

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The ROYAL MAIL magazine *for stamp collectors*

Volume 44 Number 10 JUNE 2007 • £1.20

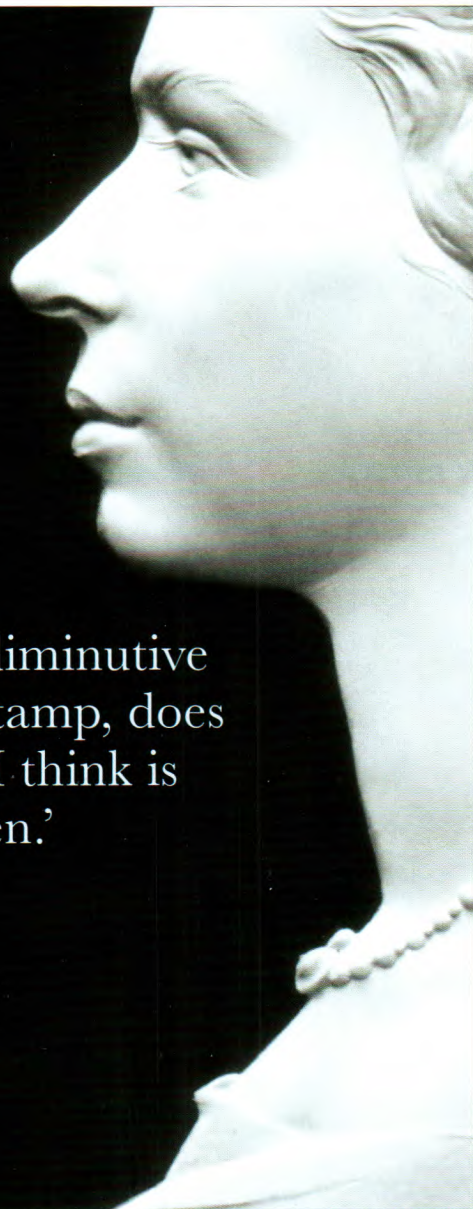
Bulletin

Machin Anniversary • Army
Uniforms issue • Postbuses

Annal Machin



‘The belief that a diminutive design, such as a stamp, does not require detail I think is very much mistaken.’



Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



Cover Arnold Machin taking a clay impression from a plaster mould of his relief portrait of The Queen. The first Machin stamps were issued 40 years ago this month. Photographs © BPMA.

Issues All items are available from Royal Mail Tallents House (address below); selected items are available at Post Office branches and Post Office philatelic outlets at main post offices in Bath, Birmingham, Brighton, Bristol, Cambridge, Canterbury, Cardiff, Chester, Colchester, Coventry, Croydon, Durham, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Grimsby, Harrogate, Leicester, London (Trafalgar Square & Eastcheap), Newcastle upon Tyne, Norwich, Nottingham, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Southampton, Southend-on-Sea, Stevenage, Stratford-on-Avon, Stroud, Truro, Windsor 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

29 May

Issue Machin Anniversary stamp cards (three cards: two special stamps, and miniature sheet)

5 June

Issue £1 definitive, ruby colour • Machin Anniversary miniature sheet, presentation pack, generic sheet, miniature sheet press sheet, prestige book and retail book: 6 × 1st class • Machin Anniversary medal cover, Coin & Stamp set, Commemorative Document with Machin silver stamp reproduction, Collectors Pack, Pin badge, Commemorative Medal • Machin album pages for use in Royal Mail album binder (Definitives or Universal albums) • Book *A Timeless Classic – the Evolution of Machin's Icon*

5 June

Issue Stamp books (standard Machin design): 6 × 1st class, 12 × 1st, 12 × 2nd – these are the pre-PIP stamp design, but with PIP information printed on covers • Business sheets: 100 × 1st class, 100 × 2nd with pre-PIP stamps and PIP header to sheet • Definitive: 2nd in pre-PIP design, sheets of 200, printed by De La Rue (previously Walsall)

5 June

Withdrawal World Cup Winners stamps, pack, stamp cards • England's Finest Hour generic sheet

19 June

Issue 1937 George VI Coronation stamp ingot

19 June

Withdrawal Modern Architecture stamps, pack and stamp cards

26 June

Issue Grand Prix stamp cards

3 July

Issue Grand Prix stamps, presentation pack and Brooklands medal cover

3 July

Withdrawal For Life's Special Moments generic sheet

17 July

Withdrawal National Portrait Gallery stamps, pack and stamp cards

19 July

Issue Scouts stamp cards

26 July

Issue Scouts stamps, presentation pack, coin cover

Contents



Reflections on an icon 40 years after its introduction, we hear some current views on Arnold Machin's classic stamp design 302

The **British Philatelic Bulletin** is published monthly by Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ • **Editor** J R Holman • **Price** £1.20 single copies 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 article should be addressed to the Editor, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ • **Design** Robert Maude • **Printed** in Great Britain by Beacon 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 May to July 290

This month The Editor previews this issue 292

Stamp scene London 2010; Guernsey stamps and Yearbook; Auction news; Brian Asquith; Stuart Rossiter lecture; Exhibitions 292



Royal Mail news Issues programme; Definitive designs revised; BPMA news; Ingot series 297

Special draw A copy of *A Timeless Classic* to be won 299

Treasures of the BPMA Martin Robinson looks at self-service post 300

British Army Uniforms A look at Royal Mail's next special issue 304



Off with her head! The conclusion of Douglas Muir's series 306



Philately online Ron Negus looks at sites for collectors of modern British postmarks 311

Mainly Machins D G A Myall's specialist report on recent issues 312

Postbus services Part 2 of Martin Robinson's list of routes 314

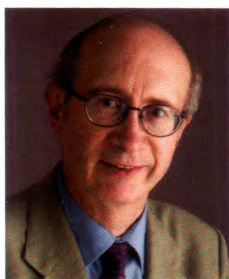


Competitions £100 to be won in two easy-to-enter competitions 318

Events This month 318

Late news 319

This month The Editor previews this issue



John Holman, Editor

I WELL RECALL June 1967 and the issue of the first Machin definitives. I still have the first day covers I posted on the day, and remember the excitement of receiving mail with a new 4d Machin stamp rather than the familiar Wilding design which had hitherto graced all my incoming mail. The Wildings had lasted 15 years and I (and probably most other collectors at the time) did not expect their replacements to be in use some 40 years later and possibly for a good few years yet! The design remains hugely popular with many collectors and the stamps have been studied in great depth by specialist collectors, some of which are so devoted to the series they refer to themselves as 'Machin maniacs'. Our 'Mainly Machins' feature by Douglas Myall, one of the leading authorities on the Machin, is habitually the most popular feature in this magazine as judged by you the readers in our annual poll. Douglas's latest offering is included this month, along with the final instalment of a three-part article by another Douglas (Muir), an abridged chapter from his book *A Timeless Classic: The Evolution of Machin's Icon*, published this month. Also to celebrate the 40th anniversary we asked a number of eminent collectors for their views of the Machin – their comments make interesting reading. But what do you think – send your view on the Machin (maximum 100 words please) to me by the end of June. I will publish a selection of your views and send a Machin miniature sheet to the writers. To all Machin collectors, I wish you a happy 40th anniversary. JOHN HOLMAN, EDITOR •

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



Glenn Morgan

London 2010 The International Stamp Exhibition, which covers the competitive and trading aspects of the Festival of Stamps, to be held at the Business Design Centre from 8 to 15 May 2010, will be a compact version of the Stamp Show 2000, which was held at the Earl's Court Exhibition Centre. It will be similar in make-up, and roughly 70 percent the size in most respects. For example London 2010 will have 2400 competitive frames, while Stamp Show 2000 had 3500. There were 180 different Trade members having stands at Stamp Show 2000, while the London 2010 show will have about 130, in both cases approaching 40 percent of these are overseas members of the Trade.

Stamp Show 2000 had about 120 postal administrations represented either directly or indirectly, while London 2010 has about 90. The London 2010 website (www.london2010.org.uk) includes a listing of trade members that have taken a stand, and also the postal administrations that will be represented. This list will be added to, as some that have taken stands will be sharing with another trade member, and not all have yet confirmed who will be sharing the stand with them.

The Organisation of the London 2010 International Stamp Exhibition is moving forward apace. Fund raising and sponsorship are progressing; the trade stand arrangements are now in place, with contracts signed and deposits paid; and the frame layout for the competitive exhibits is nearly complete. Plans for the changeover of exhibits after four days are advanced, as are the competition plans. Work has begun on all the numerous things that need to be put in place. So, the organisers appear to be on track for an excellent London 2010 International Stamp Exhibition. This show will be the central focus of the Festival of Stamps that will include numerous other philatelic attractions around London in 2010 •

Europa 2006 - Gap Year

Deciding to take a gap year was the best thing I ever did. Being a student of history, I wanted to experience the past of different countries first hand. But as a teacher, working in the UK, I wanted to do it about the 21st Century. These are some of my emails to my brother Joe:

First stop Paris. Went to see Monsieur Desnoes, the master of all Le Bonheur de France, the place I love a winter last summer holiday. I work with a young Moroccan couple, Sylvain and Mina, who are studying in Paris. Jack is

finally made it to the pyramids at Giza and signed on as a volunteer at one of the digs. Joe, you know how mad I've been on the Sphinx since I was small but coming here to see with it like a German girl called me again, she's head of Geography. Auf Wiedersehen, Jakob! Have passed a two week long tour of north-eastern China to walk on different sections of the Great Wall. Counting my borders already, get many more questions to go. I'm loving it. Jack X

Spent three weeks at Ayres Rock (real name Uluru). What a magical place! To see the nation strike it while the desert is still cool is like watching a moment in time. Jack X Stayed at the Museum. MCA on 150

After 135th Street, New York. Landed a job on the ferry to Bedloe's Island where the Statue of Liberty stands. Became friends with the Captain, Jimmy Finnegan, a third generation seafarer with the sea in his blood. Jack

Was landed at Indra Gandhi International Airport in Delhi and, although nearly forgotten, caught the train to Agni. The Taj Mahal looks as though in a state of decay. The obnoxious earnings and profits don't really work are staggered. As the sun set the Taj turned light blue, white, better than I can. I thought there was something but this was found built for the wedding of a son-in-law. Amazing. Jack (oh, and Mumbai). Jack

SPECIFICATION

Date of issue: 21 May 2006
Designer: Robert Lister
Printer: Carter Security Printing
Value: 29p, 42p, 45p, 47p, 49p, 50p
Paper: 100% cotton
Stamp size: 27.5mm deep x 35mm wide
Paper: 100% cotton
Perforation: 12.25
Sheet: 10
Country: UK



Guernsey Year Book 2006 It is several years since I have seen a copy of the Guernsey Year Book, and it has developed into a most attractive publication. Case bound with a dust jacket, it contains all the Guernsey issues of 2006, including those of Alderney, interspersed with interesting stories behind each issue, and with relevant photographs and paintings to spice up the book. Priced at £49.31 it is an easy way to collect these well-designed issues. The book contains 95 stamps in total. 75 stamps have been torn from counter sheets, and a further 20 stamps are contained within four miniature sheets. Copies are also still available of the 2004 and 2005 Year Books, priced £33.13 and £34.64 respectively •

Guernsey Philatelic Bureau
Envoy House, La Vrangue, St Peter Port, Guernsey, Channel Islands GY1 1AB. Phone +44 (0) 1481 716486, email philatelic@guernseypost.com or visit their website at www.guernseypost.com

Battle for the Falklands Guernsey Post Office has issued a set of six stamps and a souvenir sheet marking the 25th anniversary of the raising of the Argentine flag by a group of scrap metal merchants on South Georgia that sparked the Falklands conflict. Attractive sheetlets of ten stamps – one per value – contain facts and detailed illustrations from the conflict in the marginal area, adding to the interest of this issue. The set and sheet are priced at £2.83 for each product, with the sheetlets costing ten times that price. Enquiries to Guernsey Philatelic Bureau, details above •

Grosvenor Telephone 020 7379 8789 or see website www.grosvenorauctions.com

Spink Telephone 020 7563 4000 or see www.spink.com

Cavendish Telephone 01332 250970 visit website www.cavendish-auction.com

Harmers Telephone 020 8747 6100 or visit www.harmers.com

Auctions Grosvenor's 25-26 January GB auction included much modern GB material (as well as older stamps and covers), such as imperf Machins, errors and FDCs of scarcer printings of high values and regionals. A first day cover of the 1967 £1 Windsor Castle on unwatermarked paper made £420 (est £120-150) and FDCs of the 1967 Jersey 3d and 4d phosphors with George Town Jersey postmarks realised £150 each (est £100-120) •

Spink's GB sale on 8 March included over 300 Penny Blacks as singles, multiples and on cover (Where do they all keep coming from?). A July 1841 cover with the stamp cancelled by black Maltese Cross and with Parkstone Penny Post marking made £10,000 (est £9000-10,000). More modern material included a photographic proof of the proposed Edward VIII 3d, signed by designer H J Brown; it went for £140 (est £80-100). An imperf pair of the 1977 Silver Jubilee 13p achieved £850 (£700-800) •

In Cavendish's 25 January World & GB sale an imprimatur block of four of the 1937 Coronation stamp, ex NPM Archives sale, went for £4400 (est £1200) and the 2001 Smilers sheets with Consignia imprint achieved £400 (£500). On 9 March Cavendish auctioned the GB Postal History collection of Charles Hahn (noted for his extraordinary moustache as well as the spelling of his Christian name). A rare Fort William thistle postmark of 1769 made £2800 (est £1500) and a Perth 'Lamb' postmark 1751 £1500 (£400). Also auctioned was the Bryan Hunt collection of Southampton Postal History, 1587-1945. This included a collection of Southampton Paquebot marks which achieved £360 (£300), and covers bearing 1d black and 2d blue addressed to Southampton went for £480 (£300) •

Harmers' World Stamps & Postal History sale on 6 March included some fine GB material such as essays for Edward VIII stamps, and an extensive range of 1911 First Aerial Post cards and covers. A series of sketches and designs by Andrew Restall for the 1968 Bridges set went for £765 (est £600), and his enlarged hand-coloured essays for the 1977 Racket Sports set achieved £647 (£500). Mint blocks of four of the Royal Household ½d and 1d overprints made £1764 (£1250) •



Brian Asquith

High flyer Brian Asquith, President of the British Aerophilatelic Federation (BAEF) has been inducted into the American Air Mail Society's (AAMS) Hall of Fame. To quote the AAMS website: 'The Aerophilatelic Hall of Fame is international in scope. It honours those who have contributed significantly or rendered outstanding service to national or international organized Aerophilately.' This honour was conferred upon Brian in late May at the AAMS meeting at Nojex 2007 at Secaucus, New Jersey, USA. Brian's name was inscribed on the Aerophilatelic Hall of Fame plaque at the World Airmail Research Center in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania.

The BAEF was founded in 1985, and incorporates the Aero Philatelic Club, London (1923) and the British Air Mail Society (1958). It caters for anybody who has an interest in airmails of whatever period on a world-wide basis. All aero subjects are catered for including Balloons, Air Letters, Internal and External flights, Individual Airlines, Air Mail stamps, First Flights, Crash Mail, Zeppelins, and much more •

BAEF enquiries Peter Lister, 97 Albany Park Avenue, Enfield Highway EN3 5NX. Annual membership £18 UK, £22 Europe, £24 elsewhere.

Royal Mail news New issues and products

Special issues The special stamps programme continues this month with the Machin Anniversary miniature sheet, prestige book and other products on 5 June. Details of these were published in February and May. The two special issues in July – Grand Prix and Scouts – were previewed here in March and April. This month we preview the British Army Uniforms to be issued on 20 September, the second day of Autumn Stampex. The set for October will commemorate the diamond wedding anniversary of HM The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh.

The annual Christmas issue (6 November) comprises six stamps featuring angels. Four of the stamps will be standard definitive size; the other two will be bigger and inscribed 'Large' for larger-size UK letters as part of the 'Pricing in Proportion' letter pricing structure. There will also be a Christmas miniature sheet. The 2007 programme finishes on 8 November with the second 'Lest We Forget' miniature sheet, which will include a new special stamp. The special 1st class stamp in last year's sheet was voted the most popular special stamp of 2006 – see the April *Bulletin* •



1st printing of 2nd class NVI gummed by De La Rue, and 1st class NVI by DLR, cylinder D2. Colour designations are at top left of the sheets.

Nicerly proportioned definitives As reported in the April issue, 1st and 2nd class standard definitives are to return to their pre-Pricing in Proportion design from 5 June. This will see a reduction in size of both service indicators and their relocation to the bottom left of the stamps. Three new retail books will be issued for $6 \times 1st$, $12 \times 1st$ and $12 \times 2nd$; all contain pre-PIP stamps, although the back cover will continue to give 'PIP' information for standard-size letters. PIP headers also remain on the 1st and 2nd class 100-stamp business sheets which, like the retail books, are printed by Walsall. There has been a change of printer from Walsall to De La Rue for the sheets of 200 gummed 2nd class stamps. There will be no first day of issue facilities. The stamps and books will initially be available from Talents House and Post Office philatelic outlets, and from other Post Office branches and retailers as stocks of the PIP printings are used up •

Smilers orders Telephone 0845 074 2000 (UK customers) or +44 131 316 7489 (overseas), or see website: www.royalmail.com/smilers

Generic & Smilers sheets Collectors of generic sheets are reminded that the England's Finest Hour sheet with 2006 1st class World Cup stamps will be withdrawn from sale on 5 June. The labels show the 1966 World Cup final – the sheet was illustrated here in June 2006 (page 301). The 'For Life's Special Moments' sheet, with 2005 design definitive-size 'Smilers' stamps, will come off sale on 3 July. This sheet was shown in the May 2006 *Bulletin* on page 268. This sheet can also be ordered through the Smilers service with your own image printed on the labels •

Coming off sale Remaining stock of the World Cup Winners stamps, pack, stamp cards and generic sheet (England's Finest Hour) will be withdrawn on 5 June. The associated Bobby Moore medal cover will come off sale on 5 August. The Modern Architecture stamps, pack, and stamp cards will be withdrawn on 19 June, and the National Portrait Gallery issue on 17 July, except the medal cover which remains available until 17 August •

The Railway Age is next to Tesco in Vernon Way, Crewe. Open 10.00–16.00 Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays until September. For further details and directions visit www.therailwayage.co.uk

BPMA exhibition at The Railway Age Crewe used to be a Mecca for collectors of Travelling Post Office postmarks and here, 30 years ago, I used to spend many an evening with fellow enthusiasts waiting for Up and Down Specials, North West Night Down, Crewe-Bangor, Crewe-Cardiff, Crewe-Glasgow Sorting Carriage, Crewe-Peterborough (plus the Lincoln Section); and Shrewsbury-York; a night's work could produce 14 or 15 different postmarks. The Railway Age is a heritage centre devoted to railway memorabilia at Crewe North Junction, just north of the station, where the west coast mail line divides to go west to Chester and North Wales, and north to Warrington, Preston and Carlisle. It houses a museum full of all sorts of things to delight a railway buff, as well as larger exhibits like the prototype of the Advanced Passenger Train, several steam, diesel and electric locomotives, three working signal boxes, and exhibits and activities aimed specifically at children. From this Easter it also houses the BPMA's magnificent L&NWR TPO carriage, which has taken £100,000 and four years of dedicated hard work to restore from a wreck to a beautiful example of the coach-builder's art, fully refurbished within and without and recreating the experience of being aboard a working TPO in the 1930s.

On 3 April there was a private view for friends and supporters to admire the carriage, and a good number of Friends of the British Postal Museum & Archive and the L&NWR Society members responded to an invitation to attend the occasion, amongst them Douglas Muir of the BPMA, Michael Sefi, Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection and himself a railway fan, the Lord Mayor of Crewe (a former employee of the railways and the GPO) and several press reporters and photographers. Short speeches were made by the BPMA's Chris Taft, representatives of the L&NWR Society and the Lord Mayor. Guests were able to have a good look round the TPO carriage and the rest of the exhibition, and talk to Colin Worrall, the joiner who undertook most of the restoration, and other people connected with the project. More details of the carriage and its restoration were given in April's *Bulletin* (pages 236–39). *Martin Robinson* •

British Postal Museum & Archive Readers are reminded that a new exhibition marking the 40th anniversary of the Machin definitive is now on show at the BPMA – open Monday to Wednesday & Friday from 10.00 to 17.00, and on Thursday from 10.00-19.00. A further BPMA exhibition – ‘Timeless and Classic: Elizabeth, Queen & Icon’ will open at the Royal College of Art, London on 18 July and run until 15 August. Vehicles from the BPMA ‘Moving the Mail’ exhibition are on display at Grampian Transport Museum, Alford, Aberdeenshire until 31 October ●

BPMA enquiries For details of all exhibitions, lectures and events phone 020 7239 2570 or visit www.postalheritage.org.uk

New ingot set The third in the current series of six ingots featuring stamps from the reigns of King Edward VIII and King George VI will be issued on 19 June, price £27.95. This reproduces the George VI Coronation stamp of 1937, the UK’s first Coronation stamp and also the first to feature both sovereign and consort. The accompanying folder provides an interesting account of the designing and printing of this stamp, accomplished rapidly given the change of monarch and the already arranged Coronation day. Numbers 1 and 2 in the series (Edward VIII 1d and George VI 1d definitives) are still available, also priced at £27.95. All orders should be sent to Tallents House in Edinburgh ●

Storing the Bulletin Binders and box files are available for storing this and the *Postmark Bulletin*. The sturdy box files, in maroon for the *Philatelic Bulletin* and green for the *Postmark Bulletin* are available from Royal Mail Tallents House, price £9.95 each. Order codes PB349 (Philatelic), PB350 (Postmark). The files will store 30 copies of the Philatelic and about 50 of the Postmark Bulletins. The traditional binders for the Philatelic (BB001) and Postmark (PB322) Bulletins cost £8.50 each ●



Bulletin back issues Colin Frost wishes to dispose of *Bulletins* from November 1976 to October 1983. Write to him at Bramleys, Riverview Place, Ellon AB41 9NW ●

Special draw Win *A Timeless Classic* book

FOR THIS MONTH’S DRAW we are offering a copy of the newly published book on the development of the Machin stamp design – *A Timeless Classic: The Evolution of Machin’s Icon*, written by Douglas Muir of the British Postal Museum & Archive. The book will be sent to the sender of the first card to be drawn on 30 June. Five runners up will be sent presentation packs containing the Machin anniversary miniature sheet. To enter the draw, simply write your name and address on the back of a postcard and send it to: Machin Draw, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ ●



Treasures of the BPMA Martin Robinson examines some self-service postage machines, past and present

FOR THE LAST 100 years, various ways have been sought to make life easier for post office customers so that, rather than having to queue up at a counter to buy a stamp, or when the post office was closed, they could use a self-service machine. These would dispense a stamp or stamps, a booklet of stamps or a postage label, or print a postage paid marking direct on to the item of mail.

The first stamp vending machines, apart from a short-lived trial in the late 19th century of which no reliable records would appear to remain, were installed and used in 1907, and many different types of mechanism, dispensing a single stamp, a pair, or strip of up to five stamps were introduced. The most versatile was a Type G machine, which could dispense any combination of one to five stamps against a 5p, later a 10p, coin. This was introduced in 1970 and withdrawn in 1980, when rises in rates of postage made it redundant. Now, few vending machines remain as booklets of stamps are widely available from newsagents, supermarkets, garages and other outlets.

Self-service meter machines, ie ones that print a postage paid impression onto an envelope, have been around for the same period of time, the earliest example in this country being the Wilkinson machine which was used in London EC from 25 January to 31 August 1912. The first such machine had been used in Norway in 1900, and others in New Zealand (1904) and later in Germany, the USSR, Italy and Japan.

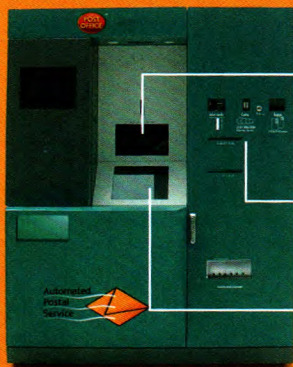
The Frama trial took place in 1984-85, using four microprocessor-controlled machines located at Cambridge, London EC, Southampton and Windsor. These accepted a variety of coins, and the user pushed buttons to select preset postage values or key in others between ½p and 17p and to print an adhesive label. The National Postal Museum (as was) possessed one of the machines which visitors could use to print a souvenir label inscribed NATIONAL POSTAL MUSEUM SPECIMEN, but sadly the electronics have expired, and the machine no longer works. To bring the story up

to date, let us consider three recent trials of more sophisticated machines, which enable the user to weigh items, select a postage rate, and use a card or cash to print labels or a meter impression.

The first was at Loughborough University in 1989-90, where Midland Bank, in consultation with and with the approval of the PO, trialled a 'Merit' smart card containing a microchip which could be used for financial transactions on the campus, including payment of postage. The card holder (who had to be a student or member of staff – fortunately my youngest son was studying there at that time) transferred funds from his/her current account to the smart card which could be used to pay for goods and services at a number of outlets up to a limit of £100 a week. The postage dispenser was built by Pitney Bowes, and worked as follows: the merit card was inserted into the machine and the item to be franked placed on a scale. Domestic and foreign rates were displayed and, having selected a rate, the user then pressed 'Enter' to deduct the amount from the card. The letter was pushed into a slot where it was franked with an undated green postage paid impression inscribed 'LOUGHBOROUGH UNIVERSITY. SMART MAIL TRIAL. PURCHASED USING A MIDLAND BANK "MERIT" CARD FROM A PITNEY BOWES SMART POSTAGE DISPENSER. TRIAL APPROVED BY THE ROYAL MAIL', then posted in an adjacent slot, and subsequently machine cancelled (and thus dated) at Loughborough.

The second 'Weigh & Pay' (or, to be more exact, 'Automated Postal Service') trial started in March/April 2004, using three machines manufactured by Böwe, Bell & Howell and located at Alfreton, Luton and Broadgate, London EC (it seemed an M1 motorway axis had been chosen for the convenience of visiting engineers). These machines were the size of a photo booth; the user placed their letter or packet in an aperture and, using a touch screen to select options, then inserting coins, notes or a credit/debit card, printed an adhesive label to affix to the item of mail, which

A new way to post your letters and parcels



1. Weigh

2.Pay

3.Post

in three **easy** steps

was then posted to produce a receipt. In the case of a 'signed for' item two labels were affixed, the second bearing the words SIGNED FOR or SPECIAL DELIVERY and a bar code. At the end of the day the machine was emptied and Special Delivery or Recorded labels affixed by hand.

The final trial for directing simple, low-volume traffic away from post office counters is called Post & Go, and is taking place now. It began in February 2007, was initially planned to last three months, and involves machines made by Fujitsu at Belfast and Maidstone and by Pitney Bowes at Birmingham. These machines take notes, coins and, latterly, cards and following step-by-step instructions, a user prints self-adhesive postage paid labels similar to those from the Horizon machines used at all post office counters, but with clearer, darker printing and without the security cuts to prevent fraudulent re-use as on the Horizon labels; the Fujitsu machine labels are identifiable by the reference which includes the letters PAG. In these machines, simpler than their predecessors, the service is confined to inland first or second class letters, large letters and packets.

We've just made posting
quicker
and **easier**

With user-friendly touch-screen control and full, easy-to-follow instructions, using the Automated Postal Service is a breeze – just weigh, pay and away you go! See how quick and easy it is for yourself!

Use the Automated Postal Service to send:

- UK First and Second Class Letters
- UK Standard Parcels
- Special Delivery 9am and 12 noon
- Recorded Signed for
- International Letters
- International Packets
- International Printed Papers
- Signed for International
- Aisrue
- BFPO Services

This kiosk is unable to accept:

- Parcelforce Guaranteed Express Services
- Parcelforce international parcels
- Pre-paid postal items
- Home shopping returns
- Articles for the blind

Usual restrictions / exclusions apply

Automated
Postal
Service



M Robinson
31 Tuckwell Close
Stockton
Southam CV47 8JF



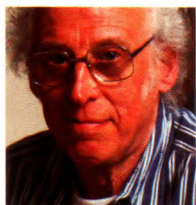
Weigh & Pay leaflet; Loughborough Smart Mail trial envelope; Pay & Go label Maidstone; and a Frama NPM specimen label.

As well as a Frama machine, the BPMA has one of the 2004 Weigh & Pay machines (the one used at Broadgate, London EC, between 25 March and 20 October 2004), and these, together with other examples of postal machinery, can be seen on one of the open days at the Museum store at Debden, in Essex. Visit www.postalheritage.org.uk or ring 020 7239 2570 for further details •

Thoughts on the anniversary of Arnold Machin's icon

40 years ago Arnold Machin's portrait of the Queen appeared on a new series of definitives. That image has since been reproduced more often than any other in the world, becoming so familiar that many do not give it a second look. For many collectors however, it remains one of the finest designs ever created, offering unrivalled areas for study. We asked for some current views on a design icon.

'THE MACHIN Queen's head, since its inception in 1967, and in its various forms, has been a constant in my professional life: in the first instance using it in my designs for special issues, then in my work re-designing the font of numerals; preparing artwork for the values and each change of tariff; establishing positional guides for printers for the head and value numerals for both high and low values; and National and Country definitives; experimental variations of layout; creating the Jeffery Matthews palette of colours; and recently designing the 40th anniversary miniature sheet containing the new £1 definitive, in my latest addition to the colour range, 'Ruby Red'; and stamps showing the first Machin definitive and a portrait of Arnold Machin' •



Jeffery Matthews MBE

British stamp designer

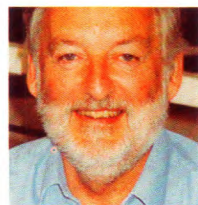
'A WHOLE collecting subject has grown up around the study of the Machin design in all its complexity of production, papers and other technological progressions. I do not find this highly technical approach particularly satisfying. What does appeal however, are the colours. This bold, simple design has the basic colour as its key feature; and what an amazing range of colours have been used over the years. Some work better than others – we will all have our favourites – and many of them have been used several times over as the rates of postage have changed and new values have been introduced. A 'one of each' collection showing the chronological progression over these last 40 years is a wonderful display to behold' •



Chris Harman

President, Royal Philatelic Society London

'THERE's a very simple answer to a question I am often asked – 'Why do you collect Machins?' It so happened that 5 June 1967, when the Machin definitives first appeared, coincided to the very week with the completion of my fairly long university studies. Having put to one side my stamp collecting inclinations since early teens, I was on the threshold of actually earning a living, and had some money to spend. I didn't forsake the pre-decimal series when the new currency came in some 54 months later, as many people did. In the two or three years after decimalisation I was able to obtain many superb items being offloaded by those who succumbed to the £p. I maintain the Machin definitive series does hold its own with even the line-engraved issues in the specialised and technical aspects of philately, and slowly we are becoming respectable' •



Tony Walker

Pre-decimal Machin collector

'OCCASIONALLY, something comes along that it is hard to better: the postage stamp, for example, is basically unchanged after 160 years. Similarly with design: some is iconic, ahead of its time and nearly impossible to better, like the Routemaster bus or the London FX4 taxi. The Machin is similarly iconic – instantly recognizable, its simplicity says it all' •



Richard West

Bulletin contributor and
Stamp Magazine Editor at
Large

'WHAT DO the Machin and Sushi have in common? Both are minimalist works of art, deceptively simple products of great artistic skill and attention to detail; and both have an aesthetic beauty. Machin stamps are, however, much more than a mere snack. Their technical aspects have provided a veritable feast for thousands the world over, and have sustained their undiminished interest for 40 years; they are set to do so for many more. Watch for their golden jubilee!' •



Douglas Myall

Author of the *Complete Deegam Machin Handbook*, and *Bulletin* contributor

'I WAS immediately attracted by the apparent simple charm of the Machin design and spent quite a few years 'bothering' local post offices for cylinder blocks and varieties and 'pumping' slot machines for booklets. When I took on a mortgage and got married in 1982, some aspects of my philatelic expenditure just had to be cut back, and the Machins were among those that went. I could not bring myself to sell them of course; I just did not look for them any more. 25 years on and now Stanley Gibbons catalogue editor, I realise that to have continued collecting Machins would have been a considerable help in understanding those specialised features which were unknown in the early 1980s. On the other hand, I still gain a great deal of pleasure from my Commonwealth stamps and I am still married. I am not sure either would be true if I had continued to be a Machin addict!' •



Hugh Jefferies

Editor, Stanley Gibbons

'WITH US for 40 years, the Machin stamp has lasted surprisingly long. It does of course have the benefit of simplicity as a design, helped by the lack of need to show the country's name. The early large line engraved high values were perhaps not so successful – the Wilding equivalent having had greater appeal I suggest. (Nor do I think the new horizontal format for 'Large' PIP letters is an improvement!) But overall, the Machin definitive was a major achievement of its period, and its very timeless appearance today demonstrates its success as an icon of design' •



Michael Sefi

Keeper, The Royal Philatelic
Collection (photograph: Paul
Millen Photography)

'IN A WORLD where the only constant is change, I have always been a fan of the Machin design, for its timeless appearance. Mind you, I think the design is starting to show its age, and so I tend now to use the pictorial definitives when appropriate' •



Glenn Morgan

Author and Librarian of the
National Philatelic Society

British Army Uniforms The first of a series



Technical details

Printer Joh Enschedé
Security Print

Process Litho

Stamp size 27 × 37mm

Sheets 30 and 60

Perforation 14

Phosphor Two bands

Gum PVA

Gutter pairs Horizontal

THE SECOND special issue of September features British Army uniforms. It comprises six stamps and a prestige stamp book. They go on sale at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and Royal Mail Tallents House on 20 September. The stamp issue comprises of two se-tenant triptychs of three 1st class and three 78p values. The stamps feature illustrations of uniformed working soldiers by Graham Turner, representing significant stages in the development of the British Army's uniforms. The stamps were designed by Atelier Works, who also designed the supporting products.

British Army Uniforms is the first of a series of three new military themes; it will be followed by RAF Uniforms in 2008 (the 90th anniversary of the RAF) and Royal Navy Uniforms in 2009.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Orders for serviced FDCs must reach Tallents House (address below) by the day of issue. Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (Tallents House postmark), or to the nearest Special Handstamp Centre (Boot, Holmrook, Cumbria postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FD0721' (Tallents House) or 'FD0722' (Boot). Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for the Boot postmark.

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, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ.

PHILATELIC PRODUCTS An illustrated pack has been written by military historian Professor Richard Holmes (who also wrote the 2006 *Lest We Forget* pack). It features the uniform and equipment of the Napoleonic Rifleman and also carries illustrations of the many different uniform types worn by contemporary soldiers. Details of a medal cover will be published later.

PRESTIGE STAMP BOOK A book entitled *British Army Uniforms* contains four stamp panes: two with Uniforms stamps, one with 1st class country stamps, and one with 1p, 46p and 54p Machin definitives. The book, like the pack, was written by Professor Richard Holmes. Details to follow •

on military apparel over the centuries



The stamps Left to right: an NCO, Royal Military Police 1999; a Tank Commander, 5th Royal Tank Regiment 1944; an observer, Royal Field Artillery 1917; a rifleman, 95th Rifles 1813; a grenadier, Royal Regiment of Foot of Ireland 1704; and a trooper in the Earl of Oxford's Horse Guards 1661. The Queen's silhouette and value/service indicator are positioned at top right on all six stamps.

FDC and presentation pack The FDC (below) contains a filler card showing contemporary rank insignia of the British Army. The pack (bottom) has been written by the popular military historian Professor Richard Holmes. Both cover and pack were designed by Atelier Works.

British Army Uniforms Prices

Set of stamps	£3.36
Presentation pack	£3.90
Prestige stamp book	£7.66
FDC envelope	£0.30
Serviced FDC stamps (UK orders)	£4.42
Serviced FDC stamps (overseas orders)	£3.77
Serviced FDC book pane (UK)	£3.93
Serviced FDC book pane (overseas)	£3.35
Stamp card set	£1.80
Joint cover (with British Forces PO)	£9.99



ANATOMY OF A RIFLEMAN

Overseas campaigns in the 18th century, especially in North America, encouraged the development of light troops. This process had several results. A light company became part of every infantry battalion, its officers and men wearing uniform like that of their comrades in the 'battalion companies', with symbolic additions. Next, some battalions were styled 'Light Infantry' and given special

training, though they still wore red. The most distinctive form of light troops were riflemen, clad in green and armed with the Baker Rifle, a far more accurate weapon than the standard Brown Bess musket that was carried by most infantry. Riflemen were distinguished by more than characteristic uniform: they were encouraged to show individual initiative, and the 'thinking fighting riflemen' was their ideal.



Above and below Rifleman's personal equipment. Top, his haversack, in which he would carry his kit. Below that is his canteen, painted with the regimental number. The sash was worn on the rifleman's back and carried his personal belongings. It was made of water-proofed canvas and carried in separate leather slings. The smart rectangular sashcase was

Off with her head! Douglas Muir concludes



graphs. These themes had been refined from the original listing, and now consisted of those shown below left. The last entry had been added as a deliberate sop to The Queen knowing her great interest in horseracing, which had amused the Prime Minister greatly when he was told.

It was decided to have one example from each series essayed, with the others presented as colour prints at stamp size. Each of the designs to be essayed should be with the Gillick cameo head in one version and the royal coat of arms in another. All designs were in the new, larger size.

Towards the end of January 1966 the first essays were proofed but it was not until February that the new perforating tool required was available. Then all chosen designs were essayed and sent to Benn, Gentleman and the Post Office from Harrisons, the printers. Various types of royal coats of arms were tried out, and also in one instance a crown, but all designs were also essayed with the Gillick cameo. Gentleman explained: 'When it became clear that the Palace and Harold Wilson between them were unwilling to remove the Queen's head from any commemoratives, I simply replaced the proposed alternatives – Great Britain, UK, the Royal Arms – with a silhouette version of the royal profile then used on the coinage.'

On 25 February Benn wrote to The Queen's private secretary saying that the album of experimental designs was now ready. 'These are, of course, all samples and there is no question of the Post Office committing itself to accepting any of them for issue as stamps. They have been prepared solely to show what could be done and to encourage a more intelligent and widespread interest in British postage stamps.'

Mention was made of possible plans to show the designs at Stampex in March which Benn was due to open. However, politics now put this on hold. A general election was called and such controversial proposals were postponed. It was not until 5 April that the album of designs was sent

The 17 themes in the Gentleman album of October 1965

1 Sixteen definitives (one sheet) using new cameo profile showing alternative colours • **2** Eighteen rulers of the UK (one sheet) showing possible colour sequence for one value block sheet • **3** Period costumes: four examples for one value block sheet • **4** Famous men: two versions shown of John Dalton 1766 and his atomic theory • **5** Famous events – two versions of Newton's theory of gravitation, 1666 • **6** Butterflies: one example shown (others on a separate sheet) • **7** Fungi (on one sheet): four examples • **8** Trees: four examples • **9** Birds: four examples (and others on a separate sheet) • **10** Bridges: five examples including Severn Bridge 1966 • **11** Aeroplanes: eight examples in different treatments • **12** Trains: two examples shown, and a set of four in a strip of a complete train (and other examples on a separate sheet) • **13** Regional architecture • **14** Regional landscapes: eight examples (two from each region) • **15** National coastlines: Operation Neptune (five examples) • **16** Famous events: Fire of London 1666 four versions • **17** Nationally owned works of art (racehorses)

the series of articles taken from his new book



to The Queen, with Benn emphasising their experimental nature but indicating that he would like to have a public seminar on stamp design at which these would be shown.

Martin Charteris, The Queen's Assistant Private Secretary, then took up the thorny subject of the experimental designs. He wrote to Benn a month later. 'I have had several telephone conversations with your Private Secretary about your letter to Adcane of 5th April and the album of experimental stamps which you sent with it. You will therefore know already that the Queen is quite agreeable to these experimental designs being made available for inspection by the Press and the Public.

'You do not ask in your letter for the Queen's approval to any or all of these designs and it is of course understood that Her Majesty's agreement to their display does not imply her approval for their use as postage stamps. Her Majesty has none the less examined them with the greatest interest, particularly the use of the cameo silhouette on many of the designs, and the Queen's preliminary view is that the cameo is perhaps too miniature to be significant as an indication that the stamps are British.

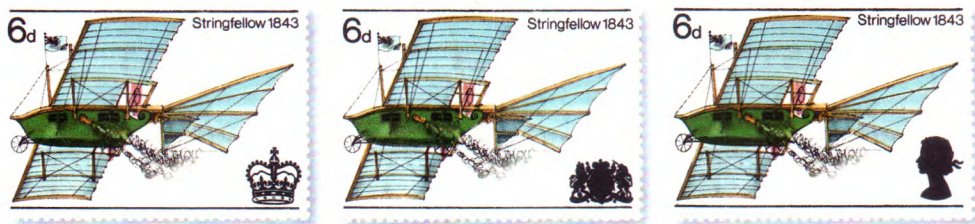
'The use of the Royal Arms with the heads of past sovereigns has certainly produced some very interesting designs, but here again Her Majesty considers that very careful thought will have to be given to whether or not such designs are appropriate before they are adopted.'

By this time the Landscapes stamps had just been issued, the first non-commemorative special issue. These had caused another row between Benn and the Stamp Advisory Committee and a remarkable number of designs had been essayed. Most importantly, Benn had insisted that the new Gillick cameo be tried out as well as the traditional Wilding portrait. In the end, the accepted Landscape designs by Leonard Rosoman (as shown right) were the first stamps issued to show the Gillick cameo, and The Queen had already approved the designs without any comment on the silhouette. The cameo there had been rather larger than that used on Gentleman's experimental designs.

In the meantime, yet more problems arose with the use of the Gillick cameo. Postal officials realised that there might be a question of copyright, and wrote to the Royal Mint to enquire, but only on 8 February. An immediate response stated that the Mint would have an objection to the use of the coinage head on postage stamps. This created a problem, as work had already reached an advanced stage. Benn wrote to James Callaghan, the

Above and opposite: designs from the David Gentleman album of 1965. The 'monarch' above is from the 'Rulers of Great Britain' se-tenant sheet, shown in full in the June 2006 Bulletin (page 311).





Above: essays of some album designs were produced to illustrate various proposals for replacing or re-designing The Queen's head. Opposite: a full page from the album showing 'Regional Stamps'.

Chancellor of the Exchequer and, as such, Master of the Mint. He told him about new designs of stamps, but without specifically mentioning the problems. On 10 May a meeting took place at which Callaghan gently rapped Benn's knuckles: '...the Chancellor saw the Postmaster General yesterday on a number of subjects. One of these was the question of the coinage effigy and postage stamps. The Chancellor asked the Postmaster General to ensure that, in future, he approached the Master of the Mint [ie himself] before approaching the Palace. The Postmaster General appeared to accept this advice.'

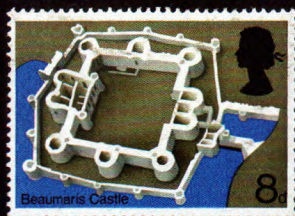
In early 1966 the Stamp Advisory Committee also fought a continuing battle over the size of the Gillick coinage head. They tried to reject it for the World Cup stamps, especially designs by David Gentleman. Then they complained about its small size, but it had become standard.

Stamp design seminar The 'informal' seminar on stamp design took place on 23 June at Fleet Building in Farringdon Street, London EC. When Benn had informed The Queen about it he received an apparently enthusiastic, but carefully worded, reply from Adeane. 'Her Majesty is interested to read about the seminar which is to be held this month, and she hopes that the wide public interest in British stamp design which you have aroused in this country will continue to have fruitful results. You can rest assured that this is far from being a subject which Her Majesty regards in any way as "routine"; she looks forward to the designs which you submit because she realizes that the postage stamp, which we invented, remains one of the best ways of reminding the world of what we are and what we are doing.'

Benn showed Gentleman's album to the Stamp Advisory Committee before the seminar. This was at a regular meeting on 15 June, towards the end of the period from which minutes have survived. 'The Postmaster General stressed that the surface had so far only been scratched and that there were many other possibilities – stamps on Road Safety or Public Health, for example. The page in the album showing stamps of British Monarchs suggested a very interesting issue.'

At the seminar a week later there were 12 frames of the Gentleman Album essays and original artwork. The successful and unsuccessful designs for the British Birds stamps, to be previewed that afternoon, were also on show, as were the stamps and essays previously mentioned, and a selection of children's paintings submitted for the Christmas issue. In the discussion which took place, opinion was divided about whether too many stamps

Regional stamps



Designs of particular regional interest:
architectural, artistic, industrial
or archaeological subjects



Proposed issues in David Gentleman's album included views of the UK countryside: Antrim and Hebridean coasts, and Scottish Highlands.

were being issued. When it came to The Queen's head, designers were 'disturbed' by the difficulty of integrating it into the design. Minutes record that: 'The head must retain an element of permanency, a classic, ageless quality; yet every artist had his own way of working and there must therefore be a number of heads from which he could choose or one basic head from which a number of treatments could emerge. However the introduction of a variety of symbols/ciphers/heads might lead to our being challenged on the fact that we were not conforming to UPU Regulations.'

On 1 July Benn wrote to The Queen to inform her of the success of his seminar, mentioning the favourable comments and specifically ideas for the 1967 programme. Adeane's reply on the 4th referred to this: 'You mention specifically your 1967 programme and the 'Rulers of Great Britain' series from the Gentleman Album. The Queen has, of course, seen this already, but she would very much like to have another look at the block before considering the problem of whether the Royal Crest or the Gold profile should be used to identify these stamps. Could you very kindly have it sent round for Her Majesty to inspect again?'

However, it was not to be necessary, as Adeane would certainly have known when he wrote the letter, for Benn had been promoted to the Cabinet as Minister of Technology. As he was no longer Postmaster General, nothing further was to happen with the contentious Rulers issue, nor royal crests or ciphers: the revolution was over, with Benn sidelined. Nevertheless, the aftershocks of the ferment he had created in the Post Office continued to be felt long thereafter. Everything to do with stamps had changed – reasons for issue, the number of issues, subject matter and design.

Many new aspects of stamps were still in course of preparation or production (the first Christmas stamps with children's paintings for example), but some did not come about, as a result of Benn's no longer being there to force things through. However, a new definitive portrait had been commissioned and work was already in train.

Gentleman's Album was seminal. It introduced a new size of stamp, and themes and designs which were to influence stamp issues for almost 20 years. Many still look remarkably modern, and very much as if they had been issued. Themes such as bridges, ships, aircraft, buildings, literature, famous people, trees, trains, flowers, animals and many others, became the norm, often with designs by David Gentleman. The 1960s was a period of remarkable social change in Britain. An era of deference was swept away and with it extremely old-fashioned attitudes to stamp-issuing policy ●

Philately online Modern British postmarks, by Ron Negus

British stamps and postmarks: news information and pictures from the web's No 1 resource



Welcome to Norvic Philatelics.

This is the place to be for up-to-date news about our stamps of Great Britain, as well as all the rare postmarks, many of them personal and of interest to domestic or topical collectors.

The 2007 Great Britain stamp programme includes some subjects that will be known to some people, including The Beatles, Grand Prix Motor Racing and the Centenary of Scouting, which is also the Europe year. The programme is laid before with links to individual pages for each issue and there are also links to pages for each issue from 2003-2004. The programme for 2005 will be added in the next column at March. If you need information on the stamps issued before 2003, please email to using the link at the next paragraph.

E-MAIL to Norvic: Nine pages have detailed 'main' links which generate a subject list. If you need relevant pages of these links, please

Updated 8 March

Today we have added the images of the set of 6 stamps for the Centenary of Scouting to be issued on 26 July. This set is sure to be popular, so register your interest now if you are interested in buying stamps, first day covers, or other products. We have also added First Day postmarks for the Addition of 50p on 26 March.

It's The Beatles

For all Mail commentators you know about The Beatles with a set of 6 stamps showing album covers and a quantity sheet of 4 other stamps showing Beatles memorabilia. 5 pence "10 Marks" (Customers who are on the mailing list for FDCs, or do wish to combine via single sheets) You may not have to keep the values exchanged for the benefit of our regular philatelic customers, and other readers to please have with us.

www.norvic-philatelics.co.uk On this GB website, described below, this Norfolk dealer also provides a link to his online shop which supplies stamps, FDCs, postal stationery, world postal history and picture postcards.

postmarks, many of them pictorial and of interest to thematic and topical collectors.' Following pages contain details for 2006 and 2007 issues, and access is also provided to similar information for stamps issued from 2003.

A common layout has been adopted for each annual listing that makes navigation around the site extremely simple. On the main 'index' each issue is listed by date of release with a basic title quoting the purpose of the set – for example: 13 February 2007 – The Sky at Night.

Selecting the description reveals further pages that contain full colour illustrations of the stamps themselves, technical details of their production, prices for any exclusive FDCs produced by Norvic for the set, and pictures of all the special postmarks involved. Supporting text is provided to give background notes about the set that can be used for writing up.

Another section of this interesting site contains short articles that will be of interest to GB collectors. Examples of these are items on the 'Smart-stamp' and 'Royal Mail Horizon Postage Labels'. These articles are well written and fully illustrated. Also in this section are notes about 'Advertisements in definitive booklets' and a short piece about 'Christmas postal delivery by Scouts', with some examples of the labels that have been used by Scout troops in Sheffield.

Orpheusweb.co.uk/devekeyb/pmsc.html is the web address of another site with information for postmark collectors. This is the home page of the Postal Mechanisation Study Circle. This also is a text-only site. As well as giving a background history on the subject of postal mechanisation, the site provides the names and addresses of the main officers, from whom further details can be obtained. The Study Circle produces a quarterly magazine, called *Ident*, with articles about all aspects of the mechanical handling of mail, including the types of markings applied ●

FOR COLLECTORS of special postmarks, a subscription to another Royal Mail publication – the *British Postmark Bulletin* – is essential for keeping abreast of all new designs as they are released. This magazine, issued twice each month, is the companion to this *Philatelic Bulletin*, and John Holman edits them both.

Another relevant source of information about modern British postmarks is the *Quarterly Journal* of the British Postmark Society. This reached its 50th volume with the January issue of 2007. The Society's website at www.britishtpostmarksociety.org.uk contains all relevant particulars needed by anybody who wishes to join the group. Details are included on the site of the various publications that have been issued over the years to provide catalogue type listings of special postmarks and slogans.

The function of the Society is declared on the website as being 'to promote and co-ordinate the study and collection of British postal markings, particularly of the 20th century. To provide facilities for the exchange of information and material relevant to the pursuits of the Society'. These facilities include the *Journal*, postal auctions and three circulating packets.

The main shortcoming with this website, however, is its absence of illustrations. Collectors with an interest in modern British postmarks who want to see actual examples are well catered for at a commercial site operated by Norvic Philatelics (see address above). On its home page, this site states that it contains 'up-to-date news about new stamps of Great Britain, as well as all the new

Mainly Machins Douglas Myall's specialist report on Royal

New counter sheets Cylinder blocks of the new Machin definitives do not have the printer's imprint any more as they are not considered necessary. However, every printer adds his initial to the cylinder numbers made for his press. These are: D for De La Rue, E for Enschedé and W for Walsall. So far, Cartor has not produced any counter sheets, but I would expect their cylinders to be numbered in a C series.

De La Rue colour cylinders without imprints have a new feature; the name of the colour used appears at the top of the left margin on both no dot and dot sheets. This firm's computer-etched cylinders have in recent years been made with a uniform depth of etch, but following successful trials at Bristol, where the cylinders are made, a varying and optimum depth was determined for each colour used that resulted in a more satisfactory image. Some cylinders are suitable for more than one colour; the 50p colour cylinder D2, for example, gave good results with both light grey and sand. Etching the colour name onto a cylinder ties it to that colour and provides a reliable guide to other colours for which it is suitable.

The ruby £1 has this name etched onto it and has no printer's imprint. This means it is not the same cylinder that was used to print the mauve version. Yet, as with the 46p mentioned last time, it is numbered D1. (The phosphor cylinder is also D1.) Cylinder numbers do not serve an operational purpose, but are there for the benefit of collectors. If D1 is not an error, this new policy could lead to confusion over which cylinder was used for printing any given value. To avoid this, I am sure that collectors would appreciate different cylinders being given different numbers in future. These ruby stamps are not overprinted with the pearlescent Iridodin ink. This is because the £1 ceased to be regarded as a high value in 2003, when the 40g universal worldwide airmail NV1 was issued with a face value over £1.

Business sheets Sheets of 100 self-adhesive 1st and 2nd class NV1s have been issued since June 1998. They are intended for businesses which use



a lot of stamps and need the convenience of the non-lick variety. The two PIP letter versions were printed by Walsall and issued on 12 September last year. Now the two large letter stamps have been printed by the same firm in sheets of 50. They were issued on 27 March last. None of these sheets has a cylinder number.

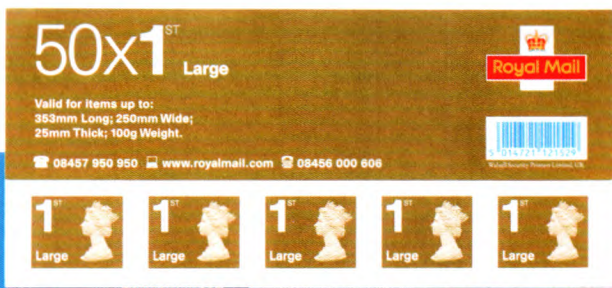
The new sheets have four panels in a concertina fold. The top panel contains a statement of the content, a barcode, Royal Mail's cruciform logo and a row of five stamps. Each of the other three panels has three rows of five stamps. Both stamps were previously issued only in books of four self-adhesives, and these are still on sale. They, too, were printed by Walsall, from cylinders w1 / w1. Mint examples from booklets and sheets can be distinguished from each other by their backing, which is unprinted on the latter. Used examples cannot be distinguished.

Miniature sheets Nowadays almost every stamp issue exists in a miniature sheet, and Royal Mail provides an album for them. There are three new ones containing definitives. All were printed by De La Rue, but none has a cylinder number.

On 23 April, the second in the saint's day series was issued. This time it was England's turn, the date being Saint George's Day. The red cross of this saint on a white ground is also the flag of England and a new 1st class stamp featuring this is on the sheet. The other three stamps are the existing crowned lion brick-red 1st class stamp

Mail's recent stamps

Left: De La Rue sheets of the new definitives, with the colour names in the left margin.



This page: business sheets of 50 1st and 2nd class large letter self-adhesive NVIs, printed by Walsall and issued on 27 March. These stamps were previously issued only in books of four self-adhesives.

and two large 78p specials featuring the Houses of Parliament and the saint slaying a dragon. The brick-red stamp is practically indistinguishable from the sheet equivalent.

George is the patron saint of several countries, and did not become England's until the 14th century. Previously, the most important English saints were Edward and Edmund. There is a movement by some members of the Church of England to have Saint George displaced by Saint Alban, a Christian martyr in Roman Britain, whose flag is a diagonal yellow cross on a blue background similar to that of Scotland's Saint Andrew. If this change were to be made, it would make a mess of the union flag.

The second miniature sheet was issued on 17 May, to mark the opening of the new Wembley stadium, just two days before the English FA Cup Final returned to its historic home. The sheet has a new revised version of the 1st class special with crowned lion and shield that was issued five years earlier on an earlier miniature sheet and in sheets of 100 printed by Walsall. The wording referring to the 2002 World Cup has been removed from the new version. The sheet also has a se-tenant strip of four England pictorial definitives, two 2nd class and two 78p stamps and a label showing the new Wembley arch logo. The definitives are practically indistinguishable from the normal sheet equivalents.

The third sheet will be issued on 5 June as part of the ruby anniversary of the Machin head. This

has two 1st class specials, one depicting a portrait of the artist and the other the 4d sepia stamp, the first of the Machins to be issued. Then there is a vertical se-tenant pair of £1 stamps, one in mauve and the other in the new ruby colour. The mauve one has the Iridodin ink overprint. This is surprising as it would have required a special cylinder to print it. The mauve stamp therefore differs from the previous sheet printing only by being printed sideways, like all the stamps on this anniversary sheet.

Generic sheets A series of five generic sheets began with one for Wales on 1 March and was followed by one for England on 23 April. Each has 20 of the 1st class pictorial definitives from the country concerned, accompanied by 20 labels in 10 designs, showing some of the scenes and artefacts for which it is famous. Each sheet is A4 in size, and is rouletted into two equal panels each comprising two columns of five stamps and 10 labels. On the Wales sheet, the label captions in the left panel are in Welsh but are in English on the right-hand panel. These sheets introduce a new printer to UK definitives. They were printed in lithography by Cartor Security Printing, the French company now an operating division of the Walsall Print group. The stamps differ from previous issues not only by their method of printing but also by not having elliptical perforations. They are also the first self-adhesive country pictorial definitives. ►

A generic sheet is defined as one where the label design has been chosen by Royal Mail, and not customised by a member of the public; the latter are known as Smilers. (See the *Bulletin*, February 2007, page 168.) This useful distinction has not yet been fully applied, as both of the sheets issued so far have 'Royal Mail Smilers' printed on them, and they are listed on the Tallents House stock-list for April under the heading 'Smilers Generic Sheets'.

PIP change The two letter PIP NVIS are to revert to their previous designs, with the smaller service indicator in the Jeffery Matthews fount. Some members of the general public thought that the large numeral meant that they were for use on large letters, a misconception which led to under-payments. The first issue with the change is to be a book of six 1st class self-adhesives on 5 June. This features a reproduction of Arnold Machin's

signature along the white strip; a decision which means that no cylinder numbers appear there. The Machin anniversary prestige book will probably be the last issue to contain letter NVIS with the larger numeral. The change of design will gradually be extended to all products with these two NVIS, so watch out for other booklets, business sheets and coils. I will report next time on whether these differ from the pre-PIP issues.

I would like to see the differences between the letter and the large letter stamps extended even further. In my opinion, the inclusion of the word 'large' detracts from the original simple beauty of the Machin design. Without this word, their large size and large indicators would suffice to distinguish them from the revised letter stamps although a change of colour, say to flame for 1st class and dark blue for 2nd class, would make it just about certain that they could not be confused with the smaller stamps •

Text © D G A Miall 2007

Royal Mail postbus services Part 2 of Martin Robinson's complete listing of routes and dates, to 1 June 2007



BT 1325

Royal Mail Post Bus



SINCE part 1 of this article was published, seven of the services listed last month have closed, leaving only 75 in operation at this time. Some of the latest withdrawals are due to local managers considering services incompatible with other operational requirements. Another reason may be the EU requirement for bus services over 50km to be fitted with digital tachographs which would cause difficulties, because of changes in drivers' hours. Thanks to Robin Farmer and *Ride the Royal Mail Post Bus* for this latest information •

Service	Region	Start	End
143 Ballater-Linn of Dee (later to Glenshee)	Scotland	27.03.78	08.03.07
144 Blairgowrie-Glenshee	Scotland	01.04.78	
145 Strathaven-Dungavel	Scotland	24.04.78	23.08.03
146 Strathy-Strathy Point	Scotland	05.06.78	13.02.89
(later from Melvich, merged with 132)			
147 Kelso-Hassington	Scotland	05.06.78	03.01.02
148 Llandrindod Wells-Llaihddu	Wales	26.6.78	22.01.07
149 Dunoon-Colintraive-Tighnabruich	Scotland	03.07.78	03.06.06

Service	Region	Start	End	Routes closed 21 May 2007
150 Usk-Bettwys Newydd	Wales	10.07.78	07.08.81	Castle Douglas-Auchencairn
151 Usk-Llandenny-Llansoy	Wales	10.07.78	02.09.91	Castle Douglas-Mossdale
152 Cupar-Brunton	Scotland	31.07.78	04.04.98	Castle Douglas-Corsock
153 Cupar-Newburgh	Scotland	31.07.78	04.04.98	Kirkcudbright-Borgue
154 Cupar-Birkhill	Scotland	31.07.78	04.04.98	Kirkcudbright-Gatehouse of Fleet
155 Dunvegan-Skinidin-Borreraig, Isle of Skye	Scotland	27.11.78	31.08.81	Lockerbie-St Annes
156 Dunvegan-Glendale-Borreraig, Isle of Skye	Scotland	27.11.78		Lockerbie-Waterbeck
157 Gillen-Dunvegan-Waternish (later Portree-Waternish)	Scotland	27.11.78	19.08.06	Thornhill-Moniave
158 Lintlithgow-Blackness	Scotland	08.01.79	23.12.03	
159 Rothbury-Biddlestone	North East	10.01.79	21.07.01	
160 Gorebridge-Moorfoot-Temple (later from Dalkeith)	Scotland	26.03.79	27.03.04	
161 Newtown-New Mills	Wales	04.06.79		
162 Ulverston-Grizedale Forest	North West	04.06.79	17.07.04	
163 Alnwick-Alnham	North East	10.7.79	30.03.96	
164 Redhill-Outwood	South East	01.10.79		
165 Builth Wells-Abergwesyn	Wales	12.11.79	17.06.06	
166 Machynlleth-Aberhosan	Wales	19.11.79	05.08.06	
167 Talmine-Tongue-Lairg	Scotland	19.11.79		
168 Aberystwyth-Blaenpennal	Wales	07.01.80		
169 Kinross-Cleish	Scotland	21.01.80	27.01.84	
170 Sanday, Kettletoft-Broughton, Orkney	Scotland	23.10.80	04.04.98	
171 Lady-Rusness-Sanday, Orkney	Scotland	23.10.80	04.04.98	
172 Aberganvenny-Skenfrith	Wales	23.11.80	30.07.05	
173 Chathill-Bamburgh (later to Alnwick)	North East	12.05.80	25.04.92	
174 Llandrindod Wells-Rhayader	Wales	19.05.80		
175 Llanidloes-Dylife	Wales	08.09.80	05.08.06	
176 Wooler-Doddington	North East	10.08.81	01.04.91	
177 Wooler-Kirknewton (merged with 176 from Alnwick)	North East	10.08.81	21.07.01	
178 Rhayader-Abergwngu	Wales	17.11.81	18.02.84	
179 Ripon-Masham	North East	24.03.82		
180 Clarkston-Carmunnock	Scotland	26.04.82	25.07.88	
181 Duns-Longformacus	Scotland	13.04.82	03.01.02	
182 Reigate-Leigh	South East	06.07.82		
183 Banchory-Lumphanan	Scotland	02.08.82	08.03.07	
184 Banchory-Ballater	Scotland	02.08.82	31.03.97	
185 Thurso-Wick Airport	Scotland	22.11.82	27.04.01	
186 Builth Wells-Painscastle	Wales	04.06.84	16.06.01	
187 Huntly-Cabrach	Scotland	08.10.84	08.03.07	
188 Huntly-Clatt	Scotland	07.01.85	08.03.07	
189 Turriff-Woodhead-Fyvie	Scotland	03.06.85	06.12.88	
190 Aberystwyth-Cwmystwyth	Wales	01.07.86	31.03.07	
191 Melvich-Thurso (later from Armadale)	Scotland	14.10.87	28.04.01	
192 Rogart-Muie & West Langwell-Lairg	Scotland	08.11.87	15.11.06	
193 Gairloch-Melvaig-Redpoint	Scotland	19.09.88	30.08.03	



CARTREF Y BWS POST CYNTAF YN MYSYDARW
GWASARNETH BWS Y POST GWENHINDOL
TAITH GYNTAF
LLANIDLOES JULIPE
FIRST JOURNEY
ROYAL MAIL BUS SERVICE
HOME OF BRITAIN'S FIRST POSTBUS
LLANIDLOES, POWYS, 8.9.1960

Service	Region	Start	End
194 Pitlochry-Rannoch Station	Scotland	04.01.89	
195 Canisbay-John o'Groats-Wick	Scotland	30.01.89	06.12.03
196 Canterbury-Grove	South East	15.05.89	15.04.98
197 Blairgowrie-Glenisla	Scotland	05.06.89	
198 Invergarry-Fort Augustus	Scotland	19.06.89	15.12.01
199 Leyburn-Hawse-Bedale (later to Northallerton)	North East	06.03.90	
200 Morpeth-Whalton	North East	02.04.91	
201 Chester-Tattenhall	North West	23.09.91	22.08.03
202 Ballachulish-Fort William-Glenetive	Scotland	07.10.91	14.07.01
203 Wooler-Alnwick	North East	26.04.92	05.06.06
204 Durness-Lairg	Scotland	10.08.92	10.01.07
205 Lochinver-Lairg	Scotland	10.08.92	
206 Fort William-Garvan	Scotland	02.11.92	14.07.01
207 Penrith-Greystoke-Patterdale	North West	04.01.93	31.03.06
208 Maguiresbridge-Enniskillen	Northern Ireland	09.02.93	29.12.00
209 Enniskillen-Belfast Airport	Northern Ireland	09.02.93	29.12.00
210 Canterbury-Westmarsh	South East	04.05.93	10.12.94
211 Canterbury-Marshside	South East	04.05.93	15.04.98
212 Canterbury-Wootton	South East	04.05.93	
213 Sittingbourne-Hartlip	South East	04.05.93	15.04.98
214 Rochester-Cooling	South East	04.05.93	
215 Gravesend-Fairseat	South East	04.05.93	
216 Gravesend-Betsham	South East	04.05.93	
217 Maidstone-Stockbury Village	South East	04.05.93	
218 Maidstone-Lenham Heath	South East	04.05.93	
219 Maidstone-Stockett Lane	South East	04.05.93	
220 Maidstone-Sutton Valence	South East	04.05.93	
221 Skipton-Malham	North East	01.06.93	
222 Stafford-Knighton	Midlands	21.06.93	01.09.06
223 Stafford-Milmeece	Midlands	21.06.93	24.11.04
224 Eccleshall-Stafford	Midlands	21.06.93	01.09.06
225 Alston-Nenthead	North West	16.07.93	10.06.95
226 Welshpool-Foel	Wales	26.07.93	
227 Chippenham-Lyneham	South Central	13.09.93	29.05.99
228 Chippenham-Sopworth	South Central	13.09.93	29.05.99
229 Chippenham-North Wrexall	South Central	13.09.93	29.05.99
230 Chippenham-Melksham Sun	South Central	19.09.93	23.05.99
231 Chippenham-Reading Sun	South Central	10.09.93	23.05.99
232 Crewe-Middlewich	North West	27.09.93	23.12.03
233 Lutterworth-Peatling Parva	Midlands/Anglia	18.10.93	
234 Port Askaig-Port Ellen, Isle of Islay	Scotland	.93	.94
235 Brompton-Castle Carrock-Alston	North West	04.01.94	05.06.06
236 Duns-Cranshaws Monday & Saturday	Scotland	09.05.94	05.01.02
237 Horsham-Maplehurst	South East	31.05.94	
238 Ashford-Biddenden	South East	13.06.94	19.05.07
239 Isle of Lismore	Scotland	13.06.94	

Service	Region	Start	End
240 Rugeley-Abbots Bromley	Midlands	20.06.94	01.09.06
241 Leek-Hartington-Wetton	Midlands	11.07.94	02.09.05
242 Saffron Walden-Langley-Clavering	Anglia	01.08.94	25.08.06
243 Kirkintilloch-Lennoxtown	Scotland	17.08.94	09.02.96
244 Aberswyth-Aberffrw	Wales	05.09.94	
245 Malton-Foxholes	North East	05.09.94	
246 Pembroke Dock-Angle	Wales	03.10.94	01.07.00
247 Pembroke Dock-Bosherton	Wales	03.10.94	01.07.00
248 Narberth-Landshipping	Wales	31.10.94	01.07.00
249 Narberth-Lawrenny	Wales	31.10.94	01.07.00
250 Ware-Buntingford-Sandon	Anglia	22.11.94	31.03.06
251 Linlithgow-Whitecross-Maddiston	Scotland	23.01.95	20.04.04
252 Haywards Heath-Balcombe	South East	14.03.95	
253 Sedbergh-Dent-Kendal	North West	03.07.95	31.03.01
254 Driffield-Skipsea	North East	24.01.95	24.12.03
255 Salen-Lagganulva-Burg, Isle of Mull	Scotland	21.08.95	10.07.05
256 Biggar-Elsrickle	Scotland	04.01.96	28.03.97
257 Holme Vale-Watton-Thetford	Anglia	04.03.96	30.12.04
258 Hexham-Kielder Village	North East	15.04.96	
259 Alnwick-Bamburgh	North East	18.11.96	
260 Kimbolton-St Neots	Anglia	03.03.97	24.09.04
261 Repps-Great Yarmouth	Anglia	17.03.97	27.08.99
262 Brecon-Talgarth	Wales	28.04.97	29.05.07
263 Littlebury-Saffron Walden (merged with 242)	Anglia	19.05.97	12.06.00
264 Dorchester-Bridport	South West	23.06.97	07.09.02
265 Lochboisdale-Balivanich (later to Isle of Eriskay)	Scotland	13.10.97	
266 Hingham-Dereham	Anglia	20.10.97	28.10.99
267 Hexham-Slailey	North East	20.10.97	15.11.03
268 Welborne-Dereham <i>Friday</i>	Anglia	24.10.97	29.10.99
269 Whitchurch-Whixall	North West	03.11.97	05.06.00
270 Covington-St Neots <i>Tuesday</i>	Anglia	14.04.98	24.09.04
271 Canterbury Grove	South East	27.07.98	
272 Kirkcudbright-Twynholm	Scotland	28.09.98	05.01.00
273 Holbeach-Gedney Drove End	Anglia	26.10.98	30.04.04
274 Haddington-Humbie	Scotland	02.11.98	
275 Craven Arms-Clun Valley	North West	04.01.99	26.07.04
276 Hythe-West Burmarsh	South East	25.01.99	21.04.01
277 Isle of Fetlar	Scotland	01.03.99	
278 Market Rasen-Caistor	Anglia	22.03.99	21.03.04
279 Morpeth-Netherwhitton	North East	22.03.99	05.06.06
280 Seascale-Wasdale Head	North West	22.05.00	30.03.02
281 Boston-Kirton Marsh	Anglia	14.08.00	30.04.04
282 Bettyhill-Tongue-Thurso	Scotland	30.04.01	
283 Thurso-Tongue	Scotland	30.04.01	
284 Priddy-Wells	Wales	01.10.01	29.09.03

Competitions Win £100 in two easy-to-enter competitions



March identify The detail was from the 2007 64p World of Invention (Television) stamp. The winner was J Moolhuizen of Netherlands.

March knowledge Answers: 1) purple; 2) Scientists' Tale; 3) Wembley. The winner was D Humphrey of Bristol.

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

- 1 In which year was Lancaster House on a stamp?
- 2 Who designed the 1995 Shakespeare's Globe stamps?
- 3 What was the total face value of the four 1997 Royal Golden Wedding stamps?

Send your answer (addressed to either the June *Identify* competition or the June *Knowledge* competition), name and address on a postcard or back of a sealed envelope to: British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ. The senders of the first cards drawn in each competition on 13 July will receive £50. 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 31 October Vehicles from the 'Moving the Mail' exhibition, at Grampian Transport Museum, Alford, Aberdeenshire. Organised by British Postal Museum & Archive. **Enquiries** 020 7239 2570.

9 June SWINPEX Stamp, Postcard & Postal History Fair at St Joseph's School, Ocotal Way, Swindon, 10.00-16.30. Dealers, societies, raffle, refreshments, free parking. Organised by Swindon Philatelic Society.

16 June Yorkshire Philatelic Association Stamp and Postcard Fair at Pudsey Civic Hall, Leeds, 09.30-16.30. Approx 30 dealers. **Enquiries** A Peel, 01924 505724.

16 June NPS Accredited Judging Seminar for Thematic, Revenue, and Allied Material, by John Sussex and Brian Sole. Room 3C, Northampton Suite, City University, Northampton Square, London EC1, 10.15-16.30. Admission £10, including lunch. Numbers

limited – apply to C Oliver, NPS, c/o BPMA, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL, or see www.ukphilately.org.uk/nps

19-25 June St Petersburg 2007 international exhibition.

23-24 June Thematica, Carisbrooke Hall, Seymour Street, London W2. Sat 10.30-17.30, Sun 10.30-17.00. **Enquiries** 020 8343 2434.

30 June Midpex at Midland Sports Centre for the Disabled, Cromwell Lane, Tile Hill, Coventry. **Enquiries** Colin Searle – searlecol@gmail.com or see website <http://www.midpex.co.uk>

18 July - 15 August 'Timeless and Classic: Elizabeth, Queen & Icon' exhibition at Royal College of Art, London. Mon-Fri 10.00-17.00. Exhibition organised by BPMA. **Enquiries** 020 7239 2570 ●

Late news



Francis Machin, who died suddenly in April.

Obituary We are sad to report the sudden death in April of Francis Machin, the architect and son of Arnold. Mr Machin, who suffered a heart attack on holiday in France, had been working with Royal Mail on a number of projects connected with the 40th anniversary of the Machin. He had written the presentation pack, and contributed his own sculpture of his father for a medal cover. Just days before his death, he was interviewed for Royal Mail's website (see www.royalmail.com/stamps/advancedcollector) and spoke about the anniversary and his enthusiasm for the Machin Arts Foundation, an initiative for students studying figurative art – something his father had been unable to set up before his death in 1999. Machin worked with many organisations dedicated to the preservation and alternative use of historic buildings including SAVE, for whom he co-wrote the book *Bright Future: Re-use of Industrial Buildings*, and the Spitalfields Historic Buildings Trust. He owned The Conservatory, a remarkable rooftop venue in London. He was divorced, and is survived by three children, Alice, Henry and Louis. ●

Royal Mail update Six stamps, printed as three se-tenant pairs, featuring portraits of HM The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh, taken from 1947 to 2006, go on sale on 16 October to mark their diamond (60th) wedding anniversary. The stamps are of 1st class (34p), 54p and 78p values. A miniature sheet will contain a further four stamp designs, one of which reproduces a specially taken photograph, by Lord Snowdon, of the Royal Couple at Buckingham Palace earlier this year. The stamps and miniature sheet will be shown here next month. ●

The 2007 Christmas stamps, on sale 6 November, feature angels by Marco Ventura. There will be six stamps, four at definitive size and two 'Large' stamps for 2nd and 1st class inland large letters. The stamps will be self-adhesive and also feature on a gummed miniature sheet. A trial Smilers sheet with 10 worldwide letter rate 78p stamps is planned. Therefore the Christmas generic sheet will bear the three stamps (2nd, 1st and 78p) available by the Smilers service. Details next month.

The second *Lest We Forget* miniature sheet will be issued 8 November, and a *Glorious Scotland* generic sheet on St Andrew's Day, 30 November.

The standard and discount version Welsh air-letter has now been printed on white paper and will be distributed to 10 branches in the principality as stocks of the blue paper version run out.

To commemorate the Scouts centenary, a set of six pre-paid postcards will be available from Tallents House from 26 July. These feature enlargements of each of the six stamps on the picture side, with actual-size postally valid stamp designs (3 × 1st class, 3 × 54p worldwide postcard rate) on the address side. The cards are printed by Enschedé. Price £4.80 for the set of six. ●

Manx issues The Isle of Man PO has issued six stamps featuring the history and heritage of the City of Liverpool and its close ties with the Isle of Man. The designs include the Anglican and Roman Catholic cathedrals and the famous Liver Building. A miniature sheet marks 800 years of trade between the city and the island. Enquiries: Isle of Man Philatelic Bureau, PO Box 10M, Douglas, Isle of Man IM99 1PB, or see website www.iompost.com. ●

New postmarks guide Royal Mail has just published a new edition of its 'All About Postmarks' guide. To receive a free copy, write to Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. Additional copies cost £1.20 each plus usual handling charge: £1.45 UK, £1.55 Europe, £2.15 rest of world. Please quote order code PB373. ●

Celebrating the Machin anniversary



Left: Machin Medallion, price £89.95. Order code AM020

Below: Machin Lapel Pin Badge, price £22.95. Order code VB001

Handling charges: £2.95 UK, £5 Europe, £14 rest of world

The Machin Medallion Produced to complement the Anniversary stamps, the Machin Medallion is struck as a classical collar medallion in solid sterling silver, and hallmarked on the rim by Edinburgh Assay Office in a limited edition of 2007. The obverse features an accurate reproduction of the Machin head of The Queen in a full high-modelled relief. The reverse bears the simple wording relating to the issue of the first Machin stamp, on 5 June 1967. Each medallion is supplied in a special presentation case with a booklet describing the creation of the Machin image and its status as a UK design icon.

The Machin Lapel Pin Badge is an actual-size 3D model of the pre-PIP 1st class design, similar to a silver stamp ingot. It is made from polished silver-plated metal, with a near-accurate serrated edge that includes the elliptical perforations. It is fitted with a clutch tie-tack attachment. An ideal gift for the Machin collector in the family. Supplied in a presentation box with a booklet on Arnold Machin's design.



Royal Mail

Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB
Telephone orders: UK 08457 641 641; overseas +44 131 316 7483. Internet orders: www.royalmail.com/shop



5 014721 103112



Royal Mail