The magazine for collectors of UK stamps

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Royal Mail

Philatelic Bulletin

VOLUME 58 NO.5

Step out into Britain's great outdoors



The National Parks are ours to explore

PICTURE POST CARD HISTORY • COASTAL COLLECTIONS • MACHIN CHECKLIST

Royal Mail 2020 Annual Collections



Complete collections of 2020 Special Stamps, Miniature Sheets and Presentation Packs. Carefully curated compilations beautifully presented in decorative folders and limited edition hardback publications. The year's stamp issues include End of the Second World War, Palace of Westminster, Rupert Bear, Roman Britain, James Bond and *Star Trek*.

A treasure trove of stamps, stories and images celebrating our nation's history, nature and culture.

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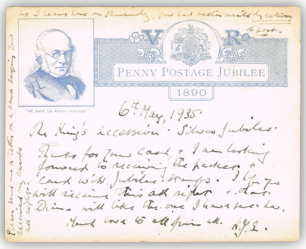
Beauty spots without blemish

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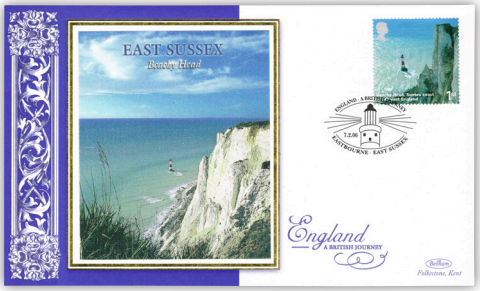


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Editor Tim Lees, Royal Mail, 185 Farringdon Road, Floor MP-03, London EC1A 1AA ● **Design and content creation** Ian Boardman, Adesso Creative Ltd ● Price £2.45 from Post Office Ltd philatelic outlets or by order from Post Office branches ● **12 months' subscriptions** £22.95 UK and Europe; £29.50 rest of the world. Send subscriptions to Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles, PO Box 1373, Sunderland SR5 9PG, UK or subscribe online at royalmail.com/bulletin ● **Binders** (to hold 24 issues) are priced at £4.99 and are available by post or online ● Copyright and editorial rights are reserved by Royal Mail Group Ltd ● All rights reserved ● Reproduction in whole or parts is prohibited without prior permission of Royal Mail Group Ltd ● **Printed** in Great Britain by Zenith Print & Packaging Ltd ● **ISSN** 2633 2310 ● Royal Mail is a trading name and registered trade mark of Royal Mail Group Ltd. Registered in England and Wales, number 4138203. Registered office: 100 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0HQ ● Stamp images © Royal Mail Group Ltd.

The year that was Test your knowledge on the stamp issues of 2020 for your opportunity to win one of five National Parks Presentation Packs **148**

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There's much to look forward to in the year ahead, be sure to note the dates of all the upcoming stamp issues **159**

14 January	National Parks
26 January	United Kingdom: A Celebration
16 February	Only Fools and Horses
16 March	The Legend of King Arthur
15 April	Classic Science Fiction
4 May	The Wars of the Roses
28 May	Paul McCartney
1 July	Dennis and Gnasher
22 July	Wild Coasts
12 August	Industrial Revolutions
2 September	British Army Vehicles
17 September	To be announced
19 October	Rugby Union
2 November	Christmas 2021



For 70 years our National Parks have been havens of scenic beauty for everyone to enjoy



Broads National Park

This year sees the 70th anniversary of Britain's first National Parks being established, and Royal Mail is marking the occasion with a ten-stamp issue. Parks in the Peak District, Lake District, Snowdonia and Dartmoor were all opened back in 1951 and cameos of their stunning natural beauty feature on four of the stamps. Today there are 15 National Parks covering 10% of England, Scotland and Wales. Beautiful wildlife and fascinating cultural heritage contribute enormously to our unique landscapes. Royal Mail has collaborated with the National Parks on the selection of images for the stamps which also include views of the North York Moors, the Broads, New Forest, South Downs and the Pembrokeshire Coast. Here is a description of the images that grace the stamps and a little insight into their respective parks.

Dartmoor National Park The granite rock formations of Great Staple Tor offer a hint of the craggy landscapes to be enjoyed on Dartmoor. Neolithic tombs, Bronze Age stone circles and abandoned medieval farmhouses are also there to be seen by hikers traversing hills and valleys. Steven Spielberg was so impressed by his visit that he was moved to say *'I have never before, in my long and eclectic career, been gifted with such an abundance of natural beauty as I experienced filming War Horse on Dartmoor.'*

New Forest National Park Synonymous with multiple images of the National Park is the New Forest pony. Pictured on the stamp is a solitary animal – one of several thousand ponies that inhabit the park – amidst a hazy sun-kissed landscape. In addition to their inherent beauty, the ponies have been described as 'the architects of the Forest' – their grazing is responsible for the close-cropped lawns that punctuate the wooded areas and the distinctive browse line on the trees – the highest point they can reach.

Lake District National Park This stamp features the beauty of the National Trust's Crummock Water – as viewed from Red Pike – a fell in the park's High Stile range. It's home to brown trout, sea trout, and salmon passing through to spawn in tributary becks. The Lakes are also England's only residence of the arctic charr. Although rarely seen, in recent years otters returned back to the River Cocker and their spraints have been found in spots around the shore. The lakes and tarns give the park unparalleled scenery – not found elsewhere in England.

Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park The pink dawn light at Milarrochy Bay on Loch Lomond is captured with this delightful photograph. The Trossachs are where lowlands and highlands meet, creating diversity of terrain and beauty. Its history and heritage have established it at the heart of Scottish tourism, having in yesteryear attracted artists and poets such as John Keats. The region was also the setting for Sir Walter Scott's *The Lady of the Lake*

Snowdonia National Park Pictured on this stamp is one of the most famous and recognisable peaks in Britain – that of the rugged pointed shaped Tryfan, a mountain in the Ogwen Valley which is part of the Glyderau formation. Although mountain ranges cover over half of the park, steep river gorges, waterfalls and green valleys add delightful variety to Snowdonia. Ash, oak and hazel woodlands thrive in the park whilst 23 miles of sweeping coastline offer alternative opportunities for exploration. ►

'A sort of national property, in which every man has a right and interest who has an eye to perceive and a heart to enjoy',

– William Wordsworth expressing his love of the Lake District, sentiments that were echoed and applied to Britain's vast environments of natural beauty for over a century before being embraced in law. Hence the first National Parks were established 70 years ago to ensure that all can enjoy outdoor recreation in paradisaic beauty, regardless of age, background and social standing – an anniversary worthy of celebration





FD2106-TH



FD2106-PL



FD2106-NP





Top: First Day Cover with the Tallents House handstamp featuring an illustration of foot-prints made from hiking boots. Right: First Day Cover with the alternative pictorial handstamp with the Bakewell location, and illustration of a compass

National Parks – Stamp Specifications	
Date of issue	14 January
Number of stamps	Ten – 2 x horizontal se-tenant strips (10 x 1st Class)
Design	Studio Mean
Stamp format	Over-square landscape
Stamp size	36.5mm x 34.7mm
Number per sheet	25/50
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	14 x 14.5
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA

North York Moors National Park The stamp shows just a sample of the 44,000 hectares of heather moorland that have been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest. Breeding birds, such as red grouse, curlew and golden plover are all seen in this heathland habitat. Visitors to the park can also enjoy exploring the 26 miles of coastline – perfect for rock pooling and fossil hunting. If you're in the area, it's worth looking in on the famous old fishing village of Staithes – once one of the largest fishing ports in the North East. The character and charm of this hillside gem remain intact – with its winding cobbled streets and 18th century cottages.

Dartmoor National Park © Andrew Ray/Getty Images; New Forest National Park © Photokes/Alamy Stock Photo; Lake District National Park © Pablo Fernandez/Alamy Stock Photo; Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park © Richard Burdon/Alamy Stock Photo; Snowdonia National Park © Andrew Ray/500px/Getty Images; North York Moors National Park © Stephen Street/Alamy Stock Photo; South Downs National Park © Peter Cripps/Alamy Stock Photo; Peak District National Park © RA Kearton/Getty Images; Pembrokeshire Coast National Park © Gareth Spiller/EyeEm/Getty Images; Broads National Park © Chris Herring; a special thank-you to National Parks UK

South Downs National Park An iconic view of the Seven Sisters chalk cliffs with the Coastguard Cottages in the foreground are captured on this stamp. This National Park's famous chalk grassland is adorned with an array of wildflowers that invite the attention of 30 different species of butterfly during the summer months. Hidden villages, market towns, farms, and historic estates, can be accessed by a network of paths and lanes, many of which have been trodden for millennia. It's also the region where some of Britain's best sparkling wines are produced.

Peak District National Park Beautiful moorland scenery shot in the summer with a dramatic view from the rocky edge of Kinder Scout – looking over an expanse of heather moorland toward Fairbrook Naze in late afternoon sunlight. The park attracts world-class rock climbers as well as cyclists training for Olympic Games. The Pennine Way – which stretches along the UK's spine to Scotland, starts in the Peak District in Edale. The counties of Derbyshire, Cheshire, Staffordshire, South & West Yorkshire and Greater Manchester all fall within the boundaries of the park.

Pembrokeshire Coast National Park The Green Bridge of Wales featuring on this stamp is a rock formation creating an arch in the sea near the village of Castlemartin. The Pembrokeshire Coast Path traces the entire length of the Park. Walkers of varying capabilities can enjoy a rich variety of maritime landscape along the way. However, walking the entire route would constitute a huge challenge – the total rise and fall of the coastal path is over 35,000 feet – higher than Mount Everest. Nonetheless you can shorten the route into a series of sections. The path passes an array of beautiful beaches, many of which can be reached via nearby footpaths and with some stretches accessible to wheelchair users.

Broads National Park A stunning image of Herringfleet Mill captured at sunrise. The fens, marshes and woodlands are a vital area for nature. The waterways themselves, although a natural haven for wildlife, owe much to the contrivance of man. Botanist Dr Joyce Lambert's research in the 1950s revealed that they are the result of ancient peat diggings. Peat removed from large pits (used as fuel for homes and construction) subsequently became flooded – creating the unique waterways ●

Article by Ian Boardman



Dartmoor National Park



North York Moors National Park



New Forest National Park



South Downs National Park



Lake District National Park



Peak District National Park



Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park



Park Cenedlaethol Arfordir Penfro Pembrokeshire Coast National Park



Park Cenedlaethol Eryri Snowdonia National Park



Broads National Park

The Presentation Pack offers information on all 15 National Parks. The writer Carey Davies is a journalist specialising in the outdoors. He gives insight into both historic and modern facts about these beautiful parks



Presentation Pack Inner



Presentation Pack Outer





Retail Stamp Book: 4 x 1st Class Machin Defintives, 2 x 1st Class Special Stamps



Stamp Sheet: Full sheet of 50 x 1st Class



Stamp Sheets: Half sheet of 25 x 1st Class

National Parks – Prices

Set of 10 Special Stamps	£8.50
Presentation Pack	£9.40
First Day Cover	£10.85
Stamp Souvenir	£10.85
First Day Envelope	£0.30
Postcards (10 in set)	£4.50
Stamp Book	£5.10
Framed Stamps	£29.99

Royal Mail is extending the First Day Cover deadline for this issue due to the uncertainty and restrictions on movement arising from COVID-19. This applies until further notice to First Day Covers ordered directly from Royal Mail as well as to those submitted from Post Office® branches for cancellation at a Special Handstamp Centre.

Development of the Picture Postcard



A typical example of pictorial advertising material printed on the back of a stationery card – in this case the premises of a Manchester woollen manufacturer, used in 1878



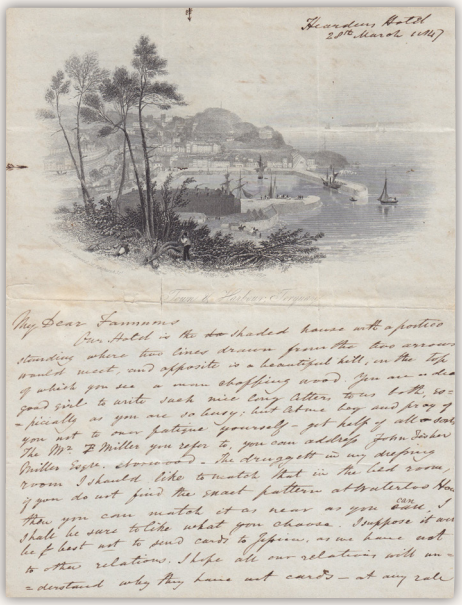
An apparent early attempt at a pictorial local card – an unused Post Office stout card of the 1878-99 issue with a small illustration of Ventnor Pier on the reverse, printed in Bavaria as were many picture postcards



John Henniker Heaton, MP for Canterbury

Last October my article took a look at the early days of the British postcard, introduced in 1870. Those cards were of course the official postal stationery type, produced or directly authorised by the Post Office, and were mostly of a plain, utilitarian design. By the Edwardian era however, there was a vast range of pictorial cards available from many different private producers. This month, we will connect those two points and take a look at how the picture postcard developed – a number of steps were necessary in order to create the cards we know so well.

Postal stationery cards sometimes had pictorial matter printed on the back, but this tended to be done by specific users in connection with their business, and these cards were not available for use by the public. Pictorial stationery of various kinds was, however, quite popular.



Illustrated letter-sheet with a view of the popular health resort and growing tourist destination of Torquay, posted on 28 March 1847. A typical example of such stationery

The most obvious precursor of view postcards was the writing paper headed with illustrations that was sold in the mid-19th century – local suppliers ensured that most places of any note featured on notepaper or lettersheets. However, this tended to be an upmarket product, not the sort of thing that was used casually on a large scale by all classes of society[1].

Non-postal pictorial cards of various types came into particular vogue in the later 19th century, and these cards are another obvious forerunner of the picture postcard – once people were familiar with illustrated cards that *looked* like postcards, the idea of illustrated cards that were actually *used* as postcards was not a great leap. Elaborate trade cards were produced in full colour lithography, many printed in France using standard designs that could be 'customised' by particular users. Other cards were available for use as visiting cards and greetings cards, and these were very popular.

The main factor holding back the development of picture cards in the UK was that only postal stationery could be used for the postcard rate. It was not possible to take an ordinary piece of card, write a message on it, and post it at the halfpenny rate using an adhesive stamp, despite public pressure for this concession (especially from that notable postal reformer John Henniker Heaton, MP for Canterbury). The official Post Office reason for this, as stated in 1882 by Henry Fawcett (the blind Postmaster-General), was that unless the cards were uniform many invalid items might pass unrecognised at ►

[1] In 1870 nearly a quarter of the population of the UK could not read and write. Near-universal literacy was not attained until the end of the century.



Pictorial trade card for 'John James & Sons Celebrated Needles'. The card itself was printed in Paris, and was quite likely a standard type ordered from a catalogue (suitably customised). The back is printed with a (monochrome) illustration of their factory in Redditch and a calendar for 1881

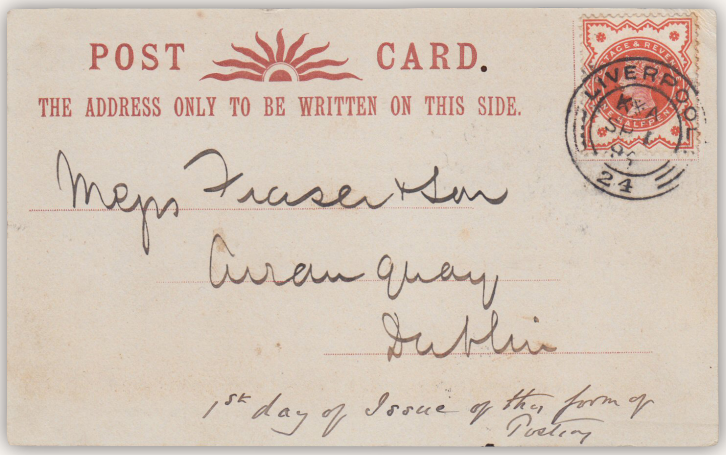


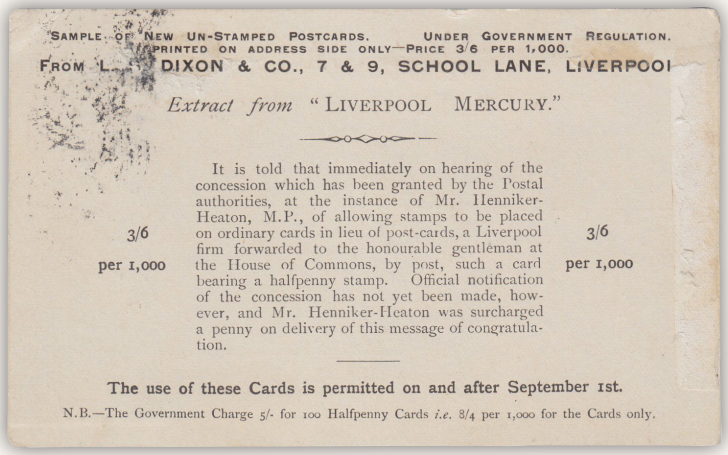
Decorative Christmas card (in postcard format, unfolded), with poetic best wishes on the front, and a short greeting on the back dated 23 December 1880. Presumably either posted under cover or directly handed to the recipient

Fawcett did propose in 1882 that unstamped cards could be sold – but only if they had an Inland Revenue 'certifying stamp' that they were of an acceptable format. Essays were circulated to surveyors and postmasters for comment, but their general feeling (unsurprisingly) was that they couldn't really see any advantage in the idea



First Day use of the new concession. The reverse is printed with an advert from a stationer: 'SAMPLE OF NEW UN-STAMPED POSTCARDS. UNDER GOVERNMENT REGULATION. PRINTED ON ADDRESS SIDE ONLY – PRICE 3/6 PER 1,000' and at the foot 'N.B. The Government Charge 5/- for 100 Halfpenny Cards i.e. 8/4 per 1,000 for the Cards only'







Early picture card of Llandudno, with three small photo views along the top (quite likely locally produced). The front is printed with a POST CARD heading, so was clearly intended for that use. It was sent to Germany in September 1896

the postcard rate when sorting, although even Fawcett does not seem to be have been entirely convinced by this argument (see the 'certifying stamp' essay illustrated opposite). More critically, the Treasury view (as stated in 1892) was that *'the public faith had practically been pledged to the maintenance of the conditions under which postcards could then be used'*. This cryptic statement referred to the agreement with De La Rue, printers of the Post Office cards, who had successfully argued against allowing private postcards when negotiating their contract.

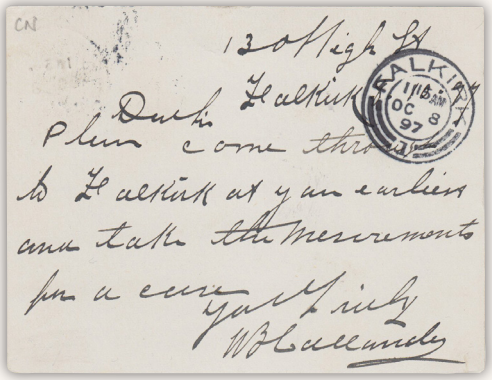
However, this factor did not apply abroad. Other countries allowed private cards with the postage paid in stamps, and the idea of showing local views or other pictorial matter soon caught on. Many of the best cards were produced in Germany in full colour by chromolithography, and naturally some of these were received in the UK. By 1890 the Post Office Postage Rates Committee had come around to recommending the change. It took some time to persuade the Treasury, but De La Rue agreed to be compensated by an extension of their contract, and so private cards were allowed from 1 September 1894.

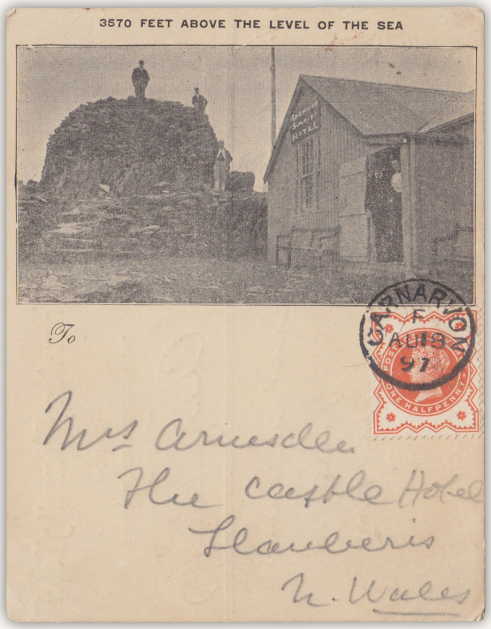
Early British picture postcards are quite hard to find. The main reason is that there was a rule that only the address (and sender's name) could appear on the address side of a postcard. Any pictorial matter therefore had to go on the back, and the more space used for pictures, the less was available for the message. Publishers of such cards as were issued were therefore quite constrained in what could be shown, which limited their popularity. ►

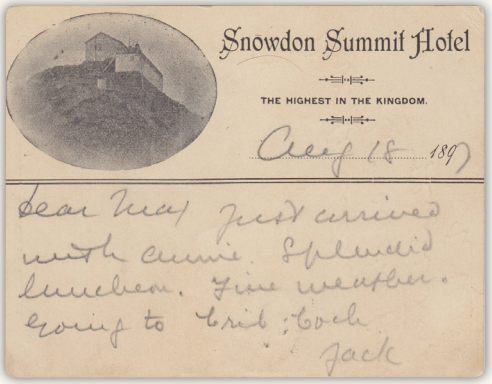
It was, then, an important milestone when this ban was lifted on 1 February 1897: '*No postal packet will be transmitted by post if anything is so written, printed, or impressed upon the address side as to embarrass the officers of the Department in dealing with it, but, subject to this rule, the regulation which has hitherto restricted writing or printing on the address side of a post card or other postal packet will no longer be enforced*'. This opened the door to using part of the address side for the message – and thus the whole of the other side for a picture – although it seems that very few people over the next five years actually realised the implications. One problem was that private cards had to be the same size as the official ones – which were quite small at 4¾" x 3". An alternative became available on

An early card used by someone who did realise that the new regulations allowed pictorial matter on the address side, posted in October 1897. The card has a small vignette of Falkirk High Street in winter, and a business message sent by someone on the street, so could have been a repurposed trade card







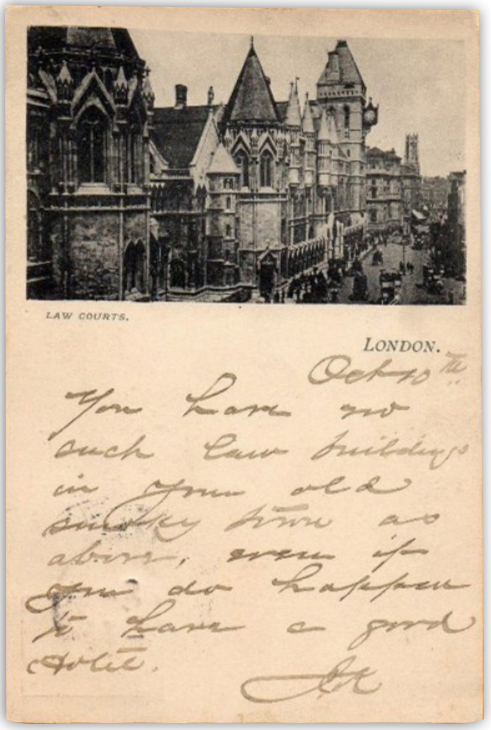


Card printed on both sides with photographic views of the Snowdon Summit Hotel, posted in August 1897. This is an unusual format in that although it has a divided address side, this was used for an illustration, with space left on the back for a message.
The word 'hotel' was actually a fairly grandiose term for some huts (or cabins) constructed at the peak over the years, although they did offer beds for visitors and had a licence to sell alcohol. The Snowdon Summit Hotel Company took them over in 1896, and were in turn taken over by the new Snowdon Mountain Tramway and Hotel Company in 1898, so these cards had a fairly short period of use

21 January 1895 when 'court size' stationery cards of 4½" x 3½" were issued, the size of the popular 'correspondence cards' available in clubs. Both sizes were however smaller than the foreign rate stationery cards, which were 5½" x 3½" (corresponding to the official maximum UPU size of 14 x 9cm). Campaigners for larger inland cards included the indefatigable Henniker Heaton and postcard manufacturers Raphael Tuck & Sons, who (as a Postage Rates Committee report in favour of the change noted) *'intend to issue a series of illustrated Post Cards and desire a Card of a larger size in order to give more play to the design and so ensure a wider sale'*. The change was finally made on 1 November 1899 (which date also saw new large official cards). ►

A typical format for a British court size picture postcard in the last few years of the 19th century – half the space used for an illustration, half left blank for the message. This card (used in 1899) was printed in Bavaria – as many were, to take advantage of the superior quality available from German chromolithography printers at the time



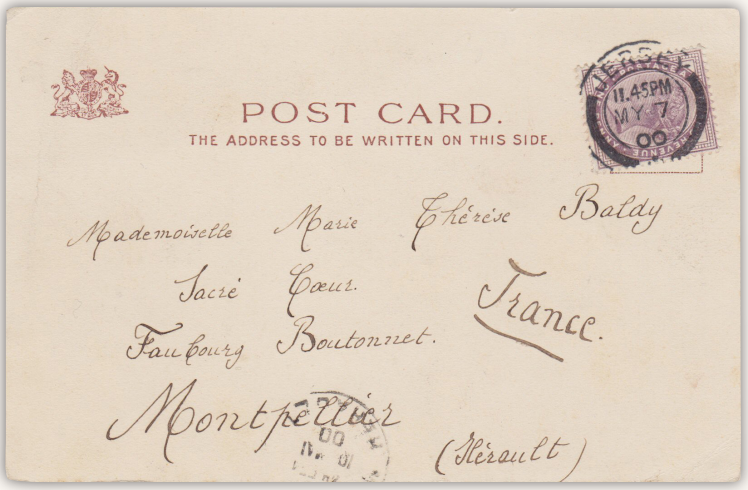




A pictorial card in the slightly larger 'overseas' size, sent to the USA in 1898. This was apparently acceptable for a card carried in the Foreign & Colonial post, for which the UPU specified a larger maximum size (indeed the address side is printed with exactly the same text as the official overseas stationery cards), but would not have been if sent within the UK – the Inland section of the *Post Office Guide* stated *'The maximum size must correspond as nearly as may be to the size of the Inland Official Card'*



The final development that resulted in the picture postcard as we know it today was a full exploitation of the 1897 rule, by issuing cards with the whole of the 'message side' used for a picture, and the 'address side' divided into message and address sections. Various announcements have been credited with this, but a letter from one Arthur Watson that appeared in *The Times* on 30 January 1902 may well have been the heads-up for many members of the public: *'…There appears to be a general impression that the writing must still be necessarily restricted to the reverse side of the postcard. That this, however, is not the case is clear from a communication which I recently received from the secretary of the General Post Office. His words are: – "Any writing or printing on the address side of a postal packet should be confined to the left-hand half, the right-hand half being reserved exclusively for the address and postage stamps…"'*. Other newspapers soon picked this up, and publishers began to issue 'divided back' cards. (Originally, the address side of a stationery card was the 'front', and the message side the 'back'. Picture postcard collectors however naturally think of the picture side as the 'front', and the address side as the 'back' – hence the terms 'undivided back' and 'divided back'. Arguments have ensued over which terminology is the Right Thing, but we don't need to get into those here!)



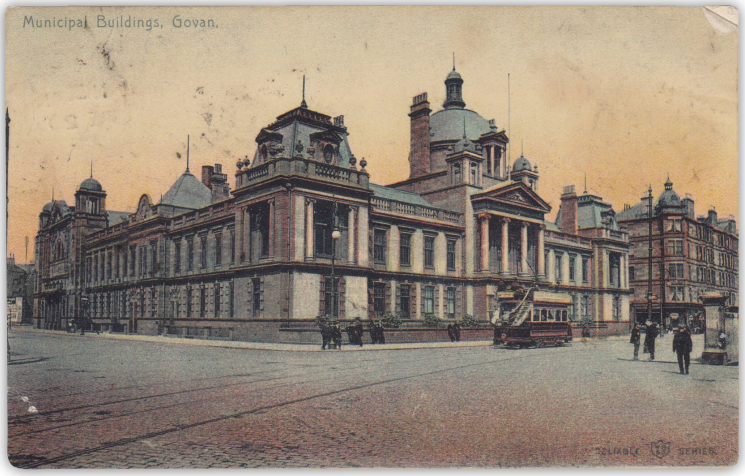
Raphael Tuck 'undivided back' postcard of General Lord Methuen, posted in May 1900 (he was then serving in South Africa during the Second Anglo-Boer War). The increased space allowed for a reasonably sized picture as well as enough room to write a message

In this case, Britain was ahead of the rest of the world. The general use of these cards was not agreed by the UPU until the 1906 Rome Congress – the rule came into effect on 1 October 1907, although by then many countries had already established bilateral agreements to accept the cards from each other. Everything was now in place for the veritable craze for picture postcards among the population at large in the Edwardian era – and therefore to cement the place of the postcard in popular culture ●

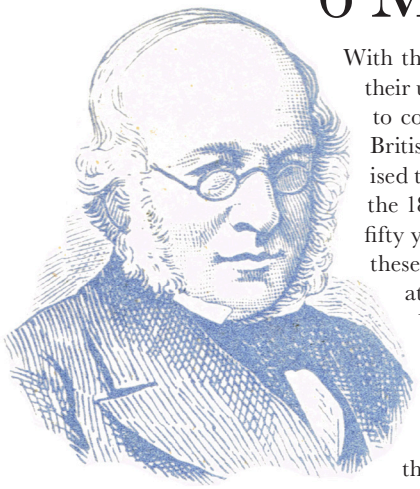
By Maurice Buxton a long-term collector, and webmaster for the Great Britain Philatelic Society – www.gbps.org.uk



Divided back card with a street scene outside the Municipal Buildings, Govan – not perhaps the most thrilling of views, but in this case it was where the sender was living at the time! The card was originally posted to London but paid at the foreign rate of 1d, and so the sender seems to have expected it to be redirected abroad. However, the person doing that clearly had a better grasp of the regulations – Italy did not yet accept divided back cards from the UK, so an additional 1½d stamp was needed to make up the 2½d letter rate



6 May – a Double Jubilee

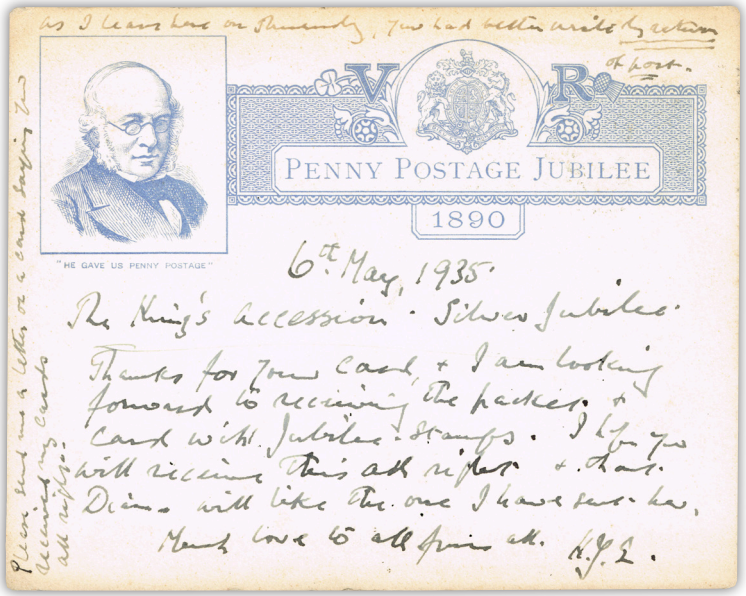


Rowland Hill

With the creation of postage stamps in 1840, an opportunity arose for their use not only for postage, but as a means of providing opportunities to commemorate anniversaries and display the many aspects of the British way of life. It would be many decades before this would be realised to the full, as it is now. However, the first anniversary, apart from the 1887 Jubilee issue for 50 years of Queen Victoria's rule, would be fifty years after the introduction of the world's first postage stamp. As these did not need to show the issuing country – there were no others at the time – no country name was included on them. Thus the United Kingdom remains the only country in the world to omit its name on postage stamps. The monarch's image signifies the United Kingdom as the country of origin.

By 1890 when fifty years had passed, there had been many changes and a remarkable increase in the use of mail, including the introduction of the postcard. Additionally, there were now many thousands of stamp collectors across the world, and societies formed to bring like-minded people together. The postcard illustrated was printed to celebrate the 'Penny Post Jubilee' in 1890, and has a portrait of Rowland Hill as well as 'V' and 'R' surrounding the coat-of-arms. However, this particular postcard remained unused and stored in some collection for a further 45 years, until brought out in May 1935 to be written on the same day – 6 May – as the first day of the issue of the Penny Black.

The message side of the 1890 issued Penny Postage Jubilee postcard written upon 45 years later with a message concerning another 6 May celebration, that of 25 years on the throne for King George V – a double jubilee



King George V, a grandfather of HM The Queen, ascended to the British throne on the very same day – 6 May – and how appropriate as he was a very keen stamp collector. The Royal Philatelic Collection continues to be well maintained and added to, and unlike the other items in the Royal Collection, is in the personal ownership of the reigning monarch. Twenty-five years into King George V's reign would be his Silver Jubilee, and an issue of stamps would commemorate that event, and was issued on the following day – 7 May 1935.

The message on the postcard begins with '6th. May, 1935. The King's Accession. Silver Jubilee', and continues to say that he was looking forward to receiving the packet and card with Jubilee stamps. There was going to be three issued the following day, at ½d, 1½d and 2½d. It is the last of these that stamp collectors continue to keep a 'sharp eye out for' – issued in the wrong shade – Prussian blue. Stamps from four sheets, three of these being issued from a sub-office at Upper Edmonton, London, between 25 June and 4 July 1935.

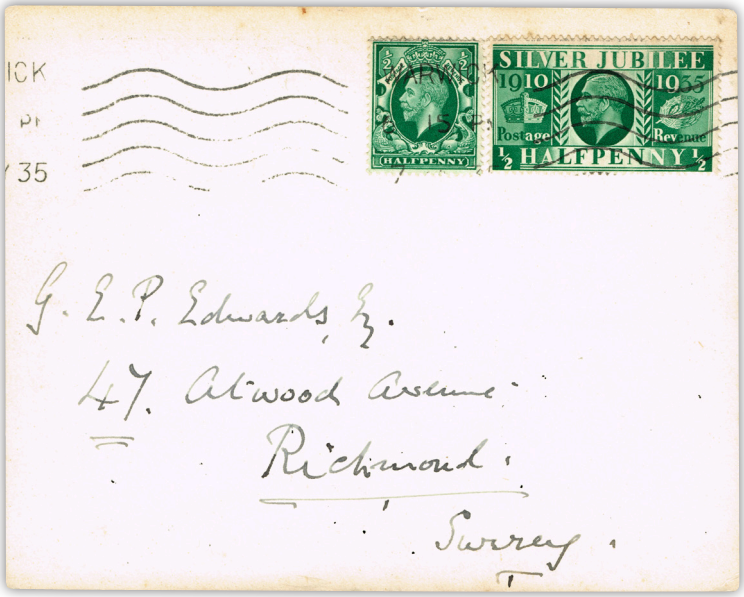
Although written on 6 May – double Jubilee – the writer could not post it until the following day if he wished to include a Silver Jubilee stamp. Written to a Mr G.E.P. Edwards in Richmond, Surrey, the sender is probably a close relation based upon his initials and words of endearment. The roller cancellation has not left the date and place of origin as clear as he might have wished, but 'Warwick' can be seen and the '7' of the date is at the bottom of the small ½d stamp and onto the envelope. The two hundredth anniversary of postage stamp first issue is under twenty years away now, and if postage stamps are still used in 2040 (of course they will be), then there may be an anniversary issue that could feature new designs that incorporate reference to the Penny Black ●

Article by Dane Garrod FRPSL





Silver Jubilee Souvenir Portraits – presented by *Sunday Companion,* with photograph of King George V



With two ½d stamps totalling the 1d postage rate for a postcard, the Silver Jubilee stamp has been used on its first day of issue, 7 May 1935, one day after the double jubilee marked by this postcard

The Bumper Quiz



1 In what year was the Micro Machines game released?

a) 1990
b) 1991
c) 1992



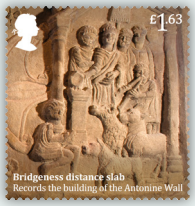
3 In what year was Pierce Brosnan awarded an OBE?

a) 2003
b) 2004
c) 2005



5 To what county was the Serviceman on this stamp returning?

a) Devon
b) London
c) Sussex



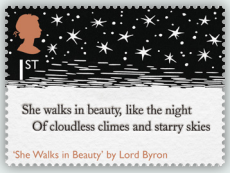
7 Where is the Bridgeness distance slab?

a) Wales
b) Scotland
c) Lancashire



2 How long is the comet 67P?

a) 7.2km
b) 5.8km
c) 4.3km



4 What type of dress was Lord Byron fond of wearing?

a) Greek
b) Albanian
c) Indian



6 Deirdre Barlow's sentence for fraud lasted how long?

a) 6 months
b) 12 months
c) 18 months



8 Which song was Queen's first UK number one?

a) *Bohemian Rhapsody*
b) *We Are the Champions*
c) *I Want to Break Free*

How to enter Please send your answers, with your contact address or phone number, marked 'Bumper Quiz', to: Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. Or by email to tim.lees2@royalmail.com.

Prizes The first five correct entries drawn after the closing date win the National Parks Presentation Pack.

Closing Date 15 February 2021.

October solutions Brilliant Bugs: 1)b 2)a 3)a 4c 5)b.
Winners Keith Pennell, Bradford; Lawrence Levene, Jerusalem; Mrs E Bowater, Kidderminster; Derek Ward, Suffolk; Mrs Irene Pearson, Perthshire.

Test your knowledge on Royal Mail stamp issues of 2020. It's your opportunity to win the National Parks Presentation Pack.



9 The Elizabeth Tower was formerly known as?

a) Westminster Tower
b) Victoria Tower
c) Clock Tower



11 The Rupert Bear stamp set features the artwork of who?

a) Alfred Bestall
b) John Harrold
c) Stuart Trotter



13 What was the profession of Spock's Mother?

a) lawyer
b) doctor
c) schoolteacher



15 Can you name the colour of this Machin Definitive?

a) Plum Purple
b) Deep Violet
c) Purple Heather



10 Where are the Reichenbach Falls?

a) France
b) Switzerland
c) Austria



12 What does the elephant hawk-moth's wingspan measure?

a) 25–35mm
b) 45–60mm
c) 75–85mm



14 The stained glass window featured here is from which church?

a) St Columba's Church
b) St Andrew's Church
c) All Saints' Church



16 When were Machins with two large elliptical perforations first issued?

a) 1992
b) 1993
c) 1994

Terms and conditions Promotions are open to any reader aged 18 or over, except employees of Royal Mail Group Ltd, their business associates and immediate families. Responsibility cannot be accepted for entries which are incomplete, damaged or not received. Proof of posting is not proof of receipt. Prizes must be accepted as offered; they are not transferable and there are no cash alternatives. Winners are notified within 28 days of closing date stated. For prize draws where readers must answer a question, winners will be the senders of the first correct entries drawn at random by an independent person after the closing date. Royal Mail's decision is final. No correspondence will be entered into. Entry implies acceptance of these rules. Prizes are subject to availability. The promoter reserves the right to a) substitute a prize of equal or greater value if circumstances so demand and b) to suspend or cancel or hold void any of the competitions or prize draws at any time without notice. The winners' names are available 28 days after closing date. To receive this please send an SAE to The Editor.





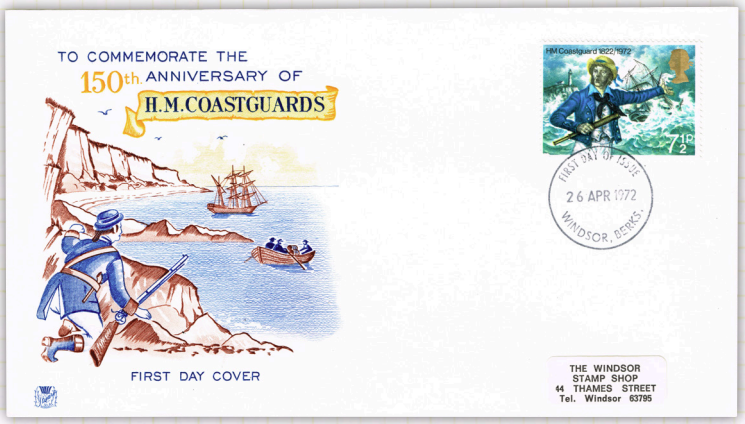
Coastal collections

Coton in the Elms, a village in Derbyshire, is recognised as the farthest place in the United Kingdom from coastal waters. However, even at this relative outpost, residents of the parish are just 70 miles from the sea. And so, for the most part, the British public are afforded opportunities to take a dip in the sea, breathe its air, or simply admire the various facets of its natural beauty without the encumbrance of long arduous travel. Consequently, childhood memories of trips to the coast are etched in the hearts and minds of many of us, and despite the passing of years, with a modicum of adventurous spirit we're fortunate to be able to explore some of the most stunning, unique, and diverse coastlines in the world.

Also, within reach of most pockets, are the delightful philatelic items that not only capture the beauty of our shores, but are as varied as the scenery itself – creating a wonderful stimulus for a thematic collection. Several stamp issues

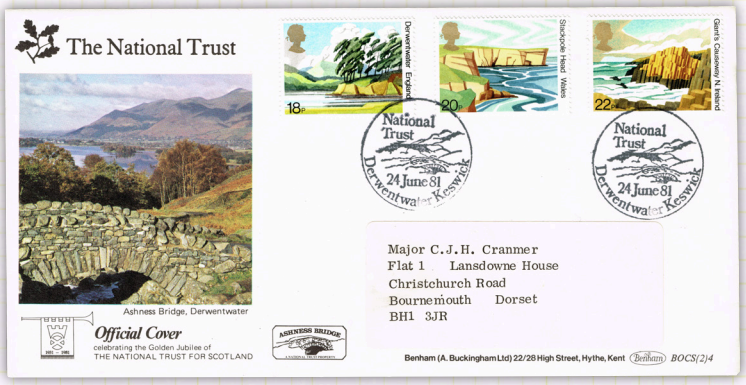


26 April 1972 General Anniversaries (5th Series). 19th century Coastguard, 7½p – with First Day Cover by Stuart commemorating the 150th anniversary of HM Coastguards







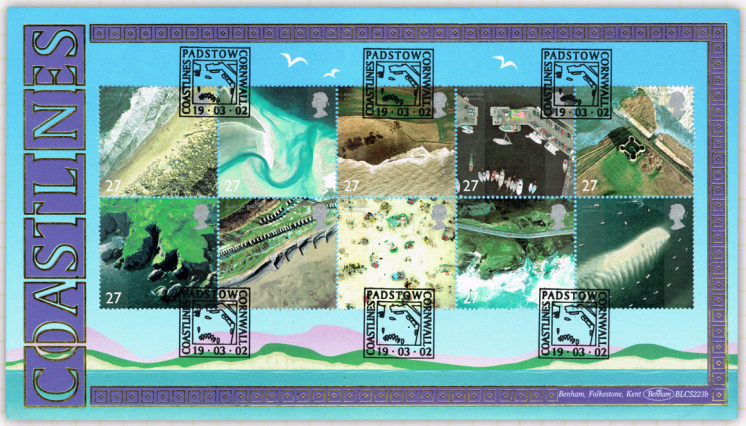


24 June 1981 The National Trusts – British Landscapes. Stackpole Head, Wales, 20p; Giant's Causeway, N. Ireland, 22p; – with First Day Cover by Benham commemorating the 50th anniversary of the National Trust for Scotland (which also has the Derwentwater, England, 18p)



24 March 1998 Lighthouses. St John's Point Lighthouse, County Down, 20p; Smalls Lighthouse, Pembrokeshire, 26p; Needles Rock Lighthouse, Isle of Wight, c 1900, 37p; Bell Rock Lighthouse, Arbroath, mid-19th-century, 43p; Original Eddystone Lighthouse, Plymouth, 1698, 63p

with a range of first day cover designs with differing handstamps, along with postcards, and maximum cards have been produced – creating a vast pool from which collectors can draw. For instance the latest National Parks issue has stamps featuring the Seven Sisters cliffs on the South Coast and The Green Bridge of Wales in Pembrokeshire (opposite page). There are no hard and fast rules as to the parameters of thematic collections, they can be modified to the personal interest and discretion of the collector. Hence the pieces shown here not only include images in which coastal scenes are the primary focus, for instance the 19th century coastguard featured on ►



19 March 2002 British Coastlines. Row 1: Studland Bay, Dorset 27p; Luskentyre, South Harris 27p; Cliffs, Dover, Kent 27p; Padstow Harbour, Cornwall 27p; Broadstairs, Kent 27p; Row 2: St. Abb's Head, Scottish Borders 27p; Dunster Beach, Somerset 27p; Newquay Beach, Cornwall 27p; Portrush, County Antrim 27p; Sand-spit, Conwy 27p. First Day Cover by Benham



16 March 2004 A British Journey – Northern Ireland. Giant's Causeway, Antrim Coast, 1st Class



15 June 2004 A British Journey – Wales. Marloes Sands, 68p



8 February 2005 A British Journey – South West England. Old Harry Rocks, Studland Bay, 2nd Class



8 February 2005 A British Journey – South West England. Start Point, Start Bay, 40p

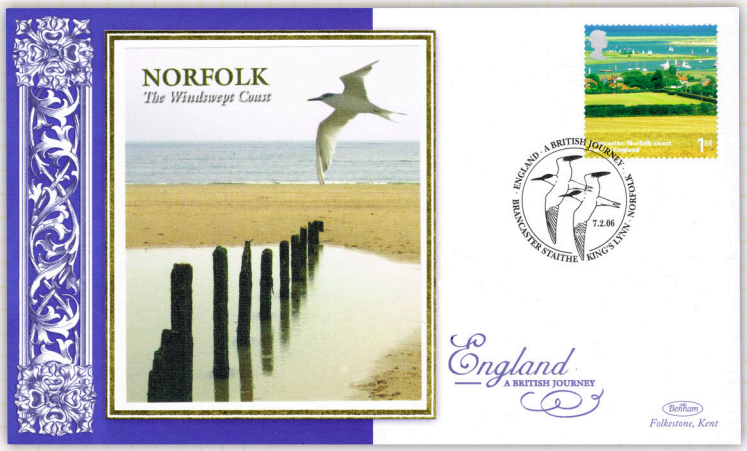


8 February 2006 A British Journey – England. Beachy Head, Sussex Coast, South-East England, 1st Class. First Day Covers by Benham





8 February 2006 A British Journey – England. Brancaster, Norfolk Coast, East of England, 1st Class





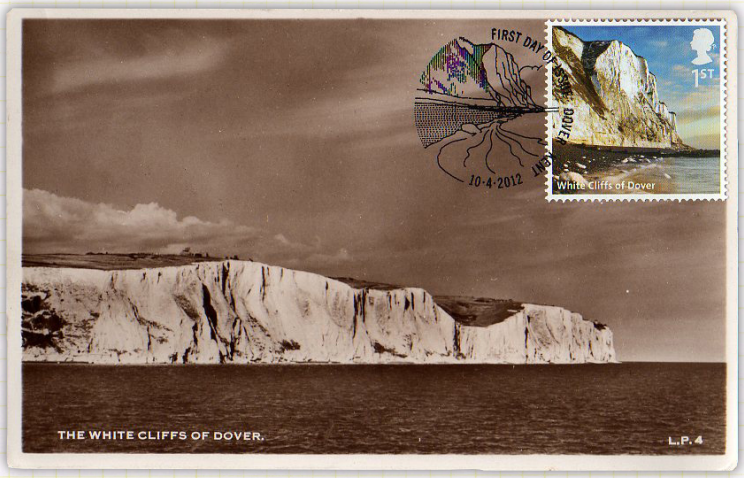
8 February 2006 A British Journey – England. Robin Hood's Bay, Yorkshire Coast, North-East England, 1st Class



the 7½p from 1972 is a strong enough affiliate to merit inclusion, as is the delightful Lighthouses stamp set of 1998. In addition, the miniature sheet marking the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings depicts scenes on the Normandy beaches – not our own coastline, but could still qualify as part of a British stamp coastal collection. And so there are limitless decisions to be made – you make the rules, and bend them – part of the joy of assembling a collection which can be widened in scope at will.

If you're interested in starting a thematic collection, an excellent port of call would be the British Thematic Association, their website (www.britishthematic.org.uk) offers advice to beginners, and extensive insights into displaying exhibits as well as events and competitions in this popular activity which was the catalyst for many becoming engaged in philately ●

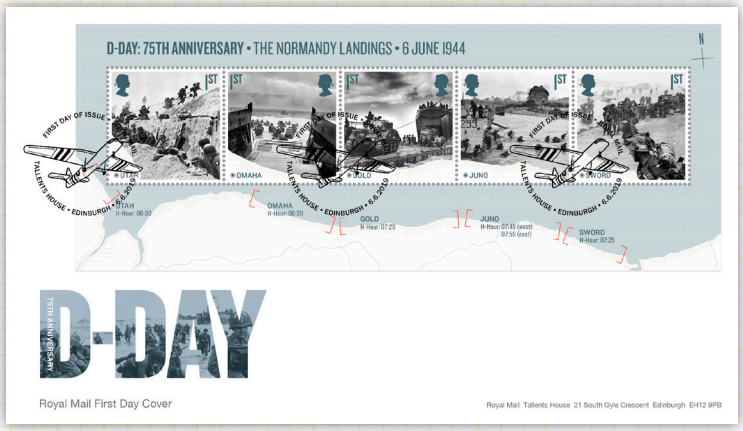
Article by Ian Boardman



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10 April 2012 UK A-Z (Part 2) White Cliffs of Dover, 1st Class. Also shown on first day of issue Maximum Card



6 June 2019 D-Day – 75th anniversary. Miniature Sheet First Day Cover. The sheet encompasses five 1st Class stamps featuring the D-Day landings at Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword beaches in Normandy

Machin Checklist 2020

Low-value Stamps

17 March
£1.42 Garnet Red (DS1033A); £1.63 Sunset Red (DS1033B); £1.68 Tarragon Green (DS1033C); £2.42 Purple Heather (DS1033D); £2.97 Rose Pink (DS1033E); £3.66 Harvest Gold (DS1033F); £3.82 Holly Green (DS1033G).
Walsall, Gravure





23 December
£1.70 Marine Turqoise (DS1090A); £3.25 Aqua Green (DS1090B); £4.20 Plum Purple (DS1090C).
Walsall, Gravure



On 21 January the Machin 50p Slate Grey (DS500WL) was issued – a non visible change printed by Walsall.

Royal Mail order numbers (prefixed DS, YB etc) as given on Tallents House stock lists.



Prestige Stamp Book Panes

11 February
Visions of the Universe (YB087) Pane 2: Machins – 2 x 5p, 2 x 10p, 4 x 1st Class Country Definitives
Cartor, Lithography



17 March
James Bond (YB088) Pane 4: Machins – 2 x 2p, 2 x 2nd Class Machins, 2 x 2nd Class Scottish Saltire, 2 x 1st Class Union Jack.
Cartor, Lithography



8 May
End of the Second World War (YB091)
Pane 2: Machins – 4 x 5p, 2 x 50p, 2 x £1.63.
Cartor, Lithography

9 July
Queen (YB092)
Pane 4: Machins – 4 x 1p, 4 x 1st Class.
Cartor, Lithography



Retail Stamp Books

21 January
Video Games
(UB429) 4 x 1st Class Machins, 2 x 1st Class Special Stamps.
Walsall, Gravure



17 March
James Bond
(UB430) 4 x 1st Class Machins, 2 x 1st Class Special Stamps.
Walsall, Gravure



28 May
Coronation Street
(UB433) 4 x 1st Class Machins, 2 x 1st Class Special Stamps.
Walsall, Gravure





13 November
Star Trek (YB093)
Pane 4: Machins – 2 x 2p, 3 x 50p, 3 x 2nd Class.
Cartor, Lithography



9 July
Queen
(UB434) 4 x 1st Class Machins, 2 x 1st Class Special Stamps.
Walsall, Gravure



18 August
Sherlock
(UB436) 4 x 1st Class Machins, 2 x 1st Class Special Stamps.
Walsall, Gravure



13 November
Star Trek
(UB439) 4 x 1st Class Machins, 2 x 1st Class Special Stamps.
Walsall, Gravure

Country Definitives

17 March



England £1.42
(ES602)



Scotland £1.42
(SS602)



Wales £1.42
(WS602)



N. Ireland £1.42
(IS341)



England £1.63
(ES603)



Scotland £1.63
(SS603)



Wales £1.63
(WS603)



N. Ireland £1.63
(IS342)

23 December



England £1.70
(ES604)



Scotland £1.70
(SS604)



Wales £1.70
(WS604)



N. Ireland £1.70
(IS343)

Cartor, Lithography

Miniature Sheet

6 April
The Declaration of Arbroath (MZ152) 1 x 2nd Scottish Saltire, 1 x 1st Class Scottish Lion, 1 x £1.42 Thistle, 1 x £1.63 Tartan

Walsall, International Security Printers, Lithography



Special Stamps first day of issue diary dates for 2021

14 January	National Parks
26 January	United Kingdom: A Celebration
16 February	Only Fools and Horses
16 March	The Legend of King Arthur
15 April	Classic Science Fiction
4 May	The Wars of the Roses
28 May	Paul McCartney
1 July	Dennis and Gnasher
22 July	Wild Coasts
12 August	Industrial Revolutions
2 September	British Army Vehicles
17 September	To be announced
19 October	Rugby Union
2 November	Christmas 2021



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New Issues and Withdrawals

Information correct at the time of going to press

1 January — **Withdrawal** Brilliant Bugs: Stamp Souvenir.



14 January — **Issue** National Parks: Stamps (10 x 1st Class – 2 x horizontal se-tenant strips). Presentation Pack. First Day Cover. Stamp Souvenir. First Day Envelope. Stamp Book. Postcards (10 in set). Framed Stamps.



26 January — **Issue** United Kingdom – A Celebration: Miniature Sheet. Presentation Pack. First Day Cover. Stamp Sheet Souvenir. First Day Envelope. Postcards (5 in set).

1 February — **Withdrawal** Christmas 2020: Stamp Souvenir. Stamp Sheet Souvenir.



14 February — **Withdrawal** Royal Mail Heritage – Mail by Sea: Stamps.



16 February — **Issue** Only Fools and Horses: Stamps (4 x 1st Class, 4 x £1.70). Miniature Sheet (2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.70). Presentation Pack. Stamp Souvenir. Stamp Sheet Souvenir. First Day Envelope. First Day Cover. First Day Cover Miniature Sheet. First Day Cover Prestige Stamp Book Pane. Prestige Stamp Book (Pane 1: 4 x 1st Class, Pane 2: 3 x 20p, 2 x 2nd Class, 3 x 1st Class, Pane 3: 2 x 1st Class, 2 x £1.70, Pane 4: 4 x £1.70). Limited Edition Prestige Stamp Book. Postcards (13 in set). Stamp Book (4 x 1st Class Machins, 2 x 1st Class Special Stamps). Stamp Sheets. Collector's Sheet. Stamp Set Pack. Miniature Sheet Pack. First Class Stamps Pack. Press Sheet. Scripts Souvenir Folder. Medal Cover. Silver Proof Medal Cover. Framed Stamps and Miniature Sheet. Framed Collector's Sheet. Signed Prints.

The 2021 Annual Subscriptions for Special Stamps, First Day Covers and Presentation Packs are available to order until 14 January. Visit royalmail.com/annualsubscriptions

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