

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The ROYAL MAIL magazine for stamp collectors

Volume 40 Number 4

DECEMBER 2002 • 85P

# Bulletin

Cast your vote in our stamp  
poll • A Victorian Christmas



**Birds of Prey: two of Britain's  
most beautiful and rare birds  
feature in a new set of stamps  
from Royal Mail.**



## Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



**Cover photograph** A barn owl returning with prey to its nest, by Stephen Dalton, who also photographed the barn owl and kestrel for the Birds of Prey stamps.

Stephen Dalton/NHPA

|                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>28 November</b> | <b>Issue</b> Wilding definitives stamp cards (five cards).                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>5 December</b>  | <b>Issue</b> Wilding definitives miniature sheet and presentation pack.                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>11 December</b> | <b>Issue</b> Queen Mother coin cover (available from Tallents House only).                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>17 December</b> | <b>Withdrawal</b> Smilers generic sheet – 10 × 1st class Cartoons stamps.                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>1 January</b>   | <b>Withdrawal</b> £1 and £2 machine-vended booklets (£1 and £2 of April 2000 and £1 of April 2001).                                                                                                                               |
| <b>7 January</b>   | <b>Issue</b> Birds of Prey stamp cards.                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>14 January</b>  | <b>Issue</b> Birds of Prey stamps and presentation pack.                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>14 January</b>  | <b>Withdrawal</b> Kipling stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards.                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>21 January</b>  | <b>Issues</b> Smilers sheet with 20 × 1st class Flowers greetings stamps (generic & personalised versions) ● 2nd and 1st class (gold) definitives in rolls of 500 printed by Enschedé (availability postponed from October 2002). |
| <b>28 January</b>  | <b>Issues</b> Occasions stamp cards ● Ingot cover for Pillar to Post stamps (first in series).                                                                                                                                    |

**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, Colchester, Coventry, Croydon, Durham, Edinburgh, Exeter, Gatwick Airport, Glasgow, Grimsby, Guildford, Harrogate, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool, London (Trafalgar Square and Eastcheap), Manchester, Newcastle upon Tyne, Norwich, Nottingham, Oxford, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Southampton, Southend-on-Sea, Stevenage, Stratford-on-Avon, Stroud, Truro, Windsor and York.

**Sponsored competition: November Bulletin** We regret that the questions and address for the special competition were omitted from page 93 of the November Bulletin. Our apologies for this. To enter the competition answer the following questions and send by 10 January to: Sponsored Competition, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ.

- 1 Which plant features on the 1st class 2002 Christmas stamp?
- 2 In which year were the first British Christmas stamps issued?
- 3 What was the name of the postmark used to cancel the Penny Black stamp?

# Contents



**A Victorian Christmas** Our seasonal feature by Dorothy Martin is split into two parts this year. This month, she describes how the Victorians prepared for the festivities  
**105**

The **British Philatelic Bulletin** is published monthly by Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ • **Editor** JR Holman • **Price** 85p for single copies from Post Office Limited philatelic outlets • **Annual subscription** £9.50 in UK and Europe; £13.50 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; UK and Europe £10, rest of the world £21.75 • **Copyright** Design and text Royal Mail Group plc, unless attributed to a specific author. All requests to reproduce any article should be sent to the Editor, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ • **Design** by Robert Maude • **Printed** in Great Britain by the Perivan Group Limited • **ISSN** 0953 8119 • Royal Mail is a trading name of Royal Mail Group plc. Registered in England and Wales, number 4138203, registered office 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ

**Issues and withdrawals**  
98

**This month** The Editor previews this issue **100**

**Stamp scene** Autumn Stampex; Literature; Auction news **100**

**Royal Mail news** New Smilers; 2003 stamps; Revised services **103**



**A wider audience**  
Richard West talks to Charles Goodwyn **108**

**Favourite stamps poll**  
Vote for your favourite of 2002 **110**

**Birds of Prey** The first new issue of 2003 **112**

**Lord Glenamara at 90**  
Wishing a former PMG well on his birthday **115**



**Philately on-line** Ron Negus tours Canadian postal archives **119**

**Mainly Machins** Report for specialist collectors, by DGA Myall **120**

**Machin man's birthday**  
Douglas Myall at 80, by the Editor **122**

**Wildings introduction**  
Remembering the first Elizabeth II stamps **124**

**Cover corner** **125**

**Prize draw** **125**

**Competitions** £200 to be won in two easy-to-enter competitions **126**

**Events** **126**

**Late news** **127**

## This month The Editor previews this issue

### 2002 Bulletin writers

**Daniel Cooke** February

**James Haggart** April

**Dorothy Martin** December

**Jean Matheson** January,  
August

**Glenn Morgan** October

**Margaret Morris** September

**Douglas Myall** February,  
April, June, August, October,  
December

**Ron Negus** each month

**Martin Robinson** October

**Richard West** each month

ONCE AGAIN we invite you to vote for your favourite stamps and *Bulletin* writer of the year. The special stamps issued during 2002 are shown on pages 110-111. Tell us your top three sets and favourite individual stamp on the enclosed voting form. All forms will be entered in a prize draw: the first four 'out of the hat' will each win £50. Remember to return your voting form by 17 January. The favourite set of 2001 was Weather, with the 'Union Jack' stamp in Flags & Ensigns set the most popular individual design.

We also invite you to vote (on the same form) for your favourite *Bulletin* writer – listed opposite, with the months their articles were published. All voting forms go into a second draw for two £50 prizes. The favourite author will receive £100 and the runner-up £50. Last year's winner was Douglas Myall, with James Mackay second. Please note that articles by Royal Mail staff are excluded.

Details are given this month of the first special issue for 2003 – on the popular theme of Birds. We also have our now customary article on Christmas stamps by Dorothy Martin, and profiles of former Postmaster General Lord Glenamara and Machin expert and *Bulletin* contributor Douglas Myall who will be celebrating their 90th and 80th birthdays this month.

On behalf of Royal Mail I wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and New Year. JOHN HOLMAN •

## Stamp scene New literature • Report from Autumn Stampex • Cavendish auctions

**Booklets** are available from Stanley Brown, 14 Buchan Drive, Perth PH1 1NQ. Price £1 each, postage 30p.

**Literature** Stanley Brown and Ken Norris have published two further booklets in their series dealing with Scottish postmarks and covers. *Scotland and Football* illustrates postmarks and covers concerned with famous teams such as Hearts, Hibs, St Johnstone, Aberdeen, Celtic, and Rangers; Hampden Park; Euro 96; and the 1974 and 1978 World Cups. Also shown are stamps from various countries showing famous Scottish players such as Bruce Rioch, Denis Law, and Ally McCoist. *Sir James Barrie* opens with illustrations of the 24 special handstamps used on 20 August for the Peter Pan issue, and Barrie's birthplace at Kirriemuir, referred to as Thrums in his writings. Also featured are: a postmark for Thrums – a town in British Columbia, the Barrie aerogramme of 1987, a Kirriemuir meter mark showing the Peter Pan statue, Peter Pan stamps from Dominica and Jersey, the Kirriemuir first day of issue handstamp for the Children's Literature stamps of July 1998, and maritime postmarks for the ferry mv *Peter Pan* which operated between Sweden and Germany •

The 2003 edition of *Collecting British First Day Covers* lists all FDC and postmark types in an easy-to-follow format. Prices for special handstamps are given in two column price structure, ie prices for ordinary (or com-

mercial) covers and official (or sponsored) covers. There are detailed listings of relevant circular datestamps and slogan postmarks on FDCs. All types of definitives are included in a separate section, with sub-sections for commemorative labels, prestige stamp books, regionals, booklets and varieties. The listings are complete to the Peter Pan issue. The excellent General Notes section includes guidance on prices and condition, and a useful illustrated list of permanent handstamps •

The *British Postmark Bulletin* of 26 April and 10 & 24 May included an article by Brian Asquith on British postmarks featuring Concorde. This has prompted a reader in France to tell us about a catalogue he has produced of Concorde postmarks of the world. The latest edition reproduces over 600 postmarks and more than 100 meter marks. Text is in French but easily understandable. The work covers special handstamps, slogan postmarks, printed postage impressions, and meter marks. Within each section the postmarks are illustrated in date order irrespective of country. This is an impressive compilation •

**Collecting British First Day Covers** From A G Bradbury, 3 Link Road, Leicester LE2 3RA. Price £14.50 postpaid, including five free FDCs.

**Concorde catalogue** Price 21 euros to addresses in Europe (EU) from Jean-Francois Bo, 7 Square Mondovi, 78150 Le Chesnay, France.

**Autumn Stampex** As always, there were a number of exhibits in the competitive displays to interest most collectors of GB stamps and postal history. The stamps ranged from early Queen Victoria to recent issues. A gold medal went to 'Sayeed' for a wonderful display with the near incomprehensible title '1840-41, Plate v, Mainly, the 1840-41 Repairs & States'. Charles Reid entered 'Two Pence Blue with Lines' which earned him a large vermeil medal. Kenneth Cross's 'The Downey Head 1911-12' (vermeil) was rich in essays, die proofs and paper and colour trials of this much maligned first issue of George V stamps. He received the Royal Mail Award. J P Watson's display was also of George V material: 'British Empire Exhibition 1924-25, A Philatelic Introduction and Tour', followed by Alan Sabey's 'The 1948 Olympic Games Issue' which included the artist's sketch for the 3d value, the aerogramme, and special postmarks as well as the stamps themselves in large blocks showing varieties. On to the present reign and two displays by Robin Tibbenham entitled 'An Introduction to British Definitive Stamps 1967-1971' and 'Sterling Machins – a Study of the 4d Sepia Value'. His tenacity in studying these stamps is not in doubt although the displays are rather heavy going; nonetheless they earned him silver and large silver. In the Social Philately class, Jean Alexander displayed 'Supermarket Philately' – promotional material produced by the Post Office, in conjunction with companies such as Heinz, Kelloggs, Boots, and Marks & Spencer, since 1971. This included packaging giving details of stamp promotions as well as the stamps and covers themselves – a colourful and interesting display of modern material. A disappointment was the lack of a display of the Wilding definitives – it would have been appropriate in their 50th anniversary year. The main award, the Stampex Silver Mailcoach, went to M I Basaran for his display of the early stamps of Turkey which featured the toughra – the sign manual of the Sultan of Turkey.

The postal history displays covered the period from the 17th to the early 20th centuries but it was a pity some exhibitors didn't bring the story up

to date, showing the postal markings in current use; their displays somehow seemed truncated and incomplete. Alan Green showed 'The Restoration Post Office 1660-1714', and Michael Pitt-Payne 'UK to France' (1727-1895). Local studies included Dr Colin Ross on the City of Cork, Tom Fowler on Carrick (South Ayrshire), John Matthews on Donegal, Tim Lediard on Edinburgh, and Mike Mapleton on Cumbria. Slightly wider in scope were Jean Ruskin's 'Scottish Additional Halfpenny Mail Tax' and Peter Wood's 'Irish Postal History, 1839-1900'. In the Revenues class Dr R H Champion showed 'GB Road Tax Discs 1921-2000'.

The numerous entries in the Youth classes for the British Youth Stamp Championships and Stamp Active Competition were well thought out, colourful and, it has to be said, rather more visually appealing than most adult entries. Not surprisingly perhaps in Golden Jubilee Year, a number of entries were concerned with Royalty, but Birds, Animals and Railways were also popular. Rebecca Marshall's 'Going on Safari', Mathiyanan Nithiyananthan's 'World of Literature', and Martin Ferguson's 'Christmas' were particularly enjoyable.

There were fine displays by members of the Cinderella Stamp Club; British material on show included Lundy locals, and airway letter and parcel delivery stamps. Displays will be mounted at Spring Stampex (26 February - 2 March) by the British Acrophilatic Federation and the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain.

Heritage Services, Consignia showed stamps and artwork by David Gentleman to mark the publication of his book *Artwork* and the 40th anniversary of his first stamps; the display included all his British stamps, pages from the 'Gentleman Album' of suggested designs, and frames devoted to the Battle of Britain, Social Reforms, Darwin, and Millennium issues.

The Royal Mail stand, busy throughout the exhibition, offered the full range of stamps and related products and a wide range of our growing portfolio of collectibles. Amongst the most popular lines were Coastlines packs, Smilers sheets, the *Jubilee Portrait in Stamps* and David Gentleman *Artwork* books, albums, and specialised Machin material •

#### Details of future auctions

Cavendish Philatelic Auctions,  
153-157 London Road, Derby  
DE1 2SY. Telephone 01332  
250970.

**Auction news** The Cavendish auction on 6 September included a copy of *The Stamp Collectors Guide* by Frederick Booty – the world's first illustrated catalogue, issued in August 1862. This extremely rare publication realised £2400 against an estimate of £500. An extensive collection of Squared Circle postmarks (approx 800 cards/covers) went for £950 (£500) and a rare manuscript 'P Pan 1' of the Edinburgh District Penny Post – believed to be the finer of the two recorded examples used on the first day of use, 7 November 1775, went for £380 (£300).

The John Gunn collection of worldwide maritime mail and related ephemera was sold on 26 September. The GB section proved there is still a strong demand for GB maritime mail with a Liverpool Landing Stage cds selling for £862 (£300). The Welsh section proved to be the most popular with a Bangor Ship Letter going at £2760 (£1500) and the Ship Letter (Crown) Milford lot at £2990 (£1000) •

# Royal Mail news New Smilers • 2003 issues

## Revised postal services



**New Smilers sheets** Shown here are the new generic Smilers sheets containing Teddy Bear and Dennis the Menace greetings and 1997 1st class Christmas stamps which went on sale on 1 October. Three new sheets for personalisation on the labels are available at £14.95; see October *Bulletin* p37 for details. These are produced to order – for further information phone 0845 074 2000 (UK) or +44 131 316 7483 (overseas).

A further sheet will be available from 21 January, containing two of each of the 10 colourful Flowers greetings stamps first issued in books in January 1997. On the generic sheet the labels adjoining the stamps will feature further illustrations of the flowers shown on the stamps. The stamps and labels are surrounded by a lush, verdant background design. Price £5.95 generic version or £14.95 personalised version. The stamps and labels will be ideal for use on Valentine's Day and Mother's Day cards, as well as for birthdays and other social occasions. The Smilers sheets are printed by Questa whereas the 1997 greetings stamps were by Walsall.

The Smilers sheet containing the 10 1st class Cartoons stamps will be withdrawn from sale on 17 December. Price £2.95, order code XA027. This is the only source of the Cartoons stamps printed by Questa without elliptical perforations on vertical sides. The original 1996 printings (in books) by Walsall has elliptical perforations •

**Generic Smilers sheets** can be ordered from Royal Mail Tallents House, or purchased at Post Office philatelic outlets, price £5.95 each. For further details see October *Bulletin*, page 37.

**Wilding miniature sheet** Details were given last month of a miniature sheet containing nine stamps in the Wilding designs but now in decimal values. The sheet will be on sale from 5 December – the 50th anniversary of the issue of the original Wilding stamps – price £2.21. Five stamp cards, price 25p each reproduce the new 1st, 2nd, 33p, 37p and 47p stamps •



**Revised services** Revised International Priority Services – Airsure, Swiftair, and International Signed For – were introduced on 31 October. Airsure costs £4 in addition to airmail postage – letters are electronically tracked all the way, they leave on the first available flight and they receive priority handling abroad. Swiftair (£3.30 plus airmail postage) is available to all destinations to which Airsure is not; letters leave on the first available flight from the UK and are signed for when delivered. International Signed For (£2.85 plus airmail postage) provides for signature on

delivery but not the extra speed of Airsure or Swiftair. The charges include compensation up to £30. Swiftair and International Signed For mail is electronically tracked up to the time of leaving the UK. New Airsure and Swiftair pre-paid packs (C4 size) cost £6 and £5.50 respectively – sold at main Post Office branches in a sealed transparent wrapper bearing details of the services. The wrappers have been printed in standard and bilingual (Welsh/English) versions •

**Rowland Hill Awards** October's *Bulletin* included forms for readers to nominate in various categories for the Rowland Hill Awards for 2002. Forms should be returned to Rachel Lonsdale of Royal Mail or Susan Ellis of the British Philatelic Trust by 31 December. All nomination forms will go into a prize draw. Enquiries about the Rowland Hill Awards should be sent to Rachel Lonsdale, Stamps & Collectibles, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ. Telephone 020 7520 2267 •



**2003 stamp programme** The special issues for next year are shown below. The Birds of Prey stamps are reviewed elsewhere in this *Bulletin*. The new Occasions stamps (4 February) will bear messages for senders to tick (see left). The Secret of Life stamps (25 February) are on the subject of the Human Genome; the designs include Comparative Genetics, Cracking the Code and Genetic Engineering. Both Occasions and Secret of Life sets will be previewed next month. The Secret of Life and Coronation Anniversary issues include prestige stamp books. •

The new Occasions stamps each bear three messages – the sender can tick the box alongside the appropriate message.

**The 2003 stamp programme** The number of stamps in each issue is shown in parentheses

|                    |                                                                |                    |                                |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>14 January</b>  | Birds of Prey (10)                                             | <b>2 June</b>      | Coronation: 2 June 1953 (10)   |
| <b>4 February</b>  | Occasions: Multiple-Choice (6)                                 | <b>June</b>        | Prince William's 21st birthday |
| <b>25 February</b> | The Secret of Life: DNA and the Genome (5)                     | <b>15 July</b>     | The Beauty of Scotland (6)     |
| <b>25 March</b>    | Fun, Fruit & Veg (10)                                          | <b>12 August</b>   | Pub Signs (5)                  |
| <b>29 April</b>    | Extreme Endeavours (6)                                         | <b>9 September</b> | Transport/Toys (5)             |
| <b>20 May</b>      | Wilding Collection II (miniature sheet of Wilding definitives) | <b>7 October</b>   | British Museum 1753-2003 (5)   |
|                    |                                                                | <b>4 November</b>  | Christmas (5)                  |

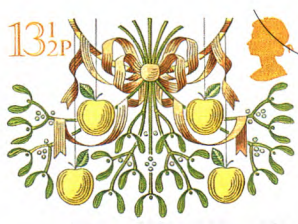
## A Victorian Christmas Part 1: preparations and plans for the day, by Dorothy M Martin

THE VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS was essentially a time when the whole family met in great celebration and feasting, a time of peace and goodwill, a time of giving. At the heart of the festivities was the religious significance of Christmas Day.

In Victorian days, business and Parliamentary mail as well as personal letters were posted and delivered on 25 December. In the early years, it was a normal working time; there were no holidays, so all types of mail would go tumbling through the letter boxes including the unwelcome bills. An interesting bill dated 25 December 1839 indicates that a whole year's supply of drugs and other items from a chemist to a doctor only amounted to £2 2s7d (£2.13); on occasions Mulready sheets were used as bill-heads.

The Fores's Christmas Envelope is typical of the Victorian era depicting merriment and feasting, music and dancing, and children enjoying themselves. It is also interesting to note that in 1840, the first year of the adhesive stamps, the Penny Black was cancelled with both the black and the red Maltese Cross.

**The Victorians revived Christmas, but they did not invent it, and many ancient pagan and religious customs and traditions were incorporated into the revival. Next month, Mrs Martin looks at the origin of Christmas and how the Victorians spent the day.**



After Cromwell's attempt to abolish Christmas, Dickens played a large part in its revival during the Victorian period, by writing articles every year advocating seasonal goodwill and charity. Dickens was primarily responsible for Christmas holidays in factories and shops.

The Dickensian Christmas laid the foundations for the festive season enjoyed during the early 20th century. There would be much preparation, extra shopping and the preparing of food for the festive table would take place especially if family and friends were expected. The Sunday before Advent, known as 'Stir-up-Sunday' was, by tradition, the last day for cakes and puddings to be made in order to be ready for Christmas Day.

Candles and decorations would be made for the home, the children would make paper chains and garlands; the kissing bough of mistletoe with apples dangling from coloured ribbons was a main feature, the Nativity Scene being of prime importance as it symbolised the birth of Jesus and the whole reason for Christmas. Holly, evergreens, and the Christmas tree would all be collected from the countryside by the family, a wreath of holly would be placed on the front door to welcome family and friends,

Left: Dickens wrote *A Christmas Carol* in six weeks, and published it on 19 December 1843. Within a week all 6000 copies were sold for five shillings (25p) each, a princely sum at that time. Centre: the bough of mistletoe and apples hanging on coloured ribbons featured in Victorian homes. Right: collecting a Christmas tree from the countryside.



The tree would be given pride of place in a Victorian home, decorated and topped with a bright star or a fairy with silver wings. Presents were placed around it ready to be opened on Christmas morning.

the tree would given pride of place and the children would help to decorate it with candles, sweet-meats, small gifts and toys, with a bright star or a fairy with silver wings placed at the top of the tree. Prince Albert and Queen Victoria greatly popularised the Christmas tree, and presents were often placed around it ready to be opened on Christmas morning.

The Victorians were also very enthusiastic about decorating their churches and took great joy and pride in carrying out such tasks. The crib was the focal point of church decorations. There were even instructions laid down – ‘Rich carved work should not be touched, but blank spaces covered... columns should not be wreathed, plain columns may have garlands of flowers round the capitals and base. Two styles should not be mixed in one church.’

Carol singing was an important feature for the Victorians. Families would gather together to enjoy singing their favourite carols. Children wrapped up warm in their mufflers and hats, often accompanied by adults, went from door to door with their lanterns to sing to their friends and neighbours and collected for themselves or for charity. The ‘Waits’ played an important part at Christmas-tide, as they performed under the windows of the gentry and important people of the area to collect their Christmas boxes. The town’s musicians used to walk the parish with carols and music for which they were rewarded and were usually invited in to the hall to enjoy refreshments, including a glass of punch from the wassail bowl. The Victorians gave a new lease of life to carol singing. They collected and composed, also published old and new carols, often on broadsheets.

Christmas Eve was a very busy day. It was a time of travelling amid fun and merriment; of last-minute preparations; and the time when carefully chosen Christmas cards were written and posted to ensure they arrived on the 25th. The first-ever Christmas card commissioned by Henry Cole in 1843 depicted a homely Victorian family of three generations making a

## 8. CHRISTMAS EVE

Bringing in the Yule Log on Christmas Eve was quite a ceremony and once inside the house was always an opportunity for a celebration. The burning log was never allowed to go out until Twelfth Night, if it did it, would mean bad luck. Christmas Eve was always a very busy time, a time for last minute preparations and shopping. It was also a time for travelling either by coach or train, both modes being crowded and uncomfortable. Everyone had cases and parcels, and were in a hurry, in spite of this there was great merriment and goodwill.



#### 9.4. Christmas Day Activities



G.B. Airmail stamp issued 17th November 1976.  
Imprinted stamp on lowest section depicts Boy on Hobby-horse.

Upon arrival home from church, the greetings cards would be placed upon the mantelpiece, and the presents would be opened amid much hilarity and fun.



The children would dance and sing around the Christmas tree, and happily play with their new toys. Everybody would be looking forward to the sumptuous feast that was to follow.

toast, the side panels within a vine-covered trellis representing the Spirit of Christmas charity – the poor being fed, and handed warm clothing. Christmas greetings cards became well established by 1860, and adorned most mantel-pieces from then on. Firms such as Marcus Ward and Raphael Tuck produced elaborate and ornate cards with silk fringes, intricate filigree and embossed work, and often much gilt. Those depicting Santa Claus portrayed him as 'King of Misrule' in a green robe wearing a wreath of evergreens, long before he appeared in his red hooded cloak as he is known today. The flourishing Christmas card industry employed a great number of people including artists such as Kate Greenaway, and sentiment writers such as Helen Marion Burnside, to name just one of each.

On Christmas Day, the children would wake up at the crack of dawn and excitedly discover the toys, sweets and other goodies which Santa Claus had put in their stockings ●



Mrs Martin, above, and two of her album pages.

**Next month: Christmas Day, Twelfth Night and the origins of Christmas.**

## A wider audience Richard West talks to Charles Goodwyn

IN THE PAST SEVEN YEARS the Royal Philatelic Collection has been seen by more people than ever before, and has received more publicity through magazine articles than ever before. The credit for this fine achievement can be attributed directly to Charles Goodwyn, who, during his period as Keeper of the Collection, has done a great deal to improve and increase its perspective in public eyes.



Charles began collecting in a most unusual way; not for him the familiar schoolboy pursuit of amassing as much as possible. While at Wellington College he was inspired to learn of the foreign post offices in China, and by the age of 14 he was already building a fine collection of Hong Kong (later encouraged by the late Francis Webb). In 1981 he decided to pursue China, gaining a Gold Medal

for his China Postal History at the international stamp exhibition held in The Hague. The China collection has since been sold, replaced by an outstanding, unsurpassed, study of Wei Hai Wei, which Charles has found fascinating, with its many facets, including the Field Post Offices, British Post Offices, Courier Posts, the Boxer Rebellion period, and the Communist Border issues used in 1944 while under Japanese control. The authoritative book *The Crown Colony of Wei Hai Wei* was jointly written by Charles with Michael Goldsmith, and was published by The Royal Philatelic Society London in 1985.

Charles has decided to retire as Keeper at the end of the year. The immense contribution he has made was acknowledged by the former Keeper of the Privy Purse Sir Michael Peat, who, informing members of the Royal Household of Charles' decision, wrote 'Charles has done a marvellous job, in particular in exhibiting the Collection to tens of thousands of people around the Country'.

It is totally fitting that, in his final year as Keeper, Charles should help celebrate The Queen's Golden Jubilee with a magnificent exhibition that was seen at Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh, Sandringham in Norfolk, and at Hampton Court in London. Also this year part of the Collection has been seen at Chester, Amsterdam, the British Virgin Islands and Monte Carlo. The opportunity to see the Collection has been as much welcomed and enjoyed overseas as it has in the UK.

Of course, references to 'the Collection' really refer to extracts, as the entire collection is so vast. Although he took up his appointment as Keeper in September 1995, Charles had been selected for the position two years earlier. During those two years he worked alongside the previous Keeper, the late Sir John Marriott, and it took him all that time to look through the entire Collection.

Charles well remembers his interview for the role of Keeper. Having impressed the selection panel, he was told that two further checks were needed: one was a security check; the second, a traditional courtesy, was the endorsement of the President of The Royal Philatelic Society London. Charles gave a wry smile at this second request: at the time he was the President of the 'Royal'.

After school Charles attended London University from which he graduated with an Honours degree in Law. He became a Chartered Surveyor, and for most of his career was involved in matters of arbitration (for which his knowledge of law was extremely useful), until his retirement in 1995 when he became Keeper.

As mentioned, at the time of his appointment he was President of the 'Royal', having previously been a Vice President, Honorary Secretary (he undertook a second term as Secretary in 1999), and Honorary Treasurer. He is now an Honorary Fellow, the highest honour the Society can bestow.

On taking up his appointment Charles had two main aims: to complete the writing up of the material of King George VI, and to complete the inventory of the collection up to the end of the reign of King George VI. He has not quite completed either task, but both are now very much underway, with nearly three-quarters achieved in each case. It has not been an easy task. As an

indication, the Collection receives examples of each new printing by the Crown Agents. A previous Keeper, Sir John Wilson, at first returned any stamp he felt did not represent any difference from one already in the Collection. Later he would place the new printings in envelopes: initially he wrote full details on the outside of each envelope; later this was replaced by Sir John's own code; finally, he abandoned any annotation, and the outsides of the envelopes remained blank.

However, for most, bringing the Collection to the public is the most ambitious achievement of the past seven years. It must be remembered that this is The Queen's personal collection, and all decisions regarding it are made by The Queen. She has been pleased to agree that it should be more widely seen. It has been enjoyed in Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, China (Hong Kong), Cyprus, Denmark, Holland, India, Israel, Monaco, Norway, Portugal, Russia, South Africa and Spain, plus of course several locations in the UK.

It has not always been plain sailing: although the Collection normally travels in a Diplomatic Bag, there can still be problems with Customs. Obtaining insurance is becoming increasingly difficult and expensive. On arrival in Australia Charles was greeted by an obviously enthusiastic press officer, who wanted an early morning interview (from his hotel bed if necessary), followed by a lunchtime chat show appearance, an evening press conference, and then another appearance on a late night show – all on the same day. Leaving Cyprus, Charles was afforded first-class treatment, but it was only on boarding the plane that the exhibition organisers realised they had forgotten to book the seats on the flight. The medal from Cyprus, given to The Queen in recognition of her display, showed Aphrodite emerging from the waves, and was inscribed 'ΗΜΩΙ'. Charles was not sure that this was fitting actually to present to The Queen but, knowing of The Queen's great sense of humour, Sir Michael Peat was not so reticent. The medal was duly presented.

A few minor aggravations apart, Charles admits he has thoroughly enjoyed his time as Keeper; indeed he regards this hobby as fun. His proudest moments will remain his audiences with

The Queen, first on taking up his appointment, and more recently when she wished to see the material for the Golden Jubilee exhibition. This was the time to show her the recently acquired cover bearing ten Penny Blacks. The Queen asked who has purchased the cover: Charles had great pleasure in replying that she had. The purchase was achieved by the sale of some duplicate items in the Collection, again a decision which The Queen herself took. For this is a 'living' collection, and will always remain so.

Charles also remembers the magnificent setting for displaying material from the Collection at The Stamp Show 2000, and the tremendous response the Collection (and other British participation) received at Belgica in 2001. The display at The Stamp Show included material pertinent to the Postal Reforms of 1839, including an entry to the Treasury Competition which bears a very close resemblance to the design of the Penny Black. Charles recorded his findings in the book *Postal Reform* which was published in 1999.

But Charles' life has not just revolved around stamps. A member of the MCC, he has run his own cricket club, the White Lions Cricket Club, for 45 years, touring the villages of Buckinghamshire on Sunday afternoons. Until health intervened, he was a keen golfer. Now in retirement he will return to his garden – he and his wife Judith live in a Grade II listed house with a Georgian garden. Charles also hopes to find time for some watercolour painting. Judith has enthusiastically supported Charles as Keeper, accompanying him to the many exhibitions.

Already a signatory of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, last month Charles received another honour, in the USA. The Council of Philatelists of the National Postal Museum of the Smithsonian Institution has instigated a Philatelic Excellence Award and the first recipient, for his 'extraordinary and exceptional' contributions to the disciplines of philately, is Charles Goodwyn. The ceremony took place in Washington, with the presentation being made by the Vice-President of the United States. A fitting tribute for all that Charles Goodwyn has achieved, and a fitting climax to a truly memorable year ●

## 2002 Favourite stamps poll

FOR THE 17TH YEAR running we are inviting you to vote for your favourite stamps. Shown below are the special stamps of 2002. Tell us your top three sets and favourite individual stamp (numbered 1-78) on the enclosed voting form. Remember to return your form by 17 January for entry in our prize draw. Stamps in each set are numbered from left to right •

### Kipling

1 2 3 4 5



### Kipling

6 7 8 9 10



### Golden Jubilee

11 12 13 14 15



### Occasions

16 17 18 19 20



### Coastlines

21 22 23 24 25



### Coastlines

26 27 28 29 30



### Circus

31 32 33 34 35



### Queen Mother

36 37 38 39



**Airliners**

40 41 42 43 44

**World Cup**

45 46 47 48 49

**Commonwealth Games**

50 51 52

**Commonwealth Games**

53 54

**Peter Pan**

55 56 57 58 59

**London Bridges**

60 61 62 63 64

**Astronomy**

65 66 67 68

**Pillar Boxes**

69 70 71 72 73

**Christmas**

74 75 76 77 78

## Birds of Prey Two of Britain's most beautiful



### Technical details

**Printer** Walsall Security Printers

**Process** Lithography

**Size** 37 × 35mm

**Sheets** 60

**Perforation** 14.5

**Phosphor** Phosphor background, surrounding images

**Gum** PVA

**Gutter pairs** Horizontal

### Plate numbers and colours

W1 brownish grey ● W1 black  
 ● W1 greenish yellow ● W1  
 magenta ● W1 new blue ● W1  
 phosphor

THE FIRST of the special issues for 2003 features the Barn Owl and the Kestrel. The 10 stamps – all at 1st class rate – go on sale at Post Office branches, Tallents House and Post Office philatelic outlets on 14 January. The stamps are printed in se-tenant blocks of 10: the top row of five stamps shows a progression of the Barn Owl in flight; a similar sequence of the Kestrel graces the second row of stamps. The Barn Owl is depicted against a black background, indicative of its nocturnal nature. The Queen's head and service indicator are printed at top right, with the captions 'Barn Owl *Tyto alba*' and 'Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*' at bottom left. They were designed by John Gibbs using photography by Stephen Dalton/NHPA.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets about a week before 14 January, price 25p. Orders for FDCs with the stamps cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of Tallents House Edinburgh or Hawkshead, Ambleside must reach Tallents House by the date of issue. Price £3.59 UK (including VAT) or £3.06 overseas (no VAT).

Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB, or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, South Shields DO, Keppell Street, South Shields NE33 1AA (Hawkshead postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FD0301' or 'FD0302'. Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for the Hawkshead postmark. Details of sponsored handstamps will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House. For a sample copy write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ.

# and rare birds grace Royal Mail's new issue



Owls and kestrels are widespread throughout the UK. Barn owl numbers have declined by over 50% from the 1930s but appear to have stabilized at around 4000 breeding pairs. The kestrel population was estimated at 51,500 pairs a decade ago but there has been a general decline in recent times, most marked in lowland England and Wales. This is probably due to the sort of causes seen with the barn owl – shortages of prey due to changes in farming methods.

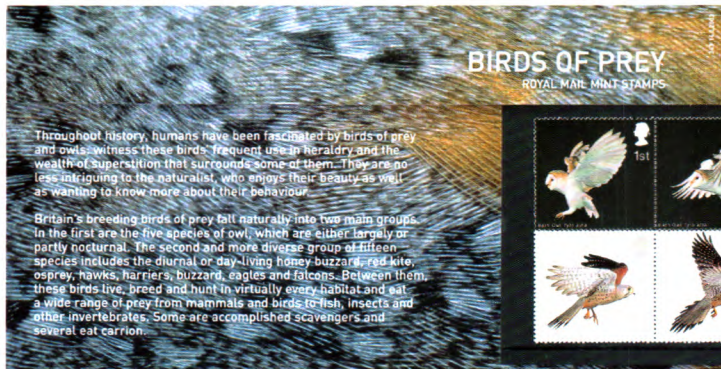


A well-illustrated presentation pack (below) containing the 10 stamps (price £3.05) and stamp cards (25p each) will be available from main Post Offices and philatelic outlets.

Note: postmarks will be applied in silver ink.

**BIRDS OF PREY**  
ROYAL MAIL FIRST DAY COVER

Mrs J Robinson  
200 Manorbier Road  
Ilkeston  
Derbyshire  
DE7 4AB



Throughout history, humans have been fascinated by birds of prey and owls: witness these birds' frequent use in heraldry and the wealth of superstition that surrounds some of them. They are no less intriguing to the naturalist, who enjoys their beauty as well as wanting to know more about their behaviour.

Britain's breeding birds of prey fall naturally into two main groups. In the first are the five species of owl, which are either largely or partly nocturnal. The second and more diverse group of fifteen species includes the diurnal or day-living honey buzzard, red kite, osprey, hawks, harriers, buzzard, eagles and falcons. Between them, these birds live, breed and hunt in virtually every habitat and eat a wide range of prey from mammals and birds to fish, insects and other invertebrates. Some are accomplished scavengers and several eat carrion.

This information is taken from the presentation pack, written by Mike Everett of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

**Birds of prey** Humans are fascinated by birds of prey and owls. These birds appear frequently in heraldic devices and a wealth of superstition surrounds them. Naturalists enjoy their beauty and studying their behaviour.

There are the five species of owl, which are either largely or partly nocturnal, and 15 other birds of prey including the diurnal or day-living honey buzzard, red kite, osprey, hawks, harriers, buzzard, eagles and falcons. They live, breed and hunt in virtually every habitat and eat a wide range of prey – mammals, birds, fish, insects and other invertebrates. Some are accomplished scavengers and several eat carrion.

The barn owl is easily identified by its white, heart-shaped face with black eyes, white underparts and sandy grey and white upperparts. Its most common call is an unearthly shriek; it also makes assorted hissing and snoring sounds. Barn owls frequent open lowlands, but are generally found on farmland. Hunting is often from a perch such as a fencepost or stone wall but more commonly is carried out on the wing. Undigested hard parts of the prey are disgorged as black, sausage-shaped pellets which accumulate in large numbers at roosting and nesting sites. The barn owl nest in barns, outhouses, ruins, and holes in trees. Up to seven eggs are laid, incubation (by the female alone) is for 30-31 days and the young fly at 50-55 days.

The Kestrel is a small falcon, easily the UK's most widespread bird of prey, readily identified by its habit of persistent hovering – the only small bird of prey to do this. Males have grey heads and black-tipped grey tails and chestnut backs; females are browner overall with heavily barred darker upperparts. Kestrels are fairly silent birds; their regular call is a high-pitched 'kee-kee-kee-kee'. Kestrels are in fact found in all sorts of open country, even in built-up areas including large cities where they are to be seen along roadsides and motorways.

Kestrels hunt by watching and pouncing from telegraph poles or tree branches, or whilst in flight with characteristic bouts of hovering. Mice and voles, small birds, beetles and insects are their main diet. Undigested material is ejected via the mouth as small, elongated pellets.

Nests may be situated on ledges of cliffs and buildings or in almost any sort of hole or crevice. Up to six eggs are laid and are creamy or buffish brown in colour with dark spots or blotches. After being incubated for around 28 days, the young fly at 27-32 days.



**Owls and Kestrels on stamps** An owl, of sorts, featured on the 3d Post Office Savings Bank stamp of 1961, but more realistic representations of a Barn Owl are found on the 17p stamp in the 1986 Nature Conservation set and 19p stamp of the Above and Beyond Millennium set January 2000. The latter was voted the favourite stamp of the year. Edward Lear's famous 'Owl and the Pussy Cat' were depicted on the 19p stamp in the Lear centenary set of 1988. The Barn Owl featured on the front cover of 6s stamp books dated January and February 1969.

The Kestrel has not previously been shown on British stamps although does feature, with the Barn Owl, on the Birds of Prey aerogramme – one of seven featuring British Birds issued in July and August 1994 •

## Lord Glenamara Wishing a former PMG well on the occasion of his 90th birthday

EDWARD SHORT was born in Westmorland (now part of Cumbria) and studied law at London University. During the Second World War he served in the Durham Light Infantry and later wrote their history. After the War he became a headmaster in Northumberland and entered politics, becoming the Leader of the Labour Group on Newcastle City Council. He then went on to be elected as MP for Newcastle Central for 25 years, from 1951 until 1976. He was Deputy Chief Opposition Whip 1962-64 and when Labour was elected to office in October he became the Government Chief Whip. The government's small Parliamentary majority ensured a hectic time in the post – fully described in Lord Glenamara's book *Whip to Wilson* published in 1989. In July 1966, after the general election when Labour were returned with a bigger majority, Prime Minister Wilson moved Mr Short to the Post Office, taking over from Tony Benn in the historic role of Postmaster General. Although he later went on to greater things, Lord Glenamara told me that his two years at St Martin's-le-Grand were the most rewarding of his various ministerial jobs, as he found his staff at the PO so professional.



**Lord Glenamara was, as Edward Short MP, Postmaster General at the introduction of the Machins, and instigator of the Stamp Advisory Committee in its current form. Above (at right), examining the Machin cast, and below, one of the first Machins.**



**Stamp issues** Tony Benn had revised the policy relating to special stamps and set in motion a new definitive series of stamps. Although unlike his predecessor, Mr Short did not want to see The Queen's head removed from stamps, he took a keen interest in the designs and subjects of stamp issues, well aware of the high profile of stamps and the revenue philatelic sales brought to the GPO coffers. During his time at the Post Office, Mr Short was involved in many philatelic matters and visits.

A few weeks after his appointment England won the World Cup and he was keen this should be commemorated by a stamp. Quickly the 4d World Cup stamp issued in June was amended to include the wording ENGLAND WINNERS and supplies rushed to post offices for sale just 18 days after the famous victory. The stamp proved an immediate success and sold out virtually on the day of issue.

The following month Mr Short crossed over the road from the PMG's office in St Martin's-le-Grand to open the new National Postal Museum in King Edward Building. Unfortunately no photographic record seems to have survived of this opening. The Museum was an immediate success with over 500 visitors on the first day it was open to the public. The temporary Museum was closed a while later for extension and the enlarged premises were opened by The Queen in February 1969.



On the Post Office underground railway's 40th anniversary.



Visiting Balnain post office in the Scottish Highlands.



Tony Benn in 1965 launched a competition for children to design Britain's first Christmas stamps. Nearly 5000 entries were received and £20 prizes for the winning designs were given to two six-year olds, Tasveer Shemza (whose 3d design is shown left) and James Berry by Mr Short at a ceremony at PO Headquarters on 29 September 1966 when the stamps were announced. In selecting the winning designs, the PMG had the advice of eight prominent stamp designers including David Gentleman and Jeffery Matthews. The stamps went on sale on 1 December 1966, starting the annual issue of Christmas stamps.

In 1966 the Philatelic Bureau moved from London to Edinburgh and in 1968 Mr Short visited the new premises at the Head Post Office in Waterloo Place. He also made various overseas visits to stamp exhibitions, such as Interpex in New York in March 1968, as well as opening North East Stampex in Newcastle in 1966, the British Philatelic Exhibition in 1966, and Stampex in London in 1967 and 1968. The Philatelic Traders' Society made him an honorary member for his interest in Stampex and the hobby.

In late 1966 he gave a rare interview to the philatelic press, published in the weekly magazine *Stamp Collecting* of 6 January 1967. He thought there had been too many stamp issues in 1966 and wanted a 'more moderate' programme for 1967. He reacted with a 'shudder' to the proposal of stamps for each county and saw distribution and other difficulties in stamps for the different English regions. He also ruled out charity stamps as legislation would have been needed for the GPO to proceed with this idea. He did not envisage changes to the PO letter monopoly as a result of changing from a government department to a public corporation.

**Visits** The Post Office Railway which carries mail under London celebrated its 40th anniversary during his period in office and he arranged for a special train to carry himself and other dignitaries. He found it an exhilarating experience, if rather cramped. The trains do not normally carry passengers, only mail bags. There were visits too to stamp printers, numerous sorting offices, and even to some of the most remote post offices, such as that at Balnain in the Scottish Highlands.

In 1966 Mr Short welcomed HM Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother to a PO art exhibition at the London Chief Post Office. Our photograph at right shows him during that occasion presenting Her Majesty with a commemorative folder containing England Winners stamps.

**New definitives** In March 1967 Mr Short launched the new definitive stamps with Arnold Machin and the then Chairman of the Stamp Advisory Committee, James Fitton. He was pictured with the Machin cast of 'The Queen's head in the April *Bulletin*. Several of the casts were made and Lord Glenamara recalls taking one to present to The Queen at Sandringham. Another he still has. He was pleased with the new stamp design; in the *Bulletin* 30 years later he described Machin's sculpture portrait of The Queen as 'exquisite'. He continued, 'To enhance its beauty on the stamp I removed the vertical words "Postage" and "Revenue" which, when I first suggested their removal, the Post Office solicitors told me were a legal requirement. The result was the world's most beautiful definitive stamp which has reigned supreme in the philatelic world for three decades.' Indeed the Machin is now well on its way to being the longest-lasting of Britain's definitive stamp designs.

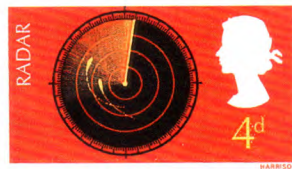
**Reformed Stamp Advisory Committee** Mr Short was far from satisfied with the Stamp Advisory Committee he had inherited and disbanded it. For a while he chose the stamp designs himself after taking advice from his secretary and chauffeur. He wanted a new Committee which reflected more widely the general public. In December 1967 Mr Short sent out invitations to serve on a new SAC with the words 'I want this to be a body comprising experts in design, representatives of public opinion generally and philatelists... The Committee will be advisory in the sense that responsibility for final decisions on stamp design has to remain with me since stamps are issued in my name.' The new Committee met for the first time in February 1968. It comprised G R Downes, Post Office Director (Chairman); Brian Batsford MP; Kenneth F Chapman (Editor, *Stamp Collecting*); Prof Richard Guyatt and Anthony Lousada (Royal College of Art); R A G Lee (philatelist); Mrs Louise Pearce (National Association of Women's Clubs); Sir Paul Reilly (Council of Industrial Design); George Rogers MP; Stuart Rose (Typographic Advisor to the PMG); and Herbert Spencer (Faculty of Royal Designers for Industry). Biographical details of the members of the Committee were published in the *Bulletin* in March 1968. Herbert Spencer served on the SAC for over 20 years.

When I met Lord Glenamara many years later he asked about the Committee and its current composition. He seemed slightly disappointed that in some ways it had reverted to the style of the former Committee with fewer representatives of the general public.



Presenting the Queen Mother with the World Cup Winners.





Special stamps of Mr Short's period in office featured birds, British paintings, technology, the Battle of Hastings, flowers and bridges, as well as a hastily-issued stamp to mark Sir Francis Chichester's round-the-world voyage. One of the 1967 Paintings stamps was a work by L S Lowry of a northern town scene; Lowry was a favourite artist of Prime Minister Harold Wilson.

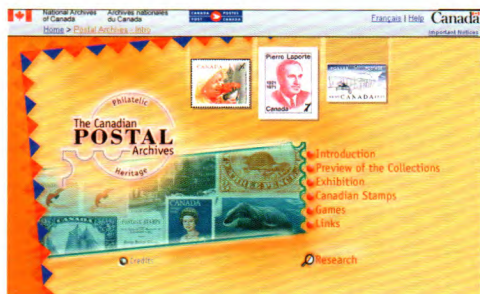
**Reform of the Post Office** During Mr Short's time as PMG the decision was taken to change the status of the PO from a government department to a public corporation. He took the decision to the Cabinet for approval, made the necessary statement in the Commons, and set up a working party to implement the change. On the retirement of the PO Director-General, Mr Short brought in John Wall, Managing Director of EMI – the first business man to run a government department. The change to corporation status from 1 October 1969 meant the end of the office of Postmaster General.

The PMG was responsible for telecommunications and broadcasting as well as posts, and much of Mr Short's time was taken up with the problem of pirate radio stations which interfered with the reception of official broadcasters. Legislation was introduced to outlaw the pirates and the BBC was charged with introducing its own pop music station (Radio 1) to replace the pirates. Mr Short sought Cabinet approval for six BBC local radio stations and opened the first of these at Leicester. Local radio is now a much-loved aspect of British broadcasting.

**Onwards to high office** In March 1968 Lord Glenamara left the Post Office and became Secretary of State for Education & Science until Labour lost the election in June 1970. He returned to office as Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House of Commons in 1974-76, and was Deputy Leader of the Labour Party from 1972-76 when he left the Commons. He is proud of the fact that before Tony Blair, he had achieved the highest office of any North East Labour MP. On leaving office he was made a Companion of Honour by The Queen and the following year given a life peerage as Lord Glenamara. Until recently he has played an active role on House of Lords committees, regularly travelling from his home in Northumberland to attend the House. His interest in education matters continues in his role as Chancellor of the University of Northumbria.

Perhaps not so well known in philatelic circles as Tony Benn, Edward Short's period as PMG saw some important developments. The Machin definitive, Christmas stamps and a revitalised Stamp Advisory Committee are on-going reminders of the 1960s – perhaps the most exciting decade in British philatelic history. We wish him well on his goth birthday ●

## Philately on-line Canadian postal archives, by Ron Negus



[www.archives.ca/08/080608\\_e.htm](http://www.archives.ca/08/080608_e.htm) One Special Delivery stamp from Canada, issued in 1927, depicted no fewer than seven topics, each of which could be added to a different thematic collection. This site illustrates this stamp and lists the subjects it contains.

FOR THE 2002 international website competition, the FIP introduced a new Official Class for sites sponsored by Postal Administrations. It was felt that because these had greater access to resources than those entered by individuals or study groups, it was appropriate for them to be judged separately. Three countries entered in the Official Class: Canada, Faroe Islands and China, and the Canadian one was declared the winner.

The Canadian entry, which can be found at [www.archives.ca/08/080608\\_e.htm](http://www.archives.ca/08/080608_e.htm), is part of the wider National Archives of Canada site, which covers the records of the country's development in all fields. The postal archives explore the different aspects of the philatelic heritage preserved by the National holdings. In its preview of the collections, the site explains details of stamp production using photos and video clips, gives information on some of the artists who designed the stamps and concludes with a description of the modern methods of preservation used to safeguard the philatelic material.

Under the heading Exhibition, examples of five different thematic displays are shown using Canadian issues. For the new collector, the introduction to this section explains that an individual stamp may depict a variety of topics within its design or may be limited to a single theme. It mentions, however, that the dedicated collector of 'electric kettles on stamps' will find only one example from Canada to add to his theme.

In this Exhibition section, the term 'Description of the Fonds' appears beneath some stamps that are illustrated and the word 'Fond' will be unknown to many. It is a technical term, applied

in archival circles, and refers to any assortment of supporting documents related to a particular item. The information included in a fond may be in many forms, such as printed matter, photographs, maps etc, and this indication is only needed for research and can be ignored by general users of the site.

The part of the site likely to be accessed by most collectors will be the Canadian Stamps section. This is indexed under years for Canadian issues from 1851 to 2001, but includes separate indexes for New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island and British Columbia. Selection of any particular index entry brings up a new page with thumbnail photographs in colour of all the issued stamps in the given year. Double clicking on any picture brings up the press release for that issue, which includes the technical specification and a full-size illustration. A particularly valuable part of these pages is the comprehensive description of the purpose of the issue, and, if appropriate, biographical details of any persons pictured in the design. The site concludes with three interactive philatelic games, aimed at the novice collector, plus a short list of links to other websites that may be of interest to those who collect Canadian issues.

Overall, the site is colourful, easy to navigate and contains a great deal of information. Some of the pages take a little time to load, owing to the large number of graphics used, but this is not a serious shortcoming. It is a worthy recipient of the FIP award. It is to be hoped its success will encourage other postal administrations to compete in future years •

## Mainly Machins A look at new issues and an NVI collection,

Right: the London Bridges booklet issued 10 September contains two Bridges stamps and four gold Machins, all self-adhesive.



**Bridges book** Royal Mail began issuing books of Machin definitive stamps through retailers in August 1987 and the venture has proved to be an unqualified success. Most people now buy their books of stamps this way along with their other shopping as it is so handy. A special visit to a post office is not necessary while in villages and small towns the local post office often doubles as a general store anyway. However, this arrangement means that few people ever see the special issues which are regularly issued but remain on sale for only a few days. The situation is not helped by the fact that quite a few post offices do not order them. To counter this (no pun intended) books of four Machin 1st class definitives flanked by two 1st class special issues have been issued regularly since April last year. Their purpose is to let the public know of special issues while they are still on general sale.

In fact, apart from the prestige books, the first book containing a mixture of Machins and special issues was the one with two definitives and 10 Cats and Dogs stamps issued in February last year. They were self-adhesives and followed quickly on the general introduction of peel and stick stamps the previous month. The books were rather large and only two months later a book with four flame (red) Machins and two Submarine stamps made its appearance. This set the pattern for all later issues. All the stamps have been 1st class NVIs. This has meant that the two special stamps in the books have been the same

unless a set has comprised more than one 1st class stamp. Thus both Submarine stamps in the first book were the same but in the next issue Punch and Judy faced other across the Machins.

The latest book in this series was issued on 10 September last. The special stamps are two of the Tower bridge design from the London Bridges set. While the book follows the style established by its predecessors, there are some important changes. The Machin stamps are gold and not flame as gold is now the permanent colour assigned to this stamp. The design of the covers has been brought into line with the changes to assist disabled people which I wrote about in the August *Bulletin*. This includes the removal of the unprinted paper around the stamps, the matrix. One result of this is that cylinder numbers now appear on the white strip at the inside right of the extended cover. Another minor change resulting from the removal of the matrix is that the name and date of the issue which formerly was printed under the special stamps has had to be omitted. Because all the stamps are 1st class there is a single notch at the top right of the cover.

**Across the Universe** The latest prestige stamp book and miniature sheet both printed by Ques-ta and featuring astronomy were issued on 24 September. This is a very popular subject with stamp collectors all over the world and the beautiful pictures obtained from the refurbished Hubble telescope are bound to appeal to many. The

# 6x1<sup>ST</sup>



# Royal Mail



Above: Cylinder numbers on 6 x 1st book.  
Right: English 1st class from *Across the Universe* PSB (top) and from sheets of 200. The shades are noticeably different.

Many collectors cope with the numerous new issues by concentrating on a theme or a single value. The 1st class NV1 offers a marvellous opportunity for a varied and colourful collection. It can be put together even starting today for only a little more than the 'face value' or sale price of the stamps (at today's 1st class rate of course) and it will be easy to maintain it with future issues. As an example consider just this year's 1st class NV1s. Did you know that there will have been 34 different stamps? The list, together with the *Bul-*

letin references where details can be found are as follows. I have not included the 1st class automated postage label now in use in many post offices but you may consider that it should be in the collection.

The list below is simplified, but it offers opportunities for moderate specialisation. For example, if you included perforation differences you would add the stamps in the Cartoons customised sheets (December 2001) because these do not have ellipses while the original issue did. The Accession jubilee portrait stamp has a sideways watermark in sheet form but an upright one in the booklet form. The dark green 1st class Wilding is to be issued on 5 December in a miniature sheet. The February issue was printed by Enschedé while the December one is by De La Rue; this may enable them to be distinguished. There are other differences in stamps from more than one printer to which I have drawn attention in previous articles. Have fun!

I am grateful to reader John Bird not only for drawing my attention to this subject but also for sending me his list of stamps for checking ●

| Date  | Issue                       | Bulletin preview | Stamps |
|-------|-----------------------------|------------------|--------|
| 15.01 | Kipling Just So stories     | December 01 p112 | 10     |
| 06.02 | Golden Jubilee <sup>1</sup> | January 02 p144  | 2      |
| 05.03 | Occasions                   | February p166    | 5      |
| 09.04 | Circus                      | March p208       | 1      |
| 25.04 | Queen Mother memorial       |                  | 1      |
| 02.05 | Airliners                   | April p240       | 1      |
| 21.05 | World Cup <sup>2</sup>      | April p243       | 5      |
| 16.06 | Commonwealth Games          | May p272         | 1      |
| 20.08 | Peter Pan                   | July p332        | 1      |
| 10.09 | London Bridges              | August p304      | 1      |
| 24.09 | Astronomy                   | August p356      | 4      |
| 08.10 | Pillar Boxes                | September p16    | 1      |
| 05.11 | Christmas                   | October p48      | 1      |
| Total |                             |                  | 34     |

<sup>1</sup> Includes one with the Wilding design

<sup>2</sup> Includes the Lion of England blue stamp

## Machin man's birthday The



DOUGLAS MYALL, our regular contributor on Machin stamps, celebrates his 80th birthday this month. He took over from the late Len Newbery as our expert on stamp books, and 55 'Decimal Stamp Books' articles were published between May 1992 and March 2001. In August 2001 Douglas started his current 'Mainly Machins' series.

D G A Myall was born in Essex in December 1922 and given the names Douglas George Albert; King George and Prince Albert being popular at the time. After school he joined the civil service, working in numerous different government departments until his retirement, as an Assistant Secretary in the Patent Office in 1982. Since then he has lived in Dorset, published extensively about Machin stamps and still finds time to advise overseas governments on intellectual property matters. As I write this, Douglas is on his way to Trinidad to advise on trademarks legislation.

He began stamp collecting whilst working in the office of the Inspector of Foreign Dividends. The office received large quantities of incoming mail with colourful and interesting stamps. These envelopes were divided amongst known collectors in the office and Douglas joined in the distribution, collecting Commonwealth stamps.

After he left the IFD he started collecting the Wildings and a spell in the Inland Revenue stamping department gave him an interest in security printing. By 1967, when the first Machins were issued, he had begun to specialise and was contributing articles to the philatelic press. He believed then, as he still does, that the Machin design is a 'classic' which ensures its longevity. He helped found two specialised societies – the British Decimal Stamps Study Circle (1974) and Great Britain

## Editor congratulates Douglas Myall, 80 years old this month

Decimal Stamp Book Study Circle (1971). He was soon President of one and Editor of the other, compiling six editions of 'The Bookmark' Catalogue.

He felt that the criteria used by Stanley Gibbons for listing Machins in their *GB Specialised Catalogue* were unsatisfactory in some respects and so decided to produce his own catalogue; the first edition was published in 1984. *The Complete Deegam Machin Handbook* made its debut in June 1993 with a second edition in October 1996. This has been kept up to date by a supplement in 1999 and Douglas's periodic *Deegam Reports*. He is now an accomplished desktop publisher. The *Handbook* has won many major awards including two gold medals, a large vermeil, and the National Postal Museum medal.

Douglas has also published catalogues of Elizabeth 11 coil leaders and se-tenant definitives, and *Deegam Profiles* which enable collectors to write-up their collections with ease. As well as editing 'The Bookmark' catalogue and journal, he was also, for a time, editor of *Cross Post*, the journal of the Friends of the National Postal Museum (now Friends of Postal Heritage).

Douglas met Arnold Machin on a couple of occasions and sent him the first edition of his *Handbook*. At Stamp Show 2000 he discussed the Machin head with Machin's widow Patricia on the Post Office Heritage stand. It is not only Machin's stamp head he admires and he travelled to London for the exhibition of Machin's works at the Royal Academy last year. At the time of writing this, he is looking forward to Machin's memoirs, due for publication this autumn.

As if studying and writing about Machins is not enough, Douglas also collects GB perfin, especially Victorian ones used on cover. As might be expected, he has devised a catalogue system for them although this has not been published.

Interviewed in the GB Collectors Club *Chronicle* in 1999, Douglas was asked about storage of his various Machin collections. His answer may be of interest to other Machin collectors: 'Apart from my reference collection, much of my material is not written up. This can be an advantage since,

with an ongoing subject, something new may be issued or acquired and may cause the subject to need re-writing. I am a great advocate of using Hagner (stock) sheets or similar as they give flexibility of re-arrangement at will and new material can be fitted in anywhere appropriate simply by adding a new page. It was the need to have an equally mobile method of writing up the singles collection that led to the development of *Deegam Profiles*. The booklet pane reference collection is also kept in Hagner sheets. The window book collection, on the other hand, is fully written up to the end of 1995 and mounted on album pages ... the writing up consists mainly of text laser-printed onto transparent adhesive (Avery) labels and cut up for sticking onto the pages.'

Following the passing of Len Newbery, Douglas mounted up Len's collection of NV1 stamp books – a very specialised study of books issued from August 1989 until Len's death in April 1991, including the Penny Black Anniversary issue, Greetings stamps, and 1990 Christmas book. The collection was presented to the National Postal Museum (see *Bulletin* November 1991, p63); it can now be seen by appointment at Heritage Services at Mount Pleasant.

Douglas's favourite Machin stamp is the large-size £1 black printed in recess, first issued in 1969. Of the small size low values he likes the six values printed in ultramarine – 3p (1971), 15p (1979), 20½p (1983), 31p (1990), 36p (1993) and 38p (1999). The 36p is his particular favourite.

Many collectors will be grateful to Douglas for sharing his work on the Machins. *Bulletin* readers have voted him their favourite author in all but one year since 1996. I am sure they join with me in congratulating Douglas on his birthday and look forward to many more years of his Deegam publications and *Bulletin* articles.

On a personal note I thank Douglas for his help on the *Bulletin* over the past decade, although I feel that at times he is a little exasperated by this non-Machin collector. However we both share an affection for the Wildings and welcome their recent re-issue ●

## Introduction of the Wildings

Two collectors and philatelic writers look back to the issue of the first Elizabeth II stamps fifty years ago this month

Harold Jarvie had the wit to post registered covers, franked with strips of three, which received the counter stamp at Charing Cross, albeit all inverted strikes!



I REMEMBER 5 DECEMBER 1952 very well. I was then a 16 year-old schoolboy and a keen stamp collector. Up to about the age of 12 I was a general collector, but my dentist, Harold Jarvie, who was then (I think) the President of the Caledonian Philatelic Society, advised me to specialise. I then concentrated on Germany as I had a pen-friend there, but when the Wilding definitives were first released I decided that I would get in on the ground floor and collect the New Elizabethans instead.

On the morning of 5 December I went to Hillhead post office in Glasgow and bought blocks of both values. I then stuck one of each on an envelope and proffered it at the counter for a first day postmark, but the counter clerk told me that she was not permitted to do this. However, she suggested that I take my envelope round to the back of the building. Up a back lane I came to the doorway of the Western District Office and there one of the sorters obligingly cancelled my stamps with a Glasgow wdo combined date-stamp (thick side arcs). When I disposed of the

bulk of my Scottish postal history in 1990 this cover went with the Glasgow material, but I still have a cover I got from Harold Jarvie (above).

My immediate impression of the new designs was rather mixed. I did not like the 1½d design, considering the floral ornament very fussy. But I was most impressed by the 2½d and regarded the circular arrangement of the heraldic flowers a very neat device, nicely balancing the value. To my mind, this would have been an admirable design for the entire series.

I should add that I still have the Academy springback album that contained my GB Wildings from 1952 to 1958. The stamps were later transferred to the present system (Senator Standard leaves). Out of sentiment I retained the original album leaves, and am quite amazed not only at my meticulous writing-up but the extent of my specialisation, including booklet panes, coils and all the major varieties and retouches. I cannot believe that these stamps were launched all of half a century ago. Suddenly I feel rather long in the tooth. *James Mackay* •

UNFORTUNATELY, now aged 92 and living in a comfortable retirement home in Lancaster, I do not have access to the volume of *Stamp Collecting* which recorded the arrival of the new definitive stamps for Queen Elizabeth II in 1952. However, my recollection is that the choice of the Dorothy Wilding portrait as the basis of the new issue was the right one. The disappointment was that various artists were let loose on other aspects of the designs for various values. A chance had been missed to revive the simple glory of Britain's (and the world's) first adhesive postage stamps. After all, it is the colours which distinguish the denominations rather than slightly differing frames within which the obligatory portrait was set for each value.

It may have been tactful to commission a gaggle of designers (including two women, one of them a total newcomer to stamp design – Enid Marx), but how much more attractive the new

stamps would have been had the strong simplicity of the 3d stamp, designed by M Farrar Bell, been adopted for all values of the issue. If anyone disputes the validity of the above assertion let them then think of the enormous popularity of the Machin head introduced in 1967 and still going strong in the 21st century. Here, indeed, is the simplicity of 1840 brought back to life and studied by specialists with the same intensity devoted to the 1d black and 2d blue, eternal in fame the world over. *Kenneth F Chapman, Editor Stamp Collecting, 1951-77* •

*We invite readers who collected the first Wildings back in 1952 to send their reminiscences of the time. We will publish a selection in the Bulletin and award prizes to those whose letters we publish. Write to: Wilding Stamps, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ.* •

## Cover corner

SHOWN THIS MONTH is a delightful hand-painted cover of last year's Christmas stamps, from the collection of Dorothy Martin. Mrs Martin's Christmas collection is featured in her article 'Christmas in Victorian Times' on page 105 of this *Bulletin* •

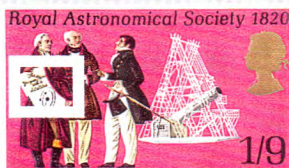


## Prize draw Packs to be won

WE HAVE 50 PRESENTATION PACKS to give away – 10 each to the senders of the first five cards drawn on 6 January. The packs contain special, definitive and country stamps. Simply write your name and address on the back of a postcard and send it to: Packs Draw, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ •



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



**September identify** The detail is from the 1970 1s9d Anniversaries (Royal Astronomical Society) stamp. The winner was D Salata of Canada.

### September knowledge

Answers: 1) Rosalind Dease; 2) 1985; 3) De La Rue. The winner was F van Rijn of Netherlands.

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

**1** Who designed the 1958 Empire & Commonwealth Games 3d stamp?

**2** Which set of Millennium stamps features the Pilgrim Fathers?

**3** Who is about to retire as Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection?

Send your answer (addressed to either December *Identify* competition or December *Knowledge* competition), name and address on a postcard or back of a sealed envelope to: British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ. The senders of the first cards drawn in each competition on 10 January 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

**Until further notice** Postal Memorabilia displays at Museum of Lincolnshire Life, Burton Road, Lincoln and Manchester Postal Museum, Wythenshaw Park, Manchester (open 10.00-16.00). **Enquiries** D Harrop 15 Hawthorn Road, Stockport SK4 3DQ.

**Until December** Pillar Boxes display at Heritage Services Consignia, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1. Open Monday-Friday, 09.00-16.15. **Enquiries** 020 7239 2570.

**29-30 November** Chester 2002 at Chester Racecourse. Association of British Philatelic Societies national exhibition. Displays, dealers, philatelic society stands, souvenir sheet, etc. Open Friday 10.00-17.00, Saturday 09.30-16.30. Admission free. **Enquiries** P Gaywood, 2 Fairways, Fulwood, Preston PR2 8FX.

**29 November - 1 December** Monacophil 2002 philatelic exhibition: rare stamps, displays from prestigious collections, and dealers. **Enquiries** Musée des Timbres et des Monnaies, 11 Terrasses de Fontvieille, 98000 Monaco. Telephone +377 9315 4150.

**7 December** Welsh PS meeting at Strip Mill Public House, Llanelli. **Enquiries** P Gaywood (see left).

**18 January** Display 'Boring Machines' by Barrie Murton to GB Philatelic Society at British Philatelic Centre, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1, 11.00. **Enquiries** A Claridge, 01376 584412.

**31 January - 1 February** London Westminster Stamp and Postal History Fair at Central Hall, London SW1. Open 11.00-18.00 Friday, 10.30-16.00 Sunday. Free admission. **Enquiries** John Auld, 01279 758 854 •

## Late news

**Auction successes** Spink's 'Ambassador Collection' auction on 16 October realised over £1 million. Prices ranged from £92 to £59,800 with 13 lots making over £10,000. The collection was built up by a well-travelled diplomat from the 1930s. GB lots included a fine used pair of the Queen Victoria £5 sold for £2530 (est £1200-1500), and a marginal mint example of the same stamp realised £2760 (£2000-2500). A PUC £1 on registered cover with 'Air Post Exhibition London' 1934 datestamp went for £517 (£350-450). The next London sales will be 12 February and 20 March. Enquiries: Spink, 69 Southampton Row, London WC1B 4ET. Telephone 020 7563 4000.

The Harmers auction of the Gunther Heyd Disaster Mail Collection on 22 October realised £137,280. Heyd (1900-73), known in Germany as Vater der Randgebiete (father of marginal fields), was a pioneer in areas which are now established collecting areas. An extremely rare postal packing slip from the ill-fated *Titanic* bearing the TRANSATLANTIC POST OFFICE/AP 10 12/7 datestamp (below) sold for £11,762 (est £500). A cover of 1830 bearing the earliest known maritime disaster handstamp 'From the wreck/of the/Lady Holland' went for £4117 (£1500), and a collection of covers from the Quetta Earthquake, 1935 made £494 (£400). For details of future auctions contact Harmers, No 11, 111 Power Road, London W4 3PY. Telephone 020 8747 6100 •



**Royal Mail update** The programme for coin covers has been revised. In 2003 there will be coin covers for the Secret of Life, Extreme Endeavours and Coronation issues and a medal cover for the British Museum set. This supersedes information published in November (page 70).

Rolls of 500 2nd and 1st class (gold) stamps printed by Enschedé will now be available from Tallents House and Post Office philatelic outlets from 21 January.

A new Royal Mail Smilers Album is now available. The black luxury padded binder holds 12 printed pages for generic Smilers sheets for 2000-2002. Price £16.50 (order code PA665). Packs of five blank Smilers leaves for personalised sheets cost £2.99 (PA633) •

**Great Britons** The BBC has organised a contest for viewers to vote for who they consider the greatest Briton of all time. It is interesting that all of the top 10 have featured (in person or their works) on British stamps. They are: Winston Churchill, William Shakespeare, Horatio Nelson, Elizabeth I, Charles Darwin, Oliver Cromwell, Isambard Kingdom Brunel, Isaac Newton, John Lennon and Diana, Princess of Wales. Brunel was voted by *Bulletin* readers as the Briton they would most like to see on a stamp – see *Bulletin* April 1997, page 235) •

**Bulletin back issues** William Frizzell of Kilmorack, 29 Scott Brae, Kippen, Stirling FK8 3DL has back issues from November 1972 to August 1997 plus some index supplements. Available free to anyone who can collect or pay postage •

**Susan Macfarlane** We regret to record the death, in August, of Susan Macfarlane who designed the 26p Patients' Tale stamp in the Millennium series. She was noted for studies of working life, trees, and rock formations •

**Competition correction** The answer to question 2 of our June Knowledge competition was 1988 not 1968 as misprinted on p30 in September •

# GIFTS FOR CHRISTMAS



**Framed stamps** Above: all current definitive and country stamps (1p to £5) and a Wildings miniature sheet in a dark wood frame, 455 x 485mm. £49.95 Left: all 2001 special stamps mounted on an attractive print background in a large silver frame. Numbered edition of 500. £79.95.



**Queen Mother coin cover** bearing the Queen Mother memorial stamps post-marked 11 December (day she became Queen in 1936) and encapsulating Royal Mint's £5 memorial coin. £15.95



**Christmas cards** Box of 15 cards – three of each reproducing this year's Christmas stamps showing holly, mistletoe, ivy, pine cone and Spruce star. £6.95



**Postcard books** Postcards featuring reproductions of stamps and related imagery, plus fascinating information. Themes include Coastlines and Post Boxes. £5.99 each.

Available from Royal Mail, Tallents House,  
21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB  
UK telephone order line 08457 641 641  
Overseas +44 131 316 7483  
Please quote code 03AAY

