BRITISH PHILATELIC

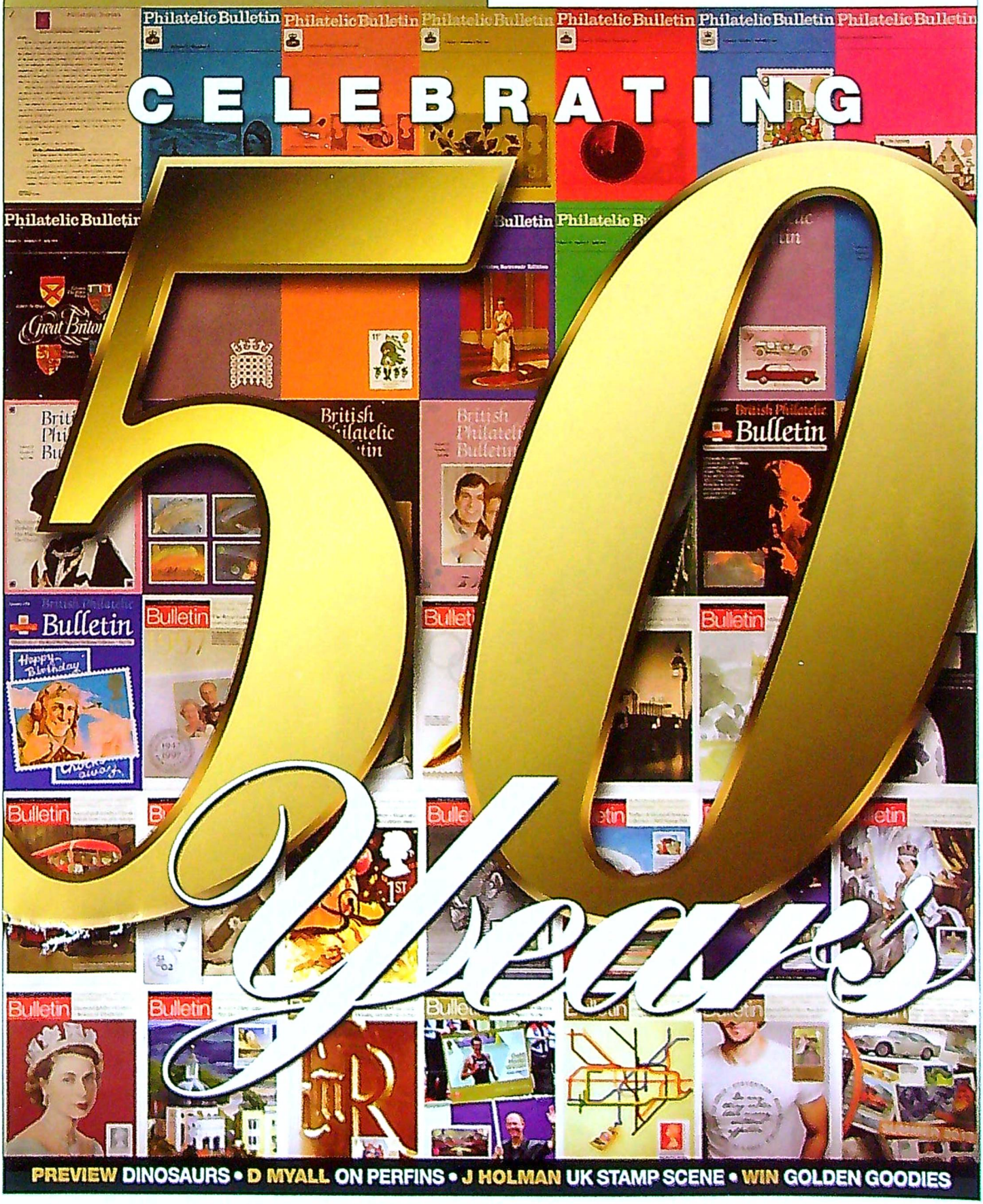
Bulletin

50th Anniversary Year 2013

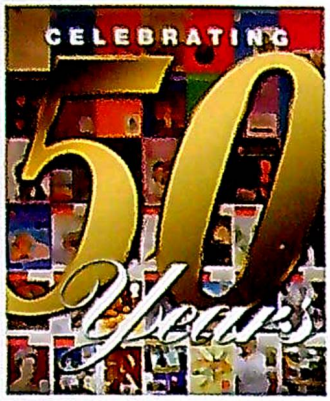
The magazine for collectors of UK stamps

VOLUME 51 NUMBER 1 | SEPTEMBER 2013 £1.50

Andy Murray • Stamps of '63
• Bertram Mackennal revisited



Issues and withdrawals



Cover design: Pyotr Devine, with thanks to Arthur Millar for his contribution to *British Philatelic Bulletin* archives. Celebrating this 50th birthday edition, John Holman looks back to September 1963 on page 14

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19 September	**Issue** 150th Anniversary of the Birth of Bertram Mackennal: Commemorative Sheet, Seahorses Facsimile Pack, limited-edition Seahorses Facsimile Press Sheet.
19 September	**Issue** Merchant Navy: Stamps (3 x 1st Class and 3 x £1.28), Miniature Sheet (4 x 1st Class), Prestige Stamp Book, Presentation Pack, Stamp Book (4 x 1st Class Machins, 1 x Royal Mail Van, 1 x Royal Mail Ship).
20 September	**Issue** Post & Go Freshwater Life 3 – Rivers: Stamps.
10 October	**Issue** Dinosaurs: Stamps (10 x 1st Class).
16 October	**Withdrawal** Space Science: Stamps, Presentation Pack, Stamp Cards.

To order philatelic items, including those listed above, contact Royal Mail Tallents House at the address below. Minimum handling charge UK £1.45, Europe £1.55, rest of world (airmail) £2.15. Some products can be ordered on the Royal Mail website: **www.royalmail.com/stamps**.

Selected items are available at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets at main post offices in: Bristol, Cambridge, Chester, Colchester, Croydon, Durham, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Grimsby, Harrogate, London (Eastcheap and Trafalgar Square), Norwich, Nottingham, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Southend on Sea, Stevenage, Stroud, Trowbridge, Truro, York and Newport, Isle of Wight.

Special stamps are usually withdrawn a year after their issue date. However, all stamps relating to London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games were withdrawn on 31 December 2012.

Royal Mail Tallents House
21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. Telephone order line (08.30 to 17.00 Monday to Friday): 08457 641 641. From overseas: +44 131 316 7483.

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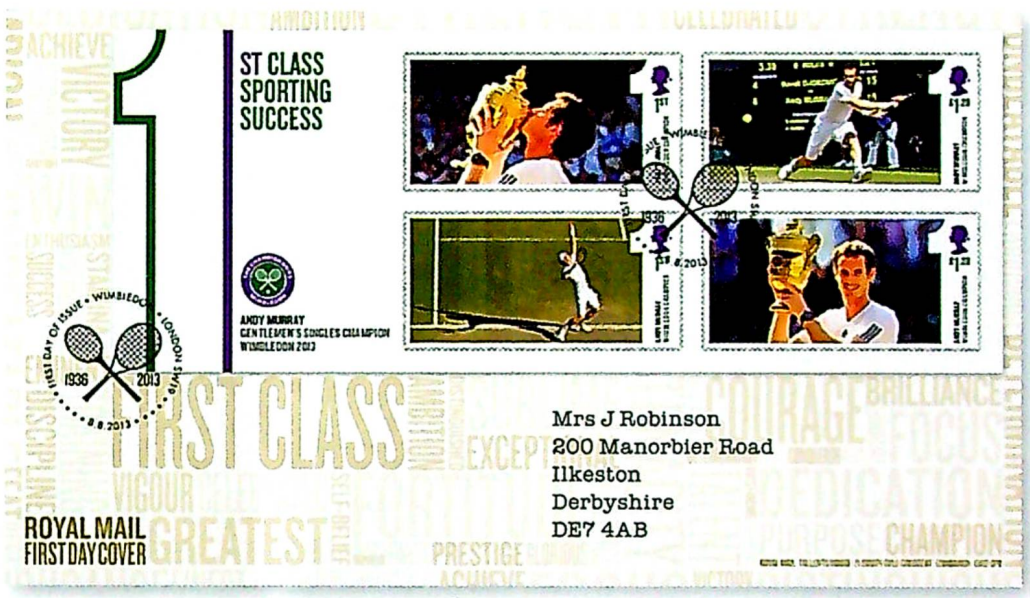
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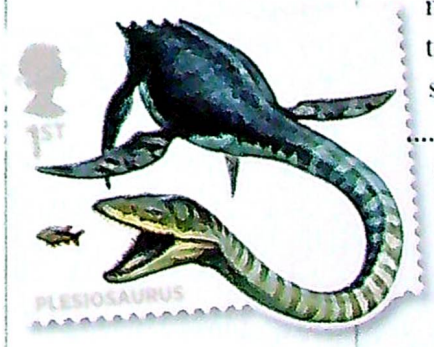
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Happy 50th, Bulletin! How the times have changed since *Bulletin* was born in 1963 **14**

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Preview The issue with a bit of bite! Discover the Dinosaurs set that launches next month **21**



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This month in history September 1968 saw the introduction of the two-tier postal tariff in the UK **27**



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The British Philatelic Bulletin is published monthly by Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB ● Editor: William Doherty ● Price £1.50 from Post Office Ltd philatelic outlets (see opposite) ● **Annual subscription** £12.95 UK & Europe; £17.95 elsewhere. Send subscriptions to Royal Mail Tallents House (address opposite) ● **Binders** (to hold 24 issues) £8.50, storage boxes (about 30 copies) £9.95 available by post from Royal Mail Tallents House ● Royal Mail also publishes the fortnightly *British Postmark Bulletin*, giving details of forthcoming special handstamps – available on annual subscription from Royal Mail Tallents House £12.25 UK and Europe; £24.95 rest of the world ● ©Royal Mail. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or parts is prohibited without prior permission of the Editors ● **Printed** in Great Britain by Zenith Print & Packaging Ltd ● **ISSN** 0953 8119 ● Royal Mail is a trading name of Royal Mail Group Ltd Registered in England and Wales, number 4138203. Registered office: 100 Victoria Embankment, London EC4Y 0HQ

Correspondence Readers' questions and favourite finds

A very good spot



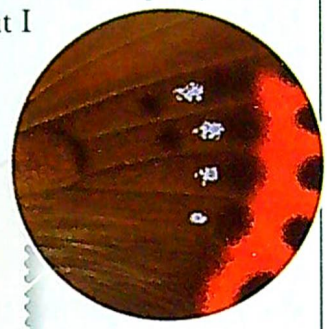
I write in response to John Larkin's query, in the August issue letters page, about the hindwing spots on the Small Copper stamp in the recent Butterflies issue.
I wonder if his question might be tongue-in-cheek – to have supplied such a good photograph of the Small Copper for the cover of July's *Bulletin*, he is presumably a butterfly enthusiast. I believe the July cover shows the true *Lyceana phlaeas* with the black spots. But I have just learned that there are 140 variants!

The stamp depicts the colour variant *Caeruleo punctata*, reported in Jeremy Thomas and Richard Lewington's book *The Butterflies of Britain and Ireland*.

This variant has *blue* spots along the hindwings, but Mr Larkin says the stamp's butterfly has white spots. If Mr Larkin really has stamps with white spots, then it seems that he is in possession of a stamp variant that will be much sought after!
Keith Cheasman, by email
(A butterfly fan but not a butterfly expert)

Yes, Mr Cheasman is correct. The illustration of the Small Copper on the stamp shows the *Caeruleo punctata* variety, which forms quite a high proportion of the population, particularly in the north. It has a curve of silvery-blue spots on the hindwings. Some individuals have very conspicuous spots, others just a couple of tiny specks. In its extreme it is a beautiful addition to the typically marked specimens and I thought it would be nice to include in the stamp illustration – artistic licence!
Richard Lewington, Oxfordshire
(See *Bulletin* Vol 50, p334)

I am very happy to hear that Mr Cheasman liked my photograph. Although by no means a butterfly expert, I do enjoy macro photography and all the attention to Nature's beautiful detailing that it involves. The photograph was submitted to *Bulletin* well before the Butterflies issue was released. When I saw the actual stamp I felt I had to query the variation in wing spots. But I am all for artistic licence!
John Larkin, London







King Arthur of our Archive

This year we have been putting together an editorial archive of *Bulletin*, for use in planning the celebration of its 50th anniversary at Autumn Stampex. The BPMA and Tallents House have few spare copies but our bacon was saved by reader Arthur Millar from Somerset. We extend a huge thank-you to Mr Millar, who generously contributed his beautifully archived *Bulletins* for this purpose.



Having collected Machins and country definitives for many years, Arthur Millar has extended his collection to include Post & Go stamps

Golden chance for prizes



This month we are happy to present with your *British Philatelic Bulletin* a souvenir philatelic cover as part of the celebration of *Bulletin*'s 50th anniversary. The cover is gifted exclusively to subscribers, and there are more *Bulletin* birthday treats in store for all our readers.

If you are planning to visit Stampex on Thursday 19 September, remember to take along this copy of *Bulletin* to present in the Royal Mail area of the exhibition – where you can claim another *Bulletin* anniversary memento.

By the way, at Stampex you can also enter the Jubilee Quiz shown on page 31 where you have the chance to win one of 50 exciting philatelic prizes, including a two-day break in Edinburgh with an overnight hotel stay and an insider's tour of Tallents House – the operations hub of Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles.

We look forward to continuing the *Bulletin* tradition into the next 50 years and hope to meet many readers at Stampex and through your letters.

William Doherty, Royal Mail Web Content and Magazines Manager

A class of their own

I am disappointed with the commemorative and special stamp issues in 2013. Yet again there is a dearth of second-class stamps. I really enjoy using special stamps when I send non-urgent letters, but generally have to resort to using my stock of Christmas stamps for this purpose. Why oh why can't more issues contain second-class stamps?

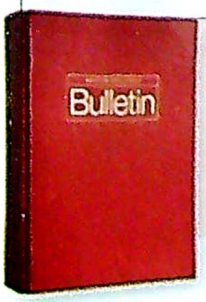
B Stapleton, Kent

For most of the history of Special Stamps, Royal Mail has not deployed the second-class UK rate except for the Christmas issue. However, we decided to reintroduce the second-class rate in selected issues, starting with the Charles Dickens stamp last year and continuing with issues in 2013. These have included the London Underground set in January, the four monster stamps in the Doctor Who Miniature Sheet in March, and the stamp issue to mark the 60th anniversary of The Queen's Coronation in May.





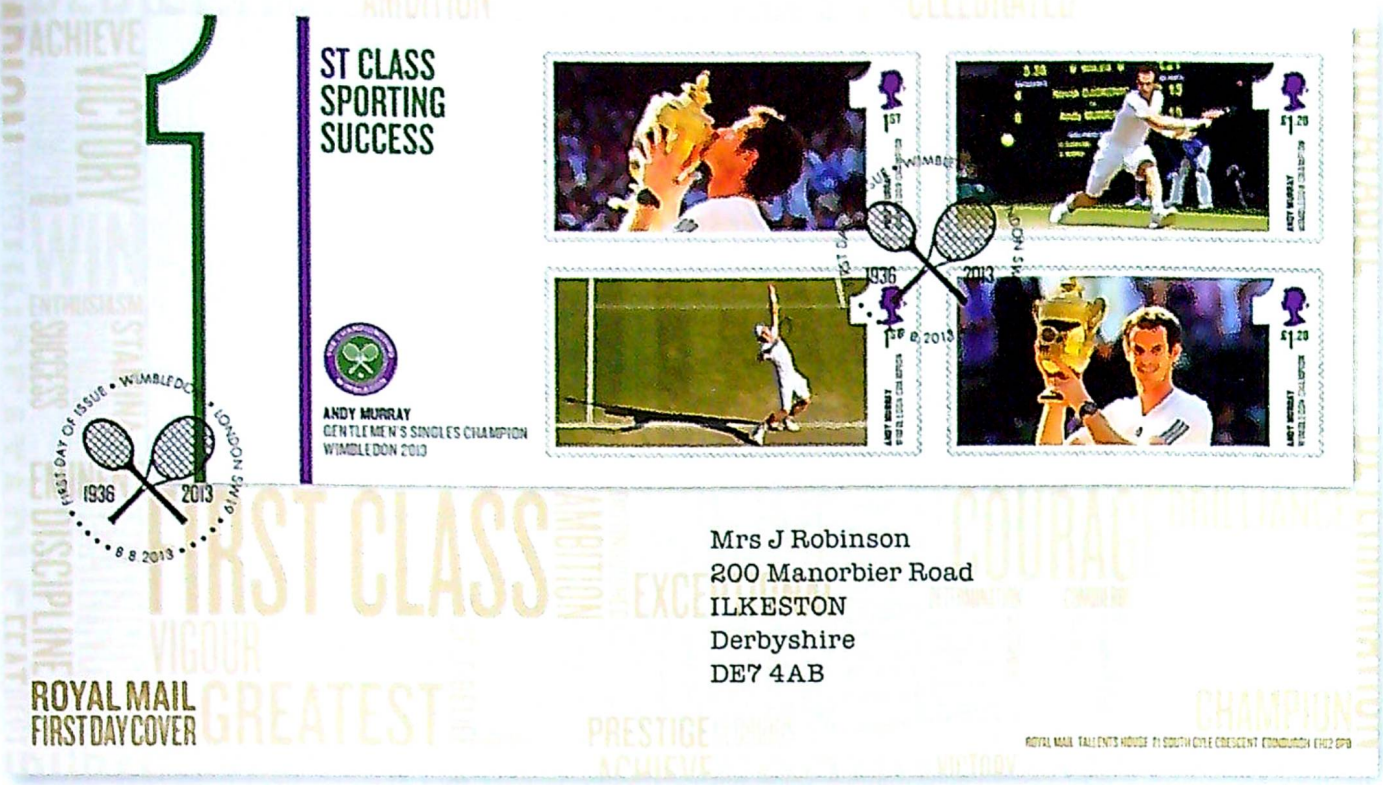
Philip Parker, Stamp Strategist, Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles



Keep the letters coming...

The Editor welcomes your letters and the senders of those published will receive philatelic delights as a thank-you. The writer of the 'First-class Letter' receives the *Bulletin* binder.

Send your letters to: William Doherty, British Philatelic Bulletin, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. Remember you can send emails to bulletin.enquiries@royalmail.com.



Wimbledon wonderboy A new stamp set pays tribute to Andy Murray's brilliant win in SW19

Murray Miniature Sheet He is everybody's favourite champion – now Andy Murray is the superstar of a stamp issue to celebrate his historic Wimbledon victory. The Scot features in a four-stamp Miniature Sheet, First Day Cover, and a Presentation Pack that charts his career and progress through the 2013 tournament and details the three-set battle with Novak Djokovic.

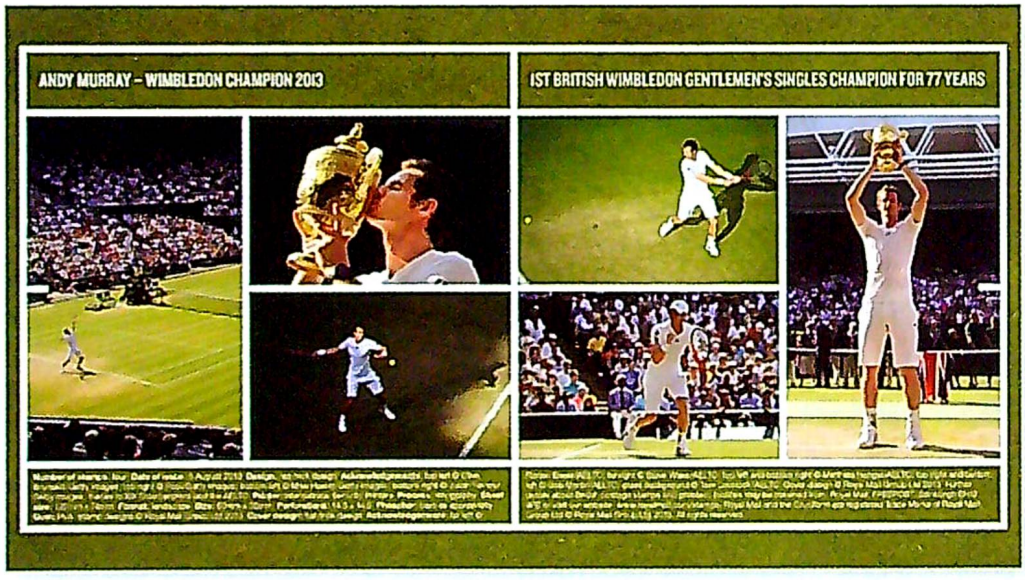
Andy appears with the coveted Gentlemen's Singles Champion trophy in a First Class and £1.28 stamp – and in one he is kissing the famous cup. The remaining stamps, again a pair of First Class and £1.28, show Andy in action against world number one Djokovic, serving and returning with a backhand.



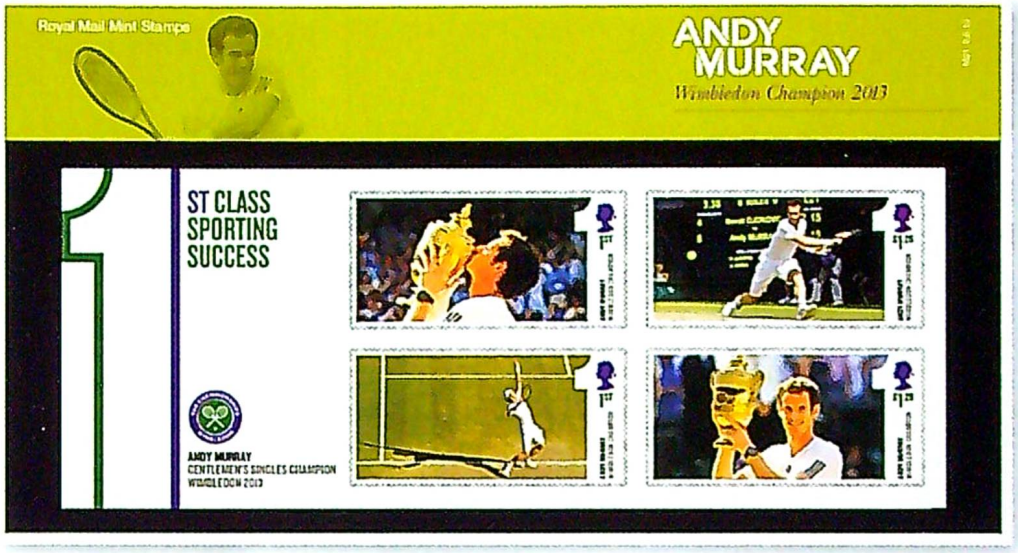
FD 1324-PL

Above: the Andy Murray First Day Cover and the pictorial postmark with the legendary Wimbledon SW19 postcode. Available until 5 September from Tallents House at the address on page 2

Right: the First Day Cover Filler Card features scenes from the big final that Murray won in three sets



Filler card images copyrights: Clive Brunskill; Pool; Mike Hewitt; Julian Finney – all Getty Images
Florian Eiseie; Steve Wake; Matthias Hangst; Bob Martin; Tom Lovelock – all AELTC





FD 1324-TH

Above: the Tallents House postmark and the stylish Presentation Pack that follows Murray's career and victories through the 2013 tournament to a triumphant, historic final

Below: more views of the Presentation Pack

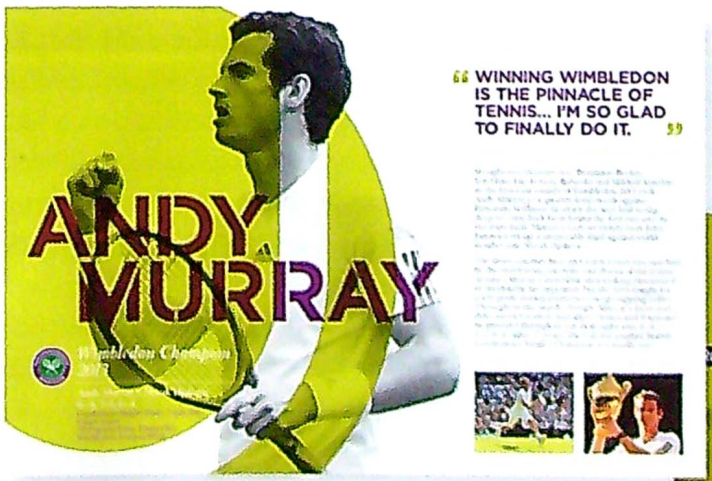
Unusually, the phosphor is printed around the images on the white stamp borders rather than over the pictures themselves. The First Day Cover is emblazoned with words that encapsulate qualities needed to be a winner – ambition, courage and discipline, for example. The Filler Card has six images of Murray from the 2013 men's final. All the products, issued on 8 August, are smartly designed with Wimbledon's livery of green and purple.

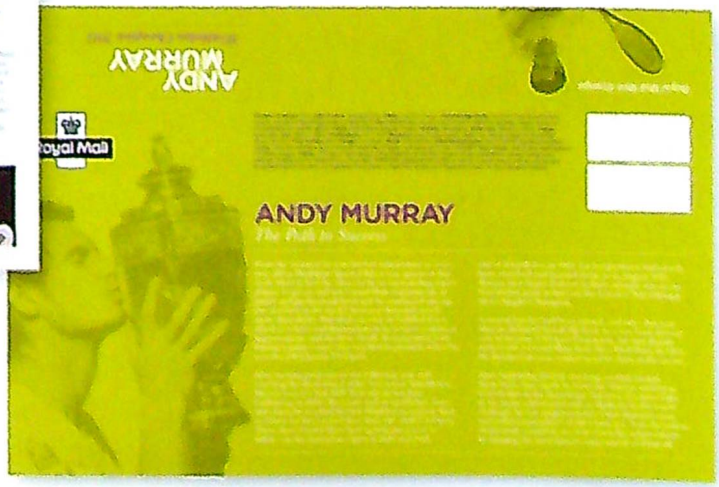
A Tallents House non-pictorial postmark bears the line: 'Game, set & match Andy Murray'. A pictorial postmark that shows crossed rackets and the legendary Wimbledon London SW19 postcode is also available. First Day Covers may be ordered with either of these postmarks until 5 September, from the Tallents House address on page 2 or online at www.royalmail.com/tennis.

Andy's victory was truly historic. It is the first time in 77 years that a Briton has won the Wimbledon men's singles since Fred Perry's 1936 triumph. And, of course, he also featured on a Gold Medal stamp after his Olympics success •

Andy Murray Miniature Sheet – Specifications

Date of issue	8 August
Number of stamps	Four
Stamp design	Hat-trick
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	60mm x 30mm
Sheet size	192mm x 74mm
Printer	International Security Printers
Print process	Lithography
Perforations	14.5 x 14.5
Phosphor	Bars as appropriate
Gum	PVA





Andy Murray Miniature Sheet – Prices

Miniature Sheet	£3.76
Presentation Pack	£4.30
First Day Cover/overseas	£4.99/£4.16





Above: artist Nicky Philipps and the stamp based on her painting, in the Six Decades of Royal Portraits issue



Royal portrait news Royal Mail's painting of The Queen for the Six Decades of Royal Portraits issue has won the ultimate accolade by being displayed at Buckingham Palace.

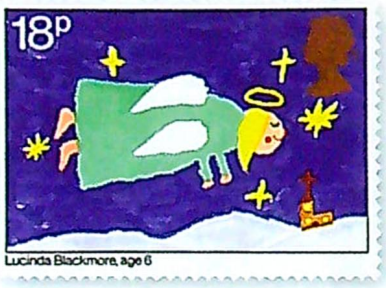
Created by leading artist Nicky Philipps (see Vol 50, p309), the portrait will hang in the Throne Room so it can be viewed by the public on tours of the palace's State Rooms until 29 September.

Philipps' work appeared on the First Class stamp of the Six Decades set, released on 30 May to mark the 60th anniversary of the Coronation.

The picture, commissioned by Royal Mail, is now owned by the Royal Collection and officials are still deciding on a permanent location for it •

The Royal Mail Christmas stamp competition proved a runaway success. Schoolchildren aged four to 11 years old have been drawing and painting in response to the question: 'What does Christmas mean to you?' Interest was so great that in one day alone 46,000 children submitted entries! The competition is now closed and judges have the difficult task of selecting the two winners.





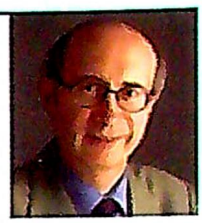
Above: two of the winning children's designs in the last Christmas stamp competition of 1981

Firstly 120 area winners will be selected from 12 regions across the UK, then these will be narrowed down to two winners from each region so that 24 designs go into the grand final. The two overall winners will see their design feature on this year's First or Second Class Christmas Stamp. As with all Special Stamps issued by Royal Mail, both winning designs will have to be approved by The Queen before the decision to print the stamps is finalised.

Only twice before – in 1966 and 1981 – have the official Royal Mail Christmas stamps been designed by schoolchildren.

Results will be announced in the national press and in *Bulletin* in the autumn and the stamps will go on sale on 5 November 2013 •

Stamp Scene John Holman keeps you posted on events and activities in the world of philately



This month marks the 50th anniversary of the first issue of *Bulletin*, the contents of which are reviewed in our special Five Decades of *Bulletin* feature on page 14. Our story began in 1963, a significant year for collectors of British stamps because the Philatelic Bureau was set up in London (it moved to Edinburgh in 1966) as a result of a change in policy towards special stamps. In 1963 there were no fewer than six issues of commemorative stamps, compared to an average of one a year in the previous ten years. Five of the six 1963 issues are represented on this page and the Red Cross Centenary issue on page 14.

Also in 1963, Stanley Gibbons launched its *Great Britain Specialised Stamp Catalogue*, with Volume 1 covering the issues of Queen Victoria. The now five-volume catalogue has become an important work of reference for serious collectors of GB stamps.

1963 was also a notable year beyond philately. The assassination of John F Kennedy shook the wider world. And the Beatles were at the height of their popularity. Both these events are commemorated this year on new stamps from the Isle of Man and Guernsey (see page 13). Also in this month's Stamp Scene you will find details of a BPMA touring exhibition marking the 50th anniversary of the Great Train Robbery when the Glasgow to London mail train was attacked and £2.8 million stolen. The robbery, along with the Profumo affair, rocked the establishment and Prime Minister Harold Macmillan resigned owing to ill health.

As a 13-year-old schoolboy stamp collector, with an embryonic interest in politics, 1963 was for me certainly a year to remember. I am sure many *Bulletin* readers who started collecting in the same era – and, of course, younger ones who have studied modern history – will agree that the interest generated by the fresh approach to special stamps was accepted as part of the general spirit of the times: to find a new way to do absolutely everything, from philately to frothy coffee and Machins to mini skirts.

To mark the occasion of our 50th anniversary, *British Philatelic Bulletin* subscribers will be receiving an exclusive 2013 souvenir cover. And the *Bulletin* team will be celebrating at Stampex on Thursday 19 September (see page 13), with some special souvenirs available for readers who bring their copy of *Bulletin* to the area of the Royal Mail stand •

Bulletin's 50th birthday







Above: stamps from 1963 included the Freedom From Hunger issue and the Paris Postal Conference Centenary







Above and left: there were some colourful issues in 1963 that celebrated British nature, modern communications and the Ninth RNLI conference







Autumn diary dates

7 September City of Preston Stamp & Card Fair, Barton Village Hall, Garstang Road (A6), Barton, Preston PR3 5AA. 10am to 4pm.

13 September Strand Stamp Fair, Royal National Hotel, London WC1. Information: 020 8946 4480 or www.stampshows.net.

18-21 September Autumn Stampex, Business Design Centre, Upper Street, London N1 (see below).

5 October South West Congress, Prestwick Community Centre, Prestwick, Ayrshire. Information: www.scottishphilately.co.uk.

6 October Association of GB First Day Cover Collectors AGM and FDC Fair, Collingwood Centre, Great Barr, Birmingham B43 7NF, 10am to 4pm. Information: Ian Balcombe, 020 7586 4668.

10 October Strand Stamp Fair, details as 13 September, above.

12 October Manchester & District Philatelic Traders Association Stamp Fair, Sale Grammar School, Marsland Road, Sale M33 3NH.

12 October South of England Stamp Fair & Sussex Convention, South of England Centre, Ardingly Showground, Ardingly RH17 6TL, 10am to 4.30pm. Includes British Thematic Association's 2013 Competitions.

18-19 October Scotex (Scottish Stamp and Postcard Fair), Dewars Centre, Perth. Friday 11am to 6pm, Saturday 10am to 4pm. More details at www.spta-scotex.com.

18-20 October Stampa (Irish national stamp exhibition), Royal Dublin Society, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4.

19 October Hampex 2013: Hampshire Philatelic Federation Stamp and Postal History Fair, Wickham Community Centre, Mill Lane, Wickham PO17 5AL. Information: jhjones@f2s.com or www.hpf.hampshire.org.uk.

25-27 October 14th Dundee Philatelic Weekend, Queens Hotel, Dundee. Information and bookings: Ken Norris, 30 Luss Brae, Hamilton ML3 9UT, 01698 425120.

27 October West of England Thematic Society Stamp Day, Haytor Room, Dartmoor Lodge Hotel, Ashburton TQ13 7JW, 10am to 4.30pm. Information: 01398 331731 ●



Above: the Lamb of God in St John's Kirk, Perth inspires the emblem of the Perth Philatelic Society

Stamp exhibitions



Above: the Philatelic Traders Society hosts Autumn Stampex, with free entry, at the Business Design Centre

The exhibition season is here again. Autumn Stampex, at the Business Design Centre, London N1, 18-21 September, features the National Stamp Exhibition with displays in all categories. The show will offer over 100 stands and Stamp Active events for children, including the popular Saturday auction. The Royal Mail stand will have the full range of current stamps and related products, with the new Merchant Navy and Post & Go stamps being launched during the show.

A special posting box is available on all days of the exhibition and a second box to obtain special Stampex first day of issue handstamps for the Royal Mail issues on the Thursday.

A number of stamp-collecting societies will be holding meetings at Stampex and welcome any new potential members who are interested. Society meetings include the Great Britain Philatelic Society, the Concorde Study Circle, the American Society of GB, The British Postmark Society, Scout & Guide Stamp Club and the Wreck & Crash Mail Society. The Stampex customised sheet is on sale at the information stand and marks the anniversaries of some famous

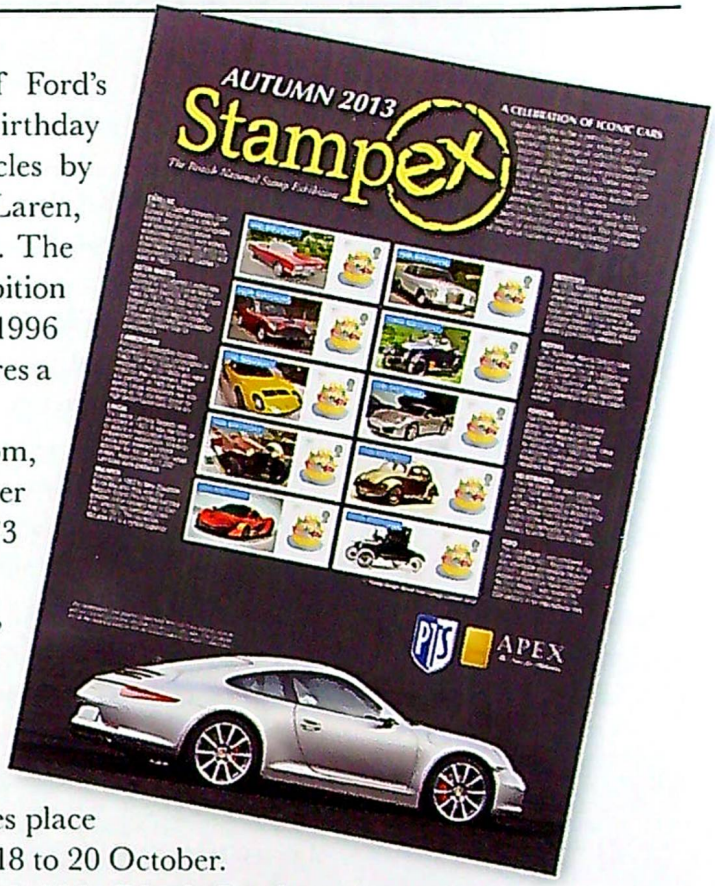
cars, beginning with the 105th anniversary of Ford's Model T. The sheet bears ten First Class Birthday Cake stamps with attached labels showing vehicles by Cadillac, Aston Martin, Lamborghini, Lancia, McLaren, Mercedes, Morris, Porsche, Volkswagen and Ford. The Stampex postcard, which is included in the exhibition programme, reproduces an unused design for the 1996 Classic Cars issue. The design, by Dick Davis, features a Daimler of 1899.

Stampex is open 18 September 11.30am to 7pm, 19 and 20 September 10am to 6pm, and 21 September 10am to 5pm. Admission is free. Information: 01273 594110 or info@philatelic-traders-society.co.uk.

The popular Scotex event, at the Dewars Centre, Perth, 18 to 19 October, is organised by the Scottish Philatelic Trade Association. The location is five minutes from Perth rail and bus stations, and offers good catering facilities.

Stampa, the Irish national stamp exhibition, takes place at the Royal Dublin Society, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, 18 to 20 October.

On the international scene, an exhibition will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 19 to 25 November, and the MonacoPhil exhibition of world rarities takes place in Monte Carlo, 5 to 7 December ●



Above: the Stampex customised sheet

September at the BPMA

The British Postal Museum & Archive (BPMA), located at Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1, near the famous Mount Pleasant sorting office, is open Monday to Friday 10am to 5pm (Thursdays until 7pm) and on Saturday 14 September (10am to 5pm), but closed on Monday 16 September.

On show at Freeling House are two exhibitions – the 2012 Diamond Jubilee display (until 31 December) and a Mail Rail display of photographs. An Archive Open Day about Mail Rail (the Post Office Underground Railway) is to be held on 14 September. The 'Post Office in the Community' display can be seen at Blists Hill Victorian Town, Ironbridge, Shropshire, and 25 online exhibitions on the BPMA website (www.postalheritage.org.uk) include Aerial Post, regional stamps, Machins, David Gentleman, postal vehicles and letter boxes.

Popular GPO walking tours tell the story of Victorian postal reform and the growth of the GPO. The next tours are on 21 September and 20 October – phone to book (see number below). Tours of the Museum Store at Debden and the Archive take place on 2 and 9 October respectively. A lecture, 'Royal Mail Past & Present' by Duncan Campbell-Smith, will be given at Guildhall Library on 24 October at 7pm. For details of BPMA services and to book your place at events, phone 020 7239 2570 or visit www.postalheritage.org.uk ●



Below: a display of photos of the Post Office Underground Railway is on show at Freeling House in London

©The British Postal Museum & Archive

BPMA touring exhibition



The Great Train Robbery, one of the most famous crimes of the 20th century, occurred on 8 August 1963. Material relating to the event and subsequent investigations by the Post Office Investigation Department is held at the BPMA, which has arranged a touring exhibition about the robbery. It can be seen at: Great Central Railway, Loughborough LE11 1RW from 3 to 6 October; Nene Valley Railway, Wansford Station, Stibbington, Peterborough PE8 6LR from 10 to 20 October; and Head of Steam – Darlington Railway Museum, North Road Station, Darlington DL3 6ST from 30 October to late December. Dates are subject to change and for confirmation you are advised to contact the BPMA on 020 7239 2570 or visit www.postalheritage.org.uk/page/greattrainrobbery, where you will also find an informative online exhibition ●

Stamp-related exhibitions

There is still time to visit a number of exhibitions associated with British stamp issues. An exhibition entitled 'Coronation!' is on show at the Chapter House at Westminster Abbey until 27 September, and robes and jewellery worn by The Queen and other members of the Royal Family at the Coronation can be seen at the annual summer opening of Buckingham Palace until 29 September.

'Poetry in Sound: The Music of Benjamin Britten' is on show at the British Library (Folio Society Gallery), London NW1 until 15 September. 'Lowry and the Painting of Modern Life' is on at Tate Britain, Millbank, London SW1 until 20 October, and 'Unseen Lowry' featuring private drawings not shown before is on view at The Lowry, Salford until 29 September ●

Auction round-up



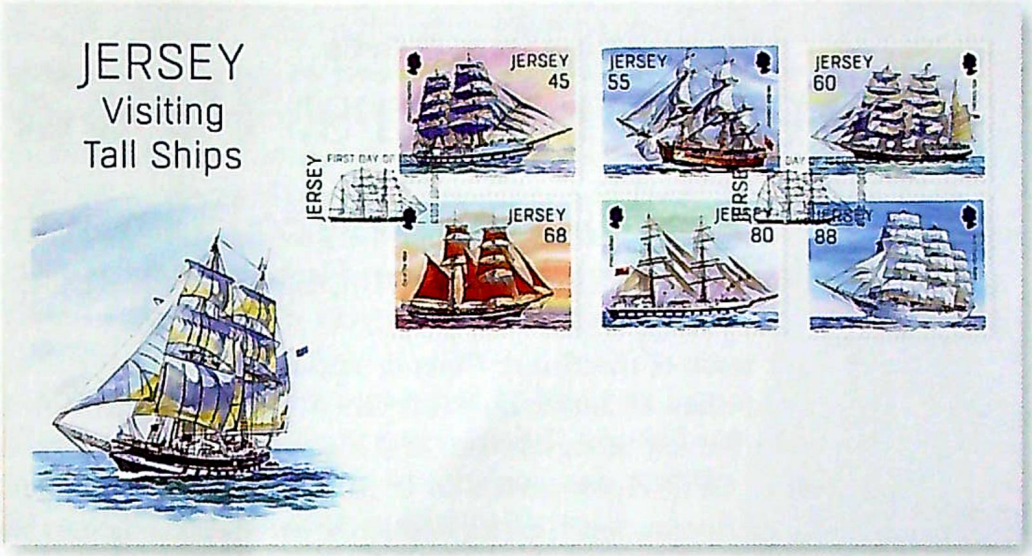
The forthcoming Spink auctions are: British East Africa & Uganda (10 September), India and British Empire revenue stamps (23 October) and South Africa (24 October) – information: 020 7563 4094. In September Cavendish will auction the Richard Payne collections of St Helena (1637-1939) and History of Perkins Bacon (1819-80), as well as a 100-volume collection of Germany, Danzig and Saar (c.1920-1950). Call 01332 250970 for more details. The forthcoming Grosvenor auctions include: Gibraltar, Iran, Poland, South Africa, Ceylon, British Honduras (26 September), and GB, featuring an unusual collection of £1 stamps by Ian Crane (31 October). Information: 020 7379 8789 ●

News from the islands

New local stamps (local carriage labels) showing island scenes were issued by the **Summer Isles** in May. All orders and enquiries to: Summer Isles Philatelic Bulletin, West Croftnuisk, Edradynate, Aberfeldy, Perthshire PH15 2JU, or visit the Summer Isles website, www.summer-isles.com. For more on Summer Isles and the stamp issues see *Bulletin* September 2010 (pp20-22) and May 2011 (pp273-275).

A new 25p stamp from **Steep Holm** in the Bristol Channel marks the 40th anniversary of the death of naturalist and broadcaster Kenneth Allsop. The island of Steep Holm is administered by the Kenneth Allsop Memorial Trust. For details of stamp issues see the Trust's website, www.steepholm.org.uk or contact Joy Wilson, 2 Blake End, Kewstoke, Weston-super-Mare BS22 9LS. Cheques payable to Kenneith Allsop Memorial Trust.

©The British Postal Museum & Archive



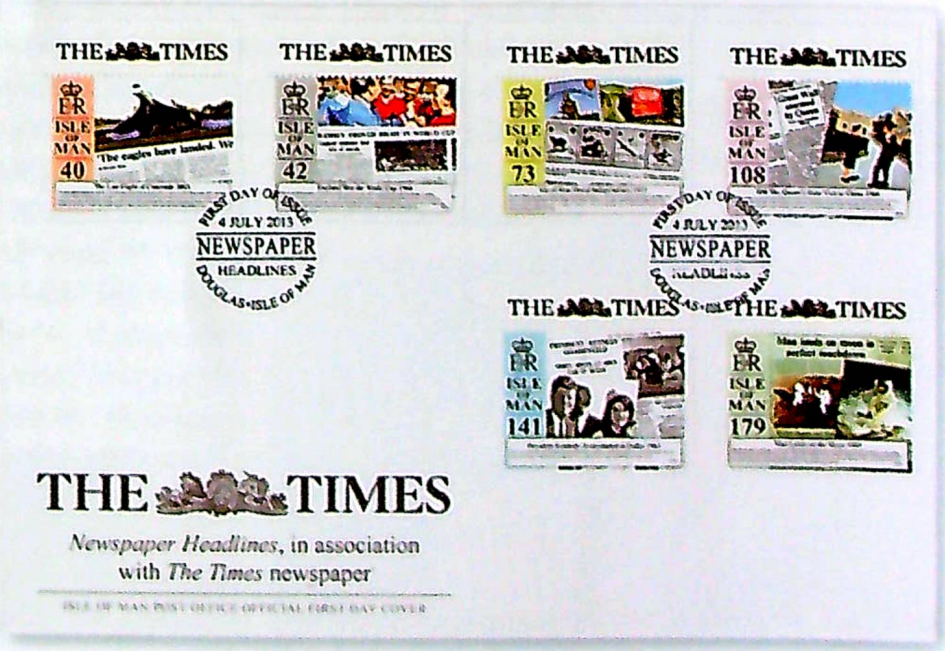
Right: Jersey's next issue on 17 September celebrates tall ships. A miniature sheet that shows The Royal Mace is coming out on 10 October

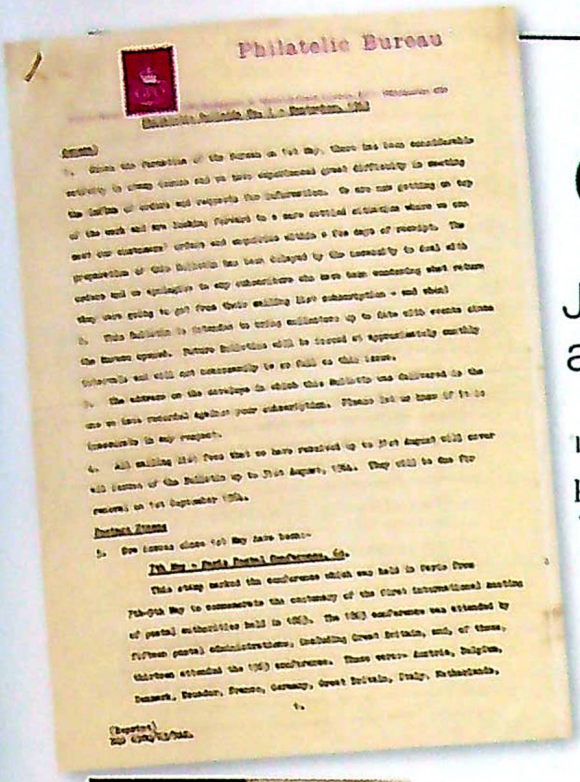
Guernsey issued six stamps on 31 July to mark the 50th anniversary of the Beatles' visit to the island on 8 August 1963. The stamps feature scenes of the Fab Four arriving and performing in Guernsey. Guernsey Post's next issue will be six stamps on the theme of Animals – Centenary of the West Show on 24 September; this is part of the SEPAC series. Seven Christmas stamps go on sale on 30 October, with the designs on the theme of 'When Santa Got Stuck up the Chimney'. On the same day there will be seven Christmas stamps for Alderney showing Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer. Information: Guernsey Philatelic Bureau, Freepost GU267, Envoy House, La Vrangue, Guernsey GY1 5SS or email philatelic@guernseypost.com.

Jersey's 17 September issue comprises six stamps and a souvenir sheetlet featuring Tall Ships, which is followed by a miniature sheet showing The Royal Mace on 10 October. Information: Jersey Philatelic Bureau, Freepost JE793, Jersey Post, Jersey JE1 1AF or www.jerseystamps.com.

The Isle of Man Post Office marked the 225th anniversary of *The Times* with six stamps on 4 July. These depict important events of the past 50 years showing how the paper covered the stories. The events are: the last flight of Concorde (2003), England winning the World Cup (1966), Isle of Man postal independence (1973), The Queen's state visit to China (1986), the assassination of President Kennedy (1963) and the first moon landing (1969). Eight stamps were issued on 19 June to mark the centenary of the Tour de France. Information: Isle of Man Stamps & Coins, PO Box 10M, Douglas, Isle of Man IM99 1PB and at www.iomstamps.com ●

Below: the Isle of Man's *The Times* issue features major events covered by the world-famous newspaper




Philatelic Bureau

5 decades of **Bulletin**

Golden years: 1963

John Holman's *Bulletin* history concludes with a look at the first issue from September 1963

THE FIRST ISSUE of the *British Philatelic Bulletin* was printed on A4 paper for the new Philatelic Bureau (opened May 1963) and headed 'Philatelic Bureau' alongside the GPO logo and the address of the Bureau at GPO Headquarters in St Martin's-le-Grand, London EC1. The Bureau was then located in the old Central Telegraph Office where the British Telecom headquarters now stands. Below this printed heading (in purple) was the publication title and dateline: 'Philatelic Bulletin No. 1 – September, 1963'.

Bulletin was arranged in a series of numbered paragraphs, the first four under the heading 'General'. It was stated that 'Since the formation of the Bureau on 1 May, there has been considerable activity in stamp issues and we have experienced great difficulty in meeting the influx of orders and requests for information... The preparation of this Bulletin has been delayed by the necessity to deal with orders... This Bulletin is intended to bring collectors up to date with events since the Bureau opened...'


Above: *Bulletin*'s first editor Frank Langfield in 1964

A Frank writing style

Paragraphs five to nine gave details of stamp issues from the Paris Postal Conference to Red Cross, and announced the Shakespeare Festival stamps in April the following year. Paragraph ten noted the change from cream to white paper to improve the appearance of definitive stamps, and paragraph 11 the issue of the Isle of Man 3d on chalk coated paper. Paragraphs 12 to 13 recorded a change of printer for the Castle high values from De La Rue to Bradbury Wilkinson, and paragraphs 14 to 17 explained cylinder and plate numbers. Paragraph 18 told readers that the 1s 6d definitive would be issued with phosphor lines and that a leaflet about phosphor-treated postage stamps was being sent out with *Bulletin*. Two paragraphs dealt with the 2s 'Holiday book' and paragraphs 22 and 23 the new pictorial London aerogrammes and new high-value postage dues. Paragraph 24 explained the FDC service and 25 to 28 gave details of new tourist advertising slogans and how collectors could obtain these and impressions of special handstamps. Listings of slogans and special handstamps were sent out as a supplement to *Bulletin*.











Right: the Red Cross stamp issue mentioned in *Bulletin*





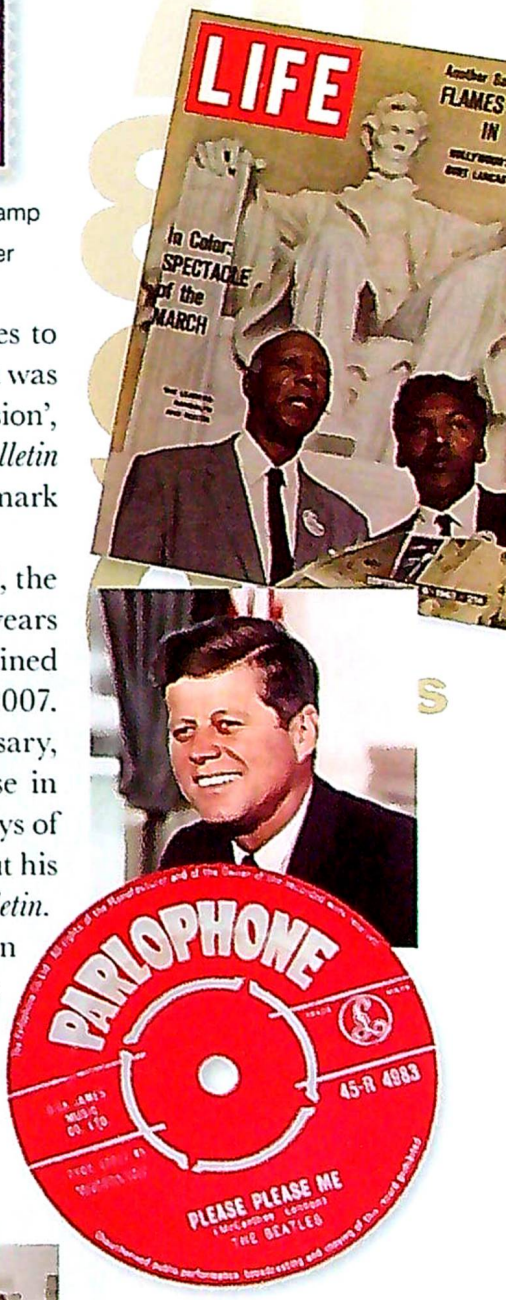
Above: Isle of Man 3d stamp

Left: 1963 First Day Cover

The final three paragraphs (29 to 31) asked collectors sending queries to keep these separate from orders for stamps, stated that a current stock list was being sent out with *Bulletin*, and finally, under the heading 'In Conclusion', hoped that readers found *Bulletin* of interest and invited comments. *Bulletin* comprised six sheets, numbered one to 11 (12 was blank), plus the postmark listings, leaflet on phosphor stamps and stock list.

The first *Bulletin* was largely, if not wholly, written by Frank Langfield, the Bureau's first manager. He joined the GPO, aged 14, in 1928. After two years running the Bureau, Frank moved on to other duties at the GPO, but retained a strong interest in both the Bureau and *Bulletin* until his death at 92 in 2007. In 1988 he attended a reception in London to mark *Bulletin*'s 25th anniversary, and in 2001 he was guest of honour at the opening of Tallents House in Edinburgh – the Bureau's current home. Frank wrote about the early days of *Bulletin* and the Bureau here in May 1984 and May 1993, and more about his career and interests can be found in his obituary in the August 2007 *Bulletin*.

I recall, as a schoolboy, visiting the new Bureau a week after it opened in May 1963 and became a subscriber to *Bulletin* in 1964. I did not think then that I would later become its editor for 22 years. I have been fortunate to have known all editors, from Frank Langfield to the current ones, William Doherty and Kate Shaw. I think *Bulletin* has served collectors well over the past 50 years and having celebrated its 25th and 50th anniversaries, I hope to still be around for its 75th in 2038 •

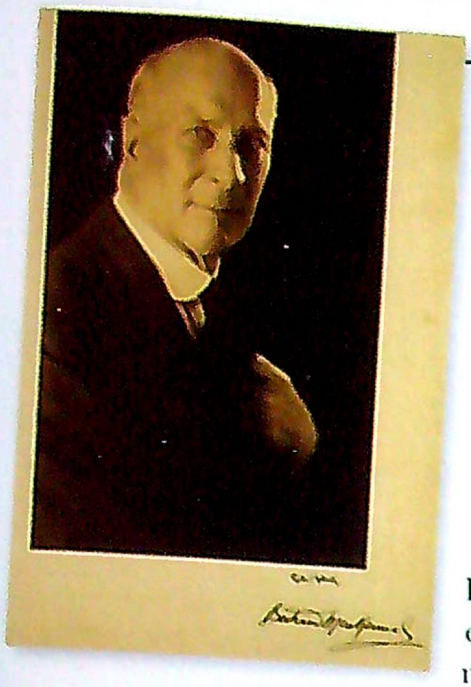


Above: other memorable cultural icons from 1963



Left: *Bulletin* editors gather at the *Bulletin* 25th anniversary reception in 1988 – (left to right) Keith Fisher (General Manager Royal Mail Stamps); Frank Langfield (Editor 1963-1965), John Holman (Editor 1988-2010), Stan Goron (Manager National Postal Museum), John Memmott (Editor 1980-1983); and Douglas Muir (Editor 1986-88)

© Alamy, © Getty Images



Truly a king among artists

The young bohemian artist who became a famous stamp designer and befriended a British king – discover the extraordinary life of Bertram Mackennal…

IT WAS A very unlikely match – a British king and ruler of the world's greatest empire and a once-impoverished Australian immigrant. But it was one made in stamp heaven. George V's affection for sculptor and Melbourne native Bertram Mackennal forged a friendship that made philatelic history.

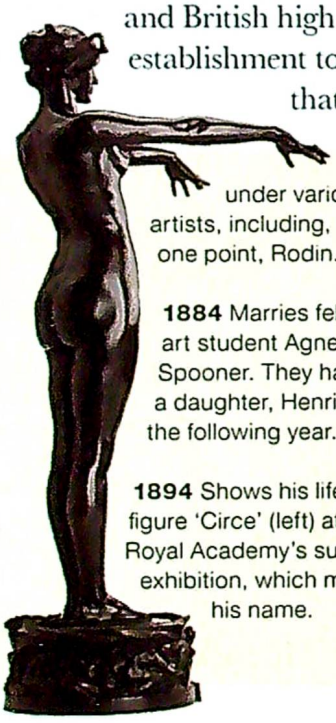


A great sculptor of his age, Mackennal is now often remembered for his designs for King George V's stamps, including the famous Seahorses series, which were a smash hit when released. Today they are classics, much admired and respected. Now his work is being commemorated in a Royal Mail Commemorative Sheet, Facsimile Pack and Press Sheet, launching on 19 September, which mark the 150th anniversary of his birth in 1863 in Melbourne.

Having studied in his native city, Mackennal left Australia in 1882 and travelled restlessly, flitting between London and Paris where he studied under Rodin. At this time Mackennal led a bohemian life (Sarah Bernhardt was a friend) and he was a key figure in the avant-garde New Sculpture movement. But his destiny was a long friendship with King George and British high society. Indeed, Mackennal worked his way into the British establishment to win a cluster of commissions for conservative public works that proclaimed British influence across the globe. And the

Top: legendary stamp designer and sculptor Bertram Mackennal

Above: this month's limited-edition facsimile Seahorses Press Sheet



Life of the artist

12 June 1863 Bertram Mackennal is born in Melbourne, Australia, to John and Annabella Mackennal. His father is a sculptor and architectural modeller.

1878 Studies at Melbourne's National Gallery School of Design.

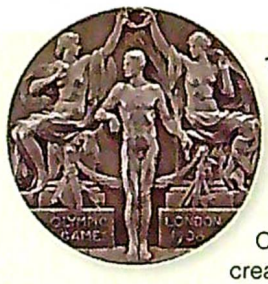
1882 Arrives in London to study but later moves to Paris where he works under various artists, including, at one point, Rodin.

1884 Marries fellow art student Agnes Spooner. They have a daughter, Henrietta, the following year.

1894 Shows his life-size figure 'Circe' (left) at the Royal Academy's summer exhibition, which makes his name.

1895 Further cements his reputation by exhibiting 'Rahab' at the Royal Academy. This is followed by a cluster of commissions, including statues of Queen Victoria in England, India and Australia.

1907 His marble group 'The Earth and the Elements' is installed at the Tate gallery. His 'Diana Wounded' statue joins it the following year.



1908 Produces the medals for the London Olympic Games (left).

1910 Commissioned to create a bust for King George V's Coronation medal and for use on coinage.

1912 The 'Downey Head' three-quarter view of George V on definitive stamps is replaced by Mackennal's profile head design.

© Art Gallery NSW Words: Andrew Neish

patronage of The King was important: from a cash-strapped early artistic life in Paris, Mackennal went on to create sculptures of Royalty and the great and the good. He made statues of Queen Victoria in India, Australia and Britain, and sculpted no less than seven memorials to King Edward VII. He also completed a war memorial for Eton. But it was his skill as a designer of stamps, coins and medals articulating George V's reign that captivated the 'philatelist king'.





Stamps, coins and medals

The medal bust With a touch of regal understatement, King George dubbed Mackennal 'a very clever Australian sculptor' after they first met in 1910, when the artist had been commissioned by the Royal Mint to create a bust for medals and coins of the new king's reign. Bertram's 'cleverness' took him far: the profile effigy he made was used on the South African medal to mark the Union of South Africa in November 1910. His bust appeared on the Coronation medal in 1911, and it acted as the basis for all Mackennal's other coin and medal busts – he made six in all. Importantly, these effigies would be used on the George V stamps – from the low-value issues to the Seahorses designs. Before he had even created those major public statues of Britain's monarchs, Mackennal's 'Royal career' was taking off...



The Downey Head and the low-value stamps The Downey Head was a disaster. Shooting images for King George's bust, photographers W & D Downey took a three-quarter view, showing both The King's eyes. A keen philatelist, George had been eager for a new style of stamp, and chose the three-quarter head – a departure from previous designs. But when the first stamps of George's reign, the Mackennal-designed 1d and ½d, appeared with the Downey Head in 1911, they were derided in the press and in Parliament. The King was unimpressed, saying of the stamps: 'Make me look like a stuffed monkey, don't they?'

Mackennal was also dismayed, feeling that he had been unfairly included in the fall-out over the Downeys. He said: 'What awful stamps. I have to suffer for all.' Public response apart, the low-values had caused him grief. George rejected his first three designs of the stamps, and Mackennal thought the ▸

© Alamy



Above: the Downey Head; Mackennal's design; the Downey three-quarter and profile photographs; engraver's drawing of the profile head; Mackennal's 1910 design for the George V South Africa medal

1913 Mackennal's Seahorses stamps are released by the Post Office. The designs are considered groundbreaking as it is the first time that an image appears next to the monarch's head on a British stamp.

1921 Mackennal's national memorial statue for Edward VII (right) is unveiled at Waterloo Place in London. He is knighted after the ceremony.

1922 He becomes the first Australian artist to be elected to the Royal Academy.



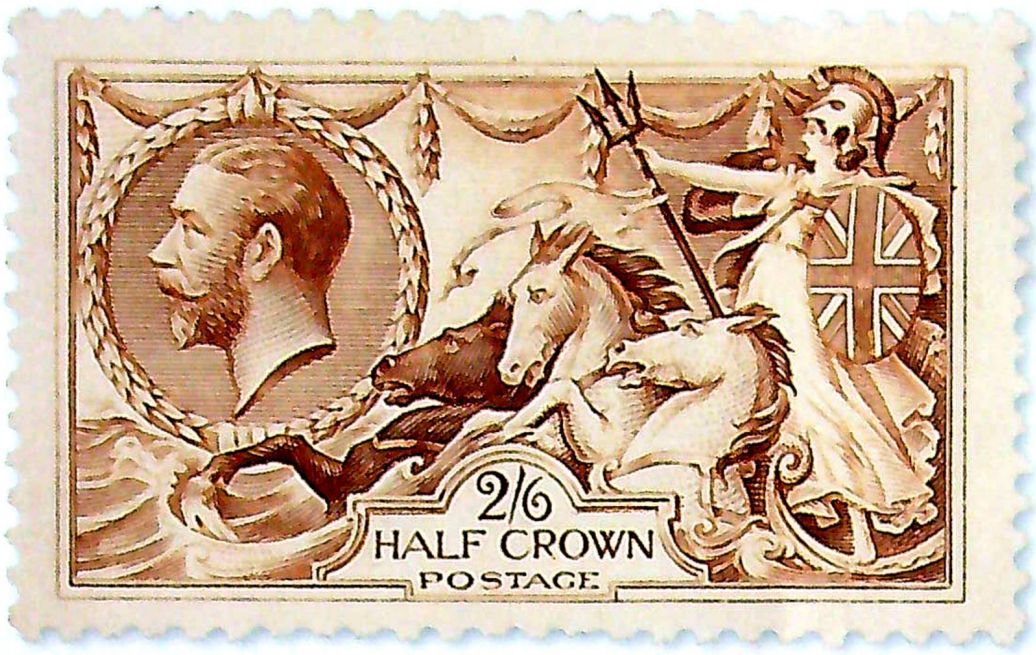
1923 Mackennal exhibits his Eton war memorial at the Royal Academy.

1924 His bronze group sculpture 'Phoebus Driving the Horses of the Sun' is installed at Australia House in London.

1927 His memorial tomb for Edward VII is unveiled at St George's Chapel, Windsor. The sculpted tomb features The King's favourite dog, a fox terrier called Caesar.

10 October 1931 Mackennal dies aged 68 from a ruptured stomach aneurism at his home in Torquay.





Above: overprinted King George V one penny stamps and the half crown Seahorses stamp

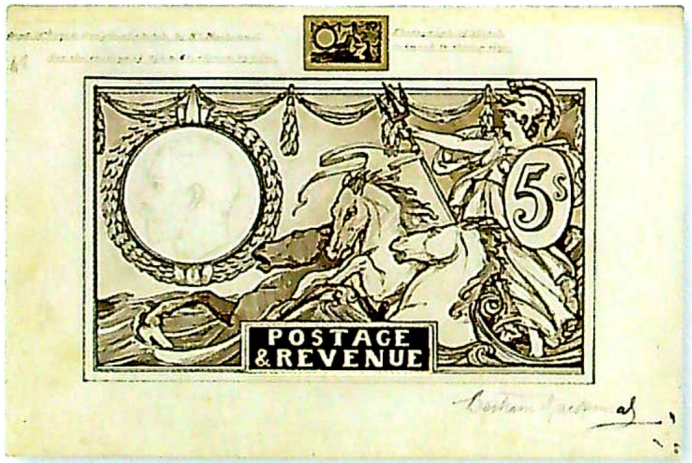
Bertram Mackennal continued engravers had interfered with the designs, so they were nothing like his originals. He had problems fitting the Imperial Lion into the 1d – he did not want it in but Postmaster-General Herbert Samuel insisted.

There was some consolation. George asked for a profile to replace the three-quarter view, and Mackennal got to work. He also managed to get the Imperial Lion off the 1d, inserting an oak and laurel leaf frame, which The King approved.

Eventually, Mackennal's coinage head was used for his Dolphins and Wreath stamp designs, the large medal head for his Oak and Laurel Leaves design, and a smaller medal head for the Pillars and Wreath designs by George Eve.

The Seahorses designs Mackennal triumphed with his design for the higher-value four-stamp Seahorses series. He was endorsed by The King, who asked that he design the stamps. George took a personal interest in the Seahorses, suggesting changes. One can understand the interest. Mackennal's design, with a militant Britannia driving horses across the ocean, captured the imperial strength of the nation he ruled in an era where the major powers were jockeying for position in Europe and around the world. Naval power was key, and the image of Britannia with shield and trident dominating the sea speaks volumes. Of its time it might have been, but Mackennal's design





Right: a bust of George V by Mackennal, and one of the artist's draft designs for the Seahorses stamp, which is held at the British Postal Museum & Archive

reflects his interest in Greek and Roman coins. Syracusan currency from the 5th century BC, for example, showed a two-wheeled chariot – a look that informed his design for the 1908 London Olympics commemorative medal, where Phoebus Apollo rides a chariot drawn by four rearing horses.

This combination of modern imperial posturing and classical tradition hit the mark, but George did ask for changes: to replace the value on Britannia's shield with the Union Flag; the value to move to the tablet where the 'Postage & Revenue' line was; and to show the horses in harness. With the artwork revised, the designs were approved and the stamps engraved by JAC Harrison. The four Seahorses – with half-crown, five shillings, ten shillings and £1 values – finally appeared in July 1913. They were instantly loved, as they are today.

The King and the artist The friendship between King George V and Bertram Mackennal lasted some 20 years, until the artist's untimely death at the age of 68 at his home near Torquay. Mackennal received his big break from one of George's equerries, who had enjoyed an exhibition at his studio and recommended him to The King to model his coin effigy. Mackennal's recollections reflect the affection between them, and George's modesty and sense of humour.

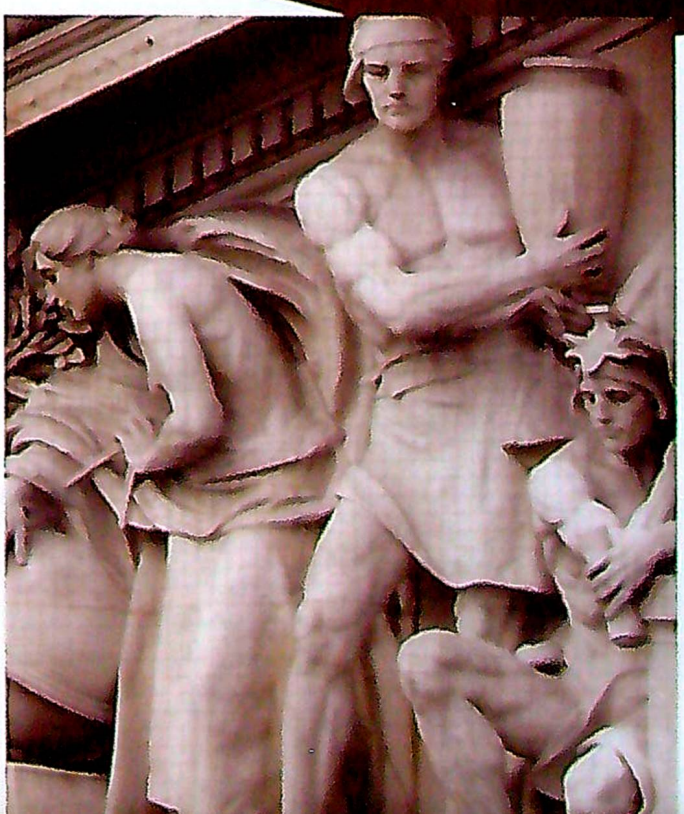
Speaking of their first meeting, the sculptor revealed that The King told him with a whimsical grin: 'I'm conscious that I'm not what one would call a particularly handsome man, but I become full of vague apprehension when I think of the kind of portrait that some of the sculptors whose work I have seen might produce. I know I can trust you to make the best of me, and not the worst.' The artist did not let The King down.

Sculptural works

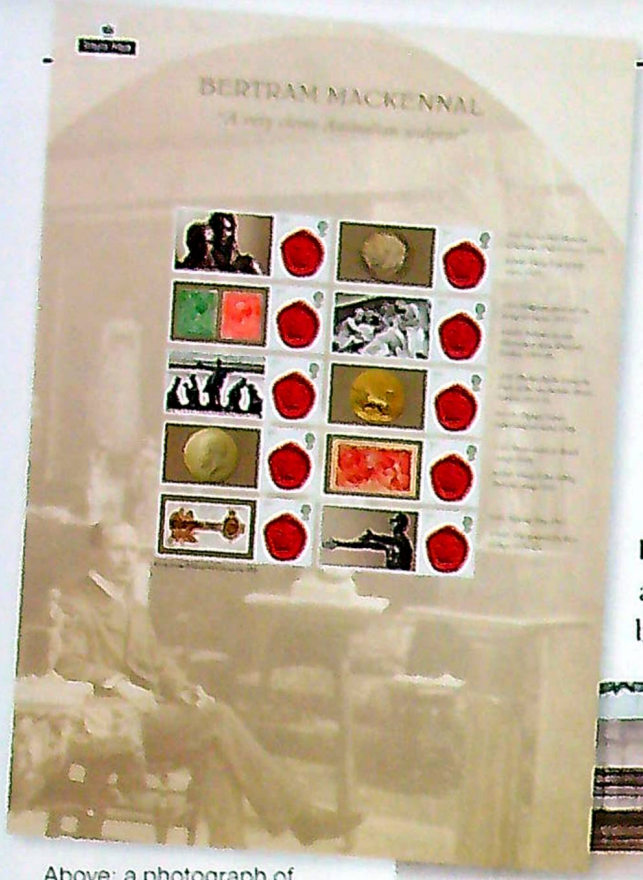
The following sculptures by Bertram Mackennal will feature on the Commemorative Stamp sheet issued this month.

Eton war memorial This spare, beautiful bronze (above right), called *Here Am I*, was commissioned in 1921 by Eton College to commemorate former pupils killed in the Great War. A straightforward assignment for Mackennal, now an established artist creating rather conservative public works.

But the over life-size nude, located on Eton College's playing fields, caused outrage. Tories and old boys queued up to complain. Lord Apsley grumbled that 'a nude figure will be an eyesore in the playing fields, the scene of so many social gatherings'. One angry letter-writer told Eton's Provost that modern sculpture at Eton was a 'dangerous innovation'. Mackennal's response was poignant. 'The idea that I had in mind in modelling this figure,' he explained, 'was to ▸



© Art Gallery NSW



represent the lad offering himself – his life, his youth and all his hopes of future happiness – for England.'

Pediment for government offices In 1904 Mackennal was commissioned by the Government to provide sculptures for a pediment on new Whitehall offices (previous page). Mackennal's figures represent the British work ethic with both manual and intellectual activity, showing labour, business, science and the arts.

Phoebus Driving the Horses of the Sun Six metres high and 18 metres wide, this massive group statue is one of the biggest bronzes in London. Installed on the pediment of the



Above: a photograph of Bertram Mackennal at his studio forms the background to this month's Commemorative Sheet

Right: the Phoebus group bronze at Australia House

Below: the Scottish War Memorial at the Caledonian Club in London

main entrance to Australia House in the Strand in 1924, Phoebus also represents big ideals. It was intended to symbolise Australia's place at the centre of the Empire but Mackennal saw it as a memorial to the nation's war dead. He hoped it would be understood 'by those who recall the rising sun badge of the Australian soldier during war'.



Scottish War Memorial When it came to war memorials, Mackennal largely shied away from the conventional statuary of stout-hearted young men in uniform. He said he did 'not believe in a statue in khaki. War is horror and the very act of war – of one man killing another – should not be commemorated'. Hence his 1919 Scottish War Memorial at London's Caledonian Club. As with his war memorial for Blackburn, Mackennal instead portrayed a mother figure supporting 'somebody's son', seemingly escorting the fallen on his final journey from the battlefield •

The Mackennal Commemorative Stamp issue is released on 19 September and comprises a Seahorses Facsimile Miniature Sheet, limited-edition Facsimile Seahorses Press Sheet and a Commemorative Stamp Sheet, shown above left. For philatelic details see August Bulletin, page 358. Turn to page 31 for a chance to win the Seahorses Facsimile Pack, among the prizes in the Bulletin 50th Jubilee Quiz.

© Art Gallery NSW



Creatures great not small Dinosaurs roam the Earth once more – in your collection, anyway – with this special issue of big beasts in October

THE DINOSAURS stamp issue, released on 10 October, comprises a set of ten First Class stamps showing dinosaurs and other prehistoric reptiles whose remains have been found in the UK. The issue is timed to dovetail with the release later this year of the BBC 3D movie *Walking with Dinosaurs*.

Royal Mail worked closely with Natural History Museum experts on the choice of dinosaurs and in the selection and refining of the artwork that represents them. In the images, each dinosaur breaks out of the standard stamp frame in a suitably predatory way. They are printed over two sheets, allowing for vertical strips of five. Sheet 1 has Polacanthus, Ichthyosaurus, Iguanodon, Ornithocheirus and Baryonyx. On Sheet 2 are Dimorphodon, Hypsilophodon, Cetiosaurus, Megalosaurus and Plesiosaur.



FD1321 NP

Stamp by stamp

Polacanthus lived in what is now western Europe between 125 and 130 million years ago. Its name derives from the Ancient Greek and means 'many spiked'. This plant-eating creature was 15ft (5m) long and weighed 3,000lb (1500 kg).

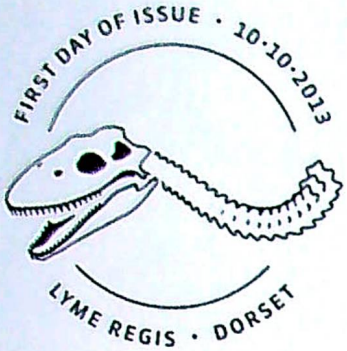
Ichthyosaurus means 'fish lizard' and fossils of this reptile have been discovered near England, Germany, Greenland and Canada. A mere six feet in length and weighing 200lb (90kg), these creatures swam in our oceans about two million years ago.

Iguanodon was discovered in 1822 by the amateur geologist Gideon Mantell and its name means 'iguana-like teeth'. These vegetarian creatures were able to both move on two legs and stoop down to walk on all fours, but they were rather poor runners. Iguanodons lived for tens of millions of years in Europe and North America.

Using rising air currents, **Ornithocheirus** may have had the ability to fly hundreds of kilometres ▸

Dinosaurs Stamps – Specifications

Date of issue	10 October
Number of stamps	Ten
Stamp design	Why Not Associates
Illustrator	John Sibbick
Stamp format	Landscape
Stamp size	37mm x 27mm
Printer	Walsall Security Print
Print process	Gravure
Number per sheet	25/50
Perforations	13.5 x 14
Phosphor	All over
Gum	Self-adhesive



FD1321 PL



FD1321 TH

without even flapping its wings. This could account for the worldwide distribution of Ornithocheirus fossil remains, the first of which were identified in 1827 in Sussex. Its sharp teeth set in a long tapering jaw were designed for catching fish.

Baryonyx is one of the few known fish-eating dinosaurs. It was the first carnivorous dinosaur to be found in England and was discovered in 1983 by the British amateur fossil hunter William Walker in clay pits just south of Dorking. Baryonyx means 'heavy claw', referring to its huge 12in (30.5cm) claws.

Dimorphodon means 'two-form tooth'. This particular name was chosen by paleontologist Richard Owen in 1859 because the Dimorphodon's jaw had two distinct types of teeth – a comparatively rare phenomenon among reptiles.

Hypsilophodon is Greek for 'high-ridged tooth'. The first fossil specimens of Hypsilophodon were dug up in England in 1849. But it was not for another 20 years that they were recognised as belonging to an entirely new genus of dinosaur, and not to a juvenile Iguanodon as paleontologists first thought.

Named by Richard Owen in 1842, **Cetiosaurus** is from the middle Jurassic period and lived some 167 million years ago in what is now Europe. It was originally thought to be a crocodile-like animal. Its name means 'whale-like lizard', because its back vertebrae had a coarse texture, like those of whales.

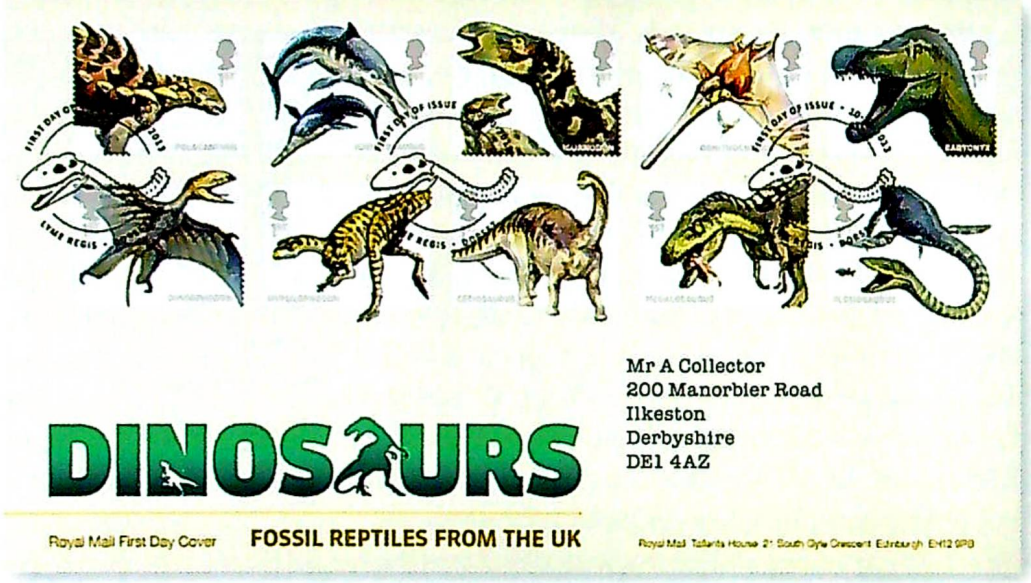
The first dinosaur fossil discovered (in England in 1676) and also the first dinosaur given a scientific name, by William Buckland in 1824, was that of **Megalosaurus**. This large meat-eater lived about 175 million years ago.

Plesiosaurus, meaning 'near lizard', was a genus of flippered marine reptiles that lived in the early Jurassic period. Plesiosaurus was first discovered by the famous fossil hunter Mary Anning in 1823 and was named by HT De la Beche and William D Conybeare later that year.

Orders for First Day Covers should be sent to the Tallents House address on page 2. Pictorial and non-pictorial postmarks are available, as shown on these pages. Framed stamps and a medal cover also form part of this issue – more details in a future *Bulletin* ●

Dinosaurs issue – Prices

Stamps, 10 x 1st class	£6
Presentation Pack	£6.50
First Day Cover Stamps with filler card/overseas	£7.68/£6.40
Stamp Cards, set of 10	£4.50
Medal Cover	£14.95





1



2



5



3



4



6

The long and shorts of it

Ron Backhouse serves you a history of men's tennis fashion from traditional trousers to today's racy shorts with his collection of ace stamps, postmarks and more...

ONCE THEY DRESSED in good old-fashioned flannels, now they sport shorts and T-shirts with many a manly muscle on show. The development of men's tennis outfits is a fascinating timeline that reflects society's moving mores on the matter of exposing the flesh. This 'courtside liberation' of long trews to short shorts is also reflected by philately. The items here, gathered by tennis fan and collector Ron Backhouse for a future Stampex display, highlight how much times have changed. Just look at Andy Murray collecting his Wimbledon men's singles trophy this year. This British sporting legend, himself the star of a new Royal Mail stamp, is sartorially worlds away from the long-trousered tennis champs of Victorian times – even if his shorts might be a little close to the knee for today's besotted female fans. So sit back with your strawberries and cream and join us on a journey through the aces and double faults of championship tennis fashion from the world of philately... ▶



7



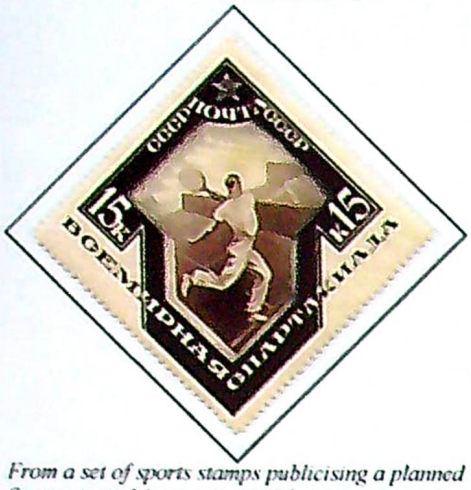
8

19th century: the big cover-up

Tennis players looked more like cricketers in the good old days of covering up the flesh. Gentlemen wore white and went long – or eyebrows would be raised – even into the 20th century. At Wimbledon in 1877, cravats and berets were also worn (1), and whites and caps were de rigueur at the Monaco Championships in 1897 (2). Some even tucked long socks into their trousers, as the Dutch postmark of a player from 1899 shows – very old school (3). Things were no less fusty in Hungary (4), or in 1905 at the launch of the Australian Open (5). In the Twenties and Thirties, not even French players (in the postmarks above) got saucy. Jacques Brugnon played with his sleeves buttoned down (6), Jean Borotra was famously a beret man (7), and René Lacoste (8), who formed his famous sportswear company in 1933, kept his ankles well covered.

2.7 Court Attire - Tennis was an upper class pastime and gentlemanly attire did not include shorts. Post WW 1 Gentlemen continued to play in white shirts and flannels for 50 years.

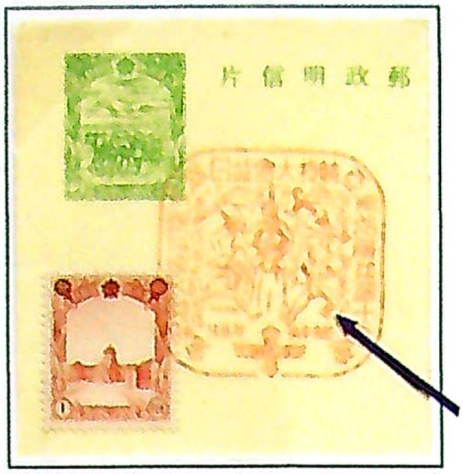
1918 Russian Bolsheviks called them 'white flannelled loafers'



From a set of sports stamps publicising a planned Spartacist in Moscow in 1935 but its organisation broke down and the games never did take place.

Long flannels were worn by some into the 1950s





1934, Manchuria's only 'tennis' postmark.

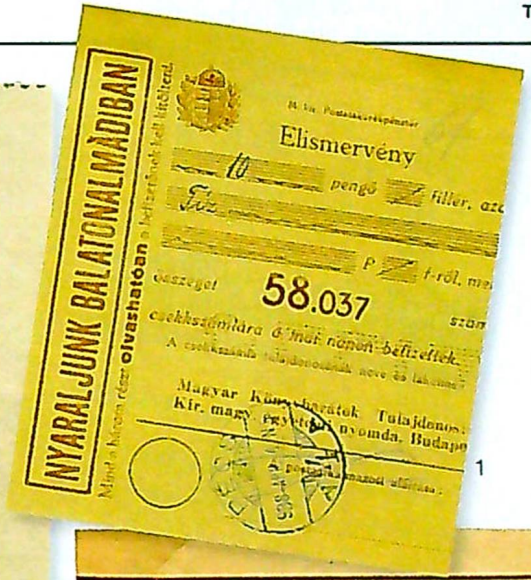
A 1937 Czechoslovakian telegram with a player in 'regulation' whites



20th century: still stuck in a time warp

As this sheet points out, the turn of the 20th century did not change attitudes. Tennis was an upper-class game and the upper crust simply did not show their knees. Indeed, the sheet also reveals that a nascent Soviet Union was, in 1918, calling tennis-playing toffs 'white-flanelled loafers'. Still, in the Soviet stamp here, the player is not so free from the yoke of capitalism that he feels able to wear shorts. And if a progressive society such as Soviet Russia could not progress to naked knees, what hope was there for the decadent West? In fact, in many countries, long flannels would dominate the court for some 50 years.

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1



9



10



11

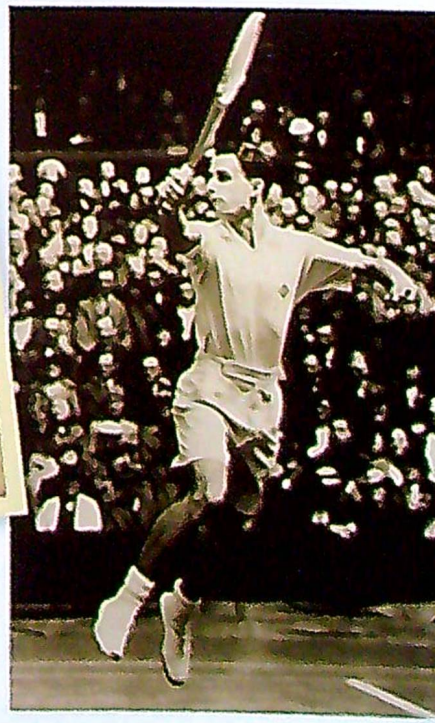


12

The Thirties: tennis is a stamp star

Tennis hit the philatelic big time and shorts started to appear on court, thanks to the daring of Bunny Austin, the first man to don shorts at Wimbledon in 1933. The Thirties were a time of change, albeit slow. In 1934 the first stamp depicting tennis was released (9), to promote the Far Eastern Games held in Manila. This is, by the way, a rare example of a catalogued imperforate error. Yet long trousers persisted as these postmarks of French star Marcel Bernard (10) and US legend Don Budge (11) show. Tennis – and gentlemanly clothing – appeared on other postal items. The Hungarian post office money transfer receipt form (12), with its handstamped reverse (13), advertises the sporting life in the resort region of Lake Balaton. ▶





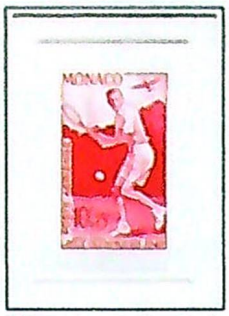
Above and right: with Fred Perry the tennis legend Henry 'Bunny' Austin helped bring home the Davis Cup for Britain four years in a row

© Alamy

2.7 **Court Attire** - Men's longs gave way to shorts
In the 1930s men began to wear shorts which completely took over from flannels in the 1950s



A specimen colour trial.



Deluxe print taken from the die for presentation to personages.

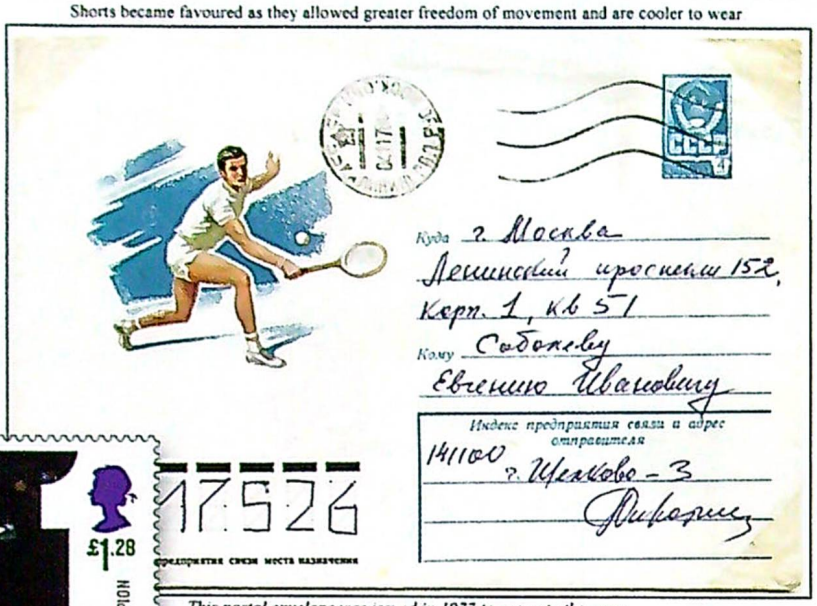


The stamp issued.

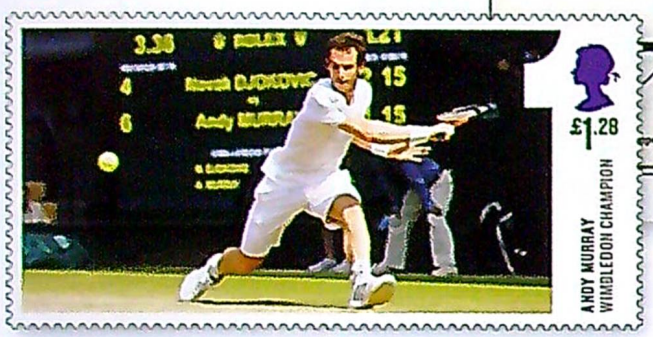




Shorts became favoured as they allowed greater freedom of movement and are cooler to wear



This postal envelope was issued in 1977 to promote the game.



Late 20th century to today: the hairy leg age

From the Thirties, tennis costumes became more daring and by the Fifties the fate of flannels was sealed – society now felt comfortable enough for men to bare their hairy legs. As shown by this sheet, from Monaco and Nicaragua in the Forties to Sixties Afghanistan and Seventies Russia, shorts got shorter and saucier. And remember those tight little numbers from the McEnroe era in the Eighties? Today Nadal's shorts-tugging is famous and Murray's legs the talk of his female followers. Who said tennis was for stuffed shirts?



Ron Backhouse's tennis-themed exhibits have been awarded Large Vermeils in Italia 2009, Portugal 2012 and this year's Euro Thematic Championships in Germany, and Gold in 2012 Spring Stampex. He gives displays to clubs and local organisations. Ron is a life member and past president of the Insurance & Banking Philatelic Society and Librarian for the British Thematic Association. His passion for tennis began in 1981 on joining his local tennis club, where he still plays three days a week. Between games Ron gives advice to thematic collectors via email at Ron@10nis.fsnet.co.uk •

This month in history John Holman recalls the introduction of the two-tier postal tariff in 1968

Forty-five years ago, on 16 September 1968, the GPO introduced the Two-Tier UK postal service. All letters and postcards were now to be sent as first class (for next day delivery) or second class, replacing the separate rates for letters, cards and printed papers. Much was made of the change, which was announced and debated in Parliament and in the press. Some collectors and dealers serviced covers to mark the end of the old system and the introduction of the new.

Second-class letters now cost 4d, and the 4d Machin issued in June 1967 was reissued with a single phosphor band instead of two bands. A new 5d Machin had been issued in July 1968 and covered the new first-class rate. Both stamps were dark in colour and caused difficulties with the readability of postmarks, so the 4d was reissued in vermilion in January 1969 – taking the colour of the 8d stamp which then changed to blue.

Changes were also required for the regional stamps. The 4d stamps were in blue and needed to change to brown to match the Machin definitive. This took place on 4 September, together with the issue of new 5d regionals in blue. The 4d stamps in brown had a short life, being replaced the following February by stamps printed in vermilion. Look out for commercial covers bearing the brown stamps used between September 1968 and February 1969, as they are probably not that plentiful.

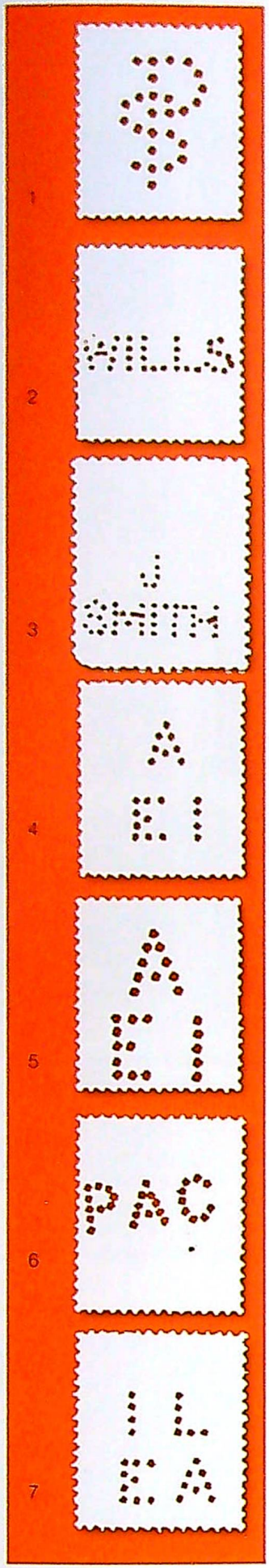
The 4d vermilion and 5d blue stamps remained in use until decimalisation in February 1971 when the first- and second-class rates became 3p (7d) and 2½p (6d). The 4d and 5d stamps could continue to be used for postage until demonetised from 1 March 1972. It should be noted that on 1 October 1969 Guernsey and Jersey took over their own postal services and British stamps were invalidated shortly afterwards, though they continued to be valid on the mainland.

The introduction of the Two-Tier post also resulted in new postal stationery (stamped postcards, letter cards, envelopes and registered envelopes) and new stamp books. There was much to collect. The new system, of course, affected special stamps. The first issue after the change was Christmas (25 November) which included a second-class but not first-class value. Apart from Concorde (March 1969), all special issues until decimalisation featured a 5d but no 4d stamp, except the 1969 and 1970 Christmas sets which had stamps of both values •



Above: on 4 September 1968 these regional stamps were issued to harmonise with the new two-tier tariff Machins (top). The regional 4d blue was replaced by the short-lived brown and a new blue 5d regional stamp was issued for first-class post





Another view Douglas Myall explains what perfins are and how to collect them

MANY CHARITIES ASK FOR USED STAMPS which they sell on to raise funds for their cause. They are sold by weight, hence the term kiloware, and if previously unsorted provide fertile ground for collectors looking for the unusual. Some of the stamps in these mixtures have letters punched into them and I am sometimes asked what these are and whether they are worth collecting. They are called perfins, a contraction of Perforated Initials. Although some people regard them as damaged stamps, they are collectable in their own right and there is an excellent specialist society – the Perfin Society – catering for collectors of them*. The society has its own perfin, a cipher of the letters PS (1).

Preventing purloining

GB perfins have existed since Victorian times and the practice has the approval of the Post Office, subject to a few conditions. Credit for the idea must go to Joseph Sloper who was granted a patent in 1858 for a machine which indelibly marked bankers' cheques and other documents of value by puncturing them with the word PAID. He persuaded the Post Office to permit sheets of mint stamps to be marked in a similar manner by commercial firms and public bodies, including government departments. On 1 March 1869 the following notice appeared in the Postmasters' edition of the Postal Official Circular:

> 'In consequence of representations made to the Post Office by various Firms that there is reason to believe that their postage stamps are purloined by persons in their employ, the Department has recommended that the name or initials of Firms, &c. be either printed on the back of stamps or perforated through the stamps by means of a machine devised for the purpose, so that, inasmuch as the sale of such stamps would be thereby rendered difficult, the temptation to steal them might be lessened or altogether removed. Postmasters will take care not to purchase any postage stamps thus marked which may be offered to them for sale.'

The mention of a firm's name being printed on the back of a stamp refers to protective underprints. These do not exist on Machin stamps. Some Machins are overprinted with names or initials on the front. They exist on pre-decimal 2d or 6d stamps and are fiscals. The former paid the stamp duty on receipts for money or money's worth, while the latter paid the stamp duty on legal documents, such as deeds or affidavits. Stamps were used for these purposes because they had a dual purpose and were marked 'Postage/Revenue'. Fiscals form a separate area of collecting.

The conditions under which perfins are permitted are much the same today. The following paragraph is taken from page 31 of The Post Office Guide for February 1971 and still applies.

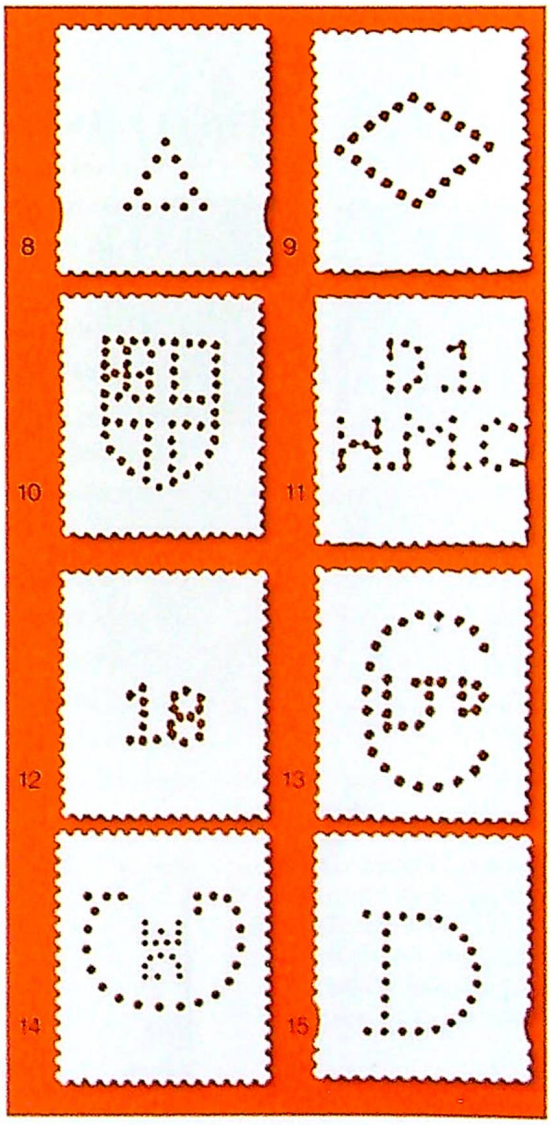
> 'Postage stamps may be perforated with initials (but not with names or trademarks) provided that the perforating holes are no larger than those dividing one stamp from another in a sheet of stamps.'

Although names are not officially permitted, a few do exist. Two of them – WILLS and J SMITH – are shown here (2 and 3).

Ways of collecting

There are many ways of collecting perfins. A favourite method is to collect them on covers, as that usually enables the owner of the pattern to be identified. Of course, if you obtain your stamps in bulk, this method is not open to you. Some like to form a collection of certain kinds of user, such as the railway companies or local authorities. For those who collect via Machin kiloware, I recommend trying to get at least one example of every pattern used on this design. There are more than 1,000 of them. You can, if you feel like it, go on to get examples of the same pattern on different values.

To do this properly, you will need to be able to distinguish between patterns that may at first glance seem the same. Patterns which appear similar may be distinguished by the following criteria: the pin count; the presence or absence of full stops or serifs; the number of lines occupied (each line in a written description is separated by a solidus, or forward slash); the shape of any ampersand; the height of the letters; the width of any gap between letters or lines; and the overall height and width. This is the method used by the Perfin Society.



Take, for example, the two patterns A/EI shown here (4 and 5). These are distinguished by their pin counts which are '8/9, 4' and '10/10, 5'. Be aware, though, that reversed or inverted patterns are of no special significance; sheets of stamps were often folded before being perfinned.

Some Machin perfins are very common. Probably the two most frequently seen are PAC from the Prudential Assurance Company (6), of which there is more than one version, and IL/EA from the Inner London Education Authority (7). Some are quite scarce and a few are rare. These are on my wants list so if you are interested in swapping or trading Machin perfins get in touch with me at deegam@btopenworld.com.

Some perfins are very simple, consisting of plain geometric devices. Shown here are two examples (8 and 9). Other devices are also known, some of them more complex; among them is the well-known shield of the City of London (10). Sometimes a perfin will include or consist of numerals (11 and 12).

As the Perfin Society's design shows, ordinary letters can be formed into patterns and this helps to distinguish their owners from others with the same initials. Here are a couple of examples (13 and 14).

Today perfins do not exist primarily for the prevention of theft. They are more usually for identification and advertising purposes. Some of them may even be called vanity devices. Among these, perhaps, is my own perfin, consisting of a serifed letter D (15) ●

Note: all perfin patterns illustrated in the article exist on a Machin stamp.

* *To join the Perfin Society, contact the Secretary, Stephen Steere, at 1 Nicolson Road, Orpington, Kent BR5 4EH, or visit www.angelfire.com/pr/perfinsoc*

Cover stories Tony Buckingham tells of his quest to score a set of unique philatelic covers

IT WAS AN AMAZING COINCIDENCE that, having waited 77 years for a British winner of the Wimbledon men's singles, Andy Murray won on the 7th day of the 7th month. Royal Mail's welcome decision that the occasion merited a special stamp gave producers of philatelic covers just 20 days to come up with the goods. We already had a 7-7 cover postmarked on the date of the actual victory, so we needed three photographs of Andy Murray at Wimbledon. Image libraries were well aware that the best of these were like gold dust. And they were not able to grant usage rights without our first having permission from the All England Lawn Tennis Club and Andy himself. Of course we could have put pretty generic tennis pictures on the covers, but a champion deserves the best.

With just a couple of weeks left to get everything together, the first approvals came from the All England Lawn Tennis Club, but only on condition that Andy Murray also gave his approval. Andy was in the USA and we had to communicate through a global brand company, his lawyers and Andy himself. At one stage we were told we had run out of time, but in 30-odd years of cover production I have learned how to persevere.

I was already trying to get Andy to sign 600 Olympic Gold winners' covers, and now we needed – ideally – 1,000 signatures over 12 months! I had offered a donation to one of Andy's favourite charities, but the days sped by and I began thinking of alternatives and admitting defeat. Then, at the eleventh hour, he approved the covers and agreed to write 1,000 signatures.

Imagine my elation. Okay, we will be broke, but very happy that our customers get the ultimate autograph on these covers. Do have a look at them and see if you agree that they were worth blood, sweat and tears ●

Tony Buckingham is Chairman of Buckingham Covers, and a leading authority on first day and commemorative covers. The first winner of the prestigious Rowland Hill Award for his contribution to philately, he edited 'Collect FDC' for nearly 20 years and has served on the Philatelic Traders Society Council. As well as contributing regularly to the philatelic press, Tony has also written two murder stories.

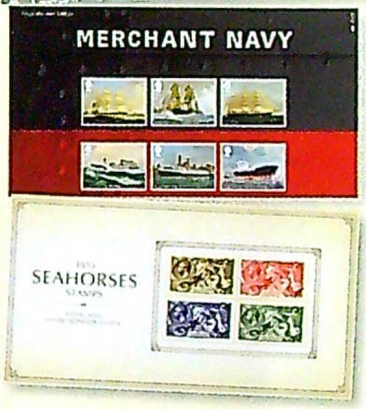


Right: Buckingham covers featuring Andy Murray, the reigning Wimbledon Champion, USA Open Champion, Olympic Champion and Queen's Champion

Buckingham Covers
Warren House
Shearway Road
Folkestone
Kent CT19 4BF
Phone: 01303 278137
Email: sales@buckingham covers.com

Images: Getty – with thanks to the All England Lawn Tennis Club and Andy Murray





A fascinating philatelic break in Edinburgh awaits one winner and 50 more will receive prizes of souvenir covers and Royal Mail stamp sets



Jubilee quiz Among this month's birthday bundle of 50 philatelic prizes is a two-day break for two in Edinburgh, including a guided tour of Tallents House, the 'engine room' of Royal Mail Stamps and Collectibles. For your chance to win, just answer the six questions below on milestone years marking the 50th anniversary of *Bulletin*'s launch in 1963

In 1963 *Bulletin* was mostly written by its first editor. What was his name?
a) Frank Langfield
b) Frank Ifield
c) Frank Stampfield

In 1973 how much did a stamp for a letter cost?
a) 3p b) 13p c) 30p

In 1983 which first day postmark carried ALDERSHOT?
a) British Fairs
b) British Gardens
c) British Army Uniforms



In 1993 a very rare Edward VII 2d Tyrian Plum stamp was discovered in a box of stamps bought by mail order. The stamp realised £4,370 at auction. What is its catalogue value today?
a) £110,000
b) £11,000
c) £210,000

In 2003 a special stamp issue marking



the 21st birthday of Prince William included two portraits by which photographer?
a) Brendan Beirne
b) Tim Graham
c) Tim Timms



In 2013 the Andy Murray Wimbledon Champion 2013 Miniature Sheet shows Murray holding the coveted tennis trophy on how many of the four stamps?
a) 4 b) 3 c) 2

How to enter
Write down your answer to each of the six prize draw questions – 1a, 1b or 1c and so on. Send your entry, along with your name and address, and marked 'Bulletin Jubilee Quiz' to: Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB.

Closing date
20 September 2013.

Prize draw rules and regulations 1 Promotions are open to all readers aged 18 and over, except employees of Royal Mail Group Ltd, their business associates and immediate families. 2 Responsibility cannot be accepted for entries which are incomplete, damaged or not received for any reason. Proof of posting is not proof of receipt. 3 Prizes must be accepted as offered, they are not transferable and there are no cash alternatives. The cost of transport to and from a prize venue or hotel stay, where applicable, is not included. 4 Winners are notified within 28 days of closing date stated. 5 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. 6 Promoter's decision on any aspect of the promotions is final. No correspondence will be entered into. 7 Entry implies acceptance of these rules. 8 Prizes are subject to suitability and 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. 9 Winners' names are available 28 days after the closing date of 20 September 2013.



Be the first to get First Day Covers and exclusive exhibition postmarks for the new stamps released during Stampex – Bertram Mackennal facsimiles and special Merchant Navy issue on 19 September and the following day Post & Go Freshwater Life: Rivers. For more about Stampex see page 10 or visit www.philatelictradersassociation.org

Special issues at Stampex

Autumn Stampex runs from 18 to 21 September at the Business Design Centre in Islington, north London

Europe's finest stamp show has it all. Extraordinary displays, over 100 exhibitors, exciting competitions – and three special stamp issues launching at the Royal Mail stand (see above). Remember to pick up your complimentary Stampex postcard upon entry to this brilliant free show. See you there…

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