

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The ROYAL MAIL magazine *for stamp collectors*

Bulletin

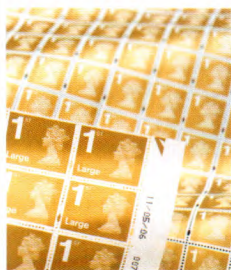
Volume 43 Number 12

AUGUST 2006 £1.20

Pricing in Proportion issues
• Sounds of Britain preview



Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



Cover The new 1st class and 1st class Large stamps for the Pricing in Proportion system, which will be introduced on 21 August. Photograph by Geoff Dann.

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

Royal Mail Tallents House 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB, UK. Telephone order line (08.30-17.00 Monday to Friday): 08457 641 641; from overseas +44 131 316 7483. Minimum handling charge UK £1.30, Europe £1.55, rest of world (airmail) £2.15. Some products can be ordered on Royal Mail's website: www.royalmail.com/stamps

1 August	Issue Definitives: 1st, 2nd (revised design), 1st Large, 2nd Large, 12p, 14p, pack containing these six stamps.
4 August	Withdrawal London 2012 – Host City miniature sheet and presentation pack.
15 August Date confirmed	Issue Stamp books: 4 × 1st Large; 4 × 2nd Large (self-adhesive); roll 500 × 2nd class standard definitive (PIP design).
22 August	Withdrawal Changing Tastes in Britain stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards.
31 August	Issue Year of Three Kings miniature sheet (£3 Machin definitive and reproductions of George V, Edward VIII & George VI 1d stamps).
12 September	Issue Stamp books: 6 × 1st, 12 × 1st, 12 × 2nd; Business sheets 100 × 1st, 100 × 2nd, standard-size definitives (PIP design).
14 September	Issue Victoria Cross stamp cards.
14 September	Withdrawal Classic ITV stamps, presentation pack, generic Smilers sheet and stamp cards.
21 September	Issue Victoria Cross stamps, miniature sheet, presentation pack, prestige book, stamp cards and coin cover.
26 September	Issue Sounds of Britain stamp cards.
29 September	Withdrawal Pillar to Post stamp ingot covers (five covers).

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Friends of BPMA Address enquiries to: the Membership Secretary, Mrs Avicé Harms, 13 Amethyst Avenue, Davis Estate, Chatham ME5 9TX, or visit www.postalheritage.org.uk/supportus/friends

Friends of BPMA 21st anniversary The Friends of the British Postal Museum & Archive held a superb anniversary event at the Grange Moor Hotel in Maidstone on 20 May to mark its 21st anniversary (originally founded as the Friends of the National Postal Museum). There were several philatelic displays brought by members, a range of models, postcards and booklets to purchase from worldwide postal vehicle specialists Roxley Models (www.roxleymodels.co.uk), letter boxes, and other postal-related items to view, competitions and raffles to take part in, friends to meet or make and, of course, the lunch. Over 80 Friends and their guests or partners tucked-in to an exceptional three-course meal, and in true Hollywood party style, each guest received 'goodies' as the evening progressed. These comprised: an anniversary cover bearing a Union Flag self-adhesive Smilers stamp with label depicting an old postal vehicle cancelled with an operational Maidstone handstamp, with a letter-box related filler card; a specially commissioned A5 postcard featuring a painting of the King Edward Building (previous home to the NPM, as shown above) with a BPMA handstamp for 20 May; a joint BPMA/BL Sound Archives CD entitled *Speeding the Mail: an Oral History of the Post from the 1930s to the 1990s*; various Post Office items such as pens, a tin of sweets, a phone card plus literature; and last, but not least, a 42-page A5 colour booklet, compiled by Cyril Macey, covering some

of the many highlights of the Friends, the Museum and the Archives down the years. It brought back happy memories of people, places and events long since gone. The Sound Archive CD is quite fascinating and is on sale at the BPMA website www.postalheritage.org.uk and at Freeling House.

The Friends in attendance made an anniversary gift of a cheque for £750 to BPMA, which was presented to its CEO, Tony Conder, by Bill Hill, Chairman of the Friends, to start a fund to form a library. This was a special and momentous day for the Friends that will be difficult to beat when the next milestone comes along in four years time. I know, however, that with the continually increasing membership and a new permanent home for BPMA on the cards, that they will have great fun trying ●

Old philatelic literature A recent delve through some of the rare works held in the National Philatelic Society's library revealed a book on forged postage stamps dated 1863, a mere 23 years after the first stamp. The book was *Forged Stamps: How to Detect Them* by Thornton Lewes and Edward Pemberton, Edinburgh 1863, priced at one shilling (five decimal pence).

By the 1860s there was a sense that stamp collecting was becoming very popular, and this set me wondering if the nps booklet was one of the earliest works on our hobby and, either way, when the first philatelic book and periodical appeared to satisfy this growing pastime, so popular to this day.

I approached David Beech of the British Library Philatelic Collections, and he swiftly found the answers in the Catalogue of the Crawford Library of Philatelic Literature at the British Library (the so-called 'Crawford Catalogue'). David advised that 1863 is not early enough to take the title of the first philatelic monograph, for that accolade goes to Berger-Levrault, Francois George Oscar, (List of stamps), Strasbourg, September 1861 (BL shelf mark: Crawford 113(1)). The first philatelic periodical was *Monthly Intelligencer*, Birmingham, W Macmillan, 1862-63. The first number was September 1862 and was only partly philatelic (BL shelf mark: Crawford 1823(1)). The first completely philatelic periodical was *Monthly Advertiser*, Liverpool, Edward More & Co, 1862 Number 1, 15 December, 1862. Continued number 2 as *The Stamp Collectors' Monthly Advertiser*, 1863. (BL shelf mark: Crawford 1911.) Interested readers should also see Manfred Amrhein's *Philatelic Literature: A History and a Select Bibliography* from 1861 to 1991, volume 1, San Jose, Dr Manfred Amrhein, 1992. ISBN 9977-47-155-X.

This detailed information is typical of the help given to enquirers at the British Library Philatelic Collections; serious researchers can make an appointment to view relevant portions of the many collections held there ●

Society publications The May *Coros Chronicle*, the journal of the collectors of religion on stamps, has been received, together with *Orbit*, the journal of the Astro Space Stamp Society for June. Both contain lots of information and imagery of interest to these two groups of collectors, and illustrate the scope and fascination of thematic collecting. Enquire by e-mail to Collectors of Religion on Stamps (corosec@sbcbglobal.net) or to the ASSS (bjlockyer.spacestamps@virgin.net), or write to the addresses opposite ●

British Library Philatelic

Collections 96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB. Telephone 020 7412 7635/6. Visit www.bl.uk/collections/philatelic and www.collectbritain.co.uk/collections/philatelic or e-mail philatelic@bl.uk

National Philatelic Society

For membership and meeting details write to Peter Mellor, National Philatelic Society, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1M 6PT, or visit www.ukphilately.org.uk/nps

Collectors of Religion on

Stamps Mrs V Shackleton, 425 N Linwood Avenue, #110, Appleton, WI 54914-3476, USA.

ASSS Brian J Lockyer, 21 Exford Close, Weston-Super-Mare BS23 4RE.

ATA The American Topical Association, 411A Lillard Rd, Arlington, TX 76012-3898, USA.

BTA The British Thematic Association, Secretary, Anne Stammers, 40 St Helen's Way, Benson, Wallingford OX10 6SW.

Insurance and Banking PS

Annual subscription for new members is £5. For further details write to Dudley Baker, 25 Banbury Way, Downs View, Epsom KT17 4JP or email him at dudley.baker1@ntlworld.com

Postal Stationery Society

Membership details available from Colin Baker, 4 Greenhill Gardens, Sutton Veny, Warminster BA12 7AY, email bakercsandr@lineone.net or telephone 01985 840033.

Friends of BPMA For further information contact Mrs Avice Harms, 13 Amethyst Avenue, Davis Estate, Chatham ME5 9TX. Membership costs £15 per year. www.postalheritage.org.uk/supportus/friends

Topical Time (May/June) and *Themescene* (June) are to hand. They probably represent the best English language general thematic publications from both sides of the Atlantic. The ATA publication comprises 92 pages with its usual features, plus articles covering philatelists on stamps, the USA as a world power, the Pied Piper of Hamelin, civil engineering in Roman times, the first map stamps, us military vehicles and weather balloons. The BTA journal has 48 pages with articles on circuses, Saint Teresa of Avila and the origins of the Carmelites, Dutchman Opa Dorus Rijkers and a practical four-page guide to using a spreadsheet to write up your collection. Both journals are always a good read and membership of, ideally, both organisations will enhance your thematic or topical collecting experience •

There is always something to interest collectors of GB in the Newsletter of the Insurance and Banking Philatelic Society of Great Britain, and the May issue is no exception. It includes features on the introduction of Frama labels 22 years ago (was it really that long ago!) and Arthur Alexander gives his view on GB commemorative and definitive new issues including the latest cylinder number discoveries and details of forthcoming issues, such as the PIP definitives and the recent World Cup specials. Membership is open to anybody employed in, or retired from, the financial services industry •

The Journal of The Postal Stationery Society published issue 38 in May and within its 24 A4 pages are several useful articles. One that caught my eye related to something I never knew existed, namely perfins used on British postal stationery items, ie not on sheet or coil stamps, which most collectors would be aware of. ('Perfins' are perforated initials pin-hole punched through a stamp and used by employers who do not want their staff to steal unused stamps or stationery.) Rosemary Smith is compiling a record of all Perfin types known on registered envelopes, newspaper wrappers, postal cards and the like with a view to publishing the results as a booklet. If you can assist her, I am sure she would appreciate new reports at 17 Victoria Road, Stocksbridge, Sheffield S36 1FW. Rosemary is especially seeking details of any perfinned lettercards, as none have yet been recorded •

The Friends of the British Postal Museum and Archive's 52 page full-colour A4 journal *Cross Post* currently only appears twice a year, in Spring and Autumn, so it is eagerly awaited by the expanding group of Friends. The Spring 2006 issue, in the newly redesigned larger format, certainly lived up to the high standard set by its Editor, *Bulletin* writer Richard West, in last Autumn's inaugural number. In addition to the latest news from the Friends, a report by Tony Conder (CEO of BPMA) and news from the BPMA, there are five major articles. Elizabeth: Queen and Icon (by Douglas Muir), The Royal Mail 1100 to 1635 (Philip Beale), Machin Dummy Stamp Books (Glenn Morgan), Mobile Post Offices Since 1936 (Cyril Parsons) and Letter Boxes on Buses and Trams (Julian Stray) all illustrate how wide and deep members' interests are, while the 75 colour images accompanying the five texts help to bring each subject to life. This journal is of such relevance to my interests that it is the only philatelic publication that I always read from cover to cover, and so I heartily recommend *Cross Post*, which comes free with annual membership of the Friends, to all readers of the *Bulletin* •

SG catalogue Stanley Gibbons Publications has recently published the 2006 22nd combined edition of *Collect Channel Islands and Isle of Man Stamps*. Sub-titled 'A Stanley Gibbons Colour Checklist', it contains all pre- and post-independent postal services' definitive and commemorative stamps, postage due labels, souvenir postal stationery and stamp booklets to the end of 2005, with just about everything illustrated. It also includes the unissued wartime CI overprinted issues, along with useful introductory notes and advertising from stamp dealers. It is far more than a mere checklist!

My interest in these collecting areas waned many years ago, so it was a surprise to find that a total of 1095 Guernsey, 266 Alderney (a part of the Bailiwick of Guernsey), 1260 Isle of Man and 1251 Jersey stamps and ms had been issued in less than four decades of stamp issuing, although these figures include the small number of regional and wartime Channel Island issues. If these exceedingly popular collecting areas interest you, then this new publication is a must-have purchase, as it includes much useful collector information beyond the basics such as issued numbers, dates of withdrawal, sheet sizes, plate numbers etc, in addition to the more expected issue date, printer, designer, stamp design, descriptions and prices of mint and used stamps. Gutter pairs, FDCs, presentation packs and the popular year books are also listed and priced.

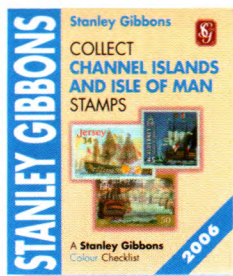
An advertisement for the Channel Islands Specialists' Society caught my eye and merits mention here. I was a member for many years and there is much to extol membership, including meetings on the UK mainland in London and the provinces and in the Channel Islands, exchange packets, auctions and quarterly journals. There is no comparable specialist stamp society for the Isle of Man that I am aware of •

Stoneham catalogue Postage on this catalogue, which was reviewed in last month's *Bulletin*, is £3.00 UK, £5.00 Europe and £5.50 rest of world •

Stamp Printers booklet Thanks to correspondence with Brian Janes, who used to work for Harrison's from the 1960s, then De La Rue, and who is now employed by Walsall Security Printers, I am able to give detailed information regarding the illustration featured on the front cover of *British Stamp Printers* (Philatelic Bulletin Publication number 12).

The illustration shows the delivery end of a machine known at Wycombe as the 'Large Stamp Rotary', showing Rex Pawley, the second printer to the regular number one, Bill Ing. The machine did not perforate in-line but punched the 960-set sheets for subsequent guillotining and perforating in 480-set sheets on the Grover machines. This machine is shown producing pre-decimal definitive sheets of *Machins* and the position in the factory at Wycombe was where the *Jumelle* press was eventually sited. This puts the date most likely in the 60s and not the 70s as stated.

I am grateful to Brian for this information and agree that the photograph is probably earlier than indicated, although the Harrison publication from which it came was annotated as being a gift to me from Harrison's in 1979, so clearly the publication was at least a decade old when sent •



SG catalogue Soft-back, almost 400 pages, £19.95. ISBN 0-85259-619-7

Channel Islands Specialists' Society Further details from: Sheila Marshall (SGC06), 3 La Marette, Alderney, Channel Islands GY9 3UQ. Telephone 01481 822457.

Royal Mail news New issues and products

Special issues There are no new special stamps this month this month, but a miniature sheet marking the 70th anniversary of 'The Year of Three Kings' (George v, Edward viii and George vi) goes on sale on 31 August. The sheet includes a £3 definitive as well as reproductions of 1d stamps from the reigns of the kings.

The special stamp programme continues on 21 September with six stamps, a miniature sheet, and a prestige book marking the 150th anniversary of the Victoria Cross, and on 3 October the five 'Sounds of Britain' stamps will be issued – as previewed in this *Bulletin*. This year's Christmas issue (7 November) comprises six stamps featuring a snowman, Father Christmas, reindeer, and Christmas tree. Four of these will be standard definitive size; the other two will be bigger and inscribed 'Large' for larger-size UK letters as part of the new 'Pricing in Proportion' pricing structure. There will also be a Christmas miniature sheet and Christmas airletters.

A miniature sheet entitled 'Lest We Forget' will be issued on 9 November in time for Remembrance Day (11 November) ●



World Cup issue The World Cup stamps issued on 6 June have proved very popular, with much attention being devoted to them in the national press. The stamps were launched at an event held in the roof gardens above Cannon Street Station in London on the first day of issue. Amongst the celebrity guests at the event were the three World Cup winning football players shown in our photograph. From left to right: Ray Wilson (England, 1966), Carlos Alberto (Brazil, 1970) and Ossie Ardiles (Argentina, 1978) ●

Orders and enquiries Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. Telephone orders: 08457 641 641 (UK), +44 131 316 7483 (overseas).

Stamp ingots The ingots featuring stamps of the reigns of Victoria, Edward vii and George v proved popular, and we are continuing the series with ingots reproducing some Edward viii and George vi stamps. The first – the Edward viii 1d stamp – will be available from 24 October.

The six Victorian ingots (Penny Black, Embossed Green Shilling, Half-penny Red, Penny Lilac, £5 Orange and Jubilee Shilling) are all still available, price £26.95 each or £161.70 for the set including storage box. The Edward vii/George v ingots are also available (Edward vii Penny and Pound, George v Mackennal Penny, Seahorse Ten Shillings, Empire Exhibition, and Postal Union Congress £1) at the same prices.

The Stamp ingot covers bearing the 2002 Pillar to Post stamps and relevant ingot will be withdrawn from sale on 29 September. The covers, bearing the 2nd class, 1st, £ (European rate), 47p, and 68p stamps cancelled by special postmarks, cost £29.95 each or £149.75 for set with storage box. Handling charge on all ingots and ingot covers: £1.30 UK, £1.55 Europe, £2.15 Rest of World ●

Definitives Readers are reminded that the new Pricing in Proportion definitive stamps go on sale on 1 August. These comprise revised standard 1st and 2nd class, larger-size 1st and 2nd class inscribed 'Large', and 12p and 14p values to make up the difference between the rates for standard and large letters. All these stamps will be gummed, the 'Large' stamps printed in sheets of 100, all others in the usual size sheets of 200. The new rates are shown opposite.

Self-adhesive business sheets of 100 revised standard size 1st and 2nd class stamps, also books of six 1st and 12 × 1st and 12 × 2nd will all go on philatelic sale from 12 September. Books containing four 1st Large and four 2nd Large go on sale on 15 August, price £1.76 and £1.48 respectively. A roll (coil) of 500 revised standard 2nd class stamps will also be available. Rolls of 500 1st class and 1000 1st class and 2nd class will be issued later.

The 37p and 49p definitives will become redundant with the introduction of Pricing in Proportion. The 49p stamp will be withdrawn from sale at Post Office branches but the 37p stamp will remain on sale until stocks are exhausted.

For further information see David Dale's article in the *May Bulletin* •

UK Pricing in Proportion rates from 21 August

		1st class	2nd class
Letter	Up to 100g	32p	23p
Large Letter	Up to 100g	44p	37p
	101-250g	65p	55p
	251-500	90p	75p
	501-750g	£1.31	£1.09
Packet	Up to 100g	£1.00	84p
	101-250g	£1.27	£1.09
	251-500g	£1.70	£1.39
	501-750g	£2.20	£1.77
	751g-1kg	£2.70	£2.12
	1kg-1.25kg	£4.74	•

Each additional 250g or part thereof 85p 1st class (1kg limit 2nd class)

Letter Size not to exceed 240 × 165mm, maximum thickness 5mm

Large Letter Size not to exceed 353 × 250mm, maximum thickness 25mm

Packet Any item which is more than 25mm thick, or longer than 353mm, or wider than 250mm or heavier than 750g.

Generic & Smilers sheets The next generic sheet will be for the Christmas stamps (10 × 1st class and 10 × 2nd class), available from 7 November. Two Smilers sheets for Christmas, one each of 20 × 1st class, and 20 × 2nd class, will be available for customers to have their own images printed on the labels. For details of the Smilers service phone 0845 074 2000 (UK customers) or +44 131 316 7489 (overseas), or see www.royalmail.com/smilers •



International Reply Coupon

Shown at left is the new IRC, which will be available from 31 July, from main Post Office branches, priced 95p.

2007 issues Further details are now to hand concerning next year's stamp programme. The issue dates and number of stamps per issue is as follows.

MS = miniature sheet; PSB = prestige stamp book

16.01 The Beatles (6 + MS)	05.06 40th Anniversary of Machin MS
13.02 The Sky at Night (6)	03.07 Grand Prix (6 + MS)
01.03 World of Invention (6 + PSB)	26.07 Scouts (6)
22.03 Abolition of the Slave Trade (6)	20.09 British Army Uniforms (6 + PSB)
10.04 Sea Life (10)	16.10 Queen's 60th wedding anniv (6 + MS)
15.05 Beside the Seaside (6)	06.11 Christmas (6 + MS)

BPMA For further information telephone 020 7239 2570, or visit www.postalheritage.org.uk

British Postal Museum & Archive Readers are reminded that in addition to its regular opening times (Monday-Wednesday & Friday 10.00-17.00, Thursday 10.00-19.00), the BPMA is also open on Saturdays on 12 August, 14 October, and 9 December, 10.00-17.00. Archive Tours are held at 14.00 on the last Thursday of each month until November and Museum Store Tours at 14.00 on the second Wednesday of each month until October. Details of exhibitions, lectures and film shows are given in our Events listing (p380) ●

Coming off sale Any remaining stock of the London 2012 Host City miniature sheet will come off sale on 4 August, and the Changing Tastes in Britain stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards on 22 August ●

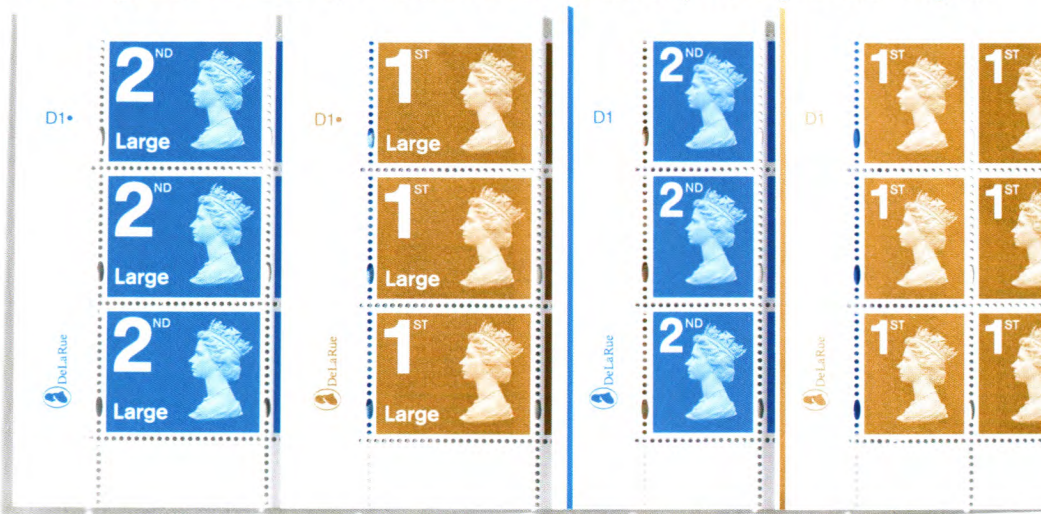
First Day Covers Readers are reminded that the price of Royal Mail FDC envelopes is now 30p. The colour of the 'Winged Horse' definitive stamps FDC envelope has been changed from grey to red with effect from the definitives issued on 1 August ●



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

Prize draws Winners of the Miniature Sheets draw (March *Bulletin*) were: R Buhner-Scott, Switzerland; D Bowcock, Leeds; B Twomlow, Portsmouth; P Woolcock, California, USA; Mrs P Kemp, Wirral; and J & A House of Cyprus. Winners of the Yearbook Draw (April) were: K Uren, Rochdale; R Bower, London; W Cattermole, Ontario, Canada; T Dungeate, Dorset; A Clark, Hertfordshire; and J Khoo, Singapore. Winners of May's World Cup Draw were: M Smith of Surrey (1st prize); B Morriss, Essex; P Townson, Berkshire; P Gabrielides, Greece; J Khoo, Singapore; and A Don, Merseyside ●

Mainly Machins Specialist collectors report by D G A Myall



New stamp issues Machin collectors will be well catered for this month. The Pricing in Proportion (PIP) tariff will come into effect on Monday 21 August, and the new stamps required by it are now beginning to appear. So far, I have seen the six sheet stamps and two of the booklets. Still to come are coils, business sheets and more booklets. No doubt they will prove to be just as interesting as these first issues, and I will write about them in my next article. Only items for the inland mail weighing a kilogram or less will be affected; the cost for sending heavier items is unchanged from the scale introduced in April. To recapitulate, mail will be divided into three groups: letters, large letters and packets. Each group has its own scale of charges. There are some variations for business users, but the new stamps are intended for the public tariff.

The six sheet stamps comprise two values and four Non Value Indicators (NVIs). The two value stamps are 12p dark turquoise and 14p salmon pink. They make up the difference between the basic letter and large letter rates for the first and second class services respectively, ie from 32p letter to 44p large letter by the first class service and from 23p letter to 37p large letter by the second class service. It is 20 years since the 12p stamp was last printed, and 16 years since the last 14p. Not

surprisingly, there have been significant changes in stamp production in the interval, and these can be seen on the new stamps. The enhanced digital rendering of the Machin head, and the creation of cylinders by mechanical engraving, as well as the use of the newly-approved RMS paper, result in stamps which are crisper and more pleasing than the earlier versions. A further change is that these are the first 12p and 14p stamps to include elliptical perforations. They have been printed by De La Rue in the normal sheets of 400, divided into two counter sheets of 200, from cylinders D1 / D1•, both no dot and dot. Both values have two phosphor bars from 9mm bands for the first time for these values, and these fluoresce blue. The value types and settings are unchanged.

The NVIs are in the new design with their service indicator placed in the top left. The numerals are very large, and larger still on the two for the large letter service. These also have the word 'Large' at the bottom left. Are you getting the impression that they are large? If so, you would be correct, as the large letter stamps measure 30mm x 24mm in a landscape, or horizontal, format. The other two stamps are the standard definitive size in portrait, or vertical, format. In contrast to the size of the numerals, the letters 'ST' and 'ND' are tiny, only about 1.5mm high; they are the same



New booklets, above, each contain four of the large letter NVIs. The new 12p and 14p stamps make up the difference between the basic letter and large letter rates for 1st and 2nd class.

Opposite: the new 6 x 1st book with pictorial definitive-size Smilers. This is identical inside to the original October 2005 printing, but has different front and back covers.

size on all four stamps. These indicators are very similar to those which have appeared on the front covers of stamp booklets since 2002. All four NVIs in sheet form have been printed by De La Rue on RMS paper from cylinders D1 / D1 yielding both no dot and dot cylinder blocks, and have elliptical perforations.

The two NVIs for letters are the same size and in the same colours as those which they replace. The existing 1st and 2nd class NVIs will continue to be valid for all mail. From 21 August however, both will pay the cost of sending a letter weighing up to 100g, instead of the previous limit of 60g. The new NVIs are perforated the usual 15 x 14. The first class stamp has two 4.5mm phosphor bars, which fluoresce blue. The second class has a single 4.5mm bar of the same phosphor placed in the centre. Most of the mail in this group will be sorted by machine, using this difference to distinguish the first and second class letters.

The pair for the large letters are printed in post office sheets of 100. Although they are the larger size, they too are perforated 15 x 14. (For readers who may not be aware of it, the international convention is to count the holes or teeth occur-

ring in a distance of two centimetres, regardless of the actual length of the stamp.) Both stamps are overprinted with two 4.5mm phosphor bars. The presence of these, rather than a single bar on the second class stamp raises some interesting questions.

In the April 2005 tariff changes, the use of one-bar stamps was extended to the second weight step. At the time, the cost was 35p and this stamp was issued with a single bar; it was also issued in a new colour. When this rate was increased to 37p in April this year, a value stamp for this amount was issued with the single bar. The basic rate for large letters is 37p and I found it peculiar that the 37p stamp has one bar, while the NVI equivalent which costs the same and has the same postal duty has two bars. However I gather that the 2nd class Large stamp has two bars so if used on a small envelope it will get first class treatment, the customer having paid more than the first class rate. The 37p stamp will be sold to exhaustion at post offices and not reprinted.

The two booklets contain four of the large letter NVIs. The stamps are easily distinguished from the sheet issues, because they are self-adhesives.



They were printed by Walsall and have die-cut simulated perforations with ellipses. They are a very good match to their De La Rue equivalents, and the phosphor bars have the same bright blue fluorescence. The cylinder numbers are w1 / w1 in each case, and are printed in the usual place on the white strip at the right, the colour numbers being visible when the books are closed. The definition of a large letter is printed on the back cover. The notches in the cover which indicate to people with impaired sight the class of stamps inside are much longer than formerly, measuring 11mm instead of 4mm or so.

The six sheet singles are available in a presentation pack. Official first day covers were provided. The familiar winged horse design on these was printed in red for this issue, and this new colour will be retained for future issues.

A new printing of the 6 × 1st class book with pictorial definitive-size Smilers went on sale in July. It is identical inside to the original printing last October but now has details about PIP on the back cover, and the words 'new stamps' on the front have been removed. If you collect stamp books, make sure you obtain this new printing •

London 2010 Opinions from our readers, by the Editor

IN THE MARCH and May *Bulletin* I invited your comments on plans for the international stamp exhibition in London in 2010. This will involve an exhibition at the Business Design Centre, where Stampex is held, and associated events at other locations, making up a Festival of Stamps.

Rather disappointingly only nine of our 20,000 readers replied to the invitation, but as promised we are publishing a selection of your comments. Perhaps four years to go before the exhibition few have given it much thought as yet, and maybe I will repeat the exercise nearer the time.

Some readers commented on the location for the exhibition, fearing it will be too small compared to Earl's Court in 2000. A reader in Middlesex commented that 'whilst not familiar with the Washington Convention Center, I have a feeling that when compared to Washington 2006, Islington 2010 is going to be something of an embarrassment'. The exhibition will be using more space at the Design Centre than Stampex, and it is hoped that what it might lack in size will be more than compensated for by the quality and interest of the exhibits and other attractions. One reader wrote strong comments on the lack of facilities at the Business Design Centre, principally the poor provision of toilets. With more people coming to the 2010 exhibition than to Stampex, this matter needed attention.

Husband and wife readers from Essex liked the variety of the postal administration and printers stands in 2000, and thought the demonstration of the printing of the Penny Black a 'delight to witness and the printer was a fountain of knowledge... These exhibitions are about imparting knowledge and they need the space!' Two readers commented on the plan to stagger exhibits at 2010 over the 10 days of the show, so that we 'will be forced to visit twice if we want to see all the exhibits'. One said 'It is essential that the organisers publicise in advance the classes being shown on which days so collectors know which days to attend and see items that interest them'. ►

Three readers mentioned financing the exhibition. To date only Royal Mail and the ABPS have pledged any financial support, although no doubt more will be forthcoming from dealers, auction houses, philatelic societies and individual collectors – as it was with previous exhibitions such as that at the Festival Hall in 1960. Many individual collectors pledged five guineas (£5.25) to a guarantee fund – the 2006 equivalent is a little over £90 using the retail price index. To raise funds, the readers in Essex wrote ‘What is wrong with issuing miniature sheets with a premium? This was done successfully for the London 1980’. They also noted that one dealer they knew would not be attending the exhibition on the grounds of cost and the length of the show.

A reader in Gloucestershire thought that 2000 would be a hard act to follow, it was ‘so good’, but he trusted the organizers of 2010 ‘to make a good job of it subject to the resource limits they have’. He is hoping for ‘something broader than rarified formal classical philately-for-the-rich... For example Social Philately will be good to emphasise.’

A reader in West Yorkshire thinks proposals to develop a long-running series of events in 2010 before, during and after the main exhibition are welcome, as are the approaches to London museums and attractions to develop their own exhibitions. He continues: ‘However, I do hope that such developments and proposals are not limited to London. Surely there is greater need to develop interest and awareness throughout the country. A concentrated effort to involve museums, libraries and other places all over the UK during the winter of 2009 and the spring of 2010 would focus attention on the forthcoming London 2010. Philatelic associations and societies should be encouraged to link with their local museums and libraries in presenting philatelic exhibitions, which could be supported with publicity material about London 2010. Links with the local press could add further publicity for the hobby and further encouragement could be added with the offer of prizes of a day out at London 2010.’

A reader in Belgium commented that ‘the lack of interest of your readers – and of many stamp collectors – finds its origin in the decline of stamp

collecting’. He notes that many collectors go to exhibitions primarily to visit the stands of postal administrations to purchase their new issues, but as new issues ‘are now losing their attractiveness (too many, too expensive)’ fewer collectors will want to attend. The point about visiting postal administrations (and dealers) now being the main purpose of many collectors visiting exhibitions (rather than to see competitive displays and key attractions, such as the Royal Philatelic Collection) was echoed by a number of collectors I have spoken to recently. One rather eminent collector said: ‘Let’s face it, all we really want is a stamp fair... we might look at some of the exhibits if we get time’.

A collector in Kent, who describes himself as ‘a life-long philatelist and designer of museum exhibitions for 25 years’ wrote that he ‘had followed with interest the debate as to the best way to promote philately in the 21st century’. He then continued, ‘While I agree that money should be spent on permanent facilities, I firmly believe that there is a place for a well-designed and curated exhibition at the various stamp shows’. He was pleased to see the BPMA’s ‘Brunel Speeding the Mail’ display currently touring museums in the South West; ‘there are many museums and heritage sites prepared to “buy in” such a package which makes financial sense for both the sponsor and the venue’. He continues, ‘I also believe that far too much space at stamp exhibitions is taken up with competitive exhibits. This may be hard for some to hear, but they do very little for the benefit of philately as a whole. Just watch and note how many visitors actually look at these exhibits – very few.’ He concludes his comments by suggesting that ‘when the design brief for many of the display elements is drafted, it should be stipulated that they should be so constructed to enable them to be used as touring exhibits after the main show is over.’

My thanks to J Beard, J & D Camp, D Nugus, A Peel, E Peremans, L Rosenblum, A N Smith, and A P Smith for their comments. Perhaps other readers would care to write with some views on their suggestions ●

Birds The 40th anniversary of the 1966 issue



BLACK-HEADED GULL
J. NORRIS WOOD
HARRISON AND SONS LTD

BLUE TIT
J. NORRIS WOOD
HARRISON AND SONS LTD

ROBIN
J. NORRIS WOOD
HARRISON AND SONS LTD

BLACKBIRD
J. NORRIS WOOD
HARRISON AND SONS LTD

BIRDPEX '98

The Birds issue, designed by John Norris Wood, was Britain's second non-commemorative pictorial issue following a change in policy in 1966.

Above, a 1998 Bird Stamp Society cachet. For further details contact Mrs Rosie Bradley, 31 Park View, Crossway Green, Chipstow NP16 5NA or see www.bird-stamps.org

THIS MONTH marks both the 40th anniversary of the British Birds issue of August 1966 and the 20th anniversary of the Bird Stamp Society which, we gather, is celebrating with a special postmark and cover.

The Bird Stamp Society was formed in 1986 to cater for the many collectors interested in bird stamps and relevant material. The Society's focal point is the quarterly journal *Flight*, comprising some 50-60 A4 pages. An important regular feature is the listing and attempted identification of all birds found on stamps in the previous quarter. The BSS also runs thriving postal auctions and exchange packets. Membership is £14 UK, £17 Europe, and £20 overseas airmail or £18 surface mail. Under-16s half price •



KINGFISHER 10p

OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus* 32p
RSPB 1889-1989

1840 - RSPCA - 1990

18

31 **ENDANGERED SPECIES**
Song thrush
Turdus philomelos

E **BLACK SWAN**

Some of the many stamps issued by Royal Mail which feature birds:

Centenary of the Wild Bird Protection Act, 1980

Centenary of Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, 1989

150th anniversary of the Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals 1990

600th anniversary of Abbotsbury Swannery, 1993
Endangered Species, 1998
Pub Signs, 2003

Sounds of Britain Royal Mail's next special



Technical details

Printer Cartor Security Print

Process Lithography

Stamp size 37 × 35mm

Sheets 25 and 50

Perforation 14 × 14.5

Phosphor Screen

Gum PVA

Gutter pairs Horizontal

Plates and colours

All values C1 silver ● C1 yellow ● C1 magenta ● C1 cyan (blue) ● C1 black ● C1 phosphor

FIVE STAMPS featuring the cultural diversity of music in the UK will be available from Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and from Royal Mail Tallents House Edinburgh from 3 October. The stamps feature: 1st class Asian Sitar; 42p Caribbean Bass Player; 50p Latin American Maracas; 72p Irish Fiddle; and £1.19 Black American Blues. The stamps were designed by CDT Design using photography by Paul Smith.

The Europa theme for 2006 is Cultural Diversity, and Royal Mail has chosen to explore it through the universal language of music. The UK has long been a melting pot for musical ideas and British musicians have taken these influences, modified them and put them together again to create their own sounds.

The stamps will be issued to Post Office branches in sheets of 25. However, sheets of 50 with gutter margins will be available from selected Post Office outlets and Royal Mail Tallents House. The year of issue '2006' is printed in micro-text and positioned amongst the smaller characters in the designs. The 1st class and 50p stamps include the EUROPA symbol used on Europa issues since 1993.

The presentation pack (shown opposite) was written by Ken Hunt, and designed by CDT with illustrations by Laura Carlin. Tracing the history and development of a rich mixture of musical styles, it provides a concise guide to modern British music.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES The FDC, designed by CDT, features musicians and dancers, with the design extending onto the flap and reverse of the envelope. Orders for serviced FDCs must reach Tallents House (address below) by the day of issue.

Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (Tallents House postmark), or to one of Royal Mail's Special Handstamp Centres (Rock, Kidderminster, Worcs postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FD 0635' (Tallents House), or 'FD0536' (Rock).

For details of other special postmarks see the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House (£12.25 UK/Europe; £24.95 elsewhere). For a free sample copy write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ ●

issue captures a melting pot of musical ideas



Sounds of Britain prices

Set of stamps	£3.15
Presentation pack	£3.65
FDC envelope	£0.30
Serviced FDC (UK customers)	£4.18
Serviced FDC (overseas customers)	£3.56
Stamp cards set	£1.50



Royal Mail First Day Cover

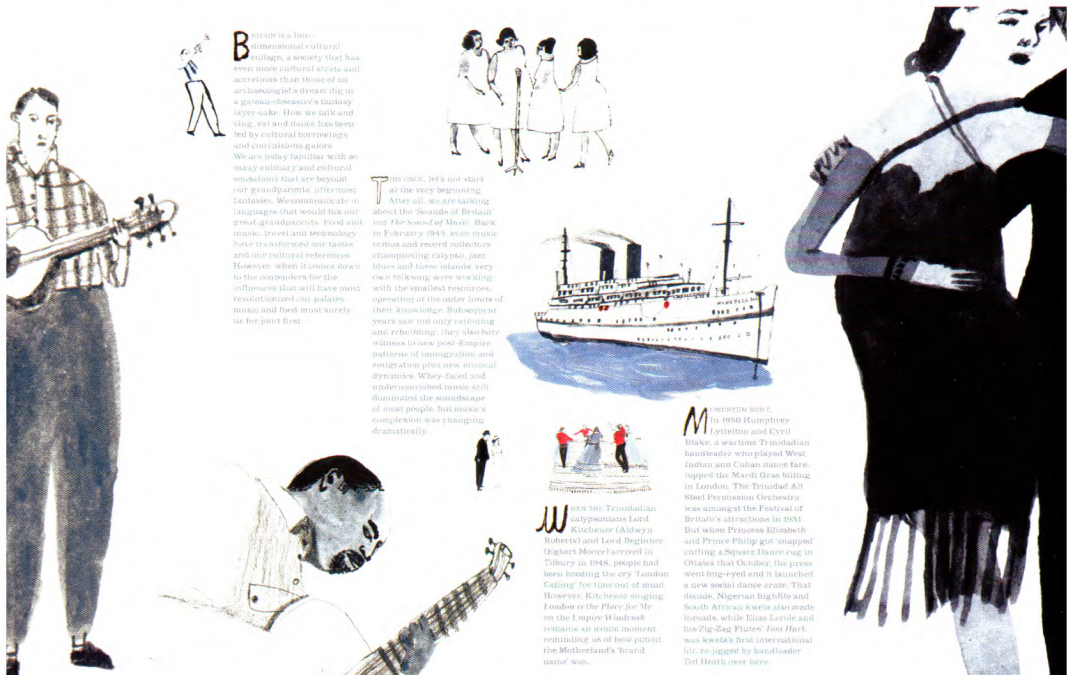
SOUNDS OF BRITAIN
Royal Mail Talents House, 30 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH3 9JH

Britain is a first-dimensional cultural collage, a society that has more cultural strata and accretions than those of an archaeologist's dream dig or a gourmet-chef's fantasy layer-cake. How we talk and sing, eat and dance has been fed by cultural borrowings and convulsions galore. We are today familiar with so many culinary and cultural mutations that are beyond our grandparents' uttermost fantasies. We communicate in languages that would lose our great-grandparents' food and music, travel and technology have transformed our tastes and our cultural references. However, when it comes down to the outsiders for the influences that will have most revolutionized our palates, music and food must surely tie for joint first.

Ten once, let's just start at the very beginning. After all, we are talking about the 'Sounds of Britain' not the 'Sound of Music'. Back in February 1945, when music critics and record collectors championed calypso, jazz, blues and these islands very own folk song were awaking with the smallest resources, operating at the outer limits of their knowledge. Subsequent years saw not only extensive and enlightening, they also bore witness to new post-Empire patterns of immigration and emigration plus new musical dynamics. Wiley-faced and under-matched trends still dominated the soundscape of most people, but music's complexion was changing dramatically.

When the Trinidadian calypsonian Lord Kitchener (Alley's Roberts) and Lord Regencies (Regent Morrie) landed in Tilbury in 1945, people had been hearing the cry 'London Calling' for time out of mind. However, King-kong singing London is the Place for Me on the Empire Windrush remains an iconic moment, reminding us of how potent the Motherland's brand name was.

Moreover, in 1960 Humphrey Lyttelton and Cyril Blake, a wartime Trinidadian bandleader who played West Indian and Cuban music, farcoped the Mardi Gras billing in London. The Trinidad All Steel Percussion Orchestra was amongst the Festival of Britain's attractions in 1951. But when Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip got 'snapped' during a Square Dance tug in Orkney that October, the guests went big-eyed and it launched a new social dance craze. That decade, Nigerian highlife and South African kwela also made inroads, while Elias Loreke and his Zig-Zag Players' Jan Harb was kwela's first international hit, re-juggled by bandleader Ted Heath over here.



21 years a Friend With a new lease of life for the Museum

OUR STORY begins in March 1962, when Harold Macmillan, Prime Minister at the time, received a letter from a Mr Reginald M Phillips, living in Brighton, offering his collection of 19th century GB stamps to the nation. On 2 April 1965, Tony Benn, as Postmaster General, formally accepted the collection on behalf of the Post Office, while in addition Phillips donated £50,000 towards the establishment of a postal museum. The first part of the National Postal Museum was opened on 12 September 1966 within King Edward Building by Edward Short, then PMG. This temporary arrangement came to an end in 1968, in readiness for the opening by The Queen of the proper National Postal Museum on 19 February 1969.

It was the museum's second curator, Tony Rigo de Righi, who in 1978 put forward the idea of an organisation of 'Friends' of the museum. Progress was slow at first, but Tony's successor, Raife Wellsted, pushed forward with the idea, on the principle that in return for voluntary help within the museum, the Friends would be entitled to special privileges, such as private viewing, while the subscription should fund publication of a journal in which members' researches could be published. Plans were drawn up in 1981, with the thought at the time that the 'Friends' could also encompass the Post Office Archives. A survey showed that members would expect additional opportunities to visit the Archives. Regrettably, staff resources made such a proposal impossible to fulfil, so discussions continued without the Archives. A steering committee undertook the groundwork, and an inaugural meeting was held on 10 April 1985. Within a month no fewer than 200 had paid the subscription to become a Friend of the National Postal Museum, receiving free of charge the new postcards to be issued by the museum, as well as a journal twice a year.

Sadly, within a few months difficulties arose at the museum which had repercussions on Friends, losing key officers. During 1986 a Museum Manager was appointed, Stan Goron, who believed the Friends should be 'self-contained and self-motivating', and that one of the most important



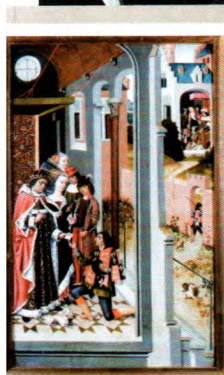
Cross Post, the magazine of the Friends of the BPMA, is published twice a year. It has articles covering all aspects of the BPMA's activities.

responsibilities of the Friends was to undertake research at the museum, and publish the results. Between 1987 and 1989, despite strenuous efforts, it seemed the Friends might cease to exist. However, a volunteer to be Secretary and Treasurer came along who turned the position around.

A new lease of life was instilled into the Friends with a varied programme of events, ranging from talks and seminars to visits to such places as the Philatelic Bureau in Edinburgh, the former Post Office Research Laboratories in Swindon, and even to Enschedé, the stamp printers in Holland. The Friends spread the word by being present at events like Stampex, often supporting the stand of the NPM or its successors.

A constant factor has been the Friends' magazine, *Cross Post*, which is published twice a year. The idea for the title came from Denis Roberts, at that time Managing Director, Posts, with the Post Office. Denis has always been a strong supporter of the hobby, and was instrumental in the establishment of the British Philatelic Trust. The *Cross Post* logo is modelled on the Chester name stamp introduced about 1705.

and Archives, Richard West looks at the story of the 'Friends'



Above from left: Douglas Muir, Tony Conder and Bill Hill, the Chairman of the Friends, at a private viewing of the BPMA's Victorian Innovation exhibition.

However, the difficulties were not over, as the closure of the National Postal Museum at the end of 1998 left many members wondering just what they were befriending. A consequence has been, of course, the bringing together of the museum's collections with the Archives. The formation of the Postal Heritage Trust, and the creation of the British Postal Museum and Archive, has provided a welcome new lease of life. It is evident that under their new Chief Executive, Tony Conder, great strides are being taken to make the archives and collection more accessible to audiences far and wide, not least via the internet. The pace is never as quick as one would like, but at least there is now assurance that the determination is there to find a permanent home that will fully meet the needs of the philatelic community, researchers, and the inquisitive public.

The Friends have responded, changing their name to The Friends of the British Postal Museum & Archive, or simply The Friends of BPMA. The body has this year been granted charitable status, its objective being to advance public education in the history and technology of postal

communication by: assisting in the establishment and maintenance of a British postal heritage museum; and by the provision of financial or material assistance in its continued operation.

Friends were able to celebrate the 21st anniversary with a special lunch on 20 May, confident not only in their own future, but also in that of the BPMA. During the occasion a cheque for £750 was handed over to the BPMA (a raffle raised over £200 more), the latest in the series of donations that have been made over the years.

The Friends enjoy a close relationship with the BPMA, being offered concessionary rates for events and on merchandise, plus private viewing of new exhibitions held in the Search Room at Freeling House, and visits to the museum store at Debden. Friends offer their voluntary services to the BPMA by giving talks and demonstrations, and by helping at the public Open Days at Debden. Special visits and talks are also arranged specially for Friends, those this year including a visit to Bletchley Park, Bruce Castle Museum, the Great Central Railway and Brunel's Tunnel at Rotherhithe.

Cross Post continues, having recently undergone a revamp that has seen colour introduced throughout, and a larger page size, A4, adopted. The articles do not simply concentrate on stamps, but on all aspects covered by the BPMA. Thus the Spring 2006 edition included articles on Royal Mail from 1100 to 1635, Mobile Post Offices since 1936, Letter Boxes on Buses and Trams, Machin Dummy Stamp Books and Elizabeth: Queen and Icon, the subject of the current exhibition in the Search Room.

To be a Friend costs just £15 (£20 for overseas Friends) a year, a small price to pay to be part of one of the most exciting periods of development ever experienced in connection with the nation's postal heritage. You have missed the 21st anniversary lunch, but you will be able to enjoy many fine celebrations in the future ●

If you would like to join the Friends of the BPMA, then please write to Mrs A Harms, 13 Amethyst Avenue, Davis Estate, Chatham ME5 9TX ●

The Phillips dynasty at Stanley Gibbons Ron Negus on



Edward Stanley Gibbons (left) and Charles J Phillips on a Montserrat issue, and (from the left) Charles, Stanley and Rex Phillips

WITH THE 150th anniversary of Stanley Gibbons Ltd being celebrated this year, it is natural that articles will be published detailing the eventful life of the Company's founder – Edward Stanley Gibbons. His purchase of the Cape Triangulars in 1863 from two passing seamen in Plymouth, for example, is likely to be recalled many times. Another name that features very prominently in the Gibbons story, however, is Phillips.

Charles J Phillips was perhaps the most well-known member of the dynasty, but his sons Frank and Ernest, his grandson Rex, brother William Henry, and nephew Frederick Stanley Phillips, were all closely associated with the firm.

Charles J Phillips Charles was born in Birmingham on 15 May 1863, and spent his schooldays in that area. The Christmas after his tenth birthday, his father bought a Stanley Gibbons guinea packet of stamps, to share with his brother William. Shortly afterwards, Charles moved to King Edward's Grammar School, and was pleased to find many of his peers were also enthusiastic stamp collectors. With mutual exchanges plus purchases from the local stamp shop, they all built up useful collections, and Charles kept up this interest in the hobby when he left school.

His first job, in 1878, was as a junior clerk with a firm of chartered accountants. His duties grew with his experience, and he was given audit work for clients throughout the Midlands area. By 1884 he was ready to move on, and his acquaintance with Mr Henry Buckley, Warden of the Birmingham Assay Office, enabled him to get a job there. In this position, he remodelled their book-keeping system and took charge of the Record Room.

It was here that he discovered that Rowland Hill had worked part-time in the Assay Office, from 1810 to 1812 and that his wage of six shillings (30p) per week had to be paid directly to Hill's father, not to Rowland himself!

The following year, 1885, Charles married and, in order to buy furniture for his first home, had to sell his stamp collection. Whilst continuing to work at the Assay Office, he kept up his interest in philately, however, by becoming a part-time dealer. In 1886 he started the Birmingham Philatelic Society, and was appointed its first secretary. In December 1889, he began the publication of a monthly magazine called *The Stamp Advertiser and Auction Record*.

At this point in his life, Charles decided to become a full-time dealer. This came about due to his acquaintance with E Stanley Gibbons, who had decided in 1890 that he had earned enough from his business – now called Stanley, Gibbons & Co, and operating by mail order from Gower Street in London – to be able to retire and travel the world. The business was sufficiently profitable to be of interest to a consortium of four or five major collectors and they began negotiations to buy it. Charles was asked by Gibbons to value the stock holding as a precursor to the sale.

In the event, the negotiations with the private investors failed, but Charles offered to purchase the business outright for £25,000. For financial reasons, the firm was made into a limited liability company – Stanley Gibbons Ltd – and Charles became its major shareholder and owner in June 1890. He took over as Managing Director at the very early age of 27. E Stanley Gibbons was made Chairman, whilst Gibbons' brother and Charles'

a family's remarkable legacy at the renowned stamp dealers

father were made directors. An early decision was taken to open a shop, in 1891, and premises were found at 435 Strand. Sales prospered and within two years, Gibbons had to move to a new, larger shop at 391 Strand – a famous address, known to collectors world-wide.

A major problem at this time was the increasing number of forged stamps appearing on the market. Charles led the campaign to reduce the problem. He founded, and acted as Secretary of, 'The Philatelic Protection Society'. This group was instrumental in bringing numbers of forgers to court, including the notorious 'London Gang' of Messrs Benjamin, Sarpy and Jeffries.

Although the pressure of running a successful business left him much less time to spend on collecting, Phillips turned his magazine, *The Stamp Advertiser* into *Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal*. He edited the two first issues of this himself, but then handed it over to the well-known philatelist Major E B Evans. Phillips continued to contribute research articles and notes to the *Journal* and also wrote books on Fiji, Paraguay and Mexico. For Gibbons' golden jubilee, in 1906, he wrote a history of the firm, titled *Fifty Years of Philately*.

This interesting book gave an insight into the development of the Company under his stewardship and showed how he had been personally involved with every leading collector of the day. He had bought and re-sold almost every major collection to become available during his time as Managing Director, and knew the provenance of every stamp rarity throughout the world. Much of his business was done via agents of the major collectors but among his ultimate customers were King George V (including the time before he was King), the Earl of Crawford, Philip von Ferrary, Arthur Hind, H J Duveen, etc. He spent much time abroad, where he would meet leading collectors, and often return with very desirable items for sale. These journeys gave him a knowledge of all the world's stamps, although his own interests were in the early issues and rarities. In 1921, he was honoured by being asked to be an initial signatory of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists.

The following year, at the age of 60, Charles J Phillips sold his interest in Stanley Gibbons Ltd to his friend and associate, George Hamilton-Smith. He moved to America to start a new business as a philatelic consultant and dealer in rare stamps. By an arrangement with his late firm, he obtained permission to deal in stamps in his own name in any part of the world, and announced that he would confine his attention to the stamps issued between 1840 and 1880.

Phillips settled in New York and soon became closely associated with the Collectors Club in that city. For that prestigious Society, he played a great part in their drive for increased membership, for obtaining them a permanent home, and for the arrangement of their large library. In 1939, the Club presented him with their 'Reward of Merit' for his long service.

At the time of this award, Charles was not in the best of health, and he became progressively weaker in the next few months. At the beginning of June 1940 he was taken to hospital, where he died in his 77th year. One of his obituaries said that his death had 'removed from philately one of its most colourful personalities'.

Frederick Stanley Phillips Frederick was the only son of Charles Phillips' brother, William. He was born on 31 December 1891, left school at 15 and immediately joined the staff of his uncle's firm. At Stanley Gibbons, he worked initially as a typist, then as a book-keeper and cashier, and fitted a little stamp work in between his other duties. He was always known as 'Stanley Phillips' in the firm, or just as 'S P'.

He was called up for service in the Middle East in the First World War, and left with a commission in the King's Royal Rifle Corps. After the war he returned to Gibbons, joining the Editorial Department. His first task in this new role was to found *Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Circular* in September 1919 and he expanded this from a simple price list into a full-scale stamp magazine. Later developments saw the name changed, firstly to *Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal*, and finally to

Gibbons Stamp Monthly. With the help of his other colleagues, he was joint editor for all these titles.

He was also the author of one of the standard general introductions to the hobby, entitled *Stamp Collecting*, which ran to many editions and was a best-seller. He also wrote other books, including some specialist monographs on GB stamps, and was noted for his aggressive stance against philatelic rackets. In the latter case, he was violently opposed to the many unnecessary issues appearing which had little or no postal validity.

Stanley was an enthusiastic supporter, Council member, and one-time secretary of the British Philatelic Association, and a respected figure at Congress over many years. During the Second World War he was a principal negotiator with the Government on the stringent Stamp Export and Import Control regulations which threatened to stifle the stamp trade. In recognition of his activities in organized philately, his name was added to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in 1937.

Stanley Phillips took over the editorship of all Gibbons' publications in 1922, including the catalogue for which he had assumed responsibility from his uncle two years previously. Under his guidance, the Gibbons catalogue became much more than a simple dealers' price-list, and was an accepted work of authority. The most memorable event during his term as catalogue editor came in 1934 when he introduced the Simplified Catalogue. Aimed at the beginner, its price – initially five shillings – was to make it affordable to all.

Within the Gibbons hierarchy, Stanley Phillips gradually assumed increasing responsibilities. In 1926, he was appointed joint managing director with William Hamilton Andrews. When Hamilton Andrews retired in 1946, Phillips became sole managing director of the firm, and, finally, took over as Chairman upon the death of Charles J Phillips' elder son, Frank, in 1953.

He was only able to serve a few months in his new post, however, because in March 1954, at the age of only 62, Stanley Phillips suffered a heart attack and died. He was active until the end, and his half-century of service to Gibbons, when he went from office junior to Chairman, will always be remembered.

Rex Phillips Reginald Graham Phillips was always universally known as 'Rex'. He was born in January 1913, the grandson of Charles J Phillips, and second cousin of Stanley Phillips. His father was Charles' younger son, Ernest, who also worked at Stanley Gibbons. Rex joined the 'family' firm in 1929 immediately upon leaving school. Initially he worked in the SG Editorial Department and helped Stanley Phillips. Subsequently, he looked after the New Issue Buying and Distribution activities, and in 1938 set up a special department to deal with the flood of King George VI definitive issues.

Rex left for a brief period shortly afterwards, and took a job in the oil industry, but came back to Stanley Gibbons in 1949 as an assistant to F S Wall, the Editorial Director. He was employed on catalogue work, with C P Rang, as well as in planning for the 'New Age' series of albums. Two years later, he became sole editor of the Simplified Catalogue.

From 1954 onward, Rex became involved with the whole catalogue range, and he was formally appointed as Catalogue Editor in 1966. Under his guidance the first edition of the ever-popular publication *Collect British Stamps* appeared. He was also to be instrumental in the revision, and the production in new formats, of the four volumes of the G B Specialised, the three volumes of the 'green' Europe, and the four volumes of the 'blue' Overseas catalogues, plus the market leading 'Part 1' and the newly introduced Elizabethan edition. These various works won many literature awards at both national and international exhibitions.

Rex Phillips was noted for his great attention to detail and for his capacity for hard work. He was considered to be very much the 'back room boy', but every stamp collector owes him a debt of gratitude. He established a high standard for the Gibbons catalogues, which consolidated the work done by his predecessors, and provided a firm basis for subsequent editors to build upon. Rex eventually retired in January 1977, although he continued to work part-time as a consultant. He died after a short illness in January 1996, at the age of 83 ●

Washington 2006 An exhibition report by John Armstone



THE WASHINGTON 2006 World Philatelic Exhibition (w2006) was 10 years in the planning, but putting the plans into effect required the army of contractors and volunteers to work until the last minute. Eighteen hours before opening, the hall resembled a factory, with society tables and dealer booths being assembled, and display frames being filled by a human chain. When the public was admitted all was ready but for the odd rivet.

'Stamps and So Much More' was one of the w2006 slogans. It was perhaps misleading, in that everything at the event was clearly focussed on its primary purpose, namely to promote philately. The organisers had largely resisted the temptation, to which too many international exhibitions have in recent years succumbed, of including all manner of non-philatelic activities, presumably in an effort to boost visitor numbers. With an estimated total of 85,000 individual visitors and a recorded 226,817 entrants to the hall, Washington proved that such tactics are unnecessary.

w2006 was big; it was claimed to be the largest philatelic exhibition ever held in North America. A budget of \$3.3 million funded the event, with some 65,000 pages of exhibits, 220 trade booths, 140 postal administrations (including Royal Mail), 72 society tables, five public auctions, 10 first day of issue ceremonies, more than 200 society meet-

ings, talks and displays, a lively youth program, tours of the exhibits, and much more. From such a range of attractions, even someone present for all 63 hours that the show was open could only experience a small sample. What follows is my sample of some highlights of the event.

The Court of Honor was quite small, though some invited displays exhibited elsewhere in the hall might well have been included in it. Pride of place, unsurprisingly, was devoted to American stamp issues, especially to the 'Blue Boy', the only known example on blue paper of the 1847 Postmaster's provisional stamp from Alexandria, Virginia, on cover, and reunited for the first time in almost a century with the letter which the envelope originally carried. The Queen's Collection was represented by only eight frames, with an emphasis on stamps of the western hemisphere. The items which held my attention were those in a display entitled 'No Taxation Without Representation: The Stamps That Caused the American Revolution'. The 1765 Stamp Act imposed a tax on documents in the American colonies – a tax which was bitterly opposed by the colonists. The exhibit consisted of 11 such documents, with impressions of the British revenue stamp dies inscribed 'America' or 'W India', three of which are the only known examples. ►



U.S. Stamps Issued for Previous U.S. Decennial Internationals

by John M. Henderson

The job of the United States Postal Service (USPS) is to move the mail, and postage stamps are a necessary part of that process. From one first national stamp in 1847, they played a second, concurrent role as a means of honoring national institutions, key figures, events, or in more modern times, the wonderful diversity that is the United States.

Beginning in 1926, with the second International Philatelic Exhibition (IPEX) held in this country, the Post Office Department (as it was known and is called the USPS in 1971) began a run of stamp issues that had a third function to celebrate and even cause the dreams of philatelists.



Who did this too happen for the first IPEX? That was held in New York City, October 27, November 1, 1913. No stamp on philatelic product was issued for the show. Long-time US collector for Stamp Magazine George Shouse wrote in his May 5, 1996 column, "In those days, the Government regarded stamp collectors as 'harmless', so there was little official participation in the show."

But if they missed out on the first IPEX, the POD became believers in time for the second, also held in New York City (October 23, 1936). They did so grand fashion, with the first of what would establish their IPEX issues as highly creative, attractive, re-



Scott 429

EVERY DENNISON
Security Printing Division

EVERY DENNISON
Security Printing Division
Columbus, South Carolina

MAY 27th - JUNE 3rd, 2006
WORLD PHILATELIC EXHIBITION | WASHINGTON 2006

WONDERS
OF AMERICA DAY
MAY 27, 2006, WASHINGTON, DC 20066
WORLD PHILATELIC EXHIBITION

WORLD PHILATELIC EXHIBITION
MEMORIAL DAY
MAY 29, 2006
WASHINGTON, DC 20066

HONORING
COLLECTORS DAY
MAY 27, 2006
WASHINGTON, DC 20066



The vast Traditional Philately and Postal History classes contained the very cream of the world's collections. Amongst the British material, I particularly liked Roger Caversham's 'Genesis of the Postage Stamp' and Patrick Pearson's 'Norfolk postal history', and I spent a long time studying James Grimwood-Taylor's 'British Postal Rates', which displayed, amongst other treasures, one of three recorded examples of the Chichester 'Hot Cross Bun' postmark (1682) as well as the earliest known letters from Orkney (1686) and from Shetland (1685). I should also mention the ultimate *Titanic* postal history item, in the Maritime Disaster Mail of Robin Gwynn (NZ): a facing slip from a bundle of letters headed 'NY Mixed Foreign Letters from Sea Post', handstamped 'o.s. Woody, Titanic' (a postal clerk on board), postmarked 'Transatlantic Post Office Ap 10 [19]12'.

Peter Lister's 'Aspects of the 1st UK Aerial Post', displayed in the Aerophilately class, included rare and under-appreciated material relating to the development of the envelopes and postcards. In the Postal Stationery class, 'Ireland - The Transition' by Bernard Clancy (USA) afforded an insight into the early days of the Irish Free State.

In the Thematic class, David Cooke Hunter's sugar, Lesley Marley's whales, Brian Sole's bicycles, Sheila Foster's roses and Ian Paton's Ameri-

can history kept the flag flying for Britain. In the Open class, Jean Alexander's 'Supermarket Philately' was a colourful account of joint ventures between retailers and the British Post Office. It was in the Open class that I found my personal favourite of all the competitive exhibits: 'Denmark - Conscience, Conflict and Camps, 1932-1949' by Birthe King, which described the impact of the Third Reich on the Danish nation and its people in a stunning display of Cinderellas, postal history and ephemera.

Tucked away at the furthest corner of the exhibition space was the Revenue class. United States issues, both federal and state, were prominent, with some amazing high values (\$200 and \$500) on documents. I found Richard Payne's exhibit on the work of Perkins Bacon refreshing in looking at stamps from the viewpoint of a producer rather than their issuer or user. British exhibitors Alan Anyon (Colombia), John Dahl (Portugal), and Christopher Podger (Cyprus) demonstrated the wide range of interest in revenue stamps to be found within this country.

Mary Ann Owens had been a frequent visitor to stamp exhibitions in the UK as well as the USA, and the news of her death greatly saddened her many friends on both sides of the Atlantic. Her memory was honoured at w2006 with the post-



Opposite page: the exhibition catalogue and souvenir cards from two stamp printers, with just a few of the special daily show cancellations.

This page: a part of the Royal Mail stand (at far left); Julietta Edgar, Head of Royal Mail's Philatelic Sector, working on the stand (left); and a section from the Smilers sheet issued to mark the exhibition.

humorous showing in the Open class of her exhibit 'The Aspinwall Connection' (which links her family with Lancashire) and with a tribute from the American Topical Association.

In the Lecture program, of particular interest to collectors of GB in the USA, who had not been shown this material previously, was Derrick Pillage's display of the airmails of the Great Western Railway and the Railway Air Services – quite a change from the US airmails which Derrick was as usual exhibiting in the Aerophilately class.

Major stamp exhibitions like this attract not only collectors and dealers, but also those whose business is producing stamps and handling the mails. At w2006, six stamp printers were present, some of them with souvenirs to give collectors. SEP S Print (Australia) Pty Ltd (whose souvenir was reserved for trade customers) were demonstrating a variety of their security measures, including fluorescent inks, holography, embossing and micro-printing. The International Conference on Postal Automation was also held during w2006. The Conference was not open to members of the public, but showing in the exhibition hall was a program which included a short film by the US Postal Service, *The Adventures of a Letter*, along with videos from mail processing equipment manufacturers.

Some international exhibitions have had failings so grave that they have had a severe impact upon the interests of the participants, whether dealers or exhibitors. So, what went wrong at w2006? In truth, very little. Behind the scenes the organisers faced some difficulties, which they succeeded in hiding from the public. On the first two days, the air conditioning was uncomfortably fierce. Some of the dealers' booths did not display their number on their name board. At the First day Ceremony for the Distinguished American Diplomats issue, there was a contribution from Condoleezza Rice (the US Secretary of State) on videotape, the technical quality of which was deplorable. That is the extent of the criticisms that I heard – trifling complaints to set against the overall success of the event.

For some years to come, collectors who did not go to Washington will feel a sense of deprivation when they hear those who did reminiscing about these eight busy days in 2006. Planning is already in hand for the next in the series of United States decennial international philatelic exhibitions, to be held at the Jacob K Javits Convention Center in New York City, and scheduled for 22-29 May 2016. Don't risk another decade of deprivation – enter those dates in the forward planner page of your diary now! ●

Philately online More than just letter boxes, by Ron Negus

Colne Valley Postal History Museum

A privately owned Postal History Museum in the heart of East Anglia. The collection has been built up over a number of years by one man and now comprises more than 70 ex-British Post Office letter boxes together with Stamp Vending Machines, documents and associated artefacts. The museum houses the second-largest private collection of Post Boxes in the UK and is an invaluable resource for teaching and historical research. Regular public open days are held each year, but otherwise there is no general public access other than by prior arrangement with the Curator. Contact us at the address above.



I reviewed the site of the Letter Box Study Group in my column in January 2003. In that review I also mentioned the work of another letterbox student, Paul Wicks, and commented on his well-illustrated site that had been running since August 1996. I have now located another site which those readers who enjoy studying details of letterboxes will find of interest.

This is also the work of another enthusiast. His name is Steve Knight and he is the organiser and curator of the Colne Valley Postal History Museum in East Anglia. His collection has been built up over a number of years, and now comprises more than 70 ex-British Post Office letterboxes, along with stamp vending machines, documents and associated artefacts. The museum houses the second-largest private collection of post boxes in the UK, and is an invaluable resource for teaching and historical research. Regular public open days are held each year, but otherwise there is no general public access, other than by prior arrangement with the curator.

The navigation bar at the top of each page on the museum site is simple to follow. For example, selecting 'View the Highlights' brings up a new page in which the post boxes in the collection are arranged by the reign of each monarch. For each time span, pictures of the boxes and their locations are displayed. In addition, separate details are given in this section for Private Posting Boxes and Foreign Post Boxes.

www.cvphm.org This private museum, at Halstead in Essex, can be contacted by e-mail via the website. The curator can also be contacted by telephone on 01787 474412. Contact is needed before a visit, as there is no general public access.

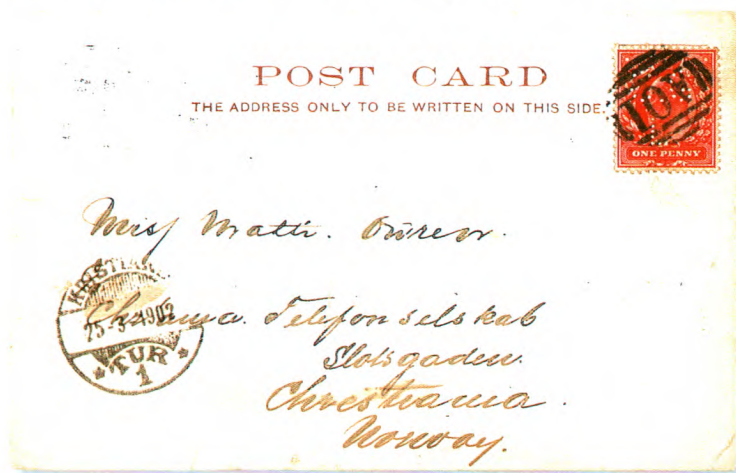
Another selection on the navigation bar takes the viewer to the 'Features Index'. This page gives an overview of the different sections of the site, and includes short descriptions of each one. Amongst the titles listed are 'James Ludlow & Son', 'A short history of early boxes', 'Postboxes on stamps' and 'Stamp vending machines'. Sections are also included here illustrating the museum's collection of 'Post Office Direction Signs', and what Steve Knight terms 'Our Street Jewellery Collection'. This latter page is not postal history, but shows some of the fascinating wayside signs that once adorned our streets. These include some very rare AA signs, some advertising signs and other interesting road signs.

On the postal history side, this site includes a page telling the fascinating story of the Intellikeiy experiment. This American system was tried out in a small number of pillar boxes in Northampton and Bexhill in 1996. It employed a computer controlled lock in the post boxes and special programmable keys. In the experiment the keys were set to open the locks if inserted at the scheduled time for the boxes to be emptied, plus or minus five minutes. A number of problems arose, however, and these are described here. As a result, the experiment was quickly ended and computerised boxes were never adopted in the UK.

A page of links to other useful websites, and places where old post boxes and street jewellery collections can be seen at home and abroad, is given under the heading 'Where to visit'. Finally, for the real enthusiast, clicking on the 'Where to buy' heading brings forth a page giving addresses of antique dealers from whom old post boxes are sometimes available.

Because physical access to the museum itself is restricted, this site demonstrates a strength of the internet. It provides an excellent example of how a museum's collections can be viewed at any time and without regard to travelling distances ●

Cover corner An unusual postmark sent to Norway in 1902



A barred oval 'A01' postmark, unusually cancelling a stamp sent from London to Norway. It is also known applied over a Tax mark on a 1903 postcard sent from France to London, and on other cards with Tax marks arriving in London from overseas between 1901 and 1903.

THIS POSTCARD, submitted by Arthur Roberts, is a London view sent on 22 March 1902 to Norway. The postmark, on an Edward VII 1d stamp with perfin C G L, is a barred oval 'A01', applied in the Foreign branch of the London Post Office. George Brumell's book *British Post Office Numbers*

lists the 'A01' handstamp as being issued for use at Kingston, Jamaica (in Post Office List of 1874 or earlier), and to have been used in London in 1903 on a 1d reply postcard from France. It is unusual for it to be found cancelling a stamp on a postcard from London addressed overseas •

Special competition Win this set of 1959 Castles stamps

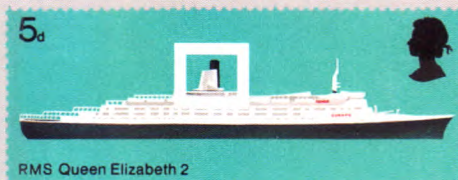


THANKS to Omniphil Approvals, we offer a lucky reader an unmounted mint set of the 1959 DLR Castles issue (SG catalogue £195), with a Bradbury Wilkinson set for comparison. To enter, send your name and address on a postcard, with the answer to the question: who designed the 1955 Castles stamps? Send your card to: Castles Competition, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ by 31 August.

Omniphil are celebrating 48 years of supplying stamps on approval. They have amassed no fewer than 197 1841 2d blues. Normally they give

away one 2d blue with every third purchase, but *Bulletin* readers need only to write and request a selection of approvals, stating preferred countries (they stock most countries) and condition (mint and/or used). They will send you a genuine 1841 2d blue with the first selection of stamps on approval, yours to keep whatever you decide. Just return the approvals with payment for any stamps selected. First requests receive the best 2d blues. Write now to Omniphil Approvals, Dept PB 1841 Offer, PO Box 10, Tewkesbury GL20 8YX. Telephone 01684 299278 •

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



May identify The detail was from the 1969 *Queen Elizabeth 2* stamp. The winner was W Dols of the Netherlands.

May knowledge Answers: 1) 1973; 2) orange; 3) Sydney. The winner was Mrs B Messer of London.

Ten runner-up prizes were also sent for each competition. Our thanks to all who entered.

FIRSTLY, identify the stamp from the detail above. Send your answer to August *Identify* Competition. Secondly, test your philatelic knowledge by answering the questions below. Send your answer to August *Knowledge* Competition.

- 1 Which company printed the 1951 'Festival' high value definitives?
- 2 In which year did Bush House Bristol feature on a stamp?
- 3 What do the initials RDP stand for?

Send your answer (addressed to either the August *Identify* competition or the August *Knowledge* competition), name and address on a postcard or back of a sealed envelope to: British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ. The senders of the first cards drawn in each competition on 15 September will each receive £100. Runner-up prizes of presentation packs, first day covers or stamp cards will be awarded in each competition. These competitions are not open to Royal Mail employees •

Events

Until Spring 2007 'Elizabeth: Queen & Icon' exhibition at the British Postal Museum & Archive, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1. **Enquiries** 020 7239 2570.

1-18 August BPMA 'Brunel Speeding the Mail' exhibition at Tiverton Museum, Devon.

20-29 August BPMA 'Brunel Speeding the Mail' exhibition at Didcot Railway Centre, Oxfordshire.

30 August - 20 September BPMA 'Brunel Speeding the Mail' exhibition at Steam Museum of the Great Western Railway.

30 August - 2 September Picture Postcard Show at Lawrence Hall, Royal Horticultural Halls, Greycoat Street, London SW1. **Enquiries** 020 8886 0469 or 0151 339 5422 or see website www.postcard.co.uk

2 September City of Preston PS Annual Stamp and Card Fair at Barton Village Hall, Garstang Rd, near Preston, 10.00-16.00. Approx 20 dealers. **Enquiries** P Gaywood, 2 Fairways, Fulwood, Preston PR2 8FX.

5 September BPMA Lecture – Proclamation (1635) to Penny Black, by Mike Bament at Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1, 19.00. **Enquiries** 020 7239 2570.

16 September Royal Mail Archive Open Day at Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1, 10.00-16.00. **Enquiries** 020 7239 2570.

20-24 September Autumn Stampex at Business Design Centre, Upper Street, London N1. Dealers, youth activities, etc. **Enquiries** Stampex 01252 628006 •

Late news

British successes in Washington There were 36 stamp and 14 literature exhibits from the UK in the competitions at the Washington 2006 exhibition (27 May - 3 June). UK entrants received three Large Gold and 15 Gold Medals, the Large Gold going to Alan Griffiths (Prince Edward Isle), Joseph Hackmey (France), and Alfred Khalastchy (Iraq). All three of the Grand Prix awards for best entries in Championship, National and International classes, went to US collectors. Gavin Fryer of the UK, a former President of the Royal Philatelic Society London, showed eight frames of Early Europe in the Court of Honour •

Obituary Anne Dummer, who died in April, could be described as 'The Heroine of Youth Philately' although she would not have liked the title. Not one for self-aggrandisement, she was passionate about kids and stamp collecting, and to me she was a heroine. I met Anne about 10 years ago at a 'youth conference' and was immediately struck by this amazing lady. Indefatigable and obstinate, her determination to support young collectors in any way she could was a beacon for the rest of us to follow. For many years, Anne was the backbone of the Stampex 'Kids' Corner' and the Kettering stamp clubs. Evenings were often spent making up stamp packets, quizzes or activity sheets. Anne was tireless in her enthusiasm, ideas and support for others (including me) who try to encourage our youngsters. She was a brilliant scrounger; no-one ever refused her requests for stamps for kids. She had a positive outlook on life, and death, and faith in the human spirit, which inspires many of us to carry on, despite whatever odds, to achieve our goals. Her humour and broad smile were always evident, even when her illness struck. We are lucky there are others like Anne who love kids and support their interests. But she was a beacon to us all, and one who will be remembered with love and admiration not just for what she achieved, but for simply who she was. *Pat Grimwood-Taylor, Chairman, Stamp Active Network* •

A profile of Anne Dummer was published in the August 2000 Bulletin. ED

Auctions Spink's Important Stamps & Covers of the World auction at the Washington exhibition on 1 June included a fine example of the plate 1x 1d black (lettered LC) with large part original gum and large margins, sold for £8060. The same price was achieved by a strip of three 1840 2d blue plate 1 (FG-FE) in steel-blue, with superb black Maltese Cross strikes. A 2d blue bisected cancelled with a black Maltese Cross on piece was sold for £13,970. Enquiries 020 7563 4000, or www.spink.com •

The Stanley Gibbons 15 June All World sale included a strong GB section. A 1969 stapled *Stamps for Cooks* book made £130 (est £100-120), a seven-volume set of presentation packs (including Forth Road Bridge) achieved £650 (£500-600), and an imperf block of six 1974 10p Black Prince stamps realised £600 (£750-850). Enquiries: 020 7836 8444, or www.stanleygibbons.com •

County Philatelic Auctions' 26 May postal sale included a 1984 'Frama' with value error 0.20½ which sold for £110 (est £100). A 1960 sealed pack containing Castles high values made £900 (£995) and a 1960s essay by Andrew Restall for a new 3d definitive went for £130 (£90). Enquiries: 0845 166 2846, e-mail county@stampauctions.co.uk •

Cavendish's auction on 28-29 September will include Scottish Steamer Mail. Enquiries: 01332 250970, or www.Cavendish-Auctions.com •

Moving the Mail An exhibition on road transport used in the postal service, produced by the British Postal Museum & Archive, is on show at the Coventry Transport Museum, Hales Street, Coventry from 5 August to 24 October. Open 10.00-17.00, admission free. The star of the show is the newly-restored original 1930s Mobile Post Office, which was present at numerous fairs, race meetings, and other grand days out. Enquiries: 0124 7623 4270, or www.transport-museum.com •

Back issues James Light has *Bulletins* from 1967 to December 2000. He can send individual issues to readers on receipt of a stamped addressed envelope. Contact him at 4 Marsh Mill, Waldegrave Rd, Henley-on-Thames RG9 3JD •

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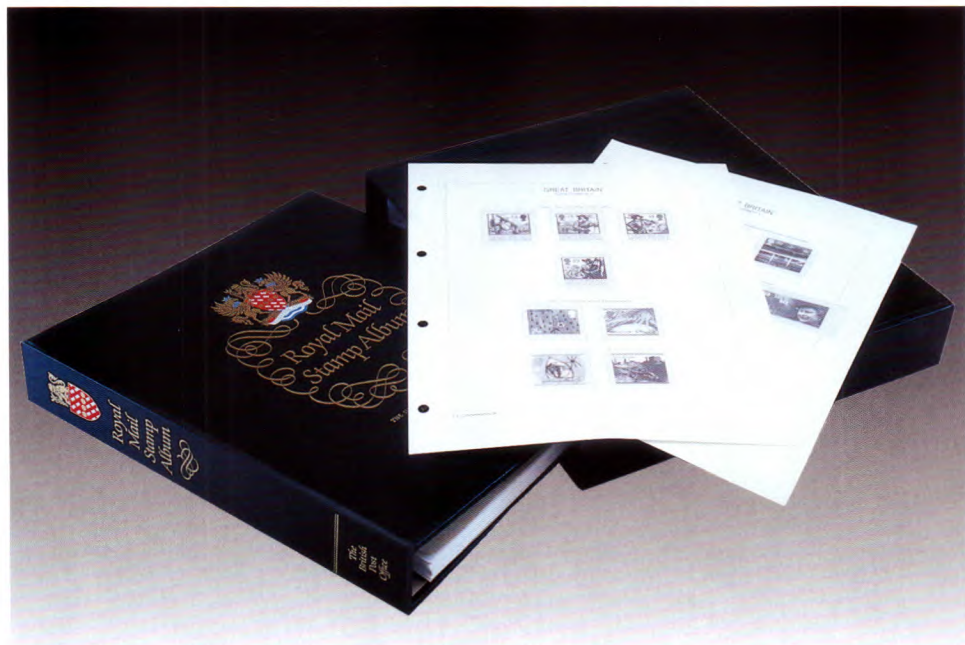
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(MS) = miniature sheet
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