Charles Perrault (1628-1703), and translated into English as *Tales of Mother Goose*. Two German brothers, Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm (1785-1863), spent years collecting fairy tales, many of which were staged as pantomimes; *Cinderella* was one of the most popular, and *Sleeping Beauty* was another favourite.

Guiseppe Grimaldi came to the Garrick Theatre in London from the fairgrounds of Italy and France in 1758 with his family. His son Joseph became the greatest Clown ever, performing the role in literally hundreds of pantomimes; he remains the single most influential figure in pantomime comedy to this day. *Mother Goose* opened in 1806 starring Grimaldi as the Clown: this marked a turning point in the history of panto because it established the Clown as a principal character. Clowns are still called 'Joey's' to this day. His white-faced make-up and impudent ways became the norm for all panto clowns. The historical story of Dick Whittington was first produced as a pantomime at Covent Garden in 1814 on Boxing Day, when Grimaldi acted as the Dame under the title of Harlequin Whittington.

Principal Boy and Pantomime Dame Another major change took place in 1819 when the role of Jack in *Jack and the Bean-stalk* was played by a girl at the Theatre Royal. During the following years the role of the Principal Boy and the Pantomime Dame played by the opposite sex gradually increased, and by 1865 it was generally accepted that actresses should take the part of the Principal Boys, and that men should undertake the role of the Dame. ►

The Dame was usually rather unattractive and elderly and often cast as the mother of the Principal Boy, such as Widow Twankey in *Aladdin*, and Dame Trott in *Jack and the Beanstalk*. In *Cinderella* the Two Ugly Sisters took the place of the Dame. The Fairy Queen who waved her magic wand to produce wonderful results, and the Demon King who created misery for the good characters, appeared in many pantos in some form or another.

'Skin parts' During the 19th century, pantomime continued to evolve, emerging as a distinct form of entertainment in its own right, and changing almost beyond recognition. Animals appeared in shows such as *Dick Whittington and His Cat*, *Red Riding Hood* and *Puss in Boots*, and were known as 'skin parts'. Ballets were also introduced towards the end of the century. Pantomime gradually became more or less an entertainment for children, with tendencies towards the style of the Music Hall, and was eventually limited to an extended Christmas season. Audience participation has always been an important element in the traditional English pantomime, being encouraged to boo the villain whenever he appears, warn the Principal Boy of any danger, and argue with the Dame. Victorian families found great delight in dressing up in their Sunday best, and trooping off to the theatre to see the pantomime, particularly on Boxing Day when the panto season began.

As popular as ever Modern pantomimes are performed in all types of venues, ranging from amateur performances in village halls, schools, and community centres, to productions in small playhouses and lavish entertainments at top class theatres in London. The major roles, when acted by well-known stars such as Cilla Black or Norman Wisdom, to name only two, make an enormous impact and are huge box office attractions. Modern trends are included in pantos, and during performances references are often made to local and current topical events which amuse and entertain adults in the audience. May pantomimes continue to bring laughter, and give great happiness and delight to audiences of all ages for many, many years to come ●

Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm were brothers born in Germany, they spent years collecting Fairy Tales many of which were staged as pantomimes. Cinderella being one, as well as being the most popular of all pantos.



Cinderella was produced in



The ORIGIN of PANTOMIME

The word *Pantomime* derives from the ancient Greek word *Pantomimos* meaning "Imitator of All" or "We can act Anything" which developed into "Acting without words" or "Miming". From the 1st Century B.C. until the 5th Century A.D., the term *pantomime* was used to describe solo comic performances where cross-dressing was also common. After gradually disappearing, pantomime emerged again in the 15th Century in Italy. During the 15th & 16th Centuries all female characters were taken by men, whilst in Italy *commedia dell'arte* was developing with the elements of pantomime, comedy, dance and eventually dialogue. It travelled well, was popular, and was performed throughout the year. Companies toured the European towns, eventually arriving in England.



Drury Lane.



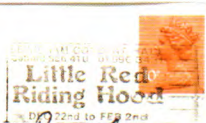
In the early 18th Century Harlequinades became popular in the English theatre, Harlequin the Lover took the leading role, with Clown acting as the trusted servant.



The first production billed as a pantomime was staged in 1723 at Lincoln Inn Fields Theatre. Pantomime continued to evolve, David Garrick introduced his first pantomime Queen Mab in 1750. Robinson Crusoe was first produced at Drury Lane and is one of the oldest pantomimes.

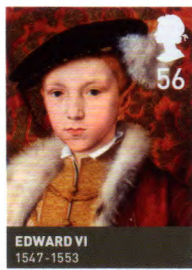
19th CENTURY

Throughout the 19th Century pantomime continued to evolve emerged as a distinct form of entertainment in its own right. Joseph Grimaldi remains the single most influential figure in pantomime comedy and to this day clowns are known as Joeys in his memory.



In 1803 Little Red Riding Hood was performed at Sadlers Wells, it was a popular tale translated from the French Perrault, and reputed to be one of the oldest pantomimes, with numerous variants.

Great British Monarchs The second issue



Stamps shown at proof stage.
Values to be confirmed.

THE MONARCHS series, which started with the Houses of Lancaster & York in February 2008, continues with six stamps and a miniature sheet featuring Tudor Monarchs. These go on sale at Post Office branches, Tallents House and Post Office philatelic outlets on 21 April 2009. The stamps are: King Henry VII (1485-1509) and Henry VIII (1509-47), 1st class; Edward VI (1547-53) and Lady Jane Grey (1553), 56p; and Mary I (1553-58) and Elizabeth I (1558-1603), 72p. The stamps were designed by Ian Chilvers of Atelier Works design group, and printed in single sheets by Walsall in litho.

A miniature sheet, entitled 'The Age of Tudor', contains two 1st class and two 81p stamps featuring the warship *Mary Rose*, Field of the Cloth of Gold (Royal conference, 1520), the Royal Exchange, and Sir Francis Drake.

For sponsored handstamps and Handstamp Centres, see the *British Postmark Bulletin*. Subscriptions: £12.25 UK/Europe, or £24.95 elsewhere. For a free sample copy write to: British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Orders for serviced FDCs must reach Tallents House (address 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 (Tallents House postmark), or to their nearest Royal Mail Special Handstamp Centre (London SE10 postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FD0911' or 'FD0912'. Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for the London SE10 postmark.

PHILATELIC PRODUCTS A presentation pack gives biographies of the monarchs featured on the stamps, and a history of the Tudor era. A set of 11 stamp cards comprises the six sheet stamps, the four from the miniature sheet and the sheet itself. A coin cover will be available, price £24.95. A cachet cover will also be available, price £9.99.

Monarchs on stamps Henry VIII featured on the 15½p Maritime Heritage stamp in 1982, and in the Great Tudor issue of 1997. Elizabeth I was first shown on the 4d 1968 Paintings stamp. Sir Francis Drake featured on an Explorers stamp of 1973. 'Tudor Age' issues include Shakespeare stamps of 1964, 1988 and 2006; Henry VII Chapel in Westminster Abbey (1966); Elizabethan galleon (1969); Sir Martin Frobisher and Henry Hudson (1972); Sir Walter Raleigh (1973); Hampton Court (1978); Welsh Bible, and Spanish Armada (1988); and Little Moreton Hall, and Globe Theatre (1995). The top value English country stamp has featured a Tudor Rose since 2001 •

in the series: monarchs of the House of Tudor



Set of stamps (all following prices to be confirmed)	£ 3.28
Miniature sheet	£ 2.34
Presentation pack (stamps and miniature sheet)	£ 6.15
FDC envelope	£ 0.30
Serviced FDC: stamps (UK customers)	£ 4.33
Serviced FDC: stamps (overseas customers)	£ 3.69
Serviced FDC: miniature sheet (UK customers)	£ 3.23
Serviced FDC: miniature sheet (overseas customers)	£ 2.75
Stamp cards set (11 cards)	£ 4.40
Miniature sheet press sheet	£61.44



Favourite stamps poll 2008 Let us know your favourites

ONCE AGAIN WE ARE INVITING YOU to vote for your favourite stamps. Shown below are the special stamps of 2008. Tell us your top three sets and favourite individual stamp (numbered 1-85)



James Bond 1

2

3



4

5

6



Working Dogs 7



8



9



10



11



12



Monarchs 13



14



15



16



17



18



19



20



21



22



Northern Ireland 23



24



Rescue at Sea 25



26



27



28



29



30



Insects 31



32



33



34



35



36



37



38



39



40 Insects



41



42



43



44



45



46 Cathedrals



47



48



49



50



51



52



53



54



55



56 Carry On Hammer



57



58



59



60



61



62 Air Displays



63



64



65



66 Olympic Flag Handover



67



68



69



70



71



72 RAF Uniforms



73



74



75



76



77



78 Women of Distinction



79



80



81



82



83



84 Christmas



85 Lest We Forget

Another year passes Richard West reflects

IN YEARS AHEAD, how will 2008 be remembered? Probably for the financial turmoil that engulfed much of the world, although who can forget the success of Team GB at the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Beijing? As far as the British stamp programme is concerned, there has certainly been a wide variety of subject matter and design, with something to appeal to all collectors; even those who prefer the more traditional designs have been able to look back 50 years to the launch of the first 'Regional' stamps. Film buffs have been well catered for, with the Carry On and Hammer and, of course, James Bond issues. Might the latter set have struck more of a chord had it used film posters or clips rather than book covers? There have been Air Displays and RAF Uniforms, and the last in the poignant 'Lest We Forget' series. The new series on Monarchs, and the set featuring Cathedrals will have found many devotees; while the sets devoted to Working Dogs, rare Insects and Rescue at Sea have themes popular with collectors. Plus there has been a bit of controversy with the Women of Distinction set, as it includes Marie Stopes: comments in the national media are always welcome if they bring stamps to the attention of a wider audience.

But perhaps there has been a missed opportunity when it comes to reaching the wider public, and that is in capitalising on the success of Team GB. I wonder how many of the public realise that a miniature sheet was issued to mark the handover of the Olympic flag to London. Comprising just four 1st class stamps, it is hardly an expensive souvenir. Could it not have been re-issued with the left-hand edge of the sheet overprinted to acknowledge the success of the British athletes? Both Australia and China managed to honour their gold medal winners within hours of their victories.



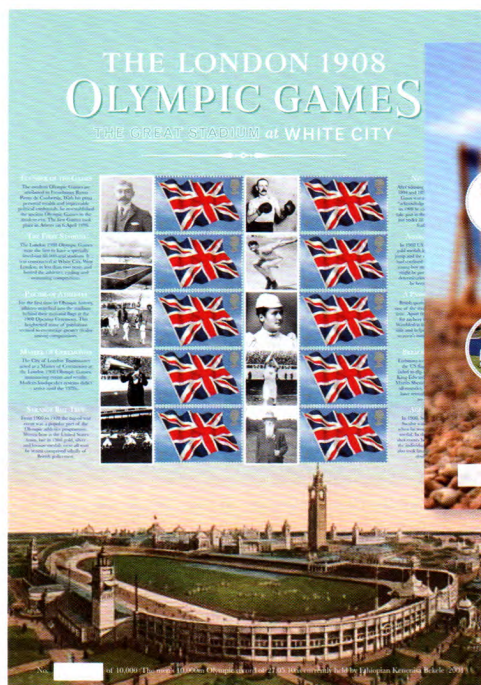
Postcard promotion A new product for this year was a set of postcards of the Carry On/Hammer designs, shown against a brick wall background, and issued with a pochette of six stamps. Still on the subject of postcards, the Lest We Forget miniature sheet collection includes a card in the style of embroidered postcards.

Those wanting to send postcards while on holiday here in the UK were able to buy two of the 1st class 'Beside the Seaside' stamps in a booklet – trouble is, the weather was such there was rarely

the chance to spend a day on the beach.

The product that has seen the greatest change during the year is the Smilers sheet. It started with the introduction of circular labels, which are also used on the new range of sheets created to appeal to a younger audience. Royal Mail has also launched a series of Commemorative Sheets, highlighting events for which it has not been possible to include a special issue in the annual programme. And who can fail to be tempted by the designs of both the generic and customised Smilers sheets for Christmas?

on the highs and lows of the past 12 months



This year saw the introduction of Commemorative sheets, including the 1908 London Olympic Games issue, shown left. Circular labels were used on Smilers sheets for the first time this year, as on the 'I Wrote to Say' issue, shown above.

Exhibitions It's been a surprisingly busy year when it comes to exhibitions. The Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS) chose Harrogate for its 2008 event, and an extremely fine exhibition resulted, which was a tribute to its organisers. It included the national competitions for 2008, these being the final opportunity for collectors to qualify to submit an entry into the London 2010 international stamp exhibition. Plans for this next London 'international', to be held at the Business Design Centre, 8-15 May 2010, are progressing well, as are those by the British Postal Museum & Archive (BPMA) to stage further events during the year. The BPMA is working with the Royal Philatelic Collection on a major exhibition focusing on the reign of King George V to be held at the Guildhall Art Gallery in London, and also with the ABPS in planning further events to be staged throughout the UK during the year.

Thinking of the BPMA, in its Search Room at Freeling House, Phoenix Place in London, there has been an exhibition that traces the development of the first Regional stamps: this will continue until the Spring of 2009.

Stampex, Philatex and Scotex continued as usual, but a piece of sad news was that the organisers of Thematica, the only exhibition devoted to thematic philately, are unable to continue with their event. The rising costs associated with a venue in central London mean that the event is no longer viable, so the June 2008 Thematica was the last. ►

In 2007 the ABPS had combined its annual exhibition in Croydon with the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain: in hindsight, this was a mistake. So in 2008 the Congress was again 'stand alone', in Stratford-upon-Avon; fortunately the dates chosen at the end of July coincided with the sun shining over England. The Scottish Congress was as usual held in April, in Perth.

Overseas, international stamp exhibitions were held in Tel Aviv, Bucharest, Prague and Vienna – all destinations not too difficult to reach for British collectors. And at each, British collectors were extremely successful. To coincide with the Beijing Olympic Games, the Beijing Expo was held, at which Royal Mail was present, and for which a Smilers sheet was produced; at the associated Olympex, British collectors of the Olympic theme achieved notable successes.

The National Philatelic Society (NPS) notched up a significant anniversary, that of publishing its magazine *Stamp Lover* for 100 years. A souvenir edition (see page 104 of this *Bulletin*) looked back to the hobby of 1908, and recalled how prominent the Junior Philatelic Society (the original name of the NPS) had been in organising stamp exhibitions in the UK. A person who was also able to celebrate during the year was stamp designer, Jeffery Matthews, on the occasion of his 80th birthday.

But of course the year also had its sad moments. It saw the death of Clive Abbott, prominent among British stamp designers during the late 1960s and 1970s. Famous collectors who have died have included: Trevor Davis, perhaps best remembered as the inspiration behind the Strand Stamp Fair, the York Stamp and Coin Fair, and Philatex; John Levett, a past President of The Royal Philatelic Society London and a noted collector of France; and Jim Negus, an authority of philatelic literature and a former Editor of the Stanley Gibbons catalogues.

Looking ahead We start a new year looking at British design classics, looking forward to another busy year of British stamps, and coming ever closer to the excitement that will be 2010. The national competitions will return to Stampex in the autumn (16-19 September), while at Spring Stampex (25-28 February) there will be a One-Frame competition. Such entries are becoming increasingly popular, as many feel it feasible to produce a coherent exhibit within just 16 sheets.

The exhibition held every two years near Coventry, Midpex, will have a new venue for 2009, the Xcel Leisure Centre, Canley, on 11 July. Of significance is that the competitions staged by the Friends of Thematica, previously held at the Thematica exhibition – namely the John Fosbery, BTA, Inter-Federation, and Barclays Cup Youth competitions will be held as part of Midpex in 2009. International exhibitions will be held in China (Luoyang City, 10-16 April), Germany (Essen, 6-10 May), and Italy (Rome, 21-25 October). A new exhibition will open in the Search Room of the BPMA focusing on the work of the artist and stamp designer David Gentleman. Finally, the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain will celebrate its centenary in 2009, returning to the place where the very first Congress was held, Manchester ●

Philately online Ron Negus visits a Masonic philatelic site



**THE MASONIC
PHILATELIC
CLUB**

About Us:

Towards the middle of 1976 a notice appeared in the philatelic press to the effect that anyone interested in the formation of a stamp club whose interest was to be the theme 'Freemasonry' should contact one Trevor Fray in Plymouth. From the amount of interest shown it was decided to form the 'Masonic Philatelic Club of Great Britain'. For various reasons that name was changed the following year to the 'Masonic Philatelic Club'.

The original objectives of the Club were: *The furtherance of Masonic Research via the media of postage stamps, the dissemination of knowledge gained and the quiet enjoyment of this interesting hobby.*

The area of study has now been extended to cover postcards and postal seals.

www.masonicphilatelicclub.org.uk Membership of this club is open only to Freemasons in good standing of the English Constitution and all other Constitutions recognised by that body. The website is open to anybody, however, and contains much of interest to anyone wishing to start collecting this particular theme.

THERE ARE MANY collectors around the world who include Freemasonry on stamps as their thematic interest. Enthusiasts for this topic are well served by the website of the Masonic Philatelic Club (address given above). Trevor Fray, a Mason in Plymouth, started the group in 1976 through a chance contact with the well-known British stamp designer Jennifer Tombs. Details were given in an article on the web (at www.mqmagazine.co.uk/issue-9/p-42.php) extracted from a Masonic publication, and are summarised below.

Trevor planned to display his Tristan da Cunha material at a local society meeting, and wrote to ask Jennifer if he might borrow some sketches for a Tristan issue she had designed in the previous year. She replied with a loan of the sketches, but asked Trevor if he would mention the Guild of St Gabriel in his talk. The Guild was prominent for actively promoting religion on stamps as a thematic subject.

Trevor revealed that he only collected GB and British Colonial stamps, and had never considered setting up a thematic sideline collection. But as a Mason he wondered if Freemasonry had ever been shown on stamps. Jennifer supplied the answer by sending him a 1973 French FDC bearing a stamp commemorating the bi-centenary of the Masonic Great Orient Lodge of France.

In conjunction with a fellow Mason, Trevor advertised in the philatelic press for like-minded collectors to contact him. He received numerous positive responses, and so decided to establish a study circle – and, in this way, the Masonic Philatelic Club was born.

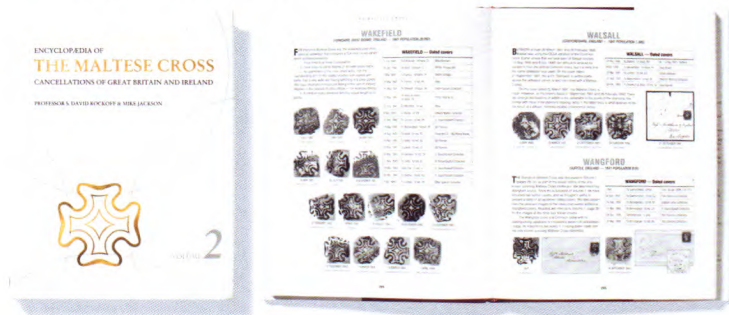
The home page of the website explains the purpose of the Club. This is declared to be 'The furtherance of Masonic Research via the media of postage stamps, the dissemination of knowledge gained and the quiet enjoyment of this interesting hobby'. The area of study has now been extended to include postcards and postal seals.

On the next page, the following interesting statement of intent is published. This reads 'One of the problems of collecting a theme is obtaining suitable stamp issues, as most of those that can be used are invariably part of a set and dealers are, quite understandably, reluctant to split sets. To overcome this problem the Club makes efforts, with varying success, to purchase suitable items issued from the country of issue. A circulating exchange packet scheme is also in operation and members are encouraged to make use of this to dispose of surplus and duplicate issues.

The third page has an index to the remaining 38 pages. These pages contain sub-topics including stamps depicting known Freemasons, aspects of Masonic symbolism, anti-Masonry stamps, scenes or events that can be linked to Freemasonry in some way, and stamps that were issued to commemorate some direct Masonic event. Other pages deal with administrative matters.

A quarterly newsletter is issued, known as the MPC Magazine, and information on the contents of the current issue are given on the site. This is the medium through which details of the appearance of new issues on Freemasonry is given to the membership. All relevant stamps are being kept on a database by the Club and this is said to hold more than 1800 examples. A book by Trevor Fray called *Masonic Philately* used this database to list examples. The site is freely illustrated throughout with stamps that can find a home within this thematic subject •

Book review Maltese Crosses, volume 2



The Encyclopædia of the Maltese Cross Cancellations of Great Britain and Ireland, volume 2 by Prof S David Rockoff and Mike Jackson

Available from: Mike Jackson Publications, 3 Cottessmore Avenue, Melton Mowbray, Leics LE13 0HY. Telephone 01664 859199, email mike@mjpublications.com or see www.mjpublications.com

Price £65 plus postage: UK £6, Europe £8.50 (airmail), rest of the world £15 (airmail), £8.50 (surface).

THE FIRST VOLUME of this Encyclopædia was published last year and reviewed here in May 2007. This, the second of three volumes, contains details of Maltese Crosses from Magherafelt to York. Like its companion first volume, it is profusely illustrated and comprehensive in scope.

Rockoff and Jackson begin with evidence that Alexandria and Knocktopher had special Maltese Crosses, and give a revised listing for Dursley, suggesting that distortions can be produced by striking and inking rather than damage to the handstamp itself. An appendix shows convincing evidence that a twist of the hand can result in distorted impressions.

The authors already have much updated material for volume 3, which is in preparation and will include new and updated chapters, coloured crosses, alternative cancellations used during the Maltese Cross period, late use, and a collector's guide grouping crosses by type rather than alphabetically.

The listing begins with major revisions for Alexandria, with a common cross followed by a special. Dursley's distorted cross is now attributed to variations of striking. Special crosses are attributed to a dozen towns and there are extended chapters on others. Some have recognisable variations of the common cross, for example Manchester which, as well as its 'fish-tail' cross, had two others, with large or small diamonds at the centre.

Many supposedly distinctive crosses come under a spotlight: Melksham's and Richmond's are shown to be distinctive only because of debris; the similarity of the Norwich and Plymouth special crosses is examined; Stonehaven's double-lined cross is due to inking; the solid centre of Welshpool's cross is due to debris, as is the case in 23 other towns. Wotton-under-Edge is given special attention with examples showing a normal cross as well as one with characteristic cuts. Such patient examination of many examples and illustration of the evidence makes the conclusions fully convincing.

The main listing is followed by other crosses needing verification or of unknown origin, in the hope that more information can be published in volume 3. This all runs to 178 pages and 40 full pages of advertisements, some handsomely illustrated. Like its companion, volume 2 is a fine piece of work, an excellent example of painstaking research which is accessible to the specialist and general collector alike. One cannot but recommend it whole-heartedly and look forward to volume 3. • *Martin Robinson*

Mainly Machins A report by Douglas Myall



Glorious United Kingdom

Stamps are in four columns (from left): Wales, Northern Ireland, England and Scotland. The sheet was printed in lithography by Cartor.

Glorious United Kingdom The fifth in this series of generic A4 sheets of 1st class country pictorial self-adhesive definitives plus labels was issued on 29 September. The stamps are attached to labels depicting places of interest and set against a background of the union flag. The labels are all new, and a very interesting and varied selection they are. All four stamps are also new because, for the first time from Cartor, they have simulated elliptical perforations. All are also rather insecurely attached to their labels by having the die cuts at the left side interrupted at top, centre and bottom.

Presentation packs Collector's packs, as they are officially known, contain sets of current stamps and are maintained as tariffs change. As well as the stamps, they explain the background to the issues and usually give technical details of their production. There are two packs with national definitives, divided into low and high values. Not all collectors can afford the latter, which is why they are separated. The official definition of a high value has changed over the years; at one time it included the 10p.

Hitherto, country pictorial value definitives and nvis have been issued in separate packs. Now all 16 are in a single pack, which presents a problem for those who do not collect all four countries. This is pack no 81, issued on 29 September. The 16 stamps are the 1st, 2nd, 50p and 81p from each country. The eight nvts were last issued in packs 63 to 66 on 14 October 2003. The eight values were last issued in pack 79 on 1 April 2008. The stamps were printed in gravure by De La Rue with graduated 13mm bands; none appears to be new. The recent pack containing the Wilding nvt miniature sheet has a feature that I particularly like; the sheet is incorporated into a mount which is an integral part of the folded information card. The country pack has stamps and folded card separate from each other. ►

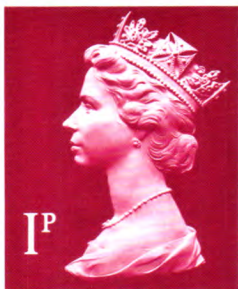


Recently issued presentation packs for the 50th anniversary of Country definitives, and for new country pictorial stamps. For the first time, all four of the countries are contained in the same pack.

Lest We Forget The third in this series of miniature sheets was issued on 6 November. It commemorates the 90th anniversary of the armistice. It contains a new poppy 1st class stamp, this time with a soldier's face appearing in one of the petals. Previous poppy designs have proved to be very popular with the public, and I have no doubt this one will also be well received. It is good that all three were issued together in sheet form. The sheet also has a block of four pictorial definitives, one from each country. The values, like those on previous sheets, pre-pay the second stage airmail rate to countries outside Europe, now 81p. All four are new, being printed by De La Rue in lithography, with two 6.5mm bars from 13mm bands without gradation. The sheet stamps issued on 1 April had gradated bands, and were printed by the same firm but in gravure.

Stamp cards Cards depicting definitive stamps have been issued since one showing the £10 Britannia appeared on 2 March 1993. It began a new series of 'postal headquarters', or PHQ cards, and was given the code D1, the D presumably standing for definitive. Over the years, the D series has included large labels attached to booklet panes, such as the one celebrating the tercentenary of the Bank of England in 1994, country pictorials from 1999, and the Wilding decimals of 2002. (Cards showing the 'saint's day' miniature sheet and stamps are in a series prefixed CGB.) The last in the D series was D28(a) to D28(e), a set of five showing the Castles definitives and miniature sheet of 22 March 2005. Now we have two new sets.

First is D29, a set of 10 cards portraying the nine Wilding NV1 stamps and the miniature sheet. These cards are numbered D29(1) to D29(10). At first sight these numbers seem to have been allocated at random, but they are



Two new sets of PHQ cards. Set D29, left, is a set of 10 portraying the nine Wilding XVI stamps and the miniature sheet. Set D30, above, comprises the complete current range of 24 definitives. Royal Mail sells an album for these cards, and packs of 10 leaves, each of which holds four cards. They are an excellent way to keep cards pristine.

Top left: the third in the series of Lest We Forget miniature sheets, issued on 6 November.

the sequence in which the stamps appear on the sheet, with the sheet itself being no 10. The cards have been beautifully printed by Fulmar Colour Printing Company of Croydon. Royal Mail sells an album to hold these cards and packs of 10 leaves each of which holds four cards. They provide an excellent means of keeping them pristine.

The other set, also printed by Fulmar, comprises the complete current range of 24 definitives, D30(1) to D30(24). This set is not numbered in any discernable sequence. For example, cards D30(13) to D30(16) are the 50p, 1st class large PIP XVI, the worldwide airmail postcard stamp and the 56p. However, you can place them in the album leaves mentioned above in any order you choose. No matter in which order you keep them, they provide a wonderful way of comparing how the iconic design appears when printed in different colours. You can see what I mean by comparing the 2p (my favourite) with two other greens, the 81p and £2. The two cards which have appeared before are the 1st class gold XVI D30(10) and the 40g European airmail D30(17); the previous issues were D22 and D23 of 22 March 2003. Those showed incorrect perforations (one hole fewer on the short sides); the new cards, like all the cards in both sets, have the correct 'gauge'. The two gold XVI cards differ in another respect. The earlier one was printed by Perivan White Dove of Southend, which went into administration at the end of 2003. They made a reasonable attempt to print the image in gold. The new one is nothing like gold and is just a dull brown. I expect the cards were printed using the CMYK process (cyan, magenta, yellow and black) which can reproduce any normal colour. It cannot, however, produce some special colours, gold among them, and special inks must be used, so a passable reproduction is always going to be problematical. ►

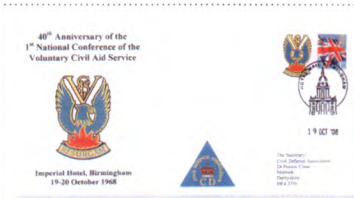
Sale of an icon The contents of Garmelow Manor, home of the late Francis Machin and his parents, were sold by auction on 19 September and 1 October. The sale contained eight lots of Arnold Machin's work on stamps and coins, including four lots of 15 first day covers franked with the £1 photogravure issued on 2 February 1977. These were addressed to the artist at the Royal Academy (typewritten) and were signed by him on the front. They went for between £170 and £225, plus buyer's premium and VAT. An unadopted sketch for the 2d stamp sold for £1200 plus premium. The most interesting lot was one of the final casts of the famous Machin head, one of only six made. Of these one was given to The Queen, and three went to Royal Mail. Arnold's copy appears to have been partly blackened, as was one of Royal Mail's for photographs intended for stamps with a dark background, which was the artist's preference. It sold for £15,700 plus premium, costing the unknown buyer almost £18,500 without the cost of getting it home. Entry to the sale was by an illustrated catalogue costing £5. This makes a nice souvenir, if only for twice mis-spelling Machin as Machen. ●

Text © D G A Mavill 2008

Commemorative covers New this month



Nene Valley Railway Covers were serviced on 18 September bearing two NVR railway letter stamps tied by a NVR aircraft cachet and with Royal Mail RAF Uniforms stamp(s) cancelled by a Cranwell, Sleaford, Lincs pictorial hand-stamp. **Prices** £6 with full set of RAF stamps, £3 with single stamp. Postage 50p ●



Civil Defence Association FDC for the 40th anniversary of the first National Conference of the Voluntary Civil Aid Service with informative insert. This is the first cover produced by the CDA using the Union Flag stamp with circular label. **Price** £9.50 including UK postage. Remittances to Civil Defence Association ●



A1 Steam Locomotive Trust Cover produced with Buckingham Covers for Britain's first new steam locomotive in over 40 years. The cover features a painting of *Tornado* by renowned railway artist John Wigston, cancelled with a Loughborough postmark. **Price** £11.60 including postage. For information about the *Tornado* project see www.a1steam.com ●



Royal Naval Philatelic Society Cover for the 250th anniversary of the birth of Nelson, with the stamps cancelled by a special BFPS date-stamp. **Prices** plain £10.90; double-signed £15.30; triple-signed £21; multi-signed £52 (reduction for RNPS members). Signatures include the Rector of Burnham Thorpe (birth-place of Nelson), Nelson's great-great-grand daughter, and the Bishop of Norwich ●



GB Covers FDC (edition of 37) with Chinese and Royal Mail Olympic stamp sheets, featuring Tiananmen Square, Beijing and Houses of Parliament, London. Ten covers are set aside for non-members of the GBFDC. **Price** £21 postpaid. Remittances to GB Covers ●



M Tanner A James Bond cover (edition of 30, numbered) featuring Sean Connery and Ursula Andress. A Dr No 1st class is postmarked Dr No 8/1/2008 Bond Street W1. **Price** £14.99, postage £1.50 worldwide. Supplied with filler postcard of the cover image (cards 60p plus postage if ordered separately). Similar limited edition maxi-card £10 plus postage ●



Cambridge Stamp Centre A cover to honour underwater diving pioneer Lt-Commander Ian Edward Fraser VC, featuring Fraser, a VC and the midget sub on which he served during an attack in Singapore. Signed by Sub-Lt Roland Hindmarsh who also served on X-Craft midget submarines. **Price** £24.95 plus postage ●

Cover producers wishing to announce a recent or forthcoming cover should submit copy of up to 75 words in the style above. The text should briefly describe the cover, state the stamps and postmarks it will bear, and give retail prices and an address for orders and enquiries. Announcements are published on a first-come-first-served basis and may be modified or shortened. Copy for consideration for the February *Bulletin* should be sent to The Editor (address on p99) by 8 December. Copy for March should arrive by 9 January. The Editor regrets he cannot enter into correspondence or telephone conversations concerning covers announced here.

ON 11TH & 14TH SEPTEMBER 2008 THE MID-SUFFOLK LIGHT RAILWAY CELEBRATES THE CENTENARY OF THE OPENING OF THE LINE TO PASSENGER TRAFFIC 29TH SEPTEMBER 1908



Mid-Suffolk Light Railway Cover (edition of 70) featuring Hudswell Clarke 0-6-0T No 2, to mark the centenary of passenger traffic on the line. Two MSRL labels are tied with a pictorial cachet; Royal Mail stamp by Norwich pictorial datestamp. **Prices** Block of six labels £1.50; A5 sheet £3, A4 sheet £6, perf/imperf; covers £3.25; postage 60p UK, £1.10 Europe, £1.50 elsewhere. Remittances to B R Reynolds ●



Dawn Cover Productions FDC for Hull City's first Premier League match, on 16 August; a 1966 World Cup stamp was added to a 2008 'Play-Off Final' cover, and cacheted. Results of both matches are given, with a filler card. **Price** £10, post-free if *Bulletin* is mentioned ●



Buckingham Covers A Christmas FDC featuring Christopher Biggins as a pantomime dame, bearing Royal Mail's Pantomime stamps and an official Aladdin's Lamp Southampton postmark. **Price** £9.95; signed by Christopher Biggins £24.95; postage £1.65 ●

Orders and enquiries

A1 Steam Locomotive Trust
Buckingham Covers, address below.

Buckingham Covers Warren House, Shearway Road, Folkestone, Kent CT19 4BF Telephone 01303 278137, Fax 01303 279429. Website www.buckinghamcovers.com

Cambridge Stamp Centre 9 Sussex Street, Cambridge CB1 1PA. Telephone 01223 363980.

Civil Defence Association T Essex-Lopresti, 24 Paxton Close, Matlock DE4 3TD. Telephone 01629 55738. e-mail aedissel@btinternet.com

Dawn Cover Productions 27 Ashfield Road, Davenport, Stockport SK3 8UD. Telephone 0161 483 1297. www.footballcover.co.uk

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

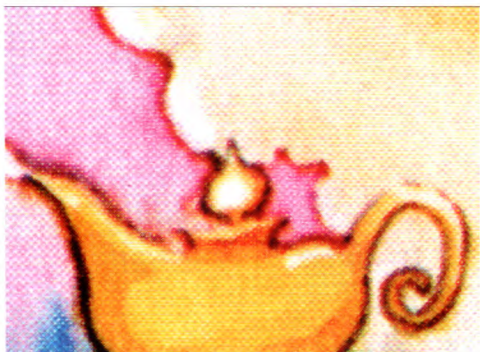
Mid Suffolk Light Railway B R Reynolds, 74 Edgecomb Road, Stowmarket IP14 2DW. e-mail barry.reynolds@tiscali.co.uk to order by credit card, via PayPal.

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

Royal Naval Philatelic Society 19 College Road, HM Naval Base, Portsmouth PO1 3LJ. Telephone 023 92 815494.

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

Competitions 2008 Miniature Sheet Collections to be won



FIRSTLY, identify the stamp from the detail above. Send your answer to December *Identify* Competition. Secondly, test your philatelic knowledge by answering the questions below. Send your answer to December *Knowledge* Competition.

- 1 Who designed the 1980 Christmas stamps?
- 2 Which issue of stamps featured Dunster Beach, Somerset?
- 3 Who featured on the 41p Rugby League stamp of 1995?



September identify The detail is from the RAF Uniforms 1st class Helicopter Winchman stamp. The winner was I Baker of Ayrshire.

September knowledge The answers: 1) Military Messengers; 2) 1998; 3) Blue. The winner was A Domenici, Italy.

Runner-up prizes were also sent for each competition. Our thanks to all who entered.

Send your answer (addressed to either December *Identify* competition or December *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 drawn in each competition on 9 January will each receive a 2008 Miniature Sheet Collection. 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 23 December 'Timeless & Classic: Elizabeth II, Queen & Icon', BPMA exhibition, at the Wedgwood Visitor Centre, Barlaston, Stoke-on-Trent. Open on weekdays 09.00-17.00, weekends 10.00-17.00.

Enquiries 01782 282 986 (Wedgwood), 020 7239 2570 (BPMA).

Until 14 February 2009 'Last Post: Remembering the First World War' BPMA exhibition at Churchill Museum & Cabinet Rooms, London SW1. **Enquiries** BPMA 020 7239 2570. See the November *Bulletin*, page 75 for further information

Until April 2009 'Lions, Leopards, Unicorns & Dragons' exhibition commemorating 50 years of regional stamps at BPMA, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1. **Enquiries** 020 7239 2570.

27 November Lecture The GPO Film Unit by Patrick Russell, at British Postal Museum & Archive, 19.00. Free – book place on 020 7239 2570 or e-mail info@postalheritage.org.uk

25-28 February Spring Stampex at Business Design Centre, Upper Street, London N1. Cricket display in association with MCC, One-Frame national exhibits. **Enquiries** 01252 628006.

26-29 February Philatex (London International Stamp & Cover Show) at Royal Horticultural Society Lawrence Hall, Greycourt Street, London SW1. 110 dealers. **Enquiries** 01793 513431 or website www.stampshows.net •

Late news

Royal Mail update The 2008 continuation pages (supplements) for the Royal Mail De Luxe and Smilers albums will be available from Tallents House from mid-December. Prices are £17.95 for the De Luxe, and £7.45 for Smilers •



Actress Joanna Lumley at the Forces Post Office at Stampex.

Stampex The attendance at Autumn Stampex (17-20 September) was only slightly down on last year – not surprising in view of the financial crisis and a clash with the international exhibition in Vienna. On the Village Green visitors enjoyed the ‘Military Messengers’ display and there were demonstrations of the workings of the Second World War Enigma coding machine from Bletchley Park. At the BFPO stand visitors could send ‘e-bluey’ messages of encouragement to our forces – the first message was sent by Joanna Lumley, a keen supporter of the military, in particular the Gurkhas. The British Postal Museum & Archive mounted a display charting the development of the Machin definitives, and the Royal Mail stand was busy on the second day as the RAF Uniforms stamps went on sale. Customers could have their image printed on a special Smilers sheet with the Stampex logo in the margin and on one of the labels, or buy, at the information stand, a Stampex Business Customised Sheet bearing an Occasions stamp with aircraft printed on the labels. The Stamp Active Network stand was once again popular with young collectors, and the winning entries in the British Youth Championships, sponsored by Stanley Gibbons, were on show.

Spring Stampex will be held at the Business Design Centre, from 25-28 February, when the major display will be ‘Going to the Cricket’, with strong participation by the MCC. Following the success of the one-frame class at the Harrogate exhibition in May, there is to be a new National One-Frame Competitive Exhibition at Spring Stampex. Entry forms are available from Susan Ellis at the British Philatelic Trust, Suite 101, Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, London N1 0QH; telephone 020 7688 8423; or e-mail susanellis@btconnect.com •

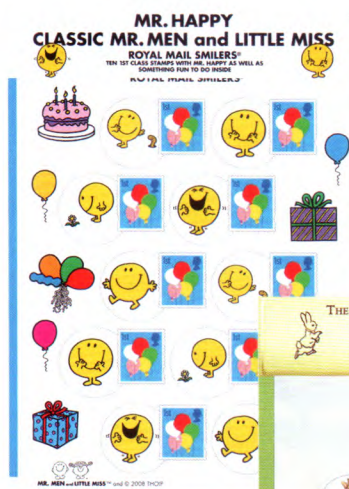
Stampex enquiries: telephone 01252 628006; e-mail info@philatelic-traders-society.co.uk •



The name's Bond... Staff at London's Trafalgar Square and Baker Street post offices were dressed as James Bond on 31 October, to promote sales of Royal Mail's James Bond stamps and products. This proved popular with customers and raised awareness of our special stamps programme. The James Bond stamps will remain on sale at Tallents House until 7 January 2009 – order now, while stocks last •

Ron Negus It is with great sadness that we report the death in late October of our regular contributor Ron Negus. Ron will be best remembered for his popular ‘Philately On-line’ features since 2000, and for his articles on eminent philatelists. He was a good friend of the *Bulletin*. An appreciation will be published next month •

Smilers for young collectors



The four sheets feature: Mr Happy from Mr Men (Balloons stamp), Almond Blossom from the Flower Fairies stories (Flower stamp), Peter Rabbit by Beatrix Potter ('New Baby' stamp), and Enid Blyton's ever-popular character Noddy (Balloons stamp).



Prices

Packs or sheets £7.95 each

 Handling charge £1.45 UK,
 £1.55 Europe, £2.15 rest of
 world



This new range of stamp sheets from Royal Mail has been created specifically with young collectors, parents and grandparents in mind.

Smilers for Kids sheets comprise 10 stamps plus pictorial labels, sold in packs with letter writing sets, games, cut-outs, stickers, bookmarks, and other items that will appeal to children and young collectors. The baby announcement cards in the Peter Rabbit pack will be especially useful to new parents.

Also available are the stamps and labels in A4 format themed sheets containing 20 stamps/labels.



Royal Mail, Tallents House,
 21 South Gyle Crescent,
 Edinburgh EH12 9PB

Telephone orders:
 UK 08457 641 641
 overseas +44 131 316 7483
www.royalmail.com/shop

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