

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The ROYAL MAIL magazine for stamp collectors

Volume 36 Number 11

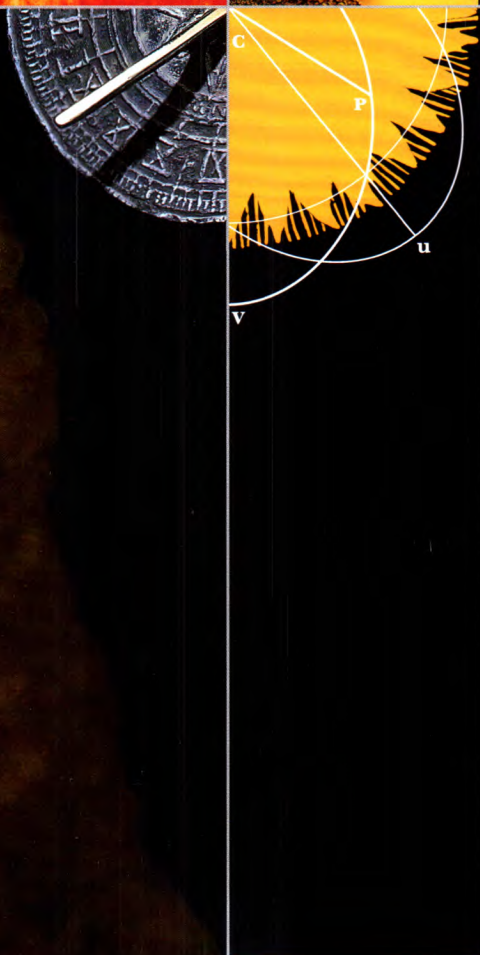
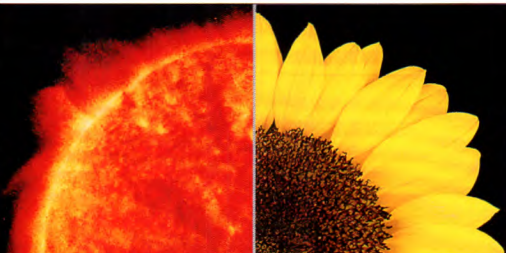
JULY 1999 • 85P

Bulletin

Collecting first day covers •
Millennium Scientists' Tale

'And now we have described
the system of the Sun, the
Earth, moon and planets...'

Isaac Newton, honoured in the Scientist's Tale issue



Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



Cover Sir Isaac Newton, one of the great British scientists whose work is recalled in the new Scientists' Tale stamps from Royal Mail, previewed in this issue. The young Newton filled his house with sundials, and he remained fascinated with the Sun all his life: when asked the time, he would look at a shadow rather than a clock.

Isaac Newton by Sir Godfrey Kneller, the National Portrait Gallery, London; Sun's corona, Science Photo Library/NASA; sundial and sunflower, Geoff Dann

Issues Note some items are available only from the British Philatelic Bureau and Post Office Counters philatelic outlets at main post offices in Bath, Belfast, Birmingham Brighton, Bristol, Cambridge Canterbury, Cardiff, Chester Colchester, Coventry, Croydon Durham, Edinburgh, Exeter Gatwick Airport, Glasgow Gloucester, Grimsby, Guildford Harrogate, Leeds, Leicester Liverpool, London (Lombard Street and Trafalgar Square) Manchester, Newcastle upon Tyne, Norwich, Nottingham Oxford, Plymouth, Portsmouth Southampton, Southend-on-Sea, Stevenage, Stratford-on-Avon, Truro, Windsor and York

1 July	Issue Philatelic Numismatic Cover Scotland (available from Philatelic Bureau)
6 July	Issue Millennium Citizens' Tale stamps and presentation pack
20 July	Withdrawal Magical Worlds stamps, pack, stamp cards and aerogrammes
27 July	Issue Millennium Scientists' Tale stamp cards
3 August	Issue Millennium Scientists' Tale stamps and presentation pack
11 August	Issue Solar Eclipse miniature sheets (contains four 64p Scientists' Tale stamps)
24 August	Withdrawal Carnival stamps, pack and stamp cards
26 August	Withdrawal Promotional retail stamp book – Camcorder

Revised philatelic service at Trafalgar Square

On 17 May the philatelic service at London's Trafalgar Square PO moved from the postshop at the Trafalgar Square end of the office to the Bureau de Change section at the Strand end. A new counter caters specifically for collectors, with good displays of material on sale, including this *Bulletin*. The philatelic counter is open Monday-Friday 08.30-20.00, Saturday 09.00-20.00.

Correction Contrary to information published last month, unfolded panes of the 26p Settlers' Tale and Workers' Tale stamps are not available from the British Philatelic Bureau. The pane is only available in books. We apologise for this error and for any disappointment caused.

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al Mail First Day Cover

A metermark cover from Derek Williams' collection, complete with blood transfusion service metermark, and Count Dracula himself pictured on the 26p stamp.

A first day cover collection

Derek Williams describes a small selection of favourite covers, to illustrate the very varied kinds of FDC which add interest to a collection

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The **British Philatelic Bulletin** is published monthly by Royal Mail, Royal London House, 22 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1NL • **Editor** JR Holman • **Price** 85p single copies from Collections, philatelic counters, and National Postal Museum • **Annual subscriptions** UK and Europe £9.50, rest of the world £13.50. Subscriptions should be sent to British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT • **Binders** to hold 24 issues, price £7. Available by post from British Philatelic Bureau (address above) • Royal Mail also publishes the fortnightly *British Postmark Bulletin*, giving details of forthcoming special handstamps and postmark slogans. Available on annual subscription from British Philatelic Bureau (address above) UK & Europe £10, rest of world £21.75 • **Copyright** Unless copyright attributed to specific authors, all articles and features may be reproduced without formal permission, but acknowledgement should be given to *British Philatelic Bulletin*. Requests to reproduce copyright articles should be sent to the Editor, 22 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1NL • **Design** by Robert Maude • **Printed** in Great Britain by The White Dove Press • **ISSN** 0953 8119

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Stamp scene July exhibitions • China '99 • British Youth Championships • Philatelic honours • Glasgow 2000 • GB *Journal*

Midpex enquiries M Benford,
Cloudshill, High Street, Shut-
ford, Banbury OX15 6PQ

**Rare Stamps of the World
enquiries** Harmers of London
Ltd, 0171 629 0218

July exhibitions The third Midpex show, after successful predecessors in 1995 and 1997, will be held at the Midlands Sports Centre for the Disabled, Tile Hill, Coventry on 3 July. Some 62 societies and 34 dealers will be on hand to provide information and material for specialist collectors. The Sports Centre is located adjacent to Tile Hill station, reached by local trains from Coventry's main railway station. The show will be open 10.00-16.00.

The third Rare Stamps of the World exhibition will be held at Claridge's, Brook Street, London W1 on 29-31 July. As in 1995 and 1997 this event will display stamps from some of the finest collections in the world – a real feast of philately. Amongst the items on display from the Royal Collection will be a unique block of 38 of the 1840 2d blue Plate 1. Joseph Hackmey is displaying items from his magnificent collection of Classic Jordan as a tribute to the late King Hussein. Other rare items will include a 1919 cover bearing the Newfoundland 'Hawker' and manuscript 'Martynside' stamps; Switzerland 1843 'Double Geneva'; and 1870 *Ballon Monté* cover from Paris to the USA. The following dealers and auction houses will be taking part: Amateur Collector Ltd, Argyll Etkin Ltd, Gerald Ritchie Bodily, Michael Chipperfield, Euro-Yu Stamp Collecting, Stanley Gibbons Ltd, John Taylor, Harmers of London, Andrew Lajer, W E Lea Ltd, Brian Moorhouse, Sotheby's, and Spink. Admission will be £10 which includes a fine exhibition handbook – likely to become a collectors' item in its own right •

China '99 This international exhibition, to be staged at the China International Exhibition Centre, Beijing, 21-30 August, marks the 50th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China and the 22nd Universal Postal Union Congress in China. Philately is an important constituent in Chinese cultural life. The exhibition's *Bulletin 2* tells us that there are over 19.5 million philatelists in China, some 3.6 million of whom are members of the National Philatelic Association. The country has over 47,000 grassroots philatelic organisations!

The exhibition, under FIP patronage, will comprise some 3500 frames and is being organised by the Ministry of Information Industry and the All China Philatelic Federation. It is classified as a General World Philatelic Exhibition and exhibits will be displayed under 12 competitive classes: FIP Championship; Traditional Philately; Postal History; Postal Stationery; Aerophilately; Astrophilately; Thematic Philately; Maximaphily; Revenue; Youth; Literature; and Experimental which is defined as 'not covered by any of the other classes and including materials issued within the past 15 years'. With the huge interest in stamps in China and the Far East, the exhibition should attract a massive number of visitors •

British Youth Stamp Championships Stanley Gibbons will sponsor the new Championships which is being launched at Autumn Stampex (22-26 September). This will be the most important competition for the UK's best young collectors to display their collections, and as the national youth competition judged to FIP standards, those winning the top awards qualify to represent the UK in international events. David Crocker, Director of Stanley Gibbons, said 'We are delighted to support the grass roots of the hobby. The sponsorship is a natural extension of the hard work that SG have been doing in recent years to promote the hobby amongst the younger generation, notably at the Wembley exhibitions over the last five years.'

The tradition of the original Melville name of the competition will be retained through the introduction of The Melville Cup for the most outstanding entry. (An article on Frederick Melville, 1882-1940, one of Britain's greatest philatelists, will appear in the *Bulletin* later in the year. ED.) The Championship medals have been designed by Jeffery Matthews, one of the UK's foremost stamp designers, selected by the Royal Mint to design the Millennium crown coin. ●

Championships entry form

Send a stamped addressed envelope to: Mrs J Wood, 6 Beech Grove, Whitley Bay NE26 3PJ

Glasgow 2000 This major national exhibition will be held at the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre, Glasgow, 17-19 November 2000. The SECC is Scotland's premier venue, located in the centre of Glasgow. Around 1.5 million people visit the SECC each year – more than Edinburgh Castle (1 million) or Glasgow's Burrell Collection (875,000). It is easily Scotland's biggest visitor attraction. The exhibition will extend to some 350 frames (700 faces) and the principal theme will be Postal History with both competitive and invited displays relating to this. A relevant part of the Royal Philatelic Collection will be shown in the Court of Honour. The competitive exhibits will be in four classes: International Level Postal History; National Level Postal History; Informal Postal History and ABPS International Literature. The informal competitions will be held with rules much more relaxed than is usual, both as to the subject matter allowed and the use of collateral material. Full details are found in the exhibition prospectus, available by sending a c5-size stamped addressed envelope with 39p postage (or two international reply coupons from overseas) to: Paul McGowan, 50 Laburnum Lea, Hamilton ML3 7GZ. Information about Glasgow 2000 can also be found on their website: www.btinternet.com/~philateglas2000. ●



Charles Hahn, 1919-99 Mr Hahn, noted for his concentric-circle mustaches, was a unique figure in Chicago-area stamp collecting for more than half a century. For 45 years he wrote the weekly stamp column for the *Chicago Sun-Times*. He was a keen collector and student of British postal history and in 1981, in collaboration with Ritchie Bodily and Christopher Jarvis, wrote *British Pictorial Envelopes of the 19th Century*, published by the Collectors Club of Chicago. It sparked great interest on both sides of the Atlantic and remains the definitive reference work for this subject. (From report in *Linn's Stamp News*.) ●

NYSG donations and enquiries to John Davies,
3 Longfellow Road, Banbury
OX16 9LB

National Youth Stamp Group The Group has announced offers of sponsorship for its activities from the Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS), Philatelic Traders' Society (PTS), Stanley Gibbons Ltd, the Postal History Society, Insurance & Banking Philatelic Society and the Patent Office Philatelic Society. This support builds on monetary donations and sponsorship in kind from the British Philatelic Trust (BPT), Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, De La Rue, The House of Questa, and Walsall Security Printers. John Davies, Chairman of the NYSG, said 'This is further evidence of an increasing willingness on the part of organisations to support events promoting youth philately. I am sure that with further financial support we will be able to build on our success even further.' ●

Details of future SG auctions
Ian Hunter, Stanley Gibbons
Auctions, 399 Strand, London
WC2R 0LX

Ship Letter makes nearly £2000 A near record number of bidders ensured a very successful Stanley Gibbons auction on 24-26 March with a total realisation of nearly £450,000. The GB section included an example of the very scarce Ship Letter crown oval marking with 'Dover' inserted in manuscript which sold for £1955 (estimate £700-800). A fine pair of the 1840 1d black from the rare Plate 11 made £3450 and a lovely marginal plate proof block of four in green of the 1913 2s6d Seahorse design fetched £1840 (est £1400-1600) ●



Susan Oliver Awarded ABPS
Congress Medal, 1999

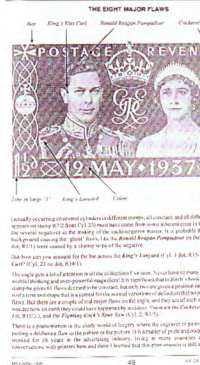
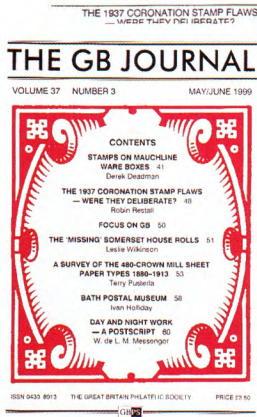
Philatelic honours This year's signatories to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists are Antonio Bertolaja of Italy and Joseph Hackmey of Israel. Signor Bertolaja has built up major collections of Cape of Good Hope and Newfoundland, the former remarkable for inclusion of archive material. He has imparted his knowledge over many years by articles in *Il Collezionista*, *Qui Filatelia*, and *The London Philatelist*. Mr Hackmey, the first philatelist from Israel to sign the Roll, has formed very fine collections of New Zealand, Ceylon, Chile and the EEF stamps of Palestine and Transjordan, and written important articles on the classical issues of New Zealand and on the overprint plates used for the stamps of Transjordan.

Susan Oliver has been awarded the Congress Medal of the Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS) – the UK's highest honour for voluntary service to the hobby. Mrs Oliver has served many organisations, but it is for her important work in youth philately that she is perhaps best known. A member of the National Youth Stamp Group, she produces a newsletter for Federations, Associations and those running school and youth groups, and helps organise weekends for youth officers, visits and talks to school groups and Stamp Active days. Her main aim is to help young people to improve their collections to reach competitive standards. Her own collecting interest is Scandinavia, especially the Faroe Islands; she is a Past President of the Scandinavian Philatelic Society.

The ABPS Award of Merit, for voluntary services to philately at regional, specialist and local society level, has been given to J O Brettell, N Cape, J S Crowther, R G Frost, N Harper-Scott, A R Jones, F E Lomas, J M McGrath, J & E Miller, L Parks, and J Wood. Our congratulations to all on this recognition of their work for the hobby ●

GB Journal The May/June issue of the Great Britain Philatelic Society's journal contains features on stamps on Mauchline ware boxes (by Derek Deadman), 'missing' Somerset House George v Rolls (Leslie Wilkinson), 480-crown mill sheet paper types 1880-1913 (Terry Pusterla), Bath Postal Museum (Ivan Holliday), and early stamp printing (W de L M Messenger), as well as adverts of specialist GB dealers. Copies are available at £3.50 from GB Philatelic Publications Ltd, 27 Landford Road, London SW15 1AQ.

For details of the Society contact the Membership Secretary: Andrew Lajer, Old Post Office, Hurst, Reading RG10 0TR •



Royal Mail news Scottish Parliament PNC

• Exhibition planned at the British Library

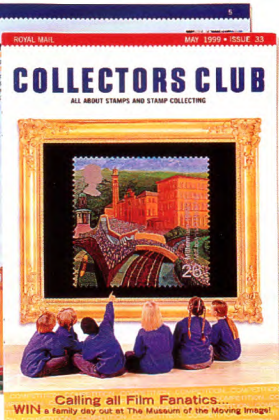
British Library exhibition A major exhibition of stamp artwork and treasures from the British Library's collection will open in August at the new British Library, Euston Road, London NW1 (near St Pancras Station). Adam Novak's article this month previews this special Royal Mail sponsored exhibition which will be open seven days a week, admission free. Further information will be given in next month's *Bulletin*. For advance information call the British Library information line on 0171 412 7332 •

Hockney visits mill on stamp Internationally-renowned artist, David Hockney CH, visited Salts Mill at Saltaire near Bradford on 2 May just two days before the issue of the Workers' Tale stamps, the 26p value of which features Hockney's painting of the Mill. Bradford-born Mr Hockney received a small silver brooch including the image on the stamp, commissioned by Salts Mill and made by Horbury-based designer Fiona McKay. The Mill houses a gallery devoted to Hockney's work. The 26p stamp is both the biggest print-run of any Hockney work, also the smallest Hockney artwork produced. (From report in *Yorkshire Post*). •

Post Office acquires second German parcel business In March we reported that the British Post Office had made its first major foreign acquisition, German Parcel. In May the Post Office acquired Der Kurier which offers a guaranteed overnight delivery service throughout Germany. The company has some 80 depots and employs 2500 workers. In 1998 it had a turnover of £40 million, handling some 780,000 express parcels. Der Kurier will work in tandem with German Parcel but remain independent operationally and organisationally •



Collectors Club membership costs £5 for two years, £7 for five years UK; £9.50 or £13.50 overseas



Collectors Club In May we featured the March issue of Royal Mail's *Collectors Club* magazine for young collectors. The May issue contained a feature article on the Workers' Tale stamps, and previewed the Entertainers' Tale and Royal Wedding issues. There was a prize competition and the Collectors Corner supplement contained many prizes for young readers together with members' wants and swaps. The magazine now has a new Editor, Andra Rigby, who tells us of her interests. One of her two favourite books is Philip Pullman's *Northern Lights* which featured on one of three Magical Worlds aerogrammes issued last July.

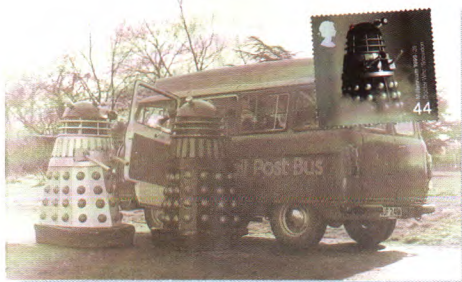
The Collectors Club is aimed at collectors aged between six and 14. Readers knowing of young collectors who might like to join should write for an application form to: Collectors Club, Dept 2404, Sunderland SR9 9XN or e-mail: Collectors-club@royalmail.co.uk ●

Record Easter Royal Mail handled its busiest Easter – delivering a record 16.6 million cards and letters. The number of Easter cards has grown by around a third over the past five years and the period is now second only to Christmas for mail levels. (Report in *Courier*, Royal Mail staff paper.) ●

Bulletin binders Keep your copies of the *British Philatelic Bulletin* and *British Postmark Bulletin* in good order in our specially-produced binders. These are available from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT. Price £7 Philatelic Bulletin binder (order code PB001) or £6.50 Postmark Bulletin binder (PB322). For a free sample copy of the *Postmark Bulletin* write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 22 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1NL ●

Scottish Parliament PNC Price £12.95 from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT

Scottish Parliament PNC Readers are reminded that the latest Royal Mail/Royal Mint philatelic numismatic cover will be available from 1 July. Featuring Falkland Palace, a home of the Scottish kings, the cover bears the four new Scottish country stamps cancelled by a special 1 July postmark. Encapsulated within the cover is the 1999 £1 coin featuring the Scottish lion. This cover is likely to prove very popular, so early ordering is advised ●



Daleks on the loose The 44p stamp in the recent Entertainers' Tale issue features a dalek from the BBC programme *Dr Who*.

Thanks to Mark Kearnes, we illustrate an earlier appearance of the daleks at the launch of the Royal Mail postbus service at Sittingbourne in Kent in 1974. We assume the daleks did not actually travel on the postbus! ●

Cylinder update The cylinders and colours for the Royal Wedding stamps are: 26p 1A (vermilion) 1B (black) 1C (grey-black) 1D (silver) P82 (phosphor) • 64p 1A (new blue) 1B (black) 1C (grey-black) 1D (silver) P83 (phosphor).

The new Scottish stamps are from cylinders: 2nd w1 (new blue) w1 (blue) w1 (silver) • 1st w1 (greenish yellow) w1 (deep rose-red) w1 (rose-red) w1 (silver) • E (30p) w1 (bright lilac) w1 (deep lilac) w1 (silver) • 64p w1 (greenish yellow) w1 (bright magenta) w1 (new blue) w1 (grey-black) w1 (silver).

The new Welsh stamps are from cylinders: 2A1L/nd w1 (orange-brown) w1 (yellow-orange) w1 (black) • 1A1F/st w1 (blue-green) w1 (greenish yellow) w1 (silver) w1 (black) • E (30p) w1 (greenish blue) w1 (deep greenish blue) w1 (grey-black) • 64p w1 (violet) w1 (gold) w1 (silver) w1 (black).

Phosphor number was w1 in all cases •

Proposed Scottish Assembly issue 1979

Colin Wilson recalls his hectic design work



WE ARE PLEASED to show here four of the eight designs prepared in 1979 for stamps marking the opening of the proposed Scottish Assembly. Following the general election of May 1979, the new Conservative government abandoned its predecessor's proposals for assemblies for Scotland and Wales. Now 20 years later, the new Labour government is going ahead with devolution.

These 1979 designs, now in the National Postal Museum, were the work of Colin Wilson. He recalls the hectic work on these designs, completed over eight weeks. The commission involved numerous trips to London to consult with Royal Mail's Design Advisor Peter Shrivès. Mr Wilson described that busy period of his life as 'ridiculous, slightly absurd'. Nevertheless he found the work interesting and enjoyable. His preparatory sketch books are now in the National Library of Scotland. The eight designs feature Scottish symbols, some now shown on the new country stamps issued last month. Mr Wilson points out that the number of symbols increased on the higher value designs. He also worked on the designs of some Scottish aerogrammes, in conjunction with Ruari McLean Associates Ltd •

Citizens' rights As Citizens' Tale stamps go on sale, James Mackay recounts the origins and development of our everyday rights

At first glance, the theme of July's Millennium issue does not seem promising; concern for the rights of citizens is an abstract concept, difficult to visualise on a postage stamp. And yet, the four artists selected for this task achieve their goals very effectively.

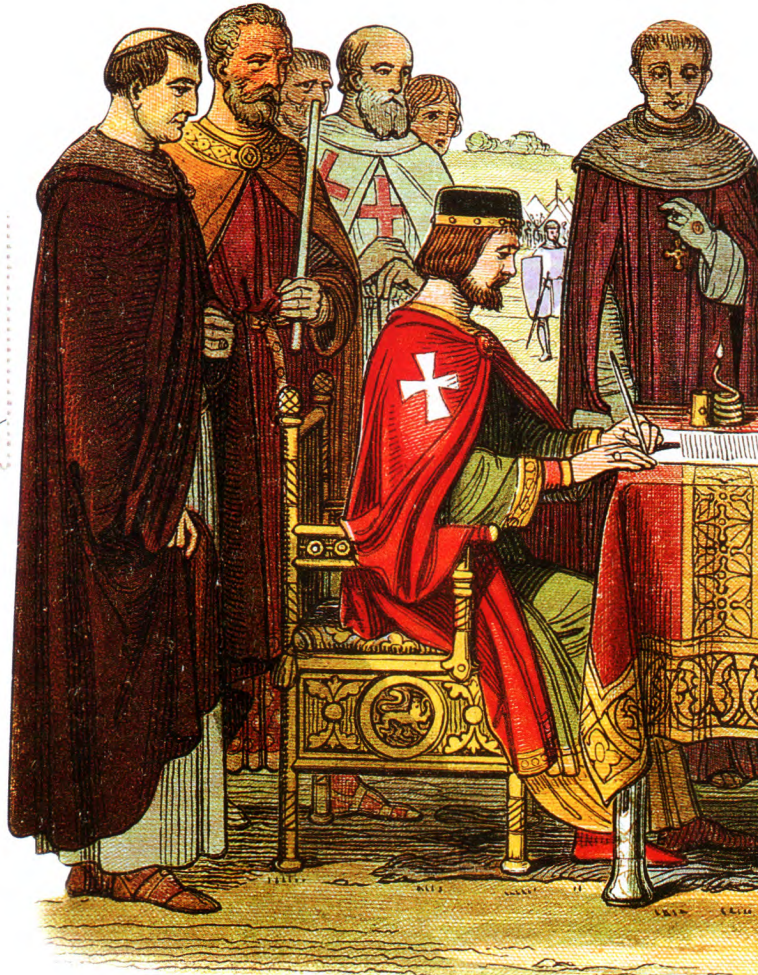
OF COURSE it could be argued that a design symbolising the first rights of the citizen – freedom, justice, equal rights, liberty and lawful judgment – as embodied in Magna Carta might have been more vividly conveyed by a motif showing King

John putting his seal to Magna Carta under the approving eyes of his great magnates at Runnymede back in 1215, but why should a bad king get the privilege of his image on a postage stamp? Alan Kitching's strident use of primary colours and block lettering of the essential rights, set against the title of the great charter (64p), certainly creates the greatest impact.



Magna Carta defined the relationship between the king and his barons, who were primarily concerned for their interests. It has been re-interpreted to embody such rights as trial by jury and Parliamentary control of taxation, not even dreamed of in the early 13th century.

The illustration right, and the Gibraltar stamp opposite, perpetuate the myth that King John signed the charter. He did not actually put his name to it, but appended his seal. There is some controversy as to whether he was literate.



What was essentially a document defining the relationship between the king and his barons has been re-interpreted by later generations as an embodiment of all kinds of rights. Nevertheless, Magna Carta is the bed-rock on which all subsequent grants of rights by the crown were ultimately based.

Oddly enough, the 750th anniversary in June 1965 passed unnoticed in Britain where a month later two stamps marked the Parliament of Simon de Montfort in 1265. Commemoration of subsequent constitutional landmarks has been decidedly patchy. While the Civil War between king and Parliament in the 1640s merited a set of four stamps in 1992, neither the Bill of Rights (1688) nor the Claim of Right in Scotland (1689) were commemorated, and yet these were the instruments which established a constitutional monarchy backed by parliamentary democracy. Admittedly, both were decidedly imperfect in the late 17th century and 250 years would elapse before something approaching the modern system evolved. A major leap forward was the reform of Parliament in 1832, with the abolition of the rotten boroughs and the enfranchisement of the new industrial towns.

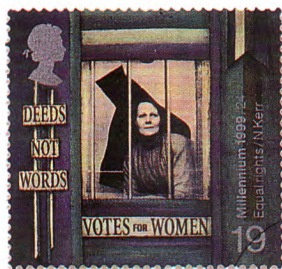


Gibraltar 1s by Alfred Ryman, issued to mark Human Rights Year in 1968.



Above, one of the two stamps released in July 1965 to mark the Parliament of Simon de Montfort in 1265, from which our present parliamentary system is derived.

The USA, sharing a common constitutional heritage, issued a 5c stamp to mark the 750th anniversary of Magna Carta. It features King John's crown and a procession of barons.



The sombre 19p Citizens' Tale stamp by Natasha Kerr shows a suffragette behind bars. The muted colours of black, green and purple are derived from the WSPU emblem and sash. The slogans 'deeds not words' and 'votes for women' were two of the most effective of the suffragette movement.

Women's rights As men struggled to broaden the franchise, it was virtually unthinkable that the vote should be extended to their women-folk. Yet, as early as 1792, Mary Wollstonecraft published *Vindication of the Rights of Women* in which she argued that we should follow the example of the French Revolution which accorded equal rights to women. Unhappily the Revolution descended into terror and its ideas, both good and bad, were summarily rejected. The earliest draft of the People's Charter (1838) referred to votes for women, but this was soon abandoned as a daft notion which would only lead to ridicule.

From time to time, the more enlightened politicians, such as Richard Cobden, Joseph Hume and even Disraeli, spoke up in favour of women's rights; but it was not until John Stuart Mill entered Parliament in 1865 that the matter was taken seriously. Throughout his Parliamentary career Mill continued to crusade tirelessly on behalf of women's suffrage, giving the lead to various women's movements which developed from 1866 onwards. The first breakthrough came in 1869 when municipal suffrage was extended to women ratepayers. Twelve years later the Isle of Man granted women property-owners the right to vote.

The Women's Social and Political Union, popularly known as suffragettes, resorted to violent tactics and dared the authorities to arrest and imprison them. In prison, they went on hunger strikes and were then forcibly fed, a practice which led to permanent impairment and even death in some cases. By the Cat and Mouse Act of 1913, prisoners on the point of death were released temporarily, only to be re-arrested when their health improved. Mrs Pankhurst was re-arrested no fewer than eight times in 1913 alone.

Meanwhile the suffrage movement was making significant headway in the British Empire. After the Isle of Man, New Zealand was the first country to extend the vote to women, in 1893. South Australia (1894), Western Australia (1899) and the Commonwealth of Australia (1902) were also early in the field. A 45c stamp of June 1994 showing suffragettes parading with banners celebrated the centenary of the first attempt at women's emancipation in Australia.



Sir Joseph Bazalgette, the engineer of London's drainage system (opposite page, under construction). Completed in 1875, it still functions today.

Clean water Michael Craig-Martin's subject for the 26p stamp is the right to health. At first sight, the motif of a water tap may seem a strange way to symbolise this; but when you think of it, a clean and reliable water supply is the absolute prerequisite of healthy living. It is something which most people simply take for granted, and yet little more than 150 years ago it was virtually non-existent. There were pioneering efforts in water purification by sand filtration at Paisley and Chelsea in the early 19th century, but it was not until the terrible cholera epidemics of the 1830s that something was done on a nationwide basis to raise the quality of drinking water and, at the same time, regulate the disposal of sewage and industrial waste. The manner by which water in the London area is endlessly recycled, from the screening and treatment of raw sewage, through a progression of filters and chemical treatment, to a ready drinkable supply is nothing short of a miracle, and certainly one of the unsung achievements of civil engineering.



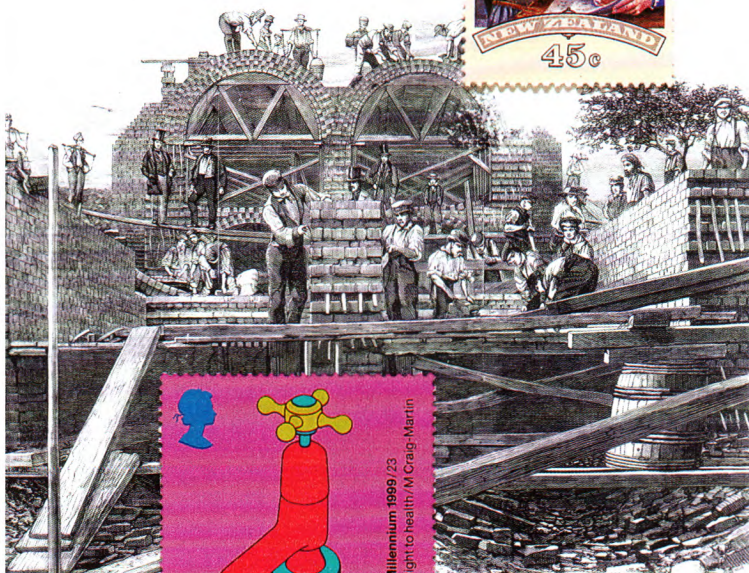
Women's Vote 1898-1998

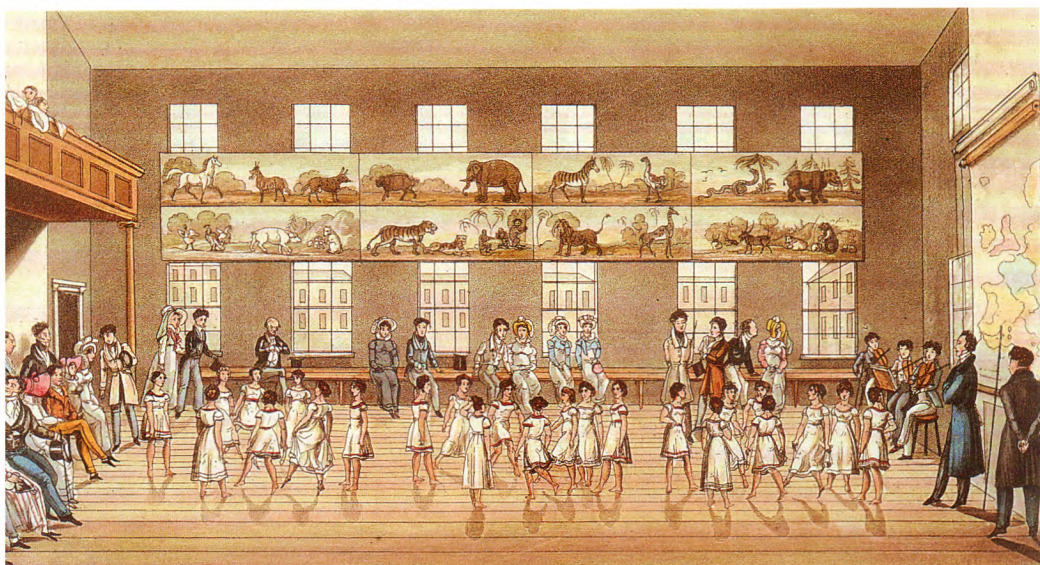


Mrs Emmeline Pankhurst, top left, a founder of the WSPU in 1903, was portrayed on a 9d stamp of 1968 featuring her statue at Westminster. She also appeared on a 1981 Manx stamp, along with her mother Mrs Sophia Jane Goulden, a champion of women's rights on the island. Emmeline and her daughters Christabel and Sylvia campaigned for over three decades to win the vote for women, but not until 1918 were women over 30 deemed mature enough to be granted this fundamental right.

The centenary of the vote in New Zealand was marked in 1993 by a set of four stamps showing suffragists signing a petition (above left), war workers, a housewife and children, and modern women.

Unlike the militant suffragettes of the WSPU, the 'suffragists' protested by peaceful means under their national president Mrs Henry Fawcett, widow of the blind Postmaster General (in the march above, second from left).





Allan Drummond's design for the 44p Citizens' Tale stamp shows various teaching activities in a 'doll's house' effect.

Above, schoolgirls dancing a quadrille at the world's first school for infants, opened by the visionary Robert Owen in his utopian mill town of New Lanark.

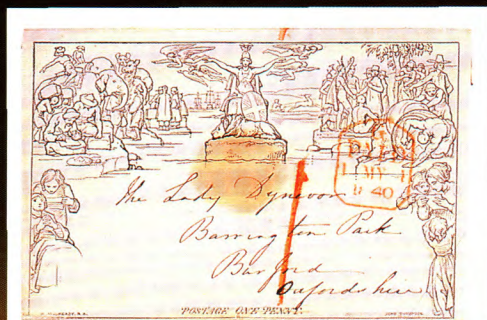
King John p334-5 and school above, Mary Evans Picture Library; Joseph Bazalgette p336, drains construction and march p337, Illustrated London News Picture Library; Mrs Pankhurst by Olive Edis p337, National Portrait Gallery, London

Elementary education The right to learn, summed up in Allan Drummond's montage of images for the 44p stamp, is relatively recent, dating only from 1870 in England and Wales when the Elementary Education Act provided a free basic education, although previously there were numerous denominational schools and local foundations on a fee-paying principle. By contrast, an act of 1494 in Scotland had stipulated compulsory education for the sons of freeholders, extended to all boys by acts of 1560 and 1694 which provided parish schools with provision for higher education for the brighter pupils at the four universities. The training of teachers was instituted in 1846 when the pupil-teacher system was adopted. Cambridge established the first teaching diplomas in 1879.

A major step forward was achieved exactly 100 years ago with the Education Act of 1899 which combined the former Department of Science and Art, the education endowment branch of the Charity Commission and the Education Department to form the Board of Education, headed by a minister of cabinet rank.

In the course of this century the school leaving age has been progressively raised from 12 to 16 and provision has been made for nursery schools, further education, day-release schemes, continuation courses and adult education. Special schools for defective, handicapped and epileptic children were provided by the State under the act of 1899. Free or cheap school meals, physical education, gymnasias and playing fields are some of the benefits achieved since 1906, while national systems of examinations and certification and the scheme introduced by Lord Burnham for the regulation of teachers' salaries have helped to unify standards in the teaching profession •

The National Postal Museum



Three of the new set of five postcards issued on 4 May by the Association of Friends of the NPM, featuring items from the Museum's Phillips Collection. Clockwise from above are cards 5, 8 and 6.

THE MUSEUM GALLERIES are now closed to the public and staff at King Edward Street are busy packing stamps and artefacts ready for the move to temporary accommodation at the Post Office Archives, Mount Pleasant, London EC1A 1BB.

Copies of the Museum's *Review* of 1996 and 1997-98, also the first four of its *Special Stamp History* books (1929 Postal Union Congress; 1935 George v Silver Jubilee and 1936 proposed Memorial stamps; 1936 proposed Edward VIII Coronation; and 1953 Coronation) are all available from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT.

ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS The Friends of the NPM continues an active programme of events, publication of a worthwhile journal, *Cross Post*, and postcards featuring items from the NPM's collections. The second set of cards was issued on 4 May and features items in the Phillips Collection. Card 5 shows the 1d Mulready envelope used on 1 May 1840 although they were not valid to prepay postage until the 6th. Card 6 features a mint marginal block of 24 of the 1d black with part inscription in the right sheet margin. Card 7 shows the Rainbow series of colour trials, second plate, fourth state, 20 November 1840, olive green. Card 8 features a complete pane of 20 of the 1867 1s with large white letters in corners, plate 4, watermark Spray of Rose, perf 14. Finally, card 9 shows a tête-bêche strip of three of the 1d Postal Fiscal Draft stamp, one of only three known •

To make an appointment to view any material not already packed to move, telephone 0171 776 3636.

Reviews cost £5 each

Special Stamp History books cost £7.50 each

Postcards cost £2 per set unused, or £3.40 stamped with one of the five 1st class stamps from the Profile on Print book and cancelled by special Friends of the NPM postmark for 4 May. Postage 50p.

Orders and enquiries Ray Pottle, PO Box 40, Uckfield, TN22 2SP. Telephone 01825 766546.

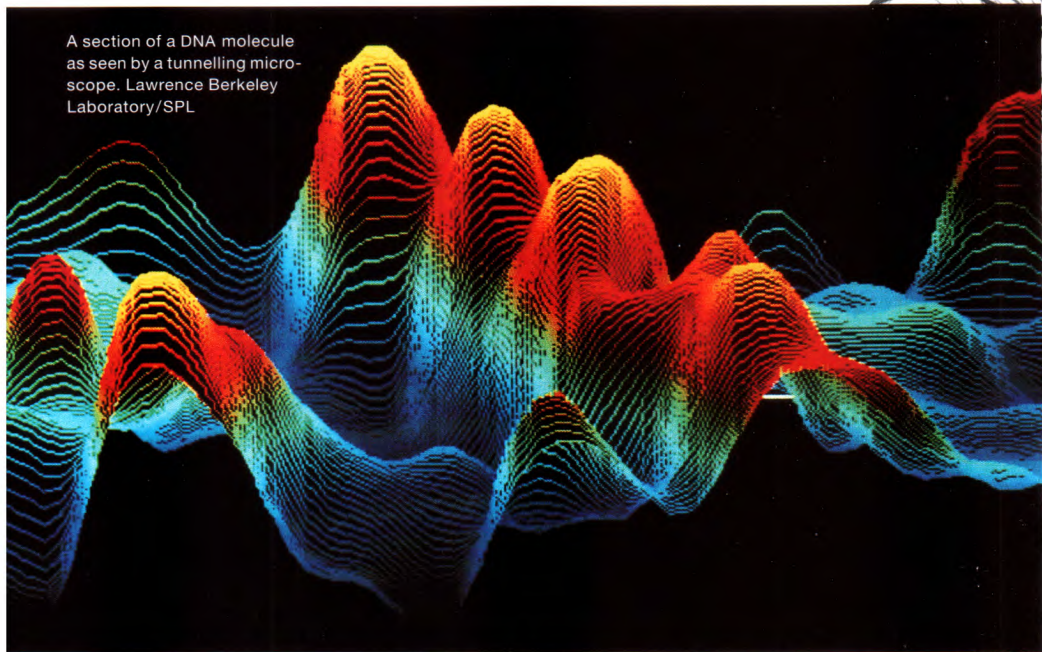
The Scientists' Tale

The eighth of 12 sets of Millennium stamps to be issued during 1999 is on the theme of scientists

Scientists' Tale stamps will go on sale at post offices and philatelic outlets on 3 August

The design of the **19p** stamp, by Mark Curtis, features DNA decoding. DNA (Deoxyribonucleic acid) is a nucleic acid containing dextrose (sugar) consisting of complex molecules, present in chromosomes of all plant and animal cells and carrying coded instructions for passing on of hereditary characteristics. The molecular structure of DNA was first proposed by James Watson and Frances Crick in 1953; together with Maurice Wilkins they were awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1962.

A section of a DNA molecule as seen by a tunnelling microscope. Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory/SPL



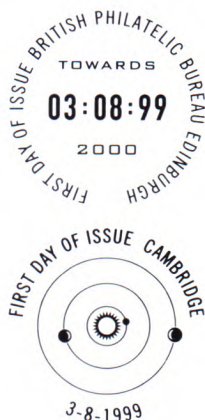
Opposite: Charles Darwin by Harry Furniss. Illustrations of W G Grace by Furniss were featured on the 1973 County Cricket set. National Portrait Gallery, London

The design of the **26p** value, by Ray Harris Ching, recalls Charles Darwin's theory of evolution. Darwin began to study botany, zoology and geology at Cambridge and in 1831 signed on as a botanist aboard the survey ship HMS *Beagle* for a five-year voyage around South America and the South Pacific. By 1838 he had developed his theory of natural selection but this went unpublished for nearly 20 years. After a young naturalist, Alfred Wallace, sent him a paper on his theories, Darwin arranged a joint reading of Wallace's paper and his own notes to the Linnean Society. *On the Origin of Species* was published the following year. In essence his theories are still accepted by today's scientists.





The subject of the 19p value is DNA decoding. The 26p stamp represents Charles Darwin's theory of evolution, still accepted in essence by today's scientists. Michael Faraday's work on electricity is the subject of the 44p value, and the 64p reminds us of the role of British scientists in developing the telescope, from Sir Isaac Newton to the Hubble space telescope.



FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets about a week before 3 August, price 25p. Orders for FDCs with the stamps cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of the Bureau or Cambridge (location of DNA research) must reach the Bureau by 3 August. Price £2.22 UK (including VAT) or £1.89 overseas (no VAT).

Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT, or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Wexham Road, Slough SL1 1AA (Cambridge postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FD9917' (Bureau), or 'FD9918' (Cambridge). Covers can be posted or handed in at main post offices for the Cambridge postmark. A non-pictorial Cambridge postmark is also available from the Slough Handstamp Centre: request 'FD9918 NP'.

Bilingual Welsh/English versions of the Cambridge pictorial and non-pictorial handstamps can be obtained by sending covers to the Cardiff Handstamp Centre quoting reference FD9918 Bil (pictorial) and FD9918 NP Bil (non-pictorial).

Sponsored handstamps will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from the Bureau (£10 UK/Europe; £21.75 elsewhere). Covers may bear just the 19p Scientists' Tale stamp for any philatelic postmark in use on 3 August.

MILLENNIUM PHILATELIC PRODUCTS A pack (£1.90) and stamp cards (25p each) will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets. A Millennium Stamps Album, with pages for the 1999 issues, also three FDC and three presentation pack pages, is available from the British Philatelic Bureau. Price: album and slipcase £19.99; sets of pages only £9.99. A presentation case has been produced to display the Millennium packs and covers.

FUTURE 1999 MILLENNIUM ISSUES: 7 September Farmers' Tale; 5 October Soldiers' Tale; 2 November Christians' Tale; and 7 December Artists' Tale. The 2000 series will begin on 18 January; details to be announced.

Technical details

Printer House of Questa

Process 19p & 64p gravure, 26p & 44p litho

Size 37 × 35mm

Sheets 100

Perforation 13.5 × 14 19p & 64p ● 14 × 14.5 26p & 44p

Phosphor One band 19p ● two bands others

Gum PVA

Central gutter Vertical 19p & 64p ● Horizontal 26p & 44p

Enquiries British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT





SOLAR ECLIPSE MINIATURE SHEET To mark the eclipse of the Sun, Royal Mail will issue a miniature sheet on 11 August. This will contain four of the 64p Scientists' Tale stamps showing Saturn as seen from the Hubble Space Telescope. The sheet will be available from main Post Office Counter outlets nationwide and additional selected outlets in South West England, price £2.56. Please note that the sheet will be issued on Wednesday 11 August – the day of the eclipse – rather than on a Tuesday, the usual day of issue of special stamps. The sheet (88mm × 120mm), designed by Silk Pearce design group, has been printed by De La Rue in gravure, the 64p stamp from sheets of 100 (3 August) are by Questa in gravure.

A first day cover envelope will be available from main Post Office Counter outlets and additional selected outlets in the South West

about one week before 11 August, price 25p. Exceptionally, the first day cover envelope will remain on sale until 12 August and collectors will be able to hand in or post covers for the first day postmark. Pictorial first day postmarks will be available from the Bureau and Falmouth. Serviced first day covers cost £3.43 to UK addresses (includes VAT), £2.92 overseas (no VAT). Collectors may post or hand in stamped covers at main post offices on 11 and 12 August to receive the Falmouth postmarks. Covers may also be sent to the Bureau for the Bureau postmark (reference FD9919) or for the Falmouth postmark (FD9920) to Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Penarth Road, Cardiff CF1 1AA. A bilingual (Welsh/English) version of the Falmouth postmark is also available from the Cardiff Handstamp Centre (FD9920 Bil) and for those preferring plain postmarks, non-pictorial versions of the Falmouth postmark will be available from the Cardiff Handstamp Centre – FD9920 NP (English) or FD9920 NP Bil (bilingual). There will be no presentation pack or stamp card for this issue •



Bigger is not necessarily better Report from IBRA '99 in Nuremberg, by Franceska Rapkin RDP FRPSL

IBRA '99, the exhibition that German exhibitors have waited 26 years to experience, closed on 4 May. If size were the only criteria for success, then it must be considered a wonderful exhibition.

IBRA covered an area of some 39,000 square metres in four halls of a modern, airy exhibition complex in Nuremberg. The exhibition marked the 150th anniversary of the first Bavarian postage stamps, hence the choice of Bavaria as venue. Was it the organising committee or the post office who decided that access to overseas visitors was an irrelevance? Although well fed by the autobahn system, it was difficult to reach Nuremberg

by plane. Often there was only one direct flight per day, or entry into Germany was via Frankfurt with an onward flight or a long train journey. Rumour has it that Nuremberg was partly chosen because of its convenience for the President of the German Philatelic Federation, who lives in neighbouring Forstheim.

This lack of consideration was evidenced by the relatively few overseas dealers and visitors. Most of the British collectors who visited IBRA were either exhibitors or German-area collectors. Further evidence of the lack of consideration for overseas guests was the exhibition catalogue and



IBRA miniature sheet issued by the German PO, reproducing the first stamps of Bavaria (1849) and Saxony (1850)

other forms of written communication. Apart from Bulletins 1 and 2, where the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie (FIP) rules dictate that they must be written in all FIP languages, the catalogue was written only in German. Nor was it user-friendly. It stated where the main philatelic groups would be found – Traditional, Postal History, Thematics etc, but gave no indication of numbering, making it hard to find individual exhibits. The layout of the exhibits themselves compounded the problem.

The best organisation was in Hall 8 – exclusively used by the German Post Office for all the services that they offered. An extremely useful and very under-used facility (because it was not widely advertised) was the offer to mail books and other paper products by airmail-book post to anywhere in the world free of charge. It was the only counter that was under-used.

Guided tours The German Post Office also bussed school children, collectors and the merely curious from all the surrounding areas and further afield, also free of charge. The children were given guided tours, lectures and introduced to stamp collecting, while most of the adults appeared to be only interested in filling their passports and queuing for hours to see the Treasures of Philately. The passports could be purchased for under £2, but cost some £80 to fill. Not a cheap exercise and hardly saleable at a later date. The postal administrations were less than happy with the endless queues of people who were only interested in the cheapest stamp to stick into their

passport. Hall 9 was devoted to postal administrations, some exhibits and various German philatelic organisations. The passage through Hall 9 was a slow and laborious obstacle race especially over the weekend.

With the exception of Hall 8, which was large but not overwhelming, the other halls were massive. Each could, without additional space, have housed a major philatelic exhibition. Apart from interesting displays and artefacts, such as the beautiful, enormous Maybach cars, much space was wasted, eg several artistically scattered groups of shop mannequins, who looked as if they had been dipped – clothes and all – into plaster of Paris. Apart from looking decorative and filling space, they served no useful purpose.

The vast expanses made the exhibition very hard on the feet, and very tiring. The lack of any form of notice board or message system made meeting friends by design almost impossible. The most likely place to meet was in Hall 7, where the dealers and thematic exhibits were situated.

Were the British happy? Some of the exhibitors were, most were not. On the other hand, the British dealers with whom I spoke were certainly happy. Most said that they had covered all their expenses in the first days.

Outsize national For German collectors IBRA was undoubtedly a success. They came in their droves to see overseas dealers and exhibits for the first time at home in a quarter century. For those collectors, who visit overseas exhibitions, the feeling was more of an outsize national than a true international exhibition. Certainly for those who did not speak German, IBRA was not user-friendly. For youngsters it was a marvellous introduction to stamp collecting. It is to be hoped that the German Post Office, local societies and collectors will ensure that the interest is kept alive ●



Interesting covers from my collection by Derek Williams of the Association of Collectors of GB First Day Covers



Above a coin cover produced for Royal Mail and the Royal Mint on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the investiture of the Prince of Wales on 1 March 1994.

As I HAVE SAID in a previous article, the major difference between mainstream philately and the collecting of first day covers is franking. Not that philatelists discount the postmarks, or that FDC collectors aren't interested in stamps, in fact both are an essential part of each hobby. The point is that a first day cover is essentially one that has been franked on the day the stamps affixed to it were issued. Therefore the most interesting aspect to the FDC collector is the postmark itself, not the stamps, whereas the philatelist is primarily interested in the stamps.

For every type of postmark there are specialist collectors, including thematic collectors just as in mainstream philately. The majority of collections include at least CDS (counter date stamp), SHS (special handstamp) and slogan cancellations, but there are many other kinds such as meter-mark cancellations, also being collected.

When I was wondering what to write about for this article, John Holman said: 'What about some favourites from your own collection?' After some thought I realised that that was a very clever way to illustrate a few examples of the very different kinds of FDC that can be found in an average collection, so here goes.

A coin cover Produced for Royal Mail and the Royal Mint on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the investiture of the Prince of Wales on 1 March 1994, this is a FDC incorporating a medal minted for the occasion, and a full set of the commemorative stamps plus the £1.50 Castle stamp.

An interesting Royal connection is that the insert card bears a picture of Caernarfon castle, and the £1.50 stamp bears a photograph of the castle taken by Prince Andrew.

Both sides of the actual medal are visible as it is embedded in a transparent plastic casing in the insert card, and there are circular holes on both sides of the envelope so that the medal can be seen in full. With the glittering metal of the medal shining through, and the silver printing on the envelope, this is a very beautiful cover that would enhance any kind of collection.

A signed cover Autographed covers are a very popular area of collecting, and some of them fetch very high prices at auctions. For the one illustrated here I chose a comedy show with some very famous names in it that was on at the time, found a FDC that was quite comical itself with the 'Centenary of Picture Postcards' stamp issue



Left For this signed cover, I chose a comedy show that was on at the time, and sent it to the manager of the theatre with the request that he ask the artistes to sign it for me.

Above An all-time great metermark cover produced by Bob Stevens of Greensleeves Covers. With the blood transfusion service metermark asking for blood, and Count Dracula himself pictured on the 26p stamp the cover speaks for itself – and him!



Below This slogan cover, by Edgar Smith of Cuthbert Covers, is a good example of what can be done with sufficient inspiration and dedication. What could be closer related than 'reading is fundamental' (with its play on the word 'fun'), and Enid Blyton's novels?

on it, and sent it to the manager of the theatre with the request that he ask the artistes to sign it for me.

This method does not work every time by any means and I have lost quite a few covers when the addressee or his disinterested secretary 'binned' them. There isn't much one can do about that, no-one is going to admit throwing the cover away, but it's a method well worth trying. The covers are of no great value before they are autographed, otherwise it wouldn't be worth the risk of sending them. Even including the cost of postage they are only going to cost you perhaps two or three pounds and are easily replaced. But a successful result is a joy to own and would probably fetch £20 or more in an auction.

A week or two after posting this one it dropped back through the letter box beautifully signed by Charlie Drake, Jim Davidson and Jess Conrad. But this is not a particularly wonderful example: I have a friend who has been doing it for years and has the signatures of all the most famous film stars, in many cases with two on the same cover. Names like Sinatra, Bogart, Crosby, Astaire... you name one, he's got him – or her – on a first day cover.

A metermark cover This type of cover has been around for years, but has increased greatly in popularity in the past year or two.

Many collectors feel that metermarks are not 'proper' cancellations. They are after all privately operated, the date can be adjusted and the envelope doesn't have to go through the postal system at all to be metermarked, but of course it must also be franked by Royal Mail to be collectable. This combination of Royal Mail and privately operated franking can produce some very interesting covers and lots of people collect them.

So many firms possess meter machines nowadays that it is not too hard to find one connected with the subject of the stamp issue in some way. Persuading them to frank your covers may be a little more difficult of course, and in some case quite expensive!

Funny or serious they come in great variety, but my personal preference is for the funny ones. My favourite producer of metermark covers, Bob Stevens of Greensleeves Covers in Woking, has thought up some really hilarious ones of which I have many examples. The 'Tales of Terror' stamp issue on 13 May 1997 was one issue that gave the comedians amongst us a great opportunity.



Both sides of a multiple-dated, multiple-country cover by Peter Payne. Only eight of these beautiful hand-made covers were produced, each signed and numbered.



Mr Williams is President of the GBFDC (Association of Collectors of GB First Day Covers).

For details of this organisation write to: Richard Park, Secretary GBFDC, 2 Chaffinch Close, Horsham RH12 5HA.

A slogan cover Once a prolific field for collectors, slogan covers are now a thing of the past that many collectors would like to see revived.

Royal Mail used to provide us with the same reposting facility as with Special Handstamps, but some time ago that service was discontinued. Subsequently, since the 'Royal College of Surgeons' postmark slogan that was used 11-24 January this year, slogan postmarks appear to have been discontinued altogether. Sadly, new ones can't be produced at present, but there are many thousands of old ones out there still to be collected.

When the reposting facility ceased it meant that however much effort the collector put into posting in the right place and at the right time, the covers were treated as normal mail by machines and there was never any certainty what would come back. Also, since there were far fewer to choose from than with CDs postmarks or special handstamps, it was much more difficult to relate the slogan postmark to a particular stamp issue.

In spite of these difficulties there were some dedicated souls who sent out vast numbers of covers in the hope of getting back a few good ones.

A multiple-dated, multiple-country cover There are double-dated, treble-dated, even quadruple-dated covers, and there are covers cancelled on the first day of issue in more than one country.

There aren't many that combine the two, and the cover illustrated here was produced by Peter Payne, now living in Paris but still busily producing GB first day covers. It illustrates the extraordinary lengths some collectors will go to produce an exceptional cover. As well as being 'first day' in two countries, it is actually quadruple dated.

This meant using both sides of the envelope, two GB stamp issues and two French stamp issues, which in turn meant that Peter had to design and produce an envelope with two 'fronts'. Side 'A' has a full set of Royal Mail's 'Magical Worlds' stamps of 12 July 1998 and the single stamp French 'Croix Rouge' issue of 5 November 1998. Side 'B' has a full set of Royal Mail's Christmas stamps of 2 November 1998, the single French stamp of 5 November 1998 again, plus the five stamp French Christmas issue of 7 November 1998 •

Previous articles by Mr Williams were published here in February 1998 and February 1999. ED

Chairman's comments

Adam Novak, the Director and General Manager of Royal Mail National and Chairman of the Stamp Advisory Committee, writes about the third Rowland Hill Awards, the Millennium programme, new Scottish and Welsh stamps, and changes at Royal Mail



At the Rowland Hill Awards

Left to right: Adam Novak, General Manager Royal Mail National; Richard Dykes, Managing Director Royal Mail; Melvyn Bragg; Francis Kiddle, Chairman British Philatelic Trust; and Graham Childs, Chairman Philatelic Traders' Society.

Rowland Hill Awards This annual event is now so well established as one of the major highlights of the philatelic year it is easy to forget that the awards have been in existence for only three years. Their success serves to underline the fact that the hobby was crying out for a new focus to help it renew its sense of purpose and direction. There is no doubt in my mind that the Rowland Hill Awards are doing just that – and more.

This year's event, at the Gibson Hall in London on 8 April, proved an evening to remember for all who attended. Sponsored by Royal Mail, the British Philatelic Trust and the Philatelic Traders' Society, the evening was hosted by Royal Mail Managing Director Richard Dykes and presented by writer and broadcaster Melvyn Bragg.

The guests included printers, designers, software developers, journalists, authors, publishers, sub post office customer service people, collectors (young and not so young), philatelic society representatives, exhibition organisers and philatelic traders. All, with their different skills, make stamp collecting what it is today. This is one of the reasons why I find the Awards such an enjoyable event. It offers a unique opportunity to re-

new acquaintances with so many familiar faces – and to welcome new ones – from the different strands of the hobby.

The names of the winners and runners-up were published in the May *Bulletin*. I would like to mention two of the winners – Derek Johnson for his Enterprise Award for personal contribution and The House of Questa winners of the Award for Stamp Innovation. Derek is one of the unsung heroes of philately. In recent times, he has helped to keep the hobby alive and well at local level by successfully – almost single-handedly – steering the Bristol and District Federation through some troubled times. The hobby owes an enormous debt of gratitude to people like Derek who, despite limited resources, have the energy and determination to ensure philately thrives whatever the odds.

The award to Questa was in recognition of their innovative achievements in developing the 850-line screen printing technique used for the Lighthouses stamps last year. The result was a truly magnificent set of stamps representing the pinnacle of technical excellence. That verdict was shared by *Bulletin* readers who voted Light-

houses the most popular set of 1998, with three of the stamps featuring in the 10 favourite individual stamps of the year.

Millennium issues All the evidence, including market research, shows that the first stage of our three-year Millennium stamp programme has gained widespread popularity among existing collectors and, most encouragingly, new collectors. It seems, as we had hoped, that the Millennium collection is being seen as an ideal entry point to the hobby for an increasing number of people. Another very encouraging sign is that the considerable effort that has gone into the production of first day covers and presentation packs is being amply rewarded since these are proving very popular.

It is good to see the interest generated by these stamps in the general press. For example, Peter Brookes' intriguing design of the 20p Patients' Tale stamp led to letters in *The Times*, and David Hockney was reported visiting Salt's Mill, shown on the 26p Workers' Tale stamp. I am delighted that our stamps are being featured and discussed in the media. After all the thought that goes into their conception, design and production it is rewarding that they are noticed. Such publicity is good for the hobby and the philatelic market.

The Solar Eclipse next month is being commemorated by our first miniature sheet for nine years. The Eclipse will be best observed in Cornwall, so appropriately our first day postmark will be for Falmouth. The stamps in the sheet will be from the Scientists' Tale set which goes on sale on 3 August, a week earlier than the sheet.

Royal Mail's Design team are busy working on next year's Millennium stamps. Again there will be 12 issues, the 48 designs inspired by Millennium projects, local and national, throughout the UK, many on the theme of conservation, the community, and the arts. Already the Stamp Advisory Committee has seen some of the proposed designs and I think collectors and the general public will find the stamps – and the stories behind them – of interest. The last of the 1999 sets (Artists' Tales) will be issued on 7 December and the first for 2000 on 18 January. Between these

dates we will issue something rather special which we look forward to announcing shortly.

Meanwhile I am pleased to tell you about a unique exhibition at the new British Library in London based on the 1999 Millennium stamps. Sponsored by Royal Mail, the exhibition will be in the Library's temporary exhibition gallery from early August until January 2000. It will provide an unrivalled opportunity to see the actual artwork for this year's 48 stamps. The BL venue is highly appropriate for this exhibition since the Library's collection was partly inspirational in the development of the stamps programme, and it will allow treasures from that collection to be shown with the original stamp artwork and the stamps themselves. Thus a priceless copy of the Magna Carta will be seen with the stamp inspired by it (Citizens' Tale 64p), and the original David Hockney painting of Salt's Mill (Workers' Tale 26p) together with items from the Mill's heyday in Victorian times. We believe this unique exhibition will be a memorable experience for all, stamp collectors, the public, children and adults. Admission to the exhibition will be free, and further details will be published in next month's *Bulletin*.

Country stamps We have been very encouraged by the initial response to the new country stamps for Scotland and Wales which went on sale on 8 June. The change in design for these stamps – the first since 1971 – resulted from our wish to mark the setting up of the new Scottish Parliament and Welsh Assembly – epoch-making events in the history of the United Kingdom. A further philatelic item, commemorating the official opening of the Scottish Parliament by HM The Queen, will be available from 1 July – a joint Royal Mail/Royal Mint cover bearing the new stamps and the 1999 £1 coin showing the Lion Rampant. This will appeal to philatelists and numismatists alike.

Two of the new Scottish stamps feature the Saltire and Lion Rampant – to be seen on flags in Edinburgh and across Scotland during the tourist season. The many thousands of visitors this summer will be able to use the new stamps on their holiday postcards as well as take the

stamps home as a reminder of their visit in this important year in the country's history.

Behind the design of every stamp there is a fascinating story to be told and these stamps are certainly no exception. I particularly like the family connections involved in the Welsh designs. The new dragon on these stamps was forged in Welsh steel by brothers Toby and Gideon Petersen, while their father David carved the leek from Welsh sycamore in the style of a lovespoon – David, incidentally, also stood in the Welsh Assembly election.

What the stamp doesn't show is the achievement of David's father, Jack. He was seven times winner of the British Heavyweight boxing title between 1932 and 1936. He won the Lonsdale belt three times, which entitled him to keep it. Maybe we should have incorporated the Lonsdale belt on the stamps as well!

Changing times At the Rowland Hill Awards ceremony in April, Richard Dykes announced that some internal reorganisation would be taking place within the Post Office. This will result in the formation of a separate business unit for stamps and collectibles which will bring increased focus and commitment to this area, building on the success of recent years.

I will shortly be leaving to head one of the new Royal Mail units and so take this opportunity to say how much I have enjoyed my tenure as Director & General Manager of Royal Mail National and in particular my role as Chairman of the Stamp Advisory Committee. I've been in a privileged position, I've seen the increased focus on stamps and relationships with the philatelic community both grow and develop. I'm very proud to have been involved in the various programmes we have mounted, including the introduction of the Rowland Hill Awards. I will follow the continued success of the philatelic world and will of course keep in touch.

My successor as Chairman of the SAC will be the new Managing Director Stamps & Collectibles, Mark Thomson who joined the Post Office in 1984. His skills, and the talents of the team he inherits, bode well for the future. ●

Postbag



St Andrew's flag Further to my article on Scottish heraldry (June), I thought readers might be interested in a recent 7 roubles stamp in miniature sheet from the Russian Federation. This commemorates the 300th anniversary of Andreyevsky (St Andrew's) flag instituted by Tsar Peter I in Russia in 1699. The flag comprises a light blue diagonal cross against a white background and was an ensign of the battle ships of the Russian Navy from 1712 to 1917. It was restored as a flag of the Russian Federation Navy in 1992. It is interesting to note that the colours are reversed when compared to the St Andrew's flag of Scotland (Saltire). PAUL CHESHAM, GLASGOW ●

Definitive shades From time to time you have published letters pointing out good shade variations. The new stamp books (26 April) yield some good examples. The Questa 19p in the £1 and £2 books has a sharper and whiter Queen's head from the re-issued sheet stamp printed by De La Rue. However the background colour is quite similar. The same applies to the 26p value. Incidentally on some 26p stamps in the Questa books the Queen's jawline is quite prominent, on others it tends to blend into the background. The colours of the 1p and 2p stamps in the new £2 book match those of the sheet stamps quite well although the Queen's head on the book 1p has more colour than the sheet stamp. The prominent jawline is present on both values in the books I have examined. The 38p from books (Walsall) and sheets

(DLR) are a very good match; the Queen's head on the 64p from books has rather less colour than the sheet stamp.

Finally, I agree with Rufus Barnes's comments last December about the different shades on the 26p stamp in the Definitive portrait prestige book. Incidentally, the 26p Country stamps in the Speed book (pane 3) differ from the sheet stamps not only by perforation (14 as opposed to 15×14) but in shade. They are much deeper brown and there is quite a noticeable 'fuzz' on the Queen's lower jaw, particularly on the Scottish stamp. **KEN MARKS, PORTSMOUTH** ●

Philatelic recognition Mr Arnold (March) is quite right when he calls for honours to collectors who have put in long hours and hard work for the benefit of the hobby. However I fear his appeal will fall on deaf ears. The Rowland Hill and Association of British Philatelic Society Awards are worthy enough but how many collectors pay much attention to them. I suggest that members of British philatelic societies and readers of magazines are invited to vote for who they consider the greatest living and deceased British philatelist of the 20th century. The results could be announced at the Stamp Show 2000 next year and hopefully feature in press and media coverage of the exhibition. Any shortlist of deceased philatelists must surely include Robson Lowe, R A G Lee and Fred Melville, who is probably unsurpassed in promoting the hobby to a wider audience. **B WOODRIDGE, WINCHESTER** ●

Millennium stamps After the first three sets I was rather beginning to despair of the designs but things improved with the Settlers' set, especially the 26p Mayflower stamp. The 26p in the Workers' Tale is also quite attractive. However, having just received the May *Bulletin*, I find I like three of the four Entertainers' stamps. Only the 19p leaves me a bit cold, but then I am not keen on pop music. The 64p is the best, Ralph Steadman has caught the quizzical look of Chaplin's little tramp. I eagerly await the June *Bulletin* and the illustrations of the Citizens' Tale issue. **J D SPRY, DUNDEE** ●

Stamp '99 Congratulations to all involved in the organisation of this fine exhibition at Wembley (15-18 April). I particularly enjoyed the Trains display of railway stamps and postmarks and found much of interest on the stands of the dealers, postal administrations and stamp printers. Although I still visit Stampex, the Wembley exhibitions have a vitality about them that has been missing from stamp exhibitions for some years. That said, Stampex has improved of late and the display by the National Philatelic Society at the Spring exhibition in March was well worth seeing. **DAVID MOON, LONDON SE19** ●

National Postal Museum Like earlier correspondents (March and April) I am sad no new home was ready for the Museum to move into when King Edward Building was sold. I would like to suggest that the Post Office announces the location of the Museum's new home in April 2000 on the 35th anniversary of Reginald Phillips handing over his collection of Victorian stamps to the Post Office to establish the NPM. I hope that the new Museum will include a Phillips Gallery where his collection can be displayed and consulted by specialist collectors. Once the three Stamp Show 2000 prestige books are finished, might not a new series be devoted to the Museum with a percentage of the proceeds from sales going towards the new building? **P T LEWIS, NORTHAMPTON** ●

Collecting FDCs I have seen reports in two of the broadsheet newspapers of meetings of a First Day Cover Club. I collect such covers and would be interested in joining. I have been unable to trace any address for this Club – can you help? **MATTHEW THWAITE, GUILDFORD**

I gather that the First Day Cover Club is a private dining club, not directly connected with philately. There are two philatelic organisations which cater for collectors of first day covers and postmarks: Association of GB First Day Cover Collectors, 2 Chaffinch Close, Horsham RH12 5HA; and British Postmark Society, 28 Ystad Goffa Court, Flint CH6 5JA. ED ●

Apologies to Mr Michihiko Yokohagi of Tokyo for misspelling his name in Postbag in May.

Book review Railway letter stamps, by Neill Oakley

Great Britain & Ireland Railway Letter Stamps

1957-1998 This latest edition of a popular handbook and catalogue, compiled by Neill Oakley, will be welcomed by all collectors of modern railway letter stamps. Such issues were first introduced by over 70 railway companies in 1891 for use on urgent letters carried by train to be posted on arrival or called for at the destination station. The service operated with the agreement of the Post Office and such letters had to bear both postage and railway letter stamps. From the 1920s onwards, the expansion of the telephone service (and later fax) reduced the need for this express letter service although it continued on the main railways until British Rail finally ended the service in 1984. From 1957 onwards the service was introduced on a number of minor preserved railways, mainly for carrying letters and postcards sent by tourists and philatelists. The first of these modern issues, from the Talyllyn Railway, is now scarce – the full set of 12 stamps, in two sheets of six, are now catalogued by Oakley at £600! However most stamps are priced at pence or a few pounds, making them ideal for anyone seeking a new collecting subject. The Talyllyn has issued some 90 stamps since 1957, but has been overtak-

en by the North Yorkshire Moors Railway as the most prolific issuer of railway letter stamps. Many of the issues are well-designed and printed to a high standard by security printers such as Ques-ta and Walsall. Most of the stamps feature steam locomotives, making them popular with thematic collectors as well as railway letter stamp specialists. Oakley chronicles the issues of over 20 minor railways, also the few issues of the state-run British Rail and Coras Iompair Eireann (Ireland). Prices are quoted for single stamps and sheets but not first day covers although the numbers serviced are given. Also listed and priced are proofs and information is given as to stamp designers, printers, sheet size, perforation, number printed, also the special cancels used by the railways, and Post Office special handstamps sponsored by the railways for use on their first day covers. Oakley and the Railway Philatelic Group are to be congratulated on another nicely-produced and well-illustrated edition which won a silver medal at the Trains 1999 exhibition •

Great Britain & Ireland Railway Letter Stamps 1957-1998

Price £10 plus 50p postage UK (£1 overseas) from H S Wilson, 17 Heath Avenue, Littleover, Derby DE23 6DJ. Remittances payable to 'Railway Philatelic Group'.

Posting boxes 187

THIS MONTH'S PHOTOGRAPH was submitted by Nigel Fitzhenry of Royal Mail Doncaster. It features a box which Royal Mail donated last year to Newark Air Museum. It had been installed at RAF Swinderby in March 1941. The base is no longer operational and the box had been out of use for some years before a Royal Mail manager suggested it was donated to the museum where it has been installed and repainted with the George VI royal cypher picked out in gold paint.

For details of the Letter Box Study Group send a SAE or IRC to the Membership Secretary, Mrs V Scott, 38 Leopold Avenue, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham B20 1ES. The Group produces many interesting publications and postcards •



Competition Identify the stamp from the detail and win £100



April's detail was from the 1973 Explorers issue.

D Johnston of Hants and R D Anthony of Carmarthenshire won first prizes. 20 runner-up prizes were also sent. Our thanks to all who entered.

SIMPLY IDENTIFY the special stamp from the detail shown above and send your answer, name and address on a postcard (or back of a sealed envelope) to: July Competition, British Philatelic Bulletin, 22 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1NL. The sender of the first card drawn on 20 August will receive £100. Twenty runner-up prizes will also be awarded. The competition is not open to Royal Mail employees •

Greetings stamps labels 1991 Smiles, by Lionel Jones

THE DESIGNS of the 1990 greetings stamps (see March *Bulletin*) were reissued on 26 March 1991 with the '1st' non-value indicator in place of the 20p value. Unlike the 1990 issue, sold in a folder with separate labels, the 1991 1st class stamps were issued in booklet form with 12 labels printed to the right of the pane of stamps, separated by a narrow inter-panneau gutter. Margin is to be found at the left of the stamp pane and above

and below the stamps and labels, but there is no margin to the right of the block of labels as there was for the 1990 issue. The wording on the labels – all in the curve of a smile – is the same but the background colours were changed. Both stamps and labels were designed by Michael Peters and Partners Ltd and printed by Harrison on the Jumelle photogravure press. The ASP perforator was used, gauge 14.75 × 14.25 •



Edward VIII stamp archive for auction by John Holman

THE 16 JULY Sotheby's auction includes a unique archive of material relating to the issue of Edward VIII stamps in 1936. The archive – letters, photographs, press cuttings, etc – belonged to Hubert J Brown (1918-88) whose drawing was used as the basis for the issued stamps. The story of how this 17-year old schoolboy designed a stamp and submitted it to the Postmaster General is part of philatelic folklore – covered in the philatelic press at the time and on numerous subsequent occasions, for example James Mackay's article here in February 1994.

Early in 1936 whilst studying for actuarial exams, Brown's 'thoughts strayed and I began wondering what sort of stamps we should have for the new reign. After a few minutes' idle sketching I worked out a rough design (drawn on the back of a test paper). As I felt rather pleased with it, I obtained permission from the Postmaster General to submit it officially, and then set about making a proper drawing, using photographs as models for the King's head and the crown.' The original drawing submitted to the PMG is now in the National Postal Museum, but included in the archive are other sketches and detailed drawings of the crown, value and wording, together with various size bromides produced for Brown by a local photographer in Torquay. Similar bromides were also submitted to the PO.

When the stamps were issued, in September 1936, the PO sent Brown a rather grudging acknowledgement that his design had been used and his father, eager that his son should have recognition, contacted Stanley Gibbons who ran the story in their magazine. Letters from the company to Brown are amongst the papers in the archive. The story was then taken up by the national and regional newspapers and a press cutting agency



Hubert Brown's drawing, bromide and the final issued design. All enquiries to Richard Ashton or David Wright at Sotheby's Stamp Department. Telephone 0171 293 5000.

supplied Brown with clippings from numerous publications – all mounted in a green album. Brown then received mail from far and wide, preserved, with drafts of his replies, in the collection. One collector asked him for a duplicate copy of his design. He was to engage in correspondence about his design for nearly 50 years; he co-operated with the GB Philatelic Society in the production of A J Kirk's book on Edward VIII stamps (1974) and Stuart Rose's book *Royal Mail Stamps* (1980). Rose commented in a letter 'I have always regarded that stamp as being a turning point in our approach to stamp design and therefore a very significant issue.' Brown was a modest man, clearly embarrassed by all the fuss, especially when the national papers published 'all sorts of wild statements.'

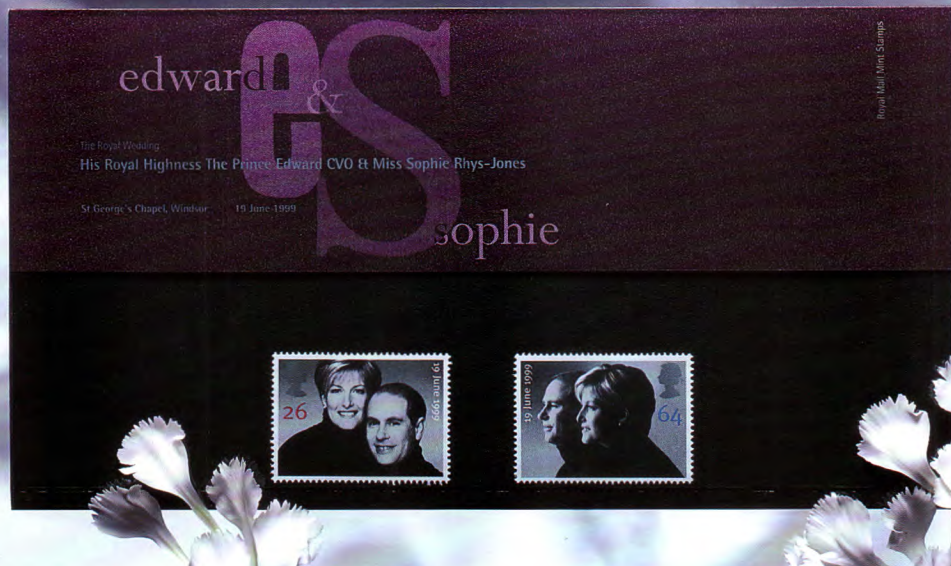
I was delighted to accept Sotheby's invitation to view the archive – it was fascinating to read Brown's account in his own hand, to see his sketches and bromides, and to read the many reports in the general and philatelic press. He kept up an interest in stamps in general, and his Edward VIII design in particular, until the end of his life. The archive, to be sold as one lot, will make a wonderful addition to an existing Edward VIII collection, or as the start of a new one •

Events

10 July Swipex '99, at Peter Chalk Centre, Exeter University, 10.00-16.00. **Enquiries** Mrs M Claydon, 01398 331731

16 July 'The Citizens' Tale' talk by Don Foster MP at Bath Postal Museum, 8 Broad Street, Bath. Time to be announced. **Enquiries** 01225 460333

COMMEMORATING THE ROYAL WEDDING



Two stamps featuring specially commissioned portraits of HRH Prince Edward and Miss Sophie Rhys-Jones were issued by Royal Mail on 15 June, four days before the couple were married at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle. The portraits are by the renowned photographer John Swannell who has taken photographs of members of the Royal Family and celebrities such as Sir Elton John, (Lord) Melvyn Bragg, and Sir John Gielgud. The stamps were designed by John Gibbs, his fifth set of Royal Mail stamps since 1981.

The stamps are available mint at 90p the pair, or in an attractive presentation pack at £1.25. Stamp cards reproducing the two designs are available at 50p the pair. (Bureau handling charge 18p UK/Europe; 34p rest of world).

Available to callers at Post Office Counters philatelic outlets (see inside front cover of this *Bulletin*) or by post from the British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5TT. UK Telephone Order Line 0345 641 641, overseas 0131 550 8989.



Reference 99-ASA

