

BRITISH PHILATELIC

Bulletin

The ROYAL MAIL magazine for stamp collectors

Volume 41 Number 7

MARCH 2004 £1.10

Liners and Entente Cordiale
issues • Farewell to the TPOS

WILLIAMS CIGARETTES
47
THE QUEEN MARY
RMS Mauretania 1907

EUROPE U.S.A. CANADA
CUNARD

P&O HOUSE FLAG

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Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



Cover The *Queen Mary*, seen here at the end of her maiden voyage to New York in 1936, with ephemera from the days of the great passenger liners. A preview of Royal Mail's new Ocean Liners issue begins on page 206.

Issues Note some items are available only from Royal Mail Tallents House Edinburgh and Post Office Limited philatelic outlets at main post offices in Bath, Belfast, Birmingham, Brighton, Bristol, Cambridge, Canterbury, Cardiff, Chester, Coventry, Croydon, Durham, Edinburgh, Exeter, Gatwick Airport, Glasgow, Grimsby, Guildford, Harrogate, Leeds, Leicester, London (Eastcheap and Trafalgar Sq), Manchester, Newcastle upon Tyne, Norwich, Nottingham, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Southampton, Southend-on-Sea, Stevenage, Stratford-on-Avon, Stroud, Truro, Windsor and York

26 February

Issue The Lord of the Rings stamps and presentation pack.

3 March

Withdrawal Self-adhesive stamp book – 4 × 1st definitives and 2 × 'Hello' Occasions stamps ● Wales 1st class printed by Walsall (issued 1999).

9 March

Issue British Journey: Northern Ireland stamp cards.

16 March

Issue British Journey: Northern Ireland stamps, presentation pack & self-adhesive stamp book; *Letters by Night* prestige stamp book; TPO souvenir cover.

24 March

Withdrawal Fun, Fruit & Veg stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards.

30 March

Issue Entente Cordiale stamp cards.

1 April

Issue 7p, 35p, 39p, 40p and 43p definitives ● Universal postcard rate stamp (43p) in book of four.

6 April

Issue Entente Cordiale stamps, presentation pack, joint FDC, pack and commemorative document (British and French stamps), and coin cover ● Ocean Liners stamp cards.

13 April

Issue Ocean Liners stamps and miniature sheet, presentation pack, self-adhesive stamp book, philatelic medallion cover and presentation case (miniature sheet and silver medals).

28 April

Withdrawal Extreme Endeavours stamps, presentation pack, stamp cards, and self-adhesive book.

Contents



Ocean Liners One of next month's two new issues, the Ocean Liners stamps mark the entry into service of the RMS *Queen Mary 2*: six stamps outline the development of these Queens of the Sea **206**

The **British Philatelic Bulletin** is published monthly by Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ. • **Editor** J R Holman • **Price** £1.10 single copies from Post Office Limited philatelic outlets • **Annual subscription** £11.75 in UK and Europe; £16.75 rest of the world. Subscriptions should be sent to Royal Mail Talents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. • **Binders** to hold 24 issues, price £7, are available by post from Royal Mail (Edinburgh address above). • Royal Mail also publishes the fortnightly *British Postmark Bulletin*, which gives 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 plc, unless attributed to a specific 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 White Productions Ltd • **ISSN** 0953 8119 • Royal Mail is a trading name of Royal Mail Group plc. Registered in England and Wales no 4138203, registered office 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ

Issues and withdrawals
February to April **194**

This month The Editor previews this issue **196**

Stamp scene Societies; Thematica; Jersey issue; Scottish Congress; New 'Scotland and Philately' book; Auctions **196**

Royal Mail news New and forthcoming issues; Postmarking of retail books; New definitives and stamp book; New Smilers; SmartStamp; TPO cachet cover **199**

Gibraltar Issues old and new from the Rock **203**



A night on the TPO

Simon Armitage on the inspiration for his poem in *Letters by Night* **204**

Entente Cordiale A new issue for the centenary of a historic treaty **210**



Mainly Machins Report for specialist collectors, by D G A Myall **214**

Philately on-line Ron Negus on Guernsey **217**

Looking for a challenge Richard West talks to Phil Kenton **218**

Cover corner Victorian underpaid cover **220**

Prize draw Win a 1953 Coronation FDC **220**

Postbag Letters to the Editor **221**

Posting boxes **221**

Competitions £200 to be won in two easy-to-enter competitions **222**

Events **222**

Late news **223**

This month The Editor previews this issue



The first GB stamp book, 1904

THIS MONTH MARKS the centenary of the first British stamp book and Douglas Myall provides the background story in 'Mainly Machins'. Douglas also tells us about the interesting and colourful Hong Kong Machin issues. Visitors to Spring Stampex will see a display relating to Gibraltar, to mark the tercentenary of British occupation of the Rock. Gibraltar remains a British dependant territory, and all of Gibraltar's stamps continue to bear The Queen's head or the Royal cipher. A selection of Gibraltar stamps is shown on p203, including a set (the top row on the page) printed in ink containing powdered Gibraltar rock.

There was considerable interest in the ending of the Travelling Post Office service in January, and this month Royal Mail issues a prestige book in honour of the TPOs. This includes a specially written poem by Simon Armitage, who travelled on a TPO last year in order to get the feel of the work and conditions on board the train. He writes about this experience in this month's *Bulletin*. Readers will also find with this month's magazine the 10th in our series of Bulletin Publications, a history of the TPO written by Peter Johnson, a leading authority on the subject.

April will be a busy month for collectors, with new definitives and a book on 1 April and special issues for the Entente Cordiale and Ocean Liners on the 6th and 13th. They are previewed in this issue. I am currently totalling up your votes in our Favourite Special Stamps and Favourite Bulletin Authors polls for 2003. The results will be announced in next month's *Bulletin*. JOHN HOLMAN, EDITOR •

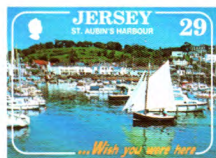
Stamp scene Thematica • Jersey stamps • Societies news • Scotland book • Auctions

Thematica Further details or entry forms from Brian Sole, 3 Stockfield Road, Claygate, Esher KT10 0QG (enclose a SAE). Completed entry forms should be returned by 14 May.

Thematica This popular exhibition will take place at the Carisbrooke Hall, 63 Seymour Street, London W2 on Saturday and Sunday 26-27 June. Opening hours will be 10.30-17.30 on Saturday and 10.30-17.00 Sunday; admission free. Seymour Street is a short walk from Marble Arch underground station.

In addition to the many UK and overseas dealers offering a wide range of thematic material, there will be displays and competitive exhibits, plus representatives from many of the UK's thematic societies. There will also be the usual 'activity' area for young visitors. All thematic collectors can have a go at entering one of the Thematica competitions. For those who have never won a thematic competition at national or international level, there is the John Fosbery Thematic Trophy. All that is required are 16 pages

on any theme of your choice. This competition is judged by the visiting public. For those with perhaps a little more thematic competition experience, there is the British Thematic Association Trophy, judged to the same rules as Stampex. Medals are awarded; an entry fee of £15 is charged. Finally there is an Inter-Federation Thematic Competition: each Federation is invited to submit one 16-page entry. This is in line with the growing inclusion of 'one frame' entries at exhibitions, both national and international. The winning Federation receives the Friends of Thematica Healey and Wise Salver •



Europa on Jersey The theme of this year's Europa issues is Holidays. Jersey Post issues four stamps showing the attractions of the island on 9 March; each is captioned 'Wish you were here'. The EUROPA symbol is included on the 30p and 39p values for letters to Europe. The illustrations are from Jersey Tourism's extensive photographic library of island life •

Jersey Philatelic Bureau
Postal Headquarters, Jersey
JE1 1AB or see website www.jerseypost.com/stamps

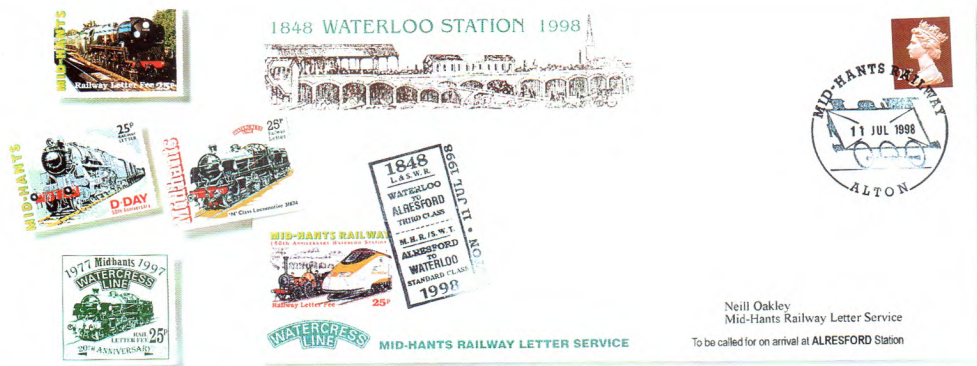
American Topical Association The ATA's website address was changed to www.americantopicalassn.org from the beginning of 2004. The change to a new medium business server will allow for the expansion of services that are now being provided to ATA members, visitors, the 50 ATA study units and 33 ATA chapters •

ATA Details about the ATA, its publications and activities are also available from: ATA, P.O. Box 57, Arlington, TX 76004-0057, USA.

GB Philatelic Society The January/February issue of the Society's *GB Journal* includes articles on Early British Letters (1459-1750), Fake Red No 5 in Maltese Cross, Stock Exchange Forgery Plate 6, and the Cambridge Blue Seahorse (George V 10s stamp). The accompanying GBPS Newsletter includes illustrations of pages from recent Society displays, and articles on Experimental Separation in 1d Red Stars, recent high values, squared-circle cancels, late use of Maltese Cross postmarks, etc. There is an obituary of Dr Ken Statham, a leading authority on GB line-engraved issues, Robin Tibbenham sets out his views on 'What does collecting GB entail?', and Editor Tony Walker publishes an exchange of correspondence with Tony Conder, Chief Executive of the new Postal Heritage Trust about the lack of a philatelist amongst the newly appointed Trustees. Mr Conder states that as the Trust develops it will seek 'external consultation and advice... (and) will be approaching specialist communities to act as advisory bodies.'

GB Philatelic Society For details of membership, write to Debbie Harman, Greylands, Melton, Woodbridge IP12 1QE.

The GB Philatelic Society will be celebrating its 50th anniversary next year; the next meeting will be a joint meeting with the Aerophilatelic Federation at the British Philatelic Centre, Charterhouse Street, London EC1 on 13 March (11.00-16.30) •



For a full list of stamps and covers available send a SAE to A F Pond, 26 Hesketh House, Cawte Road, Southampton SO15 3SN.

Mid-Hants Railway Following the mention of railway letter stamps in the December Bulletin, the Mid-Hants Railway contacted us with details of the stamps they issue. Shown here are a number of their issues. The railway, also known as the Watercress Line, runs from Alresford to Alton and is home to a fine collection of preserved steam locomotives. Victorian and George V letterboxes on Alresford and Ropley stations were shown in our 'Posting Boxes' feature in August 1994 ●

Scottish Congress The Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies Congress for 2004 will be held at the Dewar's Centre, Perth on 16-17 April. Enquiries: Alan Watson, 36 Anson Avenue, Falkirk FK1 5JB or see the Association's website: www.scottishphilately.co.uk ●

Scotland and Philately book
Available from Stanley Brown,
14 Buchan Drive, Perth PH1
1NQ. Price £1.30 postpaid.

New Scottish book Stanley Brown and Ken Norris have published the 16th title in their 'Scotland and Philately' series, this time dealing with the postmarks of Ayrshire. The 20-page book illustrates commemorative covers, postmarks, special handstamps and slogans relating to Ayrshire towns and villages, with sections on the Open Golf Championship at Royal Troon and Turnberry, and, of course, Robert Burns. Illustrated are some 22 special handstamps used on 25 January 1996 when the Burns Bicentenary stamps were issued; nine of these were inscribed for places in Ayrshire. The 1960s slogan postmarks promoting holidays in Prestwick are pure nostalgia and many collectors will fondly remember these interesting and attractive holiday slogans. ●

Cavendish Philatelic Auctions
Telephone 01332 250970 or
see www.cavendish-auctions.com

Auction news Cavendish's auctions on 4-5 March will include Bahamas, Egypt, Sudan, military mail, the Michael English Collection of Kent Postal History, Yorkshire postal history, and English South Coast Railways. Part 3 of the Richard Chan collection of Hong Kong will go under the hammer on 24 March •

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

Forthcoming Spink auctions include British Africa (25 March), Stamps & Covers of the World, featuring Italy & States (22 April); Single Vendor (6 May); and Sudan & Virgin Islands W Frazer Exhibition Collections (20 May) ●

Royal Mail news Special issues • Smilers •

New definitives and books • TPO cover

Special issues This month's special issue features Northern Ireland scenery. Shown in last month's *Bulletin*, they will be on sale from 16 March. Next month's issues – the Entente Cordiale and Ocean Liners (6 & 13 April) are previewed on pages 206-13 in this issue. Shown right (at proof stage, 85% actual size) are the Royal Horticultural Society stamps to be issued on 25 May; these stamps will be previewed in next month's *Bulletin*. The 2004 programme then continues with: 15 June, British Journey Wales (6 stamps); 10 August, Royal Society of Arts (6 stamps); 16 September, Woodland Animals (10 stamps); 12 October, Crimean War (6 stamps) and 2 November, Christmas (6 stamps & miniature sheet). The 2005 issues are listed below.

The exact date of issue and number of stamps per set will be announced nearer the time. Miniature sheets will be issued with the Magic Circle, Trooping the Colour, Motorcycles, Battle of Trafalgar and Christmas issues. Prestige stamp books will be issued in March (subject to be announced) and October (Battle of Trafalgar), and miniature sheets containing definitive stamps in March and September. A Smilers sheet will be issued in connection with the Farm Animals set •



The 2005 stamp programme The programme will comprise the following special issues.

January	Farm Animals	July	Motorcycles
February	Magic Circle	July	British Journey: region to be announced
March	British Journey: South West England	August	Gastronomy
March	The Brontës	September	Independent Television
April	World Heritage Sites	October	Battle of Trafalgar
May	Trooping the Colour	November	Christmas

Postmarking retail stamp books After 31 March 2004, retail stamp books affixed to covers by the backing card will no longer qualify for the postmarking service. This is a return to the situation before 2003, after which postmarking rules were relaxed to assess viability, and as published at the time, Royal Mail reserved the right to review the service. Royal Mail cannot provide the service to an acceptable level of cancellation as the nature of the product is not designed to bear a handstamp. Royal Mail under-

took an investigation with production techniques to ensure a consistent handstamp on the covers, but no suitable solution was found to the problem of the ink adhering consistently to the exposed surface of the book. Customers were notified in the *Postmark Bulletin* of 6 December 2002: 'Royal Mail cannot guarantee the quality of handstamp impressions on the exposed booklet area where the matrix has been removed. Covers with smudged or faint ink in those areas will not be replaced, nor will Royal Mail provide compensation to customers where there is no other valid fault. Customers should remember this when submitting covers.' Customers have been dissatisfied with the poor quality of handstamps on these books, and as such it is no longer a viable product. The 16 March retail book will be the last permitted for postmarking. We reiterate the conditions above for customers still requesting retail books to be handstamped. •

Smilers sheets Shown here are the recent Smilers sheet for the Hong Kong exhibition and the new Occasions sheet. Both are available, £6.15 each, from Royal Mail Tallents House. •

Please note: the Hong Kong sheet shows the exhibition logo in the sheet margin, not on the labels as stated here last month.



New definitives and stamp book Certain postal rates are to be increased from 1 April, necessitating some new definitive and country stamps. The new Machins will go on sale at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and from Royal Mail Tallents House from 1 April. There will also be a new universal postcard rate stamp book containing four non-value postcard rate stamps. The book will sell for £1.72 (4 × 43p). This stamp will be self-adhesive and printed in red, ultramarine and dark grey. The date for the new 40p country stamps will be announced shortly.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES First day covers will be available from Tallents House bearing the new value definitives and the universal postcard rate stamp cancelled Tallents House or Windsor, price £2.85 UK, £2.43 overseas. Covers for each of the four countries with the new 40p country stamps cancelled Tallents House or the country capital (London, Edinburgh, Cardiff, or Belfast) will each cost 89p UK, 76p overseas.

Collectors can send stamped covers on the days of issue to Tallents House for its postmark or to any of the Special Handstamp Centres for the other postmarks. Please quote reference numbers: 1 April postmarks FD0431 Tallents House, FD0432 Windsor; Country stamps (date to be announced) FD0433 London, FD0434 Edinburgh, FD0435 Cardiff, FD0436 Belfast and FD0437 Tallents House. Standard Royal Mail first day envelopes for definitives (coat of arms) and each of the country stamps (scenery) will be available at main Post Office branches in each country (and from philatelic outlets and Tallents House), price 25p each. There will be no new stamp cards.

A presentation pack containing the five new definitives, postcard rate stamp and previously issued 1st class gold definitive (De La Rue, 1 July 2003) will cost £2.70 and a pack containing the four 40p country stamps £1.95. The date of availability of the packs is to be announced.

WITHDRAWAL OF CURRENT VALUES The 8p, 34p, 37p, £1.50, £2, £3, and £5 definitives and the E definitive will be withdrawn from general sale at Post Office branches on 31 March, but will remain on philatelic sale until further notice. The £1.50, £2, £3 and £5 stamps will also remain available to business customers through Royal Mail Direct's mail order service. Also coming off general sale on 31 March will be books containing six E rate, six 42p, and six 68p stamps. The 20p definitive (light green), which is still on philatelic sale, will be returned to general sale at Post Office branches from 1 April.

INCREASE IN PRICE OF EXISTING STAMPS The rate increase will result in existing 2nd class and E stamps being sold at 21p and 40p. This applies to 2nd class and E stamps in the Extreme Endeavours, Prince William, Scotland, Pub Signs, Transports of Delight, British Museum, Christmas, Classic Locomotives, and Northern Ireland special issues, and to the Smilers sheets of 2nd class Christmas stamps. The price will also increase for miniature sheets and prestige books where necessary. ●

New stamps

7p Shocking pink (make-up between UK 2nd & 1st class)

35p dark brown (2nd class, second weight stage)

39p light grey (surface postcard rate)

40p dark turquoise (European basic letter rate)

43p emerald green (airmail postcard rate).

40p country stamps England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. Date of issue to be announced.





TPO commemorative cover This month Royal Mail will issue a cover to mark the final journey of the Travelling Post Office, which took place in January 2004. The cover is cancelled with a TPO handstamp and a cachet noting it was carried on the last TPO (from Bristol to Penzance). Each cover is numbered, with an edition of 15,000. The enclosed certificate of authenticity features the full text of W H Auden's poem *Night Mail* ●

Four SmartStamp designs were illustrated in the January Bulletin; the service had been available to a number of Royal Mail's business customers from last Autumn.

SmartStamp This new service was fully launched in mid-January and can now be used by any business or individual with access to a personal computer and the internet. Users need to register with Royal Mail and pay a subscription of £4.99 a month or £49.99 a year. To sign up you need to access Royal Mail's website using the internet but day-to-day mail production can be done off-line; an internet connection is only required at the time of printing. The necessary software to use SmartStamp can be downloaded free from the internet or from a DVD available from Royal Mail, the subscription only needing to be paid when live stamps are to be printed. You need a credit card in order to sign up, thereafter payment can be made by direct debit, Visa or Switch.

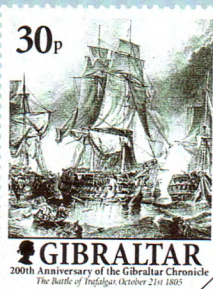
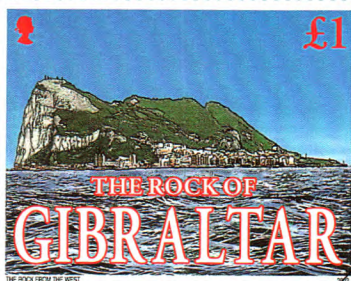
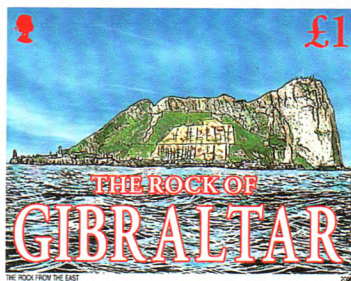
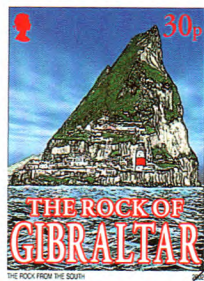
The impression, which can be printed onto various sized envelopes or adhesive labels, is described as an 'indicia' and will always be applied in black, although users can add a slogan in colour to the left of the indicia. The indicia, which includes a 2D barcode which provides information to Royal Mail, bears a date, and mail must be posted into the Royal Mail service (handed in at post offices or put in a letter box) on the day of printing or the day after. The indicia indicates the type of postal service required – UK 1st or 2nd class, overseas mail, Special Delivery, etc. SmartStamp mail does not require postmarking by Royal Mail ●

Withdrawals The Fun Fruit & Veg stamps, pack and stamp cards will be withdrawn from sale at Tallents House on 24 March. The Extreme Endeavours stamps, pack, cards, and self-adhesive stamp book will come off sale on 28 April ●

Gibraltar Issues old and new from the Rock

THIS YEAR marks 300 years of the British presence on Gibraltar. A special Gibraltar display was on show at Spring Stampex, and we are pleased to show here a number of Gibraltar issues, past and present •

Gibraltar Philatelic Bureau
PO Box 5662, Gibraltar.
www.gibraltar-stamps.com



A night on a TPO On a journey for research, Simon Armitage recalls a world before e-mail



Simon Armitage travelled on a TPO train to prepare for writing his poem *The Last Post*, included in this month's *Letters by Night* prestige stamp book.

I'M NOT A STAMP COLLECTOR, I'm not a railway enthusiast, I need eight hours sleep a night and my drink of choice after six o'clock in the evening is wine or beer. So why am I knocking on the steel gates of the Royal Mail Distribution Centre in a dark and frightening part of London at 11pm with a teacup in my hand, about to board a train? The unlikely answer to that question is this: I'm a poet. Almost seventy years ago, a more famous poet, W H Auden, wrote the poem *Night Mail* about the Travelling Post Office. It began, 'This is the Night Mail crossing the Border,/Bringing the cheque and the postal order;' lines which have gone down in history. Unfortunately, the TPO is about to go the same way. The rail service which for well over a hundred years has sorted and delivered mail to the far-flung corners of Britain is to be phased out, and whereas Auden was able to celebrate, I am here to commemorate.

Inside the train it's a bit grubby – the walls are painted prison-grey or hospital blue, and have suffered the bumps and bruises of a million mail sacks and sharp-pointed packages. And it's empty – no seats, just work benches and sorting-stations. And it's gloomy – the windows are nothing more than grimed-up portholes. And it's cold. But it's very exciting, especially when the train gets up to about a hundred, rattling and swaying through the pitch-black night. The noise is painful, but no one seems to bother. To look down the length of the train is to stare along a never-ending corridor, where men (they are all men) in Royal Mail overalls lug huge bags of mail from one carriage to another, or deal vast piles of letters into various slots and pigeon holes, or scoop parcels and packets out of deep troughs and shunt them into the right sack. There isn't even a buffet car, hence the instruction to bring my own mug, and the tea from the ancient-looking boiler is strong and hot. Everything about the whole experience, in fact, has an old fashioned feel to it, and puts me in mind of an age before mass communication. Before e-mail and fax, even before telephone. The age of the love-letter, when promises of the heart were carried on trains like this, to be discovered at breakfast, propped against the butter dish. A world I never really knew.

The TPO is heading further north, but I jump off at York. I'm looking for a proper train to go home on. One with seats and a conductor. It's two in the morning, and I've got a teacup in my hand •

Photographs: working on the last TPO, Penzance Station, by Lewis Whyld.



Ocean Liners Celebrated ships old and new



The paintings on the stamps

1st class RMS *Queen Mary 2* (2004) by Edward D Walker; E rate SS *Canberra* (1961) by David Cobb; 42p RMS *Queen Mary* (1936) by Charles Pears; 47p RMS *Mauretania* (1907) by Thomas Henry; 57p SS *City of New York* (1888) by Raphael Monleón y Torres; and the 68p PS *Great Western* (1838) by Joseph Walter. The issue was designed by John Gibbs.

SIX STAMPS and a miniature sheet featuring famous Ocean Liners go on sale at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and from Royal Mail Tallents House Edinburgh from 13 April. The issue marks the introduction to service of the new Cunard liner, the *Queen Mary 2*. The name of each vessel is given at the foot, with the value and The Queen's head at top left and top right respectively. The designs are by John Gibbs, who has designed several issues since his Year of the Disabled set in 1981. The stamps will also be available in a miniature sheet, price £2.82. Stamps will be issued to post offices in sheets of 25; sheets of 50, with gutter margin, will be supplied to Royal Mail Tallents House and Post Office philatelic outlets.

Technical details

Printer De La Rue

Process Gravure

Stamp size 41 x 30mm

Sheets 25 and 50

Miniature sheet 116 x 104mm

Perforation 14.5 x 14

Phosphor Two bands

Gum PVA

Gutter pairs Vertical

Cylinders and colours

All values D1 gold ● D1 black
● D1 magenta ● D1 yellow ●
D1 cyan (blue) ● D1 phosphor

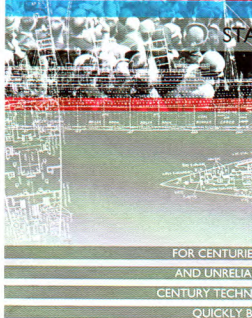
FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets around 6 April, price 25p. Orders for serviced FDCs with stamps/miniature sheet cancelled by pictorial first day postmark of Royal Mail Tallents House Edinburgh or Southampton must reach Tallents House (address below) by the day of issue. Price £3.73 UK, £3.18 overseas. State if stamps or miniature sheet required.

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 Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Wexham Road, Slough SL1 1AA (Southampton postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FDO415' (Tallents House), or 'FDO416' (Southampton). Covers can be posted or handed in at main post offices for the Southampton postmark.

SELF-ADHESIVE STAMP BOOK The 1st class *Queen Mary 2* stamp will also be issued in self-adhesive version in a retail stamp book. This will contain two of the *Queen Mary 2* stamps plus four 1st class Machin definitives, price £1.68. The *Queen Mary 2* stamp will be shown on the front cover.



OCEAN LINERS



Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbie Road
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB



The pack (shown left) contains many fascinating illustrations, including photographs of the launch of the *Mauretania* and the arrival of the *Queen Mary* in New York on completion of her maiden voyage.



PHILATELIC PRODUCTS A well-illustrated pack containing the six stamps (above, price £3.35) and seven stamp cards (six stamps and miniature sheet, 30p each) will be available from Tallents House, main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets. The pack, designed by Why Not Associates, includes text by Anthony Tibbles of Merseyside Maritime Museum. A Philatelic Numismatic Cover will cost £14.95 and a Presentation Case containing the miniature sheet and silver medals £75.

Ocean liners stamps Issues featuring ocean liners include the following.

Great Western GB 2004 68p Ocean Liners

Great Britain GB 1969 Ships 1s, Falkland Islands (both are shown opposite), Grenadines of Grenada, Central African Republic

Great Eastern GB 1987 22p Victorian Britain (opposite), Bhutan, British Virgin Islands, Canada, Congo (Brazzaville), Monaco, Portugal

Mauretania GB 1969 Ships 1s (shown opposite), Mauritania, Congo (Brazzaville), St Lucia, St Vincent

Queen Mary GB 2004 Ocean Liners, Hungary, Ivory Coast, St Vincent, Tonga and Tristan da Cunha (opposite)

Queen Elizabeth GB 1988 Transport & Communications 26p (opposite), Bahamas, St Vincent, Tristan da Cunha and Malawi

Queen Elizabeth 2 GB 1969 Ships 5d (opposite)

Canberra GB 2004 Ocean Liners, Gibraltar, Fiji, Antigua, Bahamas, Barbuda, Grenada, Tonga, Falklands

Queen Mary 2 GB 2004 Ocean Liners 1st, and France (opposite) and maiden voyage special postmark (below)



Ocean liners In the late 1830s, Brunel's *Great Western* was the first steamship to make regular crossings of the Atlantic. The vessel, gross tonnage 1340, was capable of traveling at nine knots, and carried nearly 150 passengers. Brunel went on to design two even more famous Great ships – the *Great Britain*, launched in 1845 and the *Great Eastern* in 1858.

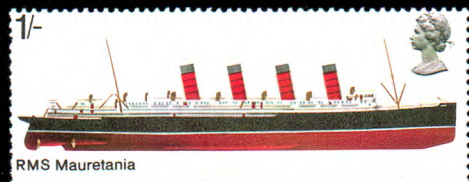
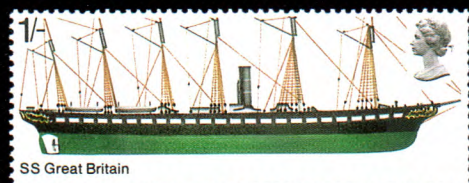
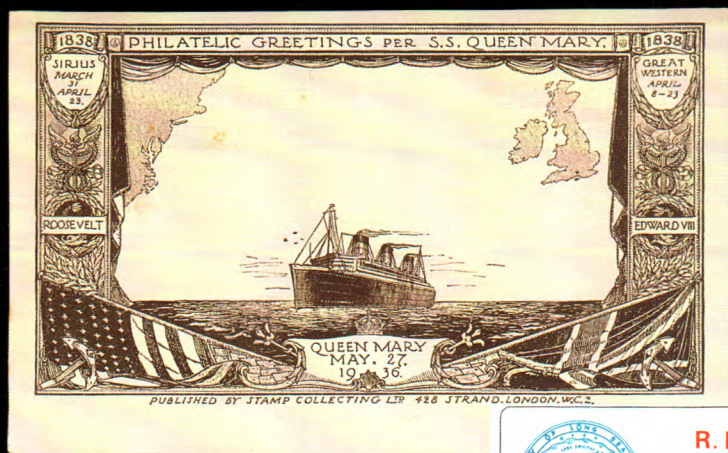
By 1888, the Inman Line's *City of New York* was the largest ship afloat and the first express transatlantic liner fitted with twin propellers. It had a gross tonnage of 10,499, a service speed of 20 knots and accommodation for 540 first class, 200 second class, and 1000 third class passengers. Further technological advances and new levels of comfort arrived in ships such as Cunard's *Mauretania*, which made its maiden voyage on 16 November 1907. She weighed 31,938 tons, had a service speed of 25 knots, and carried 563 first class, 464 second class and 1138 third class passengers.

But the luxury trans-Atlantic liners were epitomized by the *Queen Mary* and *Queen Elizabeth*, launched respectively in 1934 and 1938. When the *Queen Mary* went into service in 1936 she was greeted with acclaim. Many previous ships were furnished in historical and period styles, but *Queen Mary* was a showcase of contemporary art and interior design. Major artists like Dame Laura Knight and Edward Wadsworth were employed producing paintings, decorative carvings, glass panels, sculpture and other furnishings in the art deco style. Ocean liners were like floating hotels, offering every facility and service: there were gymnasiums, lounges, smoking rooms, shops, children's play areas, even a special fruit-ripening room! During the Second World War, *Queen Mary* transported 765,429 military personnel, carried 12,866 G.I. brides, and conveyed Churchill to vital conferences. In 1967 she made her final voyage from Southampton to Long Beach, California to become a floating hotel. An article by James Negus about the philatelic souvenirs of her maiden voyage was published here in May 1996.

When the transatlantic passenger trade declined in the 1960s, liners were built for cruising, like the *Canberra*. In 1982 this famous vessel was involved in the Falklands War.

The latest addition to this illustrious list, *Queen Mary 2*, was built in France and named by The Queen on 8 January. It started its inaugural voyage from Southampton to Fort Lauderdale, Florida on 12 January, with prices from £2200 to £29,000. The vessel has a gross tonnage of 150,000 tons, a speed of 24-26 knots, and passenger accommodation for some 2620. Amenities include a planetarium, a 1000-seat theatre, five swimming pools, 10 restaurants, and even a prison! It is said to be as tall as a 23-storey building, and cost £450 million to build. The captain is Ronald Warwick, whose father was the first commander of the *Queen Elizabeth 2*. For a while it will be the largest cruise ship in the world, until a larger Finnish liner enters service in 2006. *Queen Mary 2* has been designated a Royal Mail Ship (RMS) as were her distinguished predecessors, *Queen Mary* and *Queen Elizabeth*.

For more about Cunard liners see Barbara Last's article in the June 1988 *Bulletin*. Details of ships carrying the mails can be found in *Carrying British Mails: Five Centuries of Postal Transport by Land, Sea and Air* by Jean Farrugia and Tony Gammons, published by the National Postal Museum in 1980. ●



Entente Cordiale A joint issue of stamps to



Sir Terry Frost (1915-2003) was born in Leamington Spa. He spent part of the Second World War as a POW, having been taken prisoner in 1941. After the war he studied art in Birmingham, and then moved to Cornwall. His abstracts date from 1949. He taught art at several establishments, including Newcastle University. More than 30 one-man shows of his work were held in Britain, Europe and America.

Technical details

Printer Walsall

Process Gravure

Stamp size 30 × 41mm

Sheets 25 and 50

Perforation 14 × 14.5

Phosphor Two bands

Gum PVA

Gutter pairs Horizontal

Cylinders and colours

28p W1 grey ● W1 black ● W1 red ● W1 phosphor

57p W1 grey ● W1 black ● W1 beige ● W1 red ● W1 cyan (blue) ● W1 yellow ● W1 magenta ● W1 phosphor

TWO STAMPS featuring contemporary British and French paintings will be available from Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and from Royal Mail Tallents House Edinburgh from 6 April. Commemorating the centenary of the Entente Cordiale between the two countries, they feature two major works of art by prominent British and French artists. Stamps of the same designs are being issued by both Royal Mail (28p and 57p values) and La Poste (50 and 75 cent denominations). The 28p stamp features *Lace 1 (trial proof) 1968* by Sir Terry Frost (in the Tate Gallery, London) and 57p *Coccinelle* by Sonia Delaunay (in Centre Pompidou, Musée National d'Art Moderne, Paris). The Queen's silhouette (or RF, République Française) is printed at top left right with the value at bottom left. The caption 'Entente/Cordiale/1904-2004' is printed at top right. The stamps are the work of Rose Design. The stamps will be issued to Post Office branches in sheets of 25; sheets of 50, with gutter margins, will be supplied to Royal Mail Tallents House and Post Office philatelic outlets.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets about a week before 6 April, price 25p. Orders for serviced first day covers with the stamps cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of Royal Mail Tallents House Edinburgh or London SW1 must reach Tallents House (see address below) by the day of issue. Price £1.42 UK or £1.21 overseas. A joint FDC bearing both the British and French stamps can be ordered from Tallents House, price £4.99. The British stamps will have the London SW1 postmark.

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 Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Mount Pleasant, London EC1A 1BB (London postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FD0413' (Tallents House), or 'FD0414' (London). Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for the London postmark. Details of other handstamps for 6 April will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House (£12.25 UK/Europe; £24.95 elsewhere). For a sample copy write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ.

mark the centenary of the historic agreement

Sonia Delaunay (1885-1979) was born in the Ukraine, then studied art at Karlsruhe and in Paris. In 1910 she married the French artist Robert Delaunay (1885-1941) who founded the movement known as Orphism, or Orphic Cubism. They designed costumes for Diaghilev, and in 1937 Sonia painted a mural for the Paris exhibition. Robert Delaunay's *La Joie de Vivre* featured on a French Art stamp in 1976 (SG 2110).



ROYAL MAIL AND LA POSTE CELEBRATE THE ENTENTE CORDIALE ANNIVERSARY WITH A JOINT STAMP / SONIA DELAUNAY



Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorblir Road
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

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



Entente Cordiale

ROYAL MAIL LA POSTE



Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorblir Road
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

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

PHILATELIC PRODUCTS A well-illustrated pack containing the two stamps (shown above at top, price £1.35) and stamp cards (30p each) will be available from Tallents House, main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets. The pack was designed by Rose Design. A coin cover will be available, price £19.95. See Late News (p223) for joint products.

Illustrations in the pack (top) include Monsieur Cambon of France and Lord Lansdowne, the signatories to the Entente Cordiale, Channel crossing 'firsts', and Concorde.

This page the opening of the Channel Tunnel in 1994, the occasion for the first British/French joint issue; George VI and French President Lebrun on an unissued Anglo-French stamp, 1940 (the story of this design can be found in Tony Gammons' *Bulletin* articles in December 1987 and January 1988); one of the set issued for the first flight of the Anglo-French Concorde, 1969.

Opposite page French stamp for state visit of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, 1938; and British and French issues in use in 1904.

At the 1908 Franco-British Exhibition at Shepherd's Bush in London, King Edward VII declared the new agreement 'necessary for the wealth and prosperity of our two nations and for the maintenance of the peace which makes for the happiness of the whole world.'



Entente Cordiale The term 'Entente Cordiale' was used a century ago because the language of diplomacy was still partly French; the phrase had already been used of relations between Britain and the USA. At first the Anglo-French accord was merely a convention, with two declarations signed in London on 8 April 1904, but it paved the way for the end of colonial rivalry and their alliance in two world wars.

The trigger was a clash between Britain and France known as the Fashoda Incident. In July 1898, French troops from West Africa, led by Marchand, entered Fashoda, a fort in Egyptian Sudan, hoping to spread French influence. In September, Sir Herbert (later Lord) Kitchener reached Fashoda from the north, intent on extending British influence south. To avert hostilities, Marchand and Kitchener agreed to fly the French, British and Egyptian flags together. Eventually France withdrew, but there were bad feelings on both sides. The French Foreign Minister, Théophile Delcasse, proposed co-existence between the French and British Empires, and the ensuing Entente Cordiale resolved border disputes, giving France a free hand in Morocco and Britain in Egypt.

Socially and culturally, France and Britain had long been close. In 1903 King Edward VII paid a triumphal state visit to Paris, shortly followed by an equally successful visit to London by President Émile Loubet. A Franco-British Exhibition was held in London in 1908, where Edward VII declared the hope that the entente would be permanent.

The Entente survived two world wars. General de Gaulle was the guest of Britain during the Second World War and in 1940, prompted by Jean Monnet, Britain proposed political union with France although too late to avert Pétain's collaborationist government.

In 1994 The Queen and President Mitterrand opened the Channel Tunnel linking the two countries. Four years later, with President Chirac, Her Majesty marked the 80th anniversary of the Armistice by laying wreaths at the tomb of the unknown soldier at the Arc de Triomphe. Last year President Chirac visited London and The Queen will visit France this year.

A statue of de Gaulle was unveiled in London in 1993, followed in 1998 by a statue of Churchill in Paris. One of the most famous Franco-British collaborations was Concorde, the result of a deal signed in 1962 to develop a dual-nationality passenger plane. It flew for the last time in 2003 •

ENTENTE CORDIALE



THE

FRANCO-BRITISH EXHIBITION 1908

MAY TO OCTOBER



SHEPHERD'S BUSH, LONDON

Mainly Machins D G A Myall on a centenary and the Orient

A centenary of stamp books The *Letters by Night* prestige book is to be issued on 16 March. I had not seen it at the time of writing but the date is of special interest to all who collect British stamp books. It is the centenary of Britain's first official book of postage stamps, and the 150th anniversary of stamp perforations in this country.

The first British Post Office book was issued on 16 March 1904. It contained 24 King Edward VII 1d stamps totalling two shillings, and sold for a halfpenny more than that to cover its production costs. The price was altered to a more convenient two shillings just over two years later but the content was reduced by a halfpenny to compensate. This gave us the first pane with a label, the odd space being filled with a green St Andrew's cross. Books were not sold at the face value of the contents until the reign of George V. The Machin era has seen books sold at under face value, the first being the 1982 Christmas book of definitives with a face value of £2.80 which was sold at a 30p discount. Today's prestige books, like *Letters by Night*, are beautifully printed in colour with thoroughly researched informative text, giving greatly added value at no cost to the purchaser.

An exhibition titled '80 years of British Stamp Books' opened at the National Postal Museum on 11 May 1971. This was commemorated by two counter books of stamps issued on 19 March 1971. Text on the inside covers of these books stated that the exhibition 'illustrated the evolution of British stamp books 1891-1971' and referred to 'The world's first stamp book, May 1891'. So why was the 80th anniversary celebrated in 1971 rather than 1984? Well, it all depends on your definition of a stamp book. The 1891 product was described in the October 1970 *Bulletin*. It can be seen that the item from which the 1971 date was calculated was not an official issue; in fact, it was not even a book. So the true centenary of British stamp books is the one being celebrated this March.

There is some doubt about which country was the first to issue a book of stamps. This distinction is usually claimed for Luxembourg who, it is said, issued one in 1895. This is probably a false

attribution due to the fact that their first book contained stamps of the Grand Duke Adolphe issue of 1895. It was issued in 1906. The Netherlands have a good claim, as they issued a book of stamps in 1902. Many assert that the honour belongs to the USA, who issued panes of stamps in 1900, but I have been unable to find out whether these were issued within covers. The strongest contender must be Canada; they issued a booklet containing two panes of six of the 2¢ numerical issue on 11 June 1900.

Oriental Machins The UK is not the only country to have issued definitive stamps where Arnold Machin's sculpture of The Queen's head is the main feature. It has appeared on stamps issued by Guernsey and the Isle of Man after they became independent postal administrations. But by far the most prolific of these was the former colony of Hong Kong, which used a form of what has become known as head A from 16 June 1992 until the territory reverted to mainland China on 1 July 1997, when the stamps were invalidated.

From 1992 to 1997, 39 basic Machin stamps were issued, differing in either value or colour. Some values had phosphor overprints, and some were printed by different firms or by different methods. Taking all these variables into account, there are 69 basic stamps. The design has the value, in HK currency, at the top left of each stamp. The name HONG KONG appears twice, once in Chinese characters at the left of the portrait, and again in western characters below it. The latter fluoresces yellow under ultraviolet irradiation as a security measure.

Two printers were used. All the sheet and coil stamps were printed in gravure by Enschedé of Haarlem. All the booklet stamps were printed in lithography either by Enschedé or by Leigh-Mardon of Australia. A series of miniature sheets was also printed in lithography, one of them by Leigh-Mardon, the rest by Enschedé. The stamps were non-phosphor until 24 April 1996 when they were issued overprinted with Novaglo phosphor bars with a yellow fluor added.

The making of a Stamp Book

1 The texts of postal rates and advertisements to fill the available space on covers and interleaves are finally proofed.

2 A sample book is made by pasting advertisements in correct sequence in an obsolete copy.



Pasted up sample book



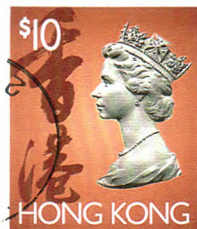
Artist's design for cover



Typical front cover proofs



Proofs of inside cover



Top 'The Making of a Stamp Book', one of the panels from the 1971 National Postal Museum exhibition commemorating 80 years of British stamp books.

80 years of British Stamp Books

An exhibition illustrating the evolution of British stamp books 1891-1971 will be on view in the National Postal Museum for some three months from 11th May 1971.

The world's first stamp book, May 1891
—Post Office stamp books from Edward VII to Elizabeth II—
the printing and production of a typical stamp book.

The National Postal Museum is situated in the London Chief Post Office building in King Edward Street E.C.1.—about 150 yards from St. Paul's Underground Station.

Above One of two stamp books issued for the NPM exhibition. These contained stamps for 10 postings at the then 2nd and 1st class rate, and sold for 25p and 30p respectively.

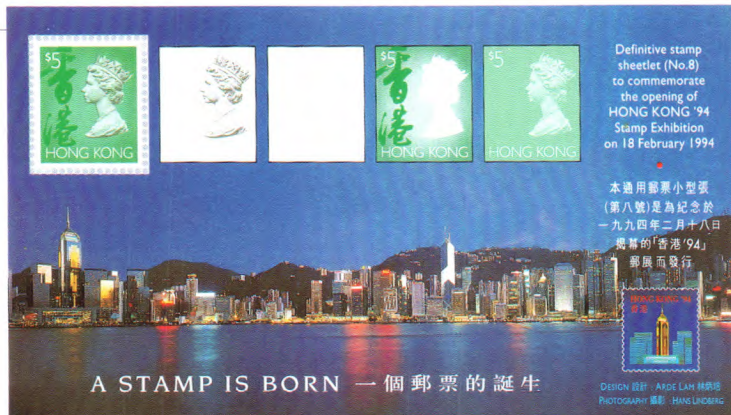
Oriental Machins The lower value Hong Kong Machins, which range from 10 cents to \$5, are the same size as our definitives but the three higher values, \$10, \$20 and \$50, are slightly larger. All are perforated 15x14, but the high values have larger corner holes. At the current rates of exchange HK\$50 is equivalent to about £3.50.

Hong Kong Souvenir sheets

The most interesting of these is the one issued 18 February 1994, titled 'A Stamp is Born'. It contains a single green \$5 stamp and images illustrating the successive printing stages which produced it. The other sheets all contained a single \$10 stamp. These are unique, as they are printed in different colours each time.



Watermark Panes in the 1994 prestige book were printed on paper watermarked Crown CA, making these the only Machins to have a watermark.



Like GB stamps, Hong Kong's phosphor stamps had either two bars, one at each side, or a single central bar. They served a similar purpose. The two-bar stamps were for local postage and postage to the Asian region. One-bar stamps were for international airmail letters. Only one value was issued with both. The \$2.10 stamp had a central bar from 24 April to 2 September 1996, when a tariff change caused it to be issued with two.

The standard booklets are known as '7-eleven' after the name of the stores through which they were sold. They were not sold at the Hong Kong post office. Each contained a pane of 10 stamps to meet the rate for either local mail up to 30g, or airmail letters up to 10g to (Hong Kong) zones 1 or 2. Three tariff changes in the period resulted in a total of nine books. In addition, there were two really magnificent prestige books. One, issued

12 January 1994, covered the history of Hong Kong definitives 1862 to 1992. The other, issued 14 February 1997, dealt with Hong Kong Past & Present. Each contained three panes of Machin stamps with values in se-tenant pairs. These six panes were also issued as miniature sheets. Apart from these there were 12 souvenir sheets issued to commemorate philatelic and other events

Seventeen values were printed in rolls of 1000 for lengthways delivery. A few of these coil issues, such as the \$1.80, are rare. The rolls have a number printed over the gum every fifth stamp. The size of these numbers differs; some are in italic.

These oriental Machins bear many similarities to UK stamps. They provide much of interest to Machin collectors and would add to any Machin collection. With only one or two exceptions, all can be acquired today at a modest cost ●

Philately on-line Ron Negus revisits Guernsey's website



Philatelic **NEWS**

October 2003 Vol. 7 No. 7

Welcome to the Guernsey Philatelic Website, updated quarterly with the latest news and releases from the British Channel Islands of Guernsey and Alderney.

In this issue, we are pleased to announce the release of two new issues:

[Twas the night before Christmas](#)

[Alderney Community Services, Island Police](#)

and don't forget to visit our [Secure Internet Store](#)



www.post-office.guernsey.net As part of the Channel Islands, the issues from Guernsey and Alderney are popular with many GB collectors. The information contained on this site provides the official information on these issues directly from the island's Philatelic Bureau.

WHEN I REVIEWED Guernsey's philatelic website in the October 2000 *Bulletin*, their Post Office was then still a trading board within the States of Guernsey – the Island's government. By that time, however, it had already become apparent that, with the volume of business growing at the same time as competition was increasing, to really develop would require a measure of independence. The result was the creation of Guernsey Post Limited, which was incorporated on 1 October 2001.

Guernsey Post runs the postal service for the Bailiwick, ie Guernsey, Alderney, Sark and Herm. It provides a next day delivery service for all internal mail, while all mail going out of the island is despatched the day it is received. Some 40 million items of mail are handled each year – 14 million from the UK, 12 million staying within the Bailiwick and a further 14 million sent to destinations around the world. A recent addition to their services has included the use of bar-coded mail that enable the Post Office to track and trace mail at every stage of its journey.

The Guernsey Philatelic Bureau has its website at www.post-office.guernsey.net and this attractive site contains full information about the island's issues. As the Bailiwick of Guernsey is a self-governing territory under the British Crown, Queen Elizabeth II's head or cipher appears on all Guernsey stamps and she must approve them all before they are issued. Since the island's issues only began to appear in 1969, when the reorganisation of the British Post Office allowed for the Guernsey operation to become independent, the opportunity exists for collectors to still achieve a

complete collection. The earlier issues are now only available via dealers, but the website contains an archive with illustrated information on all stamps issued since June 1996.

For both the current and forthcoming issues, coloured illustrations are provided on the website. In addition, a full background description of the purpose of the issue and an explanation of what the stamps illustrate is included. This information is supported by complete production data showing the date of issue, the designer's name, printer's name and printing process used, stamp details of size, paper, gum and perforation, the sheet format and the cylinder numbers employed. A list of what is available is also given, showing prices for mint sets, first day covers, presentation packs, etc.

The Bureau publishes a regular *Philatelic News* bulletin and the website has a page that collectors can use to add their names to the mailing list to receive this publication. As an example, another page of the site includes a selection of current news items.

In my earlier review of this Guernsey website I mentioned that the Bureau warned its customers that online ordering was not secure. Since that time, the problem has been resolved and the website now has a secure online section which allows purchases to be made using a credit card with complete confidence.

Finally, using the links section of this site, it is possible to jump directly to the Guernsey Tourist Board pages on the internet which give information about all aspects of the Bailiwick's many visitor attractions ●

Looking out for a challenge Richard West interviews Phil

PHIL KENTON is a man who likes a challenge, and exploring uncharted waters. As a result his collecting interests have tended to be diverse. It all started in the fairly conventional way: a general schoolboy collection, which, at the age of 15, Phil refined to King George VI Commonwealth issues, initially to the 5s value, later starting to complete the sets. Then, for no particular reason, he became attracted by the stamps of Cyprus, Gibraltar and Malta.



America, taking his time frame from just before 1840 to when the individual countries entered the Universal Postal Union. He met Harry Parsons and, encouraged by the late Michael Jackson, they proceeded to catalogue all sailings made by the Royal Mail Steamship Company from the UK to St Thomas, and from then onwards. The results of their research, which took 10 years, were published just before The Stamp Show 2000, where the book achieved a large silver-gilt

The real challenges started in the late 1960s. A career change saw Phil and his wife Jill move to Walton-on-Thames, and consequently Phil joined the local, Walton and Weybridge Philatelic Society. Here he was introduced to the idea of exhibiting, initially with moderate success, but improving all the while. In 1969 Guernsey and Jersey became postally independent, so here was the opportunity to start from a new beginning. Then Phil discovered the fascination of postal history, exploring the war-time influences on the Channel Islands. As the interest in the Channel Islands grew, that in the Mediterranean islands diminished.

He joined the Channel Islands Specialists' Society, and another of Phil's attributes came to the fore, being involved with the organisational side of the hobby. He was soon to be on the Committee, and became the Society's secretary for nine years. However, having exhausted most opportunities with the Channel Islands collection, Phil decided to sell much of it, but not before achieving a gold medal in Australia.

Next came one of those unexpected approaches: Phil was invited to be Secretary of the Great Britain Philatelic Society, even though he was not a member and, apart from the Channel Islands, did not collect GB. Nevertheless, he accepted the invitation, becoming secretary for eight years, then Vice-President, and now President.

The problem was, what to collect with a GB connection? He opted for mail to and from Latin

America, taking his time frame from just before 1840 to when the individual countries entered the Universal Postal Union. He met Harry Parsons and, encouraged by the late Michael Jackson, they proceeded to catalogue all sailings made by the Royal Mail Steamship Company from the UK to St Thomas, and from then onwards. The results of their research, which took 10 years, were published just before The Stamp Show 2000, where the book achieved a large silver-gilt medal. Phil built up an accompanying collection which won a large gold medal. But having once more exhausted the subject, what new challenge could be tackled?

The answer is the rates charged by the British Post Office for special services, both inland and overseas, during the reign of Queen Elizabeth II. You may not think that would be particularly difficult, but there are surprisingly many gaps in the records. Even more of a challenge is finding material that demonstrates these services, with the stamps paying the correct rate. In this project Phil is working with Michael Lockton, and they intend to publish their results in due course, while Phil is once more building up an accompanying collection.

Much of the material in the collections comes from dealers and auctions. Often a dealer will keep to one side items they think might be of interest. On occasions Phil's knowledge has meant he has acquired a bargain, but at other times he knows he has paid too much. The main criteria must be that the item enhances the collection, and so must be in extremely good condition. He will reject a tatty cover, even if its markings or stamping prove to be unique. But that will not stop him rummaging through the boxes of cheap covers on dealers' stands.

As the collection and researches go hand in hand, Phil's is very much a working collection, mounted with corners on Stanley Gibbons *Senator* leaves. However, for exhibiting, material is

Kenton, new President of the Great Britain Philatelic Society

specially mounted on Frank Godden leaves within exhibition standard protectors. Incidentally, Phil is not content just to put the same exhibit into every competition entered: he will tailor each display to be most appropriate for the country hosting the exhibition. He also gives displays to societies, and it always gives him great satisfaction when others comment on how much they enjoy the material.

As mentioned, Phil has always been one who likes organising; his 'pet hates' are those who do not reach the standards he sets himself, and those who let one down. Over the years, he has organised conferences for both the Channel Islands Specialists' Society and the Great Britain Philatelic Society, as well as being organising secretary, on behalf of the Association of British Philatelic Societies (the ABPS), of the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain which was held at Bristol in 1996. He was also the ABPS link with the specialist societies. However, he feels his greatest achievement in this area was as a member of the Philatelic Advisory Board for The Stamp Show 2000 as the ABPS representative.

A number of collectors have influenced him over the years, but he pays particular tribute to Denis Geach of the Walton and Weybridge Philatelic Society, and also to Bill Newport and John Simpson of the Channel Islands Specialists' Society. He has also been encouraged by many of the members of The Royal Philatelic Society London, notably those who have later gone on to become the Society's President.

As for the hobby, Phil believes it is still strong, and mentions the fact that new members are constantly joining the GBPS, often those who have just taken retirement. But he advises that all should collect what they want to collect: seek advice certainly, but not be over influenced by the opinions of others.

So what challenges lie ahead for Phil Kenton? He reckons that his present researches are going to take at least five years, maybe as many as 10. He regards himself as a 100 per cent philatelist, the hobby taking up much of his time, and his

home, much to the irritation of his wife Jill. In 2005 the Great Britain Philatelic Society will celebrate its 50th anniversary, and Phil is anticipating the special displays to The Royal Philatelic Society London and at Spring Stampex, plus a celebration dinner and a conference to be held in York.

On a wider note, he looks forward to the time when Royal Mail Heritage is once more able to have its philatelic collections on public view.

While Jill does not collect, she enjoys accompanying Phil to events such as overseas exhibitions, and is always pleased to meet up with the other philatelic wives. However, they do share many interests, notably choral singing, their garden, growing flowers, particularly geraniums, from seed and, at one time, tennis and walking (Phil has just undergone a knee replacement operation, so such physical activities are currently on hold). They have recently started an interest in genealogy, while Jill has taken up watercolour painting.

And finally, Phil says how much he looks forward to the afternoon meetings of the Bookham Stamp Club – not having any official role, he can just sit back and enjoy •

PHIL KENTON FACT FILE

Born Ealing; many of his early years were spent in Brentford, before moving to Hounslow and then to Walton-on-Thames.

How he met Jill When they met, Jill literally fell into Phil's arms. Jill was anxious to board a coach about to leave, and tumbled. It was Phil who came to her rescue.

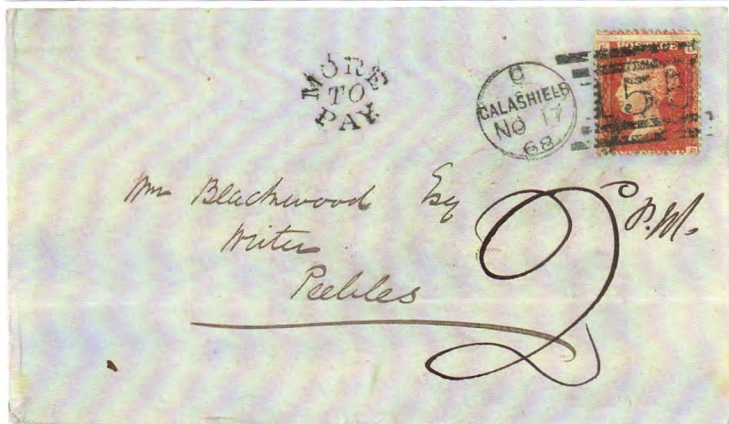
Family Phil and Jill have two children, a son and daughter, and two grandchildren. Their son Paul did show a brief interest in the stamps of Canada, but it was sadly short lived.

Sporting allegiance Having lived there, the family all support Brentford at football. In fact, Phil's father's ashes are scattered on its ground.

Holidays The Kentons always explore somewhere new, although it has so far been mainly in Europe and to the United States. An ambition is to travel to South America.

Career Phil worked as a chartered engineer, and was involved in such projects as a water treatment plant in Saudi Arabia, and North Sea oil platforms. In his spare time he took a degree in History through the Open University.

Cover corner A 'more to pay' marking, by Robert Phillifent



This underpaid cover bears a 1d red (plate number unclear) with a 'C155' double cancellation of Glasgow, dated 17 November 1868.

THIS COVER, addressed to Peebles, was presumably underpaid for weight. 1d would cover items up to $\frac{1}{2}$ ounce, so this cover must have weighed between $\frac{1}{2}$ and one ounce. A letter of this weight

would cost 2d. Deficiency of twice 1d is indicated by the large, initialled '2d' applied in pen along with an unframed circular style MORE/TO/PAY strike in black •

Special prize draw Win a 1953 Coronation first day cover



THIS FDC will be given to the sender of the first card drawn on 31 March. To enter, simply write your name and address on the back of a postcard and send it to: Coronation FDC Draw, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ. Five runners-up will be sent packs of 2003 Coronation Anniversary stamps •

Prize Draw winners The winners of the 2003 Yearbook Draw (November) were: U Huber of Switzerland; M Metcalfe, Essex; T Goodwin, Cumbria; and Roberta Hanson, Spain. Winners of Bulletin 40th Anniversary covers (December) were: J Willard, France; J Beard, Gloucestershire; J Studholme, East Lothian; G Barnes, Lancashire; Rev P Hanna, Ireland; T Williams, Hampshire; Mrs D Borthwick, Kent; J Moolhuizen, Netherlands; D Taylor, Inverness; and Mary Russell, Sussex.

Postbag Letters to the Editor

Competitions I am a Portuguese collector living in Belgium, and I tend to collect anything with the slightest philatelic connection. British stamps and, of course, Machins in particular, are some of my favourites. Reading the *Bulletin* was therefore a logical extension of my collecting interests and I read it every month from cover to cover. I like challenges, and the monthly 'Identify' and 'Knowledge' competitions provide some which, not being too difficult or time consuming, force me to learn a bit more about the hobby. The cost of two postcards every month to the UK is within my budget, so I try to enter the competitions each month, not as much for the prizes as for the fun of it. I had received a runner-up prize before, but I was really surprised to receive a cheque as first prize in a competition earlier this year. I was even more surprised recently to receive two runner-up prizes on the same day, for the September and October Knowledge and Identify competitions. Three prizes in a single year is a record for me. Having such wide collecting interests, the stamps and FDCs that you sent are welcome additions to my collection, and the £100 cheque is earmarked for one of those items 'too expensive to buy right now'. Thank you very much for the prizes but, more than that, for a wonderful magazine and two interesting challenges every month. JOAQUIM AREIA CAPITAO, BRUSSELS, BELGIUM ●

Stamp ingots I am writing to congratulate Royal Mail products for the excellent £5 orange ingot replica. It is beautiful indeed and the history of the stamp is also intriguing. Something I never knew is that the actual stamp was never ever used for postage, but was used mainly for accounts and telegraph purposes from 1882 to 1901 when it was abolished. I have one or two used £5 orange, and was toying with the idea of getting a mint example but the price deters me. I wonder what price a £5 orange used for postage would fetch at auction if discovered? I will keep looking! I am not too keen on some of the recent issues, especially when a stamp depicts just half a face, viz British Museum. R H ROSS, WELWYN GARDEN CITY ●

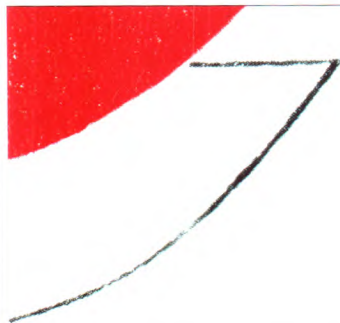
Mail drop The aircraft shown in the September 2003 *Bulletin* (page 6) is not as stated Bristol, but is the Vickers Vimy Commercial prototype K-107 and was later given registration number G-EAAV. The aircraft was used by *The Times* newspaper in one of the attempts to fly from London to Cape Town, South Africa in 1920. This type of aircraft was used on mail services between Baghdad and Cairo. More information can be found in *Vickers Aircraft Since 1908* published by Putnam. Also mail was dropped by parachute in Australia – and may still be – with covers commemorating this for sale at the stamp fairs. R N DYER, LEATHERHEAD ●

Posting boxes 219

THIS MONTH we feature two boxes photographed in Wales. The first, submitted by Andrew Belsey of Cardiff, shows an E11R box photographed in Colchester Avenue, Cardiff in October 2002. Mr Belsey tells us that since he took the photograph of this 'most leaning pillar box' it has been dug up and replaced vertically. The second photograph, sent in by Peter Palmer of the USA, was taken in Monmouth and depicts a Victorian Pen-fold box. Mr Palmer notes that the box is still in use 'with those long Welsh words going through the little aperture.' ●



Competitions Win £200 in two easy-to-enter competitions



December identify The detail is from the GB 1980 12p Christmas stamp. The winner was Mrs M Brotchie, Falkirk.

December knowledge The answers: 1) Brown; 2) Carisbrooke Hall; 3) 1990. The winner was N Guy, Bedford.

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

- 1 In which year was Sir Rowland Hill born?
- 2 What colour was the Edward VII 1d stamp?
- 3 Which explorer featured on the 63p 'Travellers' Tale stamp?

Send your answer (addressed to either the March *Identify* competition or March *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 16 April will each receive £100. Ten runner-up prizes of presentation packs or FDCs will be awarded in each competition. The competitions are not open to Royal Mail employees •

Events

13 March Joint meeting of GB Philatelic Society and British Aerophilatelic Federation at British Philatelic Centre, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1, 11.00 - 16.30. **Enquires** C Harman, Greylands, Melton, Woodbridge IP12 1QE.

27 March Letter Box Study Group meeting at St Andrew's School, Matthews Close, off Churchill Way, Halstead, Essex, 10.00-15.00. Colne Valley Postal History Museum (35 boxes) is about 5 minutes walk away and will be open 10.00-16.00. **Enquires** Helen Crabtree, 01536 762127.

3 April North of Ireland PS Annual Exhibition & Fair at St Nicholas' Church Hall, Cadogan Park, off Lisburn Rd, Belfast, 10.00-16.30. Admission free, dealers – stamps, postal history, postcards and accessories. **Enquires** N Scott, 028 90 795530.

16-17 April Scottish Philatelic Congress at Dewar's Centre, Perth. **Enquires** A Watson, 36 Anson Avenue, Falkirk FK1 5JB.

17 April Leystonstone, Wanstead and District PS Stamp Fair. **Enquires** 020 8491 6235 •

4 April - 3 May Stamp Lincs 2004 exhibition at the Museum of Lincolnshire Life, Lincoln. A Steam and Oil event will be held 2-3 May to coincide with the exhibition's theme, Transport. **Enquires** Museum 01522 528448 or Peter Wain 01522 525984.

17 April GB Philatelic Society displays at British Philatelic Centre, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1. 11.00 display to be announced, 14.15 Elizabeth II by Phil Kenton. **Enquires** C Harman, Greylands, Melton, Woodbridge IP12 1QE •

Late news

Entente Cordiale joint products In addition to the joint FDC (see p211), there will be a joint Royal Mail/La Poste pack and commemorative document, priced £4.99 each. Dual cancellation for joint FDCs bearing British and French stamps will be permitted. Royal Mail Tallents House will apply a French pictorial first day postmark by authority of La Poste but in accordance with British handstamping practice. The postmark was created for use on joint products being produced on behalf of both Royal Mail and La Poste. Royal Mail will also apply the French handstamp to cancel privately produced covers. The postmark will only be used to cancel French Entente Cordiale stamps and only on covers that also bear at least one British Entente Cordiale stamp, to facilitate the creation of dual FDCs. No other stamps will be cancelled and the final date for receipt of such covers will be 4 May 2004. The maximum number of postmark designs that can be applied to a cover is two, and stamps should be affixed so that a handstamp can be applied without overprinting any stamp which has already been cancelled or another postmark. Further details will be published in the *British Postmark Bulletin* •

Wrong track One of the intermediate stations on the Great Central Railway is Rothley, not Ropley as stated here in January. (Ropley is in fact a station on the preserved Mid-Hants Railway.) The cover shown on page 140 marks the end of the Cardiff-Crewe TPO, not Cardiff-Carlisle as stated in the caption on the opposite page 141. Our thanks to D Gray and J Beard for allowing us to set the record straight •

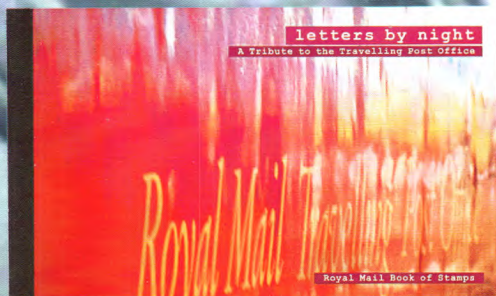
Auction news Harmers opened their 2004 season on 22 January with an unusual sale of 270 lots of collections and mixed lots. They hope to make such sales a regular feature, providing an additional service to clients. Many lots sold well above their estimate – the total amounted to £316,415 against estimates totalling £255,000. GB material found many enthusiastic buyers. A collection of issues to 1922 housed in three albums achieved

£6469 (est £3250) and another collection in 13 albums and loose stamps in boxes sold for £3529 (£2000) – it included FDCs of the 1924 and 1935 Empire Exhibition stamps. An all-world auction at the end of March will include many fine collections and important air mail, GB (line engraved) and other material. A further auction will feature the 'Leicester' collection of stamp cases and boxes. Enquiries: Harmers, No 11, 111 Power Road, London W4 5PY. Telephone 020 8747 6100 or see website: www.harmers.com •

Grosvenor Auctions are pleased to announce the appointment of David Boyd as a Consultant. He started his philatelic career with Robson Lowe Ltd in 1958 and joined Phillips Son & Neale as manager of the Stamp Department in 1973. He joined their main board three years later. He is well-remembered for travelling around the UK, giving about 700 talks to philatelic societies under the title 'Have gavel, will travel!'. After Phillips changed hands in 1999, David decided to take life a little easier but has been active in helping with the sale of many collections. At Grosvenor he will work with Andrew Claridge and James Grist, former colleagues at Phillips. Enquiries: Grosvenor Auctions, 399-401 Strand (third floor), London WC2R 0LT. Telephone 020 7379 8799. Website: www.grosvenorauctions.com •

Concorde Study Circle The demise of the supersonic airliner has not dampened the spirits of avid collectors of Concorde material, and the latest issue of the Concorde Study Circle's *Newsletter* continues to chronicle Concorde stamps, postmarks, covers and postcards of the past 30 years or so. It includes an account by Tony Buckingham of the covers carried on the last flight from Heathrow to Filton on 26 November 2003. The *Newsletter's* centre spread shows colour illustrations of Concorde in different airline liveries. The CSC will hold a meeting at Spring Stampex – 10.30 on Sunday 29 February. Enquiries: Brian Asquith, Alandale, Radcliffe Gardens, Carshalton Beeches SM5 4PQ. E-mail brian@asquithbl.freemove.co.uk •

The end of an era



Letters by Night Prestige Stamp Book This 20 page book commemorates the end of the Travelling Post Office. Mirroring the ground-breaking 1936 film *Night Mail*, it includes a specially commissioned poem by Simon Armitage and striking images of contemporary TPO trains. The book features four panes of stamps, in combinations unavailable elsewhere, with images from the original film. This book's issue date is the exact centenary of the first British Stamp Book (16 March, 1904), making it a great collection piece. Price £7.44, order code YB023.

Royal Mail

Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB
Telephone orders: UK 08457 641 641; overseas +44 131 316 7483



Background image taken from the documentary film *Night Mail*, available to buy on DVD and VHS. Telephone 01795 426465 for details.