

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The ROYAL MAIL magazine *for stamp collectors*

Bulletin

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Britain Alone and Festival of
Stamps previews • George V



**On sale 11 March: a set of 10
special stamps to celebrate
150 years of rescue and care
for animals at Battersea Dogs
& Cats Home.**



Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



Cover Button the cat, one of the rescued animals featured on the Battersea Dogs & Cats Home stamps, photographed by Steve Hoskins. This issue was previewed in the January *Bulletin*.

1 March	Issue Wales Castles generic sheet
1 March	Withdrawal Concorde generic sheet
9 March	Withdrawal Pioneers of the Industrial Revolution stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards
11 March	Issue Battersea Dogs & Cats Home stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards
11 March	Withdrawal Theory of Evolution coin cover
23 March	Issue British Monarchs: House of Stewart stamps, miniature sheet, presentation pack, stamp cards and cachet cover
30 March	Issue 60p, 67p, 88p, 97p and £1.46 definitives; books containing new 20g overseas stamps; pack containing new definitives, overseas 20g stamps and the Recorded Delivery stamps of November 2009
30 March	Issue 60p & 97p country stamps for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Pack containing eight new country stamps
1 April	Withdrawal Concorde medal cover
13 April	Issue Action for Species: Mammals stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards
21 April	Issue City of London coin cover

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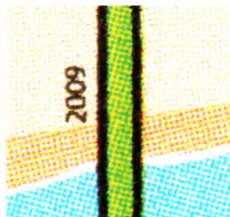


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This month The Editor previews this issue

AGAIN THERE ARE TWO ISSUES of special stamps this month. The first, marking the 150th anniversary of the world-famous Battersea Dogs & Cats Home, goes on sale on 11 March, followed on 23 March by stamps featuring the Scottish House of Stewart from James I to James VI and Mary, Queen of Scots. These issues were previewed in January and February.

This month, David Gentleman, perhaps Britain's best-known stamp designer, celebrates his 80th birthday. Over the years we have published several articles on David and his stamp designs, most recently a report by Richard West (June 2009) on the exhibition now showing at the British Postal Museum & Archive in London. There is still time to see this exhibition, which runs until 15 March. David is, of course, famous for more than stamps, and details of his many projects are to be found in his book *Art-work*, available from Tallents House. We have two copies of this beautiful book (reviewed here in October 2002) as competition prizes – see page 222. Last year a new book was published about David's work – *David Gentleman Design*, by Brian Webb & Peyton Skipwith. This book, reviewed by Glenn Morgan in Stamp Scene last October, is available from the BPMA.

The main theme of the Festival of Stamps is the centenary of the accession of King George V. An exhibition of stamps and related material from the BPMA and the Royal Collection can be seen at the Guildhall Art Gallery in London, May–July 2010. Douglas Muir, Curator Philately at the BPMA, (and former *Bulletin* Editor), has written a book on the stamps and postal services of George V's reign. It will be published in May, and we are pleased to serialise a chapter from it, starting this month. I am sure the book will be as fascinating as Douglas's earlier works on the Machin and Penny Black.

It is just two months now to the international stamp exhibition in London in May, the main event of the 2010 Festival of Stamps. The miniature sheets for the exhibition and the Britain Alone stamps, which go on sale during the exhibition, are previewed in this month's *Bulletin*.

Next month we publish the results of the 2009 Stamp Poll – always interesting, and eagerly awaited. JOHN HOLMAN, EDITOR •

Stamp scene News and upcoming events: Glenn Morgan keeps you posted

Irish books An Post (Irish PostOffice) has recently published *The Irish Post Box – Silent Servant and Symbol of the State* by Stephen Ferguson. It tells the story of how a cast-iron box became such a vital part of Post Office infrastructure and a symbol of the state itself. The post box, in its green livery, is a familiar and comforting sight at street corner and crossroads throughout the country. Since its introduction to Ireland by the novelist Anthony Trollope over 150 years ago it has continued, quietly and efficiently, to do its job through good times and bad, through turmoil and tranquillity. ►

The chapters cover: before the pillar box, Anthony Trollope, early pillar boxes, public reaction, principal designs, operating policies, red to green, mobile and special boxes, the future, principal manufacturers and principal sources. As can be seen, this book features every aspect of the subject.

This book covers a topic dear to my heart, and has helped me to realise that the story of post boxes in Ireland is not merely a repeat of the UK's box history, but has its own unique tale to tell. I am also reminded of the account of a holidaymaker to Ireland who, on returning to England, submitted his films for development. They came back with an apologetic note attached that, try as they might, they could not understand why the letter boxes in the photographs kept coming out green instead of red!

Mr Ferguson has also written three other books that are still currently available from An Post, each priced at £10. The first is entitled *Robbery on the Road*. This is a catalogue showing Post Office Reward Notices from the Heritage Department issued as part of an exhibition of nineteenth century Post Office Reward Notices. It provides details of An Post's reward notice collection, which are rare survivors of the pre-1916 General Post Office.

The next work is titled *At the Heart of Events – Dublin's General Post Office*. While there are books which mention the GPO in the context of the 1916 Rising and books which consider its architectural distinction, none make the building the focus of attention and let it, as it were, tell the story of the events, great and small, which have happened in and around it over the centuries, from sealing wax to the early days of broadcasting and from the Dead Letter Office to the Proclamation. It is illustrated with photographs of items drawn from An Post's own and other collections.

The final book is *GPO Staff in 1916*. Drawing on previously unpublished Post Office records, Stephen has been able to open up an entirely new perspective on the events of Easter Week, 1916. The eye-witness accounts and official reports prepared by GPO staff in the days of the Rising provide a fresh and fascinating account of events as they unfolded across the city.

All four books are fine productions and are worthy of a place on the bookshelves of any collector interested in the history of the posts, and I hope that there will be further publications in this series in due course •



The Irish Post Box 68 pages with matt laminated softback cover, size 260 x 155mm, in full colour throughout. Price £9.95, available from www.irishstamps.ie

Royal Philatelic Society exhibition As a part of the Festival of Stamps, the RPSL will hold a free exhibition on Thursday and Friday, 6-7 May. It will be open to the public on 6 May and to Society members on both days. The Royal Philatelic Societies from around the world – Canada, Cape Town, London, New Zealand, Sydney and Victoria, will be providing standing displays of outstanding scarce philatelic material. The RPSL Library, Museum, Archives, Collections and Expert rooms will all be open to visitors throughout the day. A special afternoon cream tea will be served on 6 May.

This will be a ticket-only event, and numbers are limited to a first-come, first-served basis, so it is advised to book early. Please apply for free tickets to the address shown opposite. Please ensure when you apply that you list the name or names of those wishing to attend, full home address, telephone number and e-mail address •

Exhibition tickets Write to: Administration Office, Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London, W1G 6JY or email secretary@rpsl.org.uk

The British Library 96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB. The Library's website is at www.bl.uk and Philatelic Collections web pages are at www.bl.uk/collections/philatelic

The British Library Philatelic Rarities As part of the London 2010 Festival of Stamps, The British Library Philatelic Rarities is open in the Library's permanent Philatelic Exhibition area. Over 40 of the Library's great rarities have been selected, including: the unique America 1765 1d Revenue proof sheet, the introduction of which prompted widespread opposition and the cry 'no taxation without representation'; the famous Canada 1851 12d black in an unused pair; Cape of Good Hope 1861 4d vermilion error of colour in pair with normal 1d used; a rarity of Great Britain – the 1858-79 1d plate 77 unused; an example of the Hawaii 1851-52 Missionary 2 cents used; the unique cover bearing two examples of India 1854 4 annas with inverted head; the iconic Mauritius 1847 Post Office 1d red used on 'Ball' cover and 2d blue unused; Spain 1851 2 reales blue error of colour used; and USA 1918 24 cents Curtiss Jenny error 'centre inverted' unused. The exhibition offers a rare opportunity to see many of the most significant items in philately, and all in one place – The British Library.

From Sunday 9 May to Saturday 15 May, at 11.30 each day, a philatelic Curator will conduct a tour of the Library's Philatelic Exhibition, (which is on permanent public show in 1000 display frames of about 80,000 items). The exhibits have recently been rearranged, and as well as including The Philatelic Rarities exhibition, will also show the first half of the Tapling Collection countries Afghanistan to Mexico, including the fabulous Great Britain collection, which has not been on public display for some time.

Other collections on display include: the Mosely Collection of British Africa to 1935; the Bojanowicz Collection of Poland postal history 1938-46; Model Collection of Germany 1945-46 local provisional stamps; Harrison Collection of die proofs 1911-37, engraved by J A C Harrison; Fitz Gerald Collection of World Airmails to the 1930s (selected pages); Bailey Collection of Spanish Civil War 1936-39 (selected pages); and Langmead Collection of Great Britain and Ireland Telegraph stamps.

Other exciting activities planned to take place during the year-long London 2010 Festival of Stamps will include a series of presentations which will be staged monthly throughout the year, and on a daily basis during London 2010 International Stamp Exhibition from 10-15 May. For details see the website opposite. Due to involvement with London 2010 Festival of Stamps the Philatelic Researchers Room will be closed from 1-23 May •



London 2010 tickets The international stamp exhibition, London 2010, a part of the Festival of Stamps, will open at the Business Design Centre, London N1 at 10.00 on Saturday 8 May, and run until 15 May. Opening hours are 10.00-18.00 each day, except 15 May when closing time is 17.00.

Admission will be free except on the opening day. Admission on 8 May will be £10 (children accompanied by an adult will be admitted free). First day tickets are now available by post – send a cheque in Sterling, payable on a British bank, made out to Stamp World Exhibitions, to: London 2010 (First Day Tickets), Suite 101, Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, London N1 0QH. Alternatively, tickets can also be ordered online from www.london2010.org.uk paying by PayPal at £10.50 each (to cover charges).

All tickets must be ordered by 19 April: no requests for advance tickets will be accepted after that date. Tickets will be sent by post on 19 April. Overseas visitors will be sent their tickets on 12 April on payment of an additional £1 to cover airmail postage. All those ordering tickets must provide a clear name and address to which tickets should be sent.

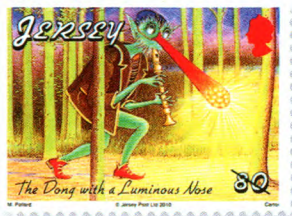
Once tickets have been ordered, no refunds will be possible. Tickets must be presented to gain admission to the exhibition. Tickets may also be purchased at the exhibition on 8 May, subject to availability. Those visitors with advance tickets will be able to enter the exhibition prior to those buying tickets on the day.

Visitors should bear in mind that the competitive exhibits will be shown in two sections. On 8-11 May entries in the Traditional, Postal Stationery, Revenue, One-Frame and Youth classes will be on show. Exhibits in the Postal History, Aerophilately and Thematic Philately classes can be seen from 12-15 May. Visitors should note that it will not be possible to view the display frames after 15.00 on 11 and 15 May.

The Business Design Centre is conveniently situated, with several bus routes passing the door, and the Northern Line on London's Underground just a short walk away. The area boasts many shops, bars, and restaurants, making it ideal for all coming to London for this exhibition •

Jersey children's books PostEurop chooses a different theme each year for the Europa stamp issue, which European Post Office members may interpret in their own way. For 2010, they chose the theme 'Children's Books', providing the opportunity for stamp artists all over Europe to showcase a world of fantasy.

Appearing on the four Jersey stamps issued on 9 February are: 'Pushmi-Pullyu' from *Dr Dolittle* by Hugh Lofting, 'How the Elephant Got His Trunk' by Rudyard Kipling, 'The Mad Hatter's Tea Party' (as it has become known) from *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll and 'The Dong with the Luminous Nose' by Edward Lear. As part of the stamp commission, the artist Michael Pollard – an accomplished book illustrator – was required to pay special attention to the artwork when painting the Dong's nose. During the stamp printing process, Cartor Security Printers of France applied luminous ink to the end of the Dong's nose in order to create the glowing effect of this lonesome creature's appearance. The luminous ink was only used on the 'Dong' stamp •



Enquiries See website www.jerseypost.com

Post Abolition of Slavery: Stamps of Freedom Until 30 June 2010 there is a new display in the London, Sugar and Slavery gallery at the Museum of London in Docklands, on how the abolition of slavery has been commemorated in postage stamps. See how issues from around the world have been used to represent key figures and themes from the history of enslavement and abolition. This display is part of the London 2010 Festival of Stamps.

An annual adult ticket costs £5, or £3 for concessions (over 60s and unwaged), allowing unlimited admission for a year. Admission is free for under 16s, NUS card holders and disabled carers. Last admission is at 17:30 •

The Museum of London in Docklands is at West India Quay, Canary Wharf, London E14 4AL. Opening times are Monday to Sunday 10.00-18.00. For details see www.museumindocklands.org.uk

Meter catalogue online There is no better website to visit than http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/International_Postage_Meter_Stamp_Catalog if you are interested in worldwide meter markings. The webmaster, Rick Stambaugh, is gradually uploading his earlier printed work onto the web for all to access free of charge. At the time of writing, countries A-E and Poland were available, with the rest of the world being added as his time permits.

I can do no better than to record his opening section on the home page: 'Postage meters and meter stamps first appeared experimentally at the end of the 19th century and came into general use worldwide starting in the 1920s. This catalog is an attempt to organize and categorize all the postage meter stamp designs and their major varieties that have ever been used in the world. The organization is by country, and roughly in chronological order by stamp design within each country. It is based on *The International Postage Meter Stamp Catalog*, written and published by Joel Hawkins and Richard Stambaugh in 2005, and its 2008 Supplement.

A few words of explanation: 'this is a postage stamp catalog, not a postage meter catalog. The focus is on the stamps rather than the machines that print them. Those who want more information about the machines themselves can check the references listed in the bibliography and the specialized catalogs mentioned in the introductory comments for those countries that have such catalogs.'

This site will assist not only one-country collectors and those interested in specific aspects of meter stamps, but also those interested in themes, for many different subjects have been featured down the years. These include royalty, tridents, ships, flags, postal artifacts, maps, flora and fauna, and many other topics. This is web publishing at its best •

Grosvenor Auctions The specialised GB auction at Grosvenor's Strand sale-rooms on 11 December demonstrated the current strength of the market. It made over £733,000, bringing the total realised in just three days by this and the British Empire sale held on 9 and 10 December to over £1,570,000.

In the line-engraved section, a 1d Black first day cover (lot 2225) fetched £40,950, the day's highest price. Other highlights in this section included the set of 1870 ½d imprimaturs (lot 2454), which made £8368, and a used block of six of the ½d plate 9 (lot 2463), which sold for £3510. Unusual surface-printed attracts serious competition: lot 2477, an 1855 6d with missing rose watermark bit, went up to £6575, and the extensive study of the Jubilee ½d (lot 2540) sold for £8368. The 20th century section included more from the 'Aurelius' collection: the best prices were £33,474 for the set of 1929 PUC ½d to 2½d presentation proofs (lot 2774) and £17,932 for the control block of six of the PUC 2½d with inverted watermark (lot 2787) •

Enquiries Write to AGBFDC, PO Box 99, Widnes WA8 0NN, email sheridanfdc@aol.com or visit www.gbfdc.co.uk for details of how to join the 299 existing members.

Publication *First Day Coverage* is the newsletter of the Association of GB First Day Cover Collectors. The latest issue includes features on How I Got Started, Royal Signal Museum, the Uniform Penny Postage Jubilee and several other pieces of interest to members among its 24 A5-size black-and-white pages •

Royal Mail news New issues and products

Special issues There are two issues of stamps this month: Battersea Dogs & Cats Home (11 March) and House of Stewart (23 March). These issues were previewed here in January and last month respectively. The plate numbers and colours for the House of Stewart issue are: c1 deep blue c1 yellow c1 magenta c1 cyan (blue) c1 black c1 phosphor. The James I stamp was printed 'four-up' so there are four plate block positions to collect. The other six stamps were all printed two-up, so there are two positions for specialist collectors. The stamps have two phosphor bands, perforation is 14.5.

This month we preview the miniature sheets for the Festival of Stamps (p208) and the Britain Alone issue (p211); all go on sale during May.

The issues for 2010 are listed below, with alternative first day of issue postmark locations. Please note the change in the order to that previously published: the House of Stuart issue will now be in June, and Children's Books in October. Values and other details will follow nearer the time of issue •

11.03 Battersea Dogs & Cats Home: London SW8

23.03 Monarchs 3, House of Stewart: Linlithgow, W Lothian

13.04 Action for Species 4, Mammals: Batts Corner, Farnham

06.05 Accession of King George V: Sandringham, Norfolk

08.05 The King's stamps: London N1

13.05 Britain Alone (commemoration of 1940): Dover, Kent

15.06 Monarchs 4: House of Stuart: Royal Oak, Filey

27.07 Olympic & Paralympic Games 2: Rowington, Warwick *

19.08 Stage Musicals: Dancers End, Tring

16.09 Great British Railways: York

12.10 Children's Books: Hartfield, East Sussex

02.11 Christmas: Bethlehem, Llandeilo

Provisional date *

Castles generic sheet The fourth and final sheet in the Castles series features Welsh castles: Caernarfon, Beaumaris, Harlech, Dinefwr, Dolwyddelan, Carreg Cennen, Criccieth, Chepstow, Dolbadarn and Conwy. The sheet was designed by Atelier Works and printed in litho by Cartor. It goes on sale on 1 March, price £8.35 •



Games stamp books The second Olympic and Paralympic Games stamp book is now on sale, containing Track Athletics and Basketball stamps and four definitives. It is printed by Walsall in gravure, price £2.34 •

Coming off sale The Concorde generic sheet comes off sale on 1 March, and the Pioneers of the Industrial Revolution issue on 9 March. Order now if you still need any of these for your collection •

2011 stamp issues The subjects for next year's special issues are as follows. Exact dates and values will be announced nearer the time of issue •

January Children's TV classics

February Great British Railways

February Medical Breakthroughs

March Myth and Magic

March Worldwide Fund for Nature

April Royal Shakespeare Company

May Arts and Crafts

June Thomas the Tank Engine

July* Olympic & Paralympic Games

August Crown Jewels

September Centenary of UK aerial post

September Monarchs House of Hanover

October An A-Z of UK Landmarks

November Christmas

Provisional date *

New postal rates New postal rates will come into effect on 6 April. Basic 1st and 2nd class inland rates (standard size to 100g) will increase to 41p and 32p, letters to Europe (up to 20g) 60p, and worldwide airmail to 67p (10g) and 97p (20g). UK Large Letters (to 100g) will cost 66p 1st class, 51p 2nd class. The Recorded Delivery fee is reduced 1p to 74p, but the minimum Special Delivery rate is increased to £5.05. Standard UK parcel rates remain the same. Airletters (aerogrammes) are increased to 79p, or £3.99 for a pack of six. The fee for International Signed For and Aisre services are increased to £4.25 and £4.90 respectively.

New definitives will go on sale on 30 March: 60p emerald, 67p rhododendron, 88p shocking pink, 97p mauve and £1.46 dark turquoise; also new 60p and 97p country stamps for the European and airmail rates.

New overseas stamp books will contain four Europe 20g stamps and four Rest of World 20g stamps. These will replace the current 40g stamps as stocks are exhausted at Post Office branches. The new Europe 20g stamp will be printed in dark green and the Rest of World stamp in purple. As before, there will be an ultramarine and red airmail stripe at right.

A new pack will contain the five new definitives plus two 20g overseas stamps and the two Recorded Signed For stamps issued last November, price £9.05. Serviced first day covers will bear the definitives and overseas stamps, price £7.57 for UK customers, £6.45 overseas. A new country pack will contain the eight new (60p and 97p) stamps, price £6.80. Serviced FDCs will cost £2.32 (UK customers) or £1.98 (overseas) for each country.

The following values (including country stamps) will be withdrawn from general sale at Post Office branches prior to the rate increase: 17p, 22p, 54p, 56p, 62p, 81p and 90p. The 9p will remain on sale until exhausted •



ROYAL MAIL DEFINITIVE STAMPS



Left: the new pack containing the five new definitives plus two 20g overseas stamps and the two Recorded Signed For stamps issued last November, price £9.05. Below: country pack with the eight new (60p and 97p) stamps, price £6.80.



**Battersea Dogs & Cats Home**

Shown here is a medal cover available from 11 March 2010. It bears the 10 stamps with a special 150 Years cancellation and an encapsulated medal. Price £14.95.

Coin and medal covers The 'A Theory of Evolution' coin cover bearing the Darwin stamps will be withdrawn from sale on 11 March. The cover, shown here last month, features the famous scientist and a reproduction of his signature. The special Down House postmark commemorates Darwin's home from the 1840s until his death in 1882. The cover costs £19.95.

The Concorde medal cover, celebrating the 40th anniversary of the first flight of Concorde 001, will be withdrawn on 1 April. This cover features the pilot's control panel in Concorde, and the aircraft on the tarmac after an early test flight. Limited edition of 12,500, price £14.95 •

British Postal Museum & Archive On show until 15 March is a special exhibition honouring the eminent stamp designer David Gentleman, who has designed more than 100 issued stamps for Royal Mail since 1962. The exhibition features artwork for many of these and other designs not previously shown in public, and the revolutionary 'Gentleman Album' of 1966, which greatly influenced British stamp design – see articles by Douglas Muir (June 2007 *Bulletin*) and Richard West (June 2009). A new exhibition, Treasures from the BPMA, will be shown from May 2010.

The BPMA is open Monday to Wednesday and Friday from 10.00 to 17.00, Thursday 10.00 to 19.00 and on some Saturdays. See website for dates and for details of lectures and other events. The BPMA contains the collections of the former National Postal Museum and Post Office Archives •

THE BRITISH POSTAL MUSEUM & ARCHIVE

The BPMA Freeing House,
Phoenix Place, London WC1X
0DL (near Mount Pleasant).
Phone 020 7239 2570 or see
www.postalheritage.org.uk

Special draw Win a High Values coin cover

WE HAVE TWO of the new High Value Definitive coin covers on offer this month. Four runners-up will receive definitive/country stamps presentation packs. Simply send your name and address on a postcard to: UK Collection Prize Draw, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ to arrive by 31 March •

'That damned fool' King George V as stamp



When the first of the exceptionally rare Post Office Mauritius stamps was auctioned in 1904, it sold for a world record price. Its purchaser recorded that he was 'very pleased' to have added 'about the world's rarest stamp' to his collection.

AFTER the Penny Black, one of the most famous stamps in the world is the so-called 'Post Office Mauritius', or 'Blue Mauritius'. In fact, as with the Penny Red (the successor to the Penny Black), there are two stamps – one red and one blue. The latter from Mauritius is the more famous, however, and is even well-known to the general public in Germany – 'der blaue Mauritius'. It is this stamp which might best introduce King George V as a stamp collector, or philatelist.

Crude in appearance, these stamps were produced by Joseph Osmond Barnard, a local engraver, who clearly based them on the British Penny Red and Twopenny Blue. The first stamps from elsewhere in the Empire, they were put on sale on 21 September 1847, though they were not discovered by collectors for another two decades. Their philatelic name in English, 'Post Office Mauritius', comes from the inscription on the stamps, wording which has given rise to controversy over the years, with various stories, or legends, about its origin. Was it a mistake or deliberate? Later versions had the wording changed to 'Post Paid'.

Some 500 of each of the original designs were printed, but only 15 1d stamps and 12 2d stamps have survived. 'Biographies' of each of them have even been prepared, giving their individual histories over the years. Three 1d stamps exist on envelopes used by Lady Gomm, wife of the Governor, for cards of admission to a fancy dress ball at Government House. The stamps are thus exceptionally rare, and a great deal of Victorian romance surrounds their issue, use, discovery and subsequent history in famous collections. Collectors of classic stamps all wanted to obtain an example, particularly of the 2d (once described as 'the acme of philatelic classics'), thus attracting high prices to the few remaining.

Perhaps the finest example of an unused 2d stamp came up at an auction of Puttick and Simpson in London in January 1904, and this story is told of its sale. Various versions of the tale have been recorded, but as it was retold many times over the years, more than one may be correct. That given here seems the most characteristic.

The Times reported that the stamp had been found in a collection made by a schoolboy, James Bonar (now the adult vendor), in 1864. When recognised as a genuine rarity it was boiled to remove it from the page, though happily it remained undamaged by this severe treatment. It was the first Post Office Mauritius of either type to come on to the open market. Bidding started at £500 and stopped at £1450, a world record price at the time. The sum was enormous then, though, in purely monetary terms, its equiv-

collector: the first instalment in a new series by Douglas Muir

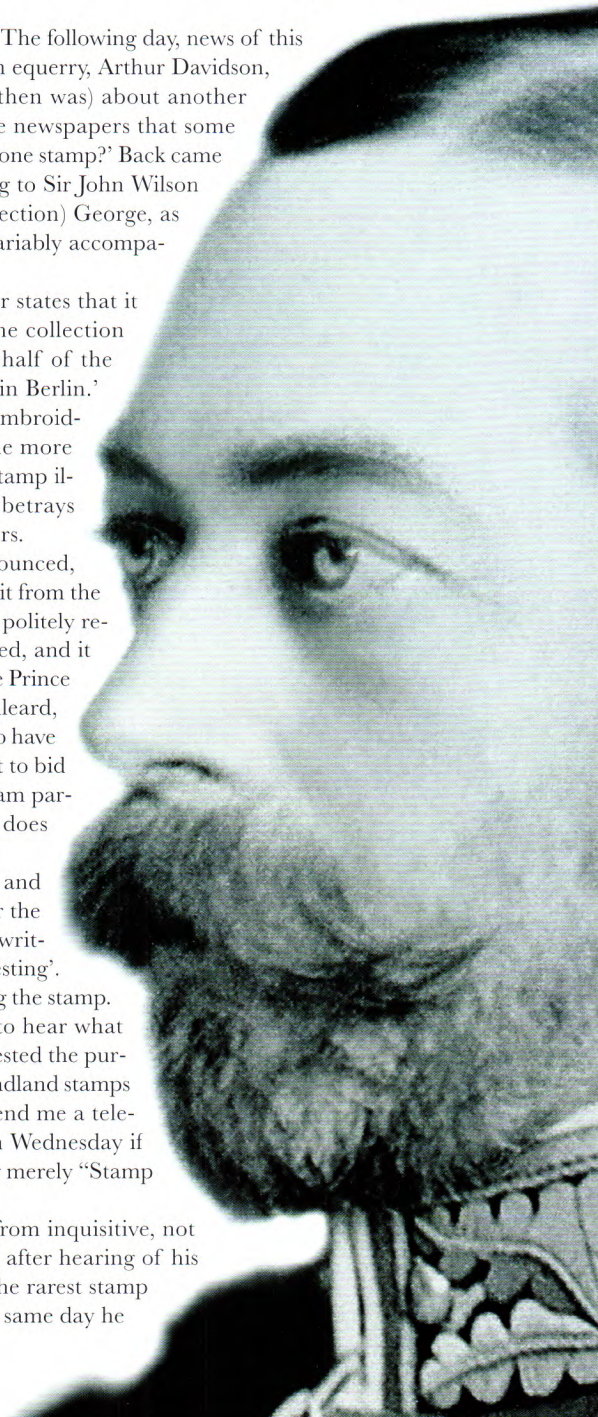
alent 100 years later (about £125,000) is not. The following day, news of this appeared in the press. The story goes that an equerry, Arthur Davidson, while phoning the Prince of Wales (as he then was) about another matter, asked 'Did you happen to see in the newspapers that some damned fool had given as much as £1400 for one stamp?' Back came the reply 'I was the damned fool!' According to Sir John Wilson (a later Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection) George, as King, would delight in telling this story 'invariably accompanied by a very hearty laugh.'

In fact, *The Times* had reported: 'Rumour states that it was purchased for the Prince of Wales's fine collection and that the underbidder was acting on behalf of the authorities of the German Postal Museum in Berlin.' This suggests that the tale may have been embroidered somewhat over the years. However, the more detailed story of how George acquired the stamp illustrates how avid a collector he was, and betrays many typical traits common to most collectors.

When the stamp's discovery was first announced, the Prince offered Bonar £1200 to withdraw it from the auction and sell it to him privately. This was politely refused, as it had already been widely advertised, and it would be a breach of faith to withdraw it. The Prince understood the reasons and wrote to John Tilleard, his philatelic adviser: 'I am still very anxious to have the stamp and now authorise you or an agent to bid for it at the auction up to £1550 inclusive. I am particularly keen to buy the stamp although it does seem a great deal of money to give for it.'

Later, he asked for the auction catalogue, and wrote to Tilleard for 'another catalogue after the sale with the sums that each stamp fetched written against them which would be very interesting'. He was still as keen as before about possessing the stamp. 'I shall be waiting anxiously after the 13th to hear what you were able to do'. Yet another letter suggested the purchase of other classic Mauritius and Newfoundland stamps in the same sale and concluded: 'You can send me a telegram here [York Cottage, Sandringham] on Wednesday if you have secured the "Post Office". Better say merely "Stamp is yours" & write later full particulars.'

The amount paid was clearly to be kept from inquisitive, not to mention recriminatory, eyes. In his diary, after hearing of his success the next day George wrote: 'About the rarest stamp in the world & this is a record price.' On the same day he





John Tilleard, who advised the Prince in the purchase of the Post Office Mauritius.

wrote to John Tilleard, thanking him warmly: '£1450 is certainly a great deal of money to give for a stamp, & it is no doubt a record price, but in spite of that I am very pleased to have it in my collection as I believe it is such a fine copy; & I am also very glad that I have... prevented it going to Germany. I am glad that the Public are not aware who the purchaser was, although the Times says that they believe it was bought for me.'

This prize stamp was added to a collection which was already considerable, both in extent and importance.

The Prince's early collecting How did he start? In the case of Prince George, he was travelling around the world with his elder brother as a midshipman on HMS *Bacchante*, when on 3 November 1881, in Osaka Bay, he noted in his diary: 'Put some stamps in my book.' He was 16. His uncle Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh, was a well-known collector and his tutor, the Reverend John Dalton, who accompanied the princes on their voyages, also seems to have collected stamps. George was a schoolboy recording his travels to rather exotic places. A few

months before, he had visited the Government Printing Works in Sydney, seeing postage stamps being printed. Later, he served as a lieutenant in the Mediterranean under his uncle and spent quite some time 'arranging stamps with Uncle Alfred', who was Honorary President of the Philatelic Society, London. As such he opened the London Philatelic Exhibition on 19 May 1890, announcing that Prince George was leaving that day in command of HMS *Thrush*. 'He is also a stamp collector and I hope he will return with a goodly number of additions from North America and the West Indies'. He did, and seems to have spent a lot of time in port there working on his growing collection.

With the unexpected death of his elder brother Eddy in 1892, his position changed. Now second in line to the throne, he was created Duke of York, given rooms in St James's Palace and an annual parliamentary grant. His collecting interests became more serious and more pointed. John Tilleard became his philatelic adviser, and he was elected a member of the Philatelic Society, London. He also married his brother's fiancée, Princess May of Teck. Rare, classic stamps were among the wedding gifts.

His own stamps When Queen Victoria died in 1901 Prince George became heir to the throne. In March of that year he sailed on the liner HMS *Ophir* for Australia to open its first parliament. The voyage and tour provided ample opportunities for the acquisition of various classic stamps of the Empire, including Ceylon and various Australian States. On his return, his father (King Edward VII) arranged for all new printings of stamps of his reign, including essays and proofs, to be sent to him by the Inland Revenue. These included both British stamps and Colonial issues provided by the Crown Agents.

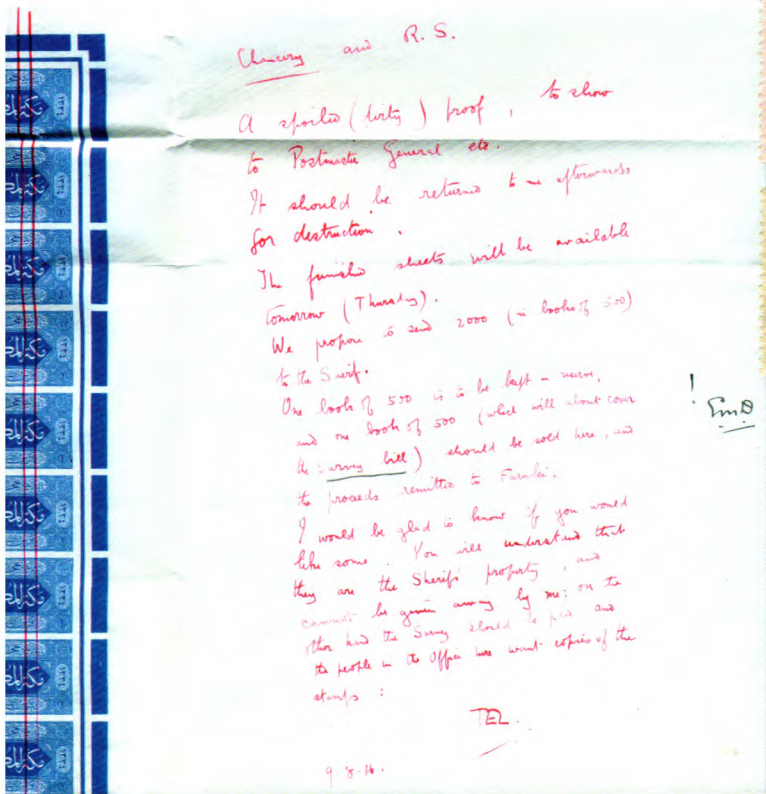
With these, and with the more immediate prospect of him becoming King Emperor, his attitude to his stamp collection changed. In 1904 he gave a paper to the Philatelic Society of London entitled 'Notes on the Postal Issues of the United Kingdom during the present reign' (that of his father) with essays, proofs and stamps to illustrate it. In particular, he showed a half sheet of the 1d stamps in tête-bêche format for the forthcoming stamp booklets, the first to be so produced. He also showed the recently acquired 'Post Office' Mauritius stamps. Shortly afterwards, Prince George disposed of the foreign stamps in his collection and specialised on Great Britain and what would shortly become his Empire.

However, he did subsequently collect some foreign stamps – those of the Hejaz created by T E Lawrence in Cairo, for example, and the precursors of those German territories occupied by imperial troops during World War I. In October 1914, Colonel William Holmes sent examples of captured German stamps for the King's collection.

Holmes wrote: 'Apparently the larger proportion of the stock of Stamps was destroyed on our approach, but the balance I have turned to use by marking on same the Royal Initial letters 'G.R.I.', and in some cases amending the values to meet the requirements of the moment.' No mention was made of sending the overprinted versions, although they are in the collection with many of the great rarities •



This series is based on a chapter from the forthcoming book *George V and the GPO: Stamps, Conflict & Creativity*. The book will be available from Tallents House in May at £19.95 plus handling charge.

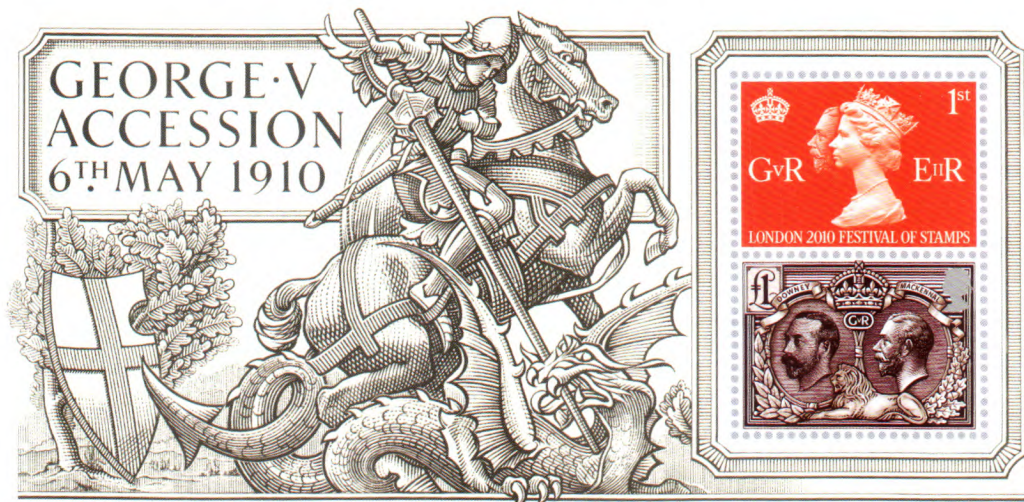


Left: proof sheet of stamps for the Hejaz in 1916, annotated by 'TEL' (Lawrence of Arabia).

Above: German New Guinea stamps appropriated in 1914, one overprinted 'G.R.I. / 5s.' (error without stop after I).

Portrait of King George V © BPMA. All other illustrations are reproduced by gracious permission of Her Majesty The Queen, to whom copyright belongs.

2010 Festival of Stamps Royal Mail marks a special occasion with two miniature sheets



L O N D O N 2 0 1 0 F E S T I V A L O F S T A M P S

TWO MINIATURE SHEETS will be issued in May to commemorate the 2010 Festival of Stamps. The issue coincides with the international stamp exhibition in London, which takes place from 8 to 15 May.

The first sheet, entitled 'Accession of King George v', will be issued on 6 May, the centenary of the King's accession. It bears a 1st class 'double head' stamp, George v and Elizabeth II, and a £1 stamp showing the two heads of George v as used on stamps of his reign. The 1st class double head stamp

will also be issued in ordinary sheets. This sheet, designed by Sedley Place, is printed in lithography by Cartor Security Printing. The sheet size is 140 × 74mm, and the two stamps are 33 × 24mm.

The second miniature sheet goes on sale on 8 May, the opening day of the London 2010 international stamp exhibition. It bears two 1st class stamps reproducing the British Empire Exhibition stamps of 1924 (the first British commemorative stamps) and two £1 stamps reproducing the 10s and £1 'Seahorse' high values. This sheet was also designed by Sedley Place, and printed by Joh Enschedé Stamps in recess (intaglio) and lithography. The sheet measures 115 × 89mm, the Empire Exhibition stamps 45 × 34mm, and the £1 Seahorse stamps 60 × 34mm.

Festival of Stamps prices

Miniature sheet (6 May)	£ 1.41
Press sheet	£31.00
Miniature sheet (8 May sheet)	£ 2.82
Presentation pack (both sheets)	£ 4.75
First day cover envelopes (each)	£ 0.30
Serviced first day cover 6 May (UK customers)	£ 2.13
Serviced first day cover 6 May (overseas customers)	£ 1.82
Serviced first day cover 8 May (UK)	£ 3.79
Serviced first day cover 8 May (overseas)	£ 3.23
Stamp cards (set of eight)	£ 3.20
1st class Double Head stamp	£ 0.41
Prestige stamp book	£11.15
PSB stamp pane first day cover (UK)	£ 4.33
PSB stamp pane first day cover (overseas)	£ 3.69



LONDON 2010 FESTIVAL OF STAMPS



Image courtesy of the Royal Mail



FIRST DAY FACILITIES Orders for serviced FDCs must reach Tallents House by the days of issue. For the 6 May issue, collectors may send stamped covers to Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (for Tallents House postmark), or to their nearest Royal Mail Special Handstamp Centre (Sandringham postmark) marking the outer envelope 'FD1021' or 'FD1022'. Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for the Sandringham postmark. For the 8 May issue, covers should again be sent to Tallents House or your nearest Special Handstamp Centre for the London N1 postmark, requesting postmarks 'FD1023' or 'FD1024'.

For details of sponsored handstamps and addresses of the Handstamp Centres, see the *British Postmark Bulletin* – see page 212 for subscription rates, and for details of how to obtain a free sample copy. ►

Festival of Stamps Prestige stamp book

A PRESTIGE BOOK, entitled *1910 1936 King George V*, will be available from 8 May. Written by Douglas Muir of the British Postal Museum & Archive, it features stamps from George V's stamp collection, details of the heads used on stamps of his reign, the Coronation Aerial Post (1911), the Empire air mail scheme, the Seahorse stamps, the Post Office underground railway, the Empire Exhibition, Postal Union Congress, and Silver Jubilee commemorative issues. The well-illustrated and colourful book will appeal to all interested in the stamps and postal services of George V's reign. The definitive pane (below, at bottom right) will be used on the serviced Royal Mail first day covers •



Festival of Stamps PSB The book will contain four panes:

Pane 1 Top and bottom rows: £1 George V double head and 1st class George V/Elizabeth II double head. Middle row: the same stamps but in reverse order

Pane 2 Seahorse stamps: £1 top, 10s below

Pane 3 Empire Exhibition stamps: top row 1924 1½d value, 1d value; below stamps in reverse order

Pane 4 Definitive stamps (self-adhesive with security features): top & bottom rows 1st, 2nd, 1st; middle row 50p, label (George V head), 50p



Britain Alone Remembering the darkest moments of 1940

EIGHT STAMPS, a miniature sheet and a prestige book, commemorating Second World War Britain (in 1940), go on sale at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and at Royal Mail Tallents House on 13 May. The stamps feature: 1st class, Winston Churchill; 1st class, Land Girls; 60p, Home Guard; 60p, Evacuees; 67p, Fire Service; 67p, Royal Broadcast (Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret); 97p, Air Raid Wardens; and 97p, Women in Factories. The stamps are printed in separate sheets. ▶



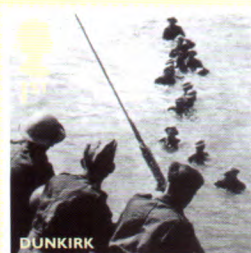


DUNKIRK

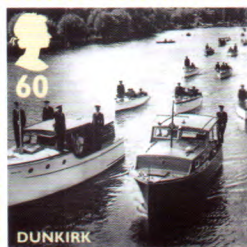
26 May – 4 June 1940

*A miracle of deliverance, achieved
by valour, by perseverance,
by perfect discipline, by faultless
service, by resource, by skill,
by unconquerable fidelity,
is manifest to us all.*

Winston Churchill,
House of Commons
4 June 1940



DUNKIRK



DUNKIRK



DUNKIRK



DUNKIRK

Previous page: Prime Minister Winston Churchill inspecting bomb damage to the House of Commons after an air raid in 1940. Photograph © Mary Evans Picture Library.

The Britain Alone miniature sheet, entitled 'Dunkirk', contains four stamps – 1st, 60p, 88p and 97p – showing scenes from the evacuation, including the famous 'little ships' which rescued British troops from the beaches.

The individual stamps and the miniature sheet were designed by Why Not Associates and printed in litho by Cartor. The stamps measure 35mm square, perforation gauge 14.5, and have all-over phosphor. The miniature sheet measures 115 × 89mm (shown above at actual size).

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Orders for serviced FDCs must reach Tallents House (address below) by the date of issue. Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (for the Tallents House postmark), or to their nearest

Royal Mail Special Handstamp Centre (for Dover postmark) marking the outer envelope 'FD1025' or 'FD1026'. Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for the Dover postmark.

Details of sponsored handstamps will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House (£12.25 UK/Europe; £24.95 elsewhere). To receive a sample copy write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ.

PRESTIGE STAMP BOOK Details of the prestige book for this issue will be given in next month's *Bulletin* •

Britain Alone prices

Set of stamps	£ 5.30
Miniature sheet (MS)	£ 2.86
Presentation pack (stamps & MS)	£ 8.70
FDC envelope	£ 0.30
Serviced FDC stamps (UK customers)	£ 6.70
Serviced FDC stamps (Overseas)	£ 5.71
Serviced FDC stamps (UK)	£ 3.84
Serviced FDC MS (overseas)	£ 3.27
Stamp cards (13 cards)	£ 5.20
Dunkirk medal cover	£14.95

After 11am, on Sunday 3 September 1939, the then British prime minister, Neville Chamberlain, made a BBC broadcast from the Cabinet Room at 10 Downing Street. For the first time, a democratic leader had used a new mass medium, radio, to tell his fellow citizens that they were at war after Germany had rejected ultimatums from Britain and France to withdraw its troops from Poland. It was news that had been expected, and dreaded.

Radio had brought the war into almost every home: bombers would bring war to every county in Britain. War no longer happened elsewhere. British civilians would be part of it, working, dying, organising – and dying – for victory. The early months of the conflict were labelled 'the phoney war' when ended decisively in June 1940 with the 'fall' invasion of the Low Countries, and the subsequent defeat of the Anglo-French forces.

"The bomber," said politician Stanley Baldwin in 1932, "will always get through," obliterating Britain's metropolises and creating thousands of casualties. Such fearful speculation helps to explain why, in early September 1939, almost 1.5 million people – mostly schoolchildren, mothers with babies, expectant mothers and children under five – were evacuated from target zones to the relative safety of the countryside.

There was a clash of cultures as town and country, rich, poor and those in between were brought face to face. For some of the 'vacs', and their hosts, the experience would be a test of endurance, but for others it was an adventure of a lifetime.

Winston Churchill, 13 May 1940

A year later, on 22 June 1941, Hitler launched Operation Barbarossa – the Nazi invasion of the Soviet Union. During that year the United Kingdom, with the Empire and the United States, waged war alone against the Nazis in the democratic battle against Nazi domination of mainland Europe.

Once the decision had been made to fight on, war visited the British Isles with malignant force. The Blitz, a six-year bombing campaign launched by the Germans in September 1940, was the most intense period of aerial warfare in the world. Bombs and incendiary bombs rained down, largely by night, on the towns and cities of Britain, and on the countryside. The extraordinary orders of ordinary people, their heroism, their defiance, their faith, and with them, hope for the rest of the world. Ultimately, Britain did not win the war alone, but vitally, its people did not lose it.

'Let us not be false, to the battle, to the foe: each to our part, each to our nation: there is not a week, nor a day
in which we are not engaged in the struggle.'
Winston Churchill, 27 January 1940

On 14 May 1940, the Secretary of State for War, Anthony Eden, broadcast an appeal to men between 17 and 65 who were 'not at present engaged in military service'. He called on them to join the new Local Defence Volunteers (LDV). Within 24 hours, there were more than 250,000 applicants, and by the end of June the LDV had almost 1.5 million members, ranging from teenagers to octogenarians.

The Home Guard was formed with the intention of delaying an enemy invasion for as long as possible. Its dedicated members patrolled coastlines, airfields and factories, becoming integral to Britain's civil defence.

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE DOVER, KENT

YOUR COURAGE
YOUR CHEERFULNESS
YOUR RESOLUTION

**WILL BRING US
VICTORY**

13.5.2010

The presentation pack (left), includes archive photographs showing the uncertainty and hardships of life in Britain in 1940. It was written by Nigel Fountain and designed by Why Not Associates. The two first day covers available are shown below.

Royal Mail First Day Cover

Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB



DUNKIRK
74. 34mm - 4.5mm (18)

A miracle of deliverance, achieved
by valor, by perseverance,
by perfect discipline, by faultless
service, by resource, by skill,
by unconquerable fidelity,
is manifest to us all.

4 June 1940

**YOUR COURAGE
YOUR CHEERFULNESS
YOUR RESOLUTION
WILL BRING
US VICTORY**

9/25/2018

Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbier Road
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB

Downloaded At: 11:53 11 September 2009

Mainly Machins Recent developments and



Classic Album Covers and *The Royal Society*, two of the four prestige stamp books to be issued this year.

New prestige books Two of the four books for this year have been issued. The stamps in both were printed by Cartor in lithography. The first book, issued on 7 January, features some of the iconic artwork on album sleeves which has done so much to popularise and market pop music. Imaginative graphic artists have created striking images to reflect and enhance the work of some of the UK's great bands of the last 40 years. The stamps celebrate the artists and photographers, not the music. Even so, it must have been difficult to choose just 10 of them for the stamps, which are on two panes. Each stamp shows a vinyl record peeping out of its sleeve, and the perforations are interrupted to allow this to be cut around, an unusual technique. The two panes face each other in the book, the first time this has been done.

The other two panes contain Machin definitives. The first, for which an official first day cover was provided, has $4 \times 20p$ alternating with $2 \times 54p$ and $2 \times 62p$ around a label picturing a vinyl record. The second does not have a label, but has $5 \times 10p$ alternating with $2 \times 22p$ and $2 \times 54p$. Counting the label as an item, there are 16 Machin se-tenant pairs and you need four books to get them all.

The second book, on 25 February, marks the 350th anniversary of the founding of the Royal Society, the world's oldest academy of science. Its fellowship includes some of the greatest scientists and thinkers who ever existed. Ten of them are featured on the 1st class special stamps, each with a graphic depicting the subject of their expertise. Fittingly, this is placed over their forehead or 'brain box'. The book contains 12 special stamps in three panes, the extra two being achieved by selecting two, Jenner (vaccination) and Rutherford (nuclear physics), to be included twice. I claim a particular connection with Alfred Russell Wallace, as he attended Hertford Grammar School (now Richard Hale), as did I a hundred years later where I was assigned to Wallace House.

The second pane in the book contains $4 \times 54p$ and $4 \times 22p$, alternating around a label showing the arms of the Society. Although neither of these definitives is new, both having appeared in the *Classic Albums* book, the pane yields eight new se-tenant pairs.

prestige stamp books: Douglas Myall reports



Far left: the typeface used for the 5p and 54p values in the two new prestige books. Left: the 'Jeffery Matthews fount' on a standard 54p definitive.

Jeffery Matthews' drawings of his numerals are now in the BPMA. They were shown here in May 2008 (page 264).

Typefaces Very few typefaces have been used to print the value on decimal definitives. The first was Eric Gill's Perpetua. (The intaglio £1 used a script face until changing to Perpetua on 6 December 1972 to 'bring it into line with other decimal issues'.) Perpetua has a broad set, the figure 'o' being almost a perfect circle. When it was decided that the bicoloured 10p stamp was to be printed in a single colour, it was considered that the Perpetua zero was rather overpowering and the artist Jeffery Matthews was asked to redraw it in a narrower typeface. This had a slanting centre. The result first appeared in sheets on 25 February 1976. Later, when the width of other Perpetua values, such as the 20½p, caused spacing problems, he was asked to redesign the full set of values. This has become known as the Jeffery Matthews fount; the zero in this set has an upright centre. It has been the standard for Machin stamps since 1982 – until 7 January.

The 5p and 54p numerals on the panes in the two prestige stamp books described above are not in the Matthews fount. Instead, they were printed in a face from the Garamond family. This has distinctly different numerals, the 5 looking almost italic and the 4 having an open top. All printers of Machin stamps are supplied with digital images of the values and head. Quite how Garamond came to be used is a mystery but it was unintended and will not be repeated. This makes the two affected stamps, especially the 5p which appeared on only one pane, very collectable as singles.

Covers Ever since The Times prestige book of 1985, Royal Mail has printed some PSB panes separately for use on first day covers. They can be distinguished from those in the books because they do not have stitching holes. An official first day cover was supplied only for the pane with the 5p stamp but privately produced covers exist with both panes and so include the 54p.

High value coils The stamps on official covers are affixed by specially-made machines. These can lift sets of stamps from their substrate and place them on a cover precisely where wanted. To facilitate this mechanised operation for the first day cover with the security high values issued on 17 February last year, the four stamps were printed sideways by a common set of cylinders and delivered as coils. The same method was used for the four stamps on the £1 coin cover of 1 December last. As a result, these sideways printed stamps do not exist mint; nor do they exist on privately produced covers as the coils were not made available to the public. ►





One of the NVIs with four oval security slits, found by a collector. The hidden code in the iridescent overprint shows they are from De La Rue business sheets.

Tariff and booklet changes Inland and overseas postal prices will rise on 6 April (see p202). Many of the new rates will be met by existing NVIs, but there will be five new Machin stamps in sheets: 60p emerald (Europe 20g), 67p rhododendron (Worldwide 10g), 88p shocking pink (Europe 40g), 97p mauve (Worldwide 20g) and £1.46 dark turquoise (Worldwide 40g). The two 40g stamps are particularly interesting as they replace the universal 40g self-adhesives now sold in books of four, with the hidden code F. There will still be books of four but they will contain the two new 20g stamps.

Four-oval stamps Toward the end of last year both 1st and 2nd class inland letter NVIs were available with four oval security slits instead of the intended two. Five 1st and four 2nd were found in kiloware from the south west of England. They have type 1 slits (cuts at left and right only) and the code in the iridescent overprint shows them to be from DLR business sheets. The most likely cause is a tooling error, and their rarity indicates that the printers spotted the error and destroyed most sheets as not up to specification. Some of these are accompanied by normal stamps on the same piece, so it seems their sender(s) did not notice the error. They are not known mint ●

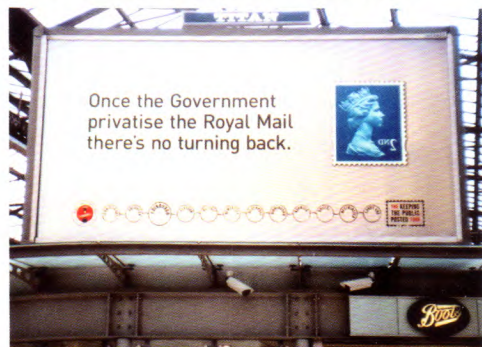
Text © D G A Myall 2010

Posting boxes Photographs by our readers

WE HAVE TWO interesting boxes this month. The first photograph, submitted by Mr D Manning of Kent, shows a George VI wall box in the vicinity of Raleigh's Cross, Somerset. Mr Manning is intrigued that the time plate shows a collection at 4.02pm, and wonders why the time should be so precise. We would be interested to hear from any reader as to why this should be. The other photo, sent in by Tom Norgate, is of a 'rather low to the ground' lamp-box in Church Road, Steep, near

Petersfield. It is located just east of the entrance to Bedales School. Mr Norgate has not been able to find out exactly when it was placed there, but the general consensus is about 1970 after the original wallbox, in a brick pillar, was knocked down, believed to be by a postman in a van!

Mr Norgate also sent the photograph below, of a poster he saw at Edinburgh's Waverley Station last summer – before the proposed partial privatisation of Royal Mail had been shelved ●



Above: a poster photographed by Tom Norgate at Waverley Station in Edinburgh last summer – Machin collectors may be amused by the reversed 2nd class stamp.

The world of online philately by Glenn H Morgan FRPSL

EXPONET IS DESCRIBED by its webmasters as the biggest permanent virtual international philatelic exhibition in the world. It is easy to see how this is a true statement for, at the time of writing, there were 589 online exhibits from 46 countries, plus links to a further 140 exhibits being maintained elsewhere on the net.

The aim is quite simple – to make available to anyone with a computer, anywhere in the world, an ever-increasing number of exhibits from all of the philatelic disciplines free of charge. The two founders of Exponet, Milan Cernik and Bretislav Janik of the Czech Republic, are to be commended for their commitment to this aim, as are the exhibitors who have been willing to share their treasures with a global audience.

The home page enables you choose between Czech and English languages, or by clicking on one of the 46 country flags you will see a listing of every exhibit from collectors within that country. There are presently eight exhibits from six UK collectors. The English language page takes you to a listing of the latest five exhibits uploaded, plus headings for fifteen philatelic classes, such as traditional, open, youth, etc. Taking the thematic class as an example, there are 116 exhibits, varying from one to ten frames, so there are approaching 8,000 album pages to view in this section alone.

Clicking on your chosen exhibit title will reveal thumbnails of the first frame of 16 pages, and a click on any album page will show a full-sized version for saving or printing. The rest of the exhibit can be accessed by links at the foot of each page.

SPORT-O-NET '07 and OLYMPSPORT 2009 were the first fully virtual international philatelic exhibitions, and consisted of exhibits with sports themes from all over the world, with Exponet hosting the 48 entries. With the cost of exhibition venues and exhibitor's fees rising all the time, this may be the best way forward, especially with so few exhibits being viewed at stamp shows by visitors, at least in Europe.

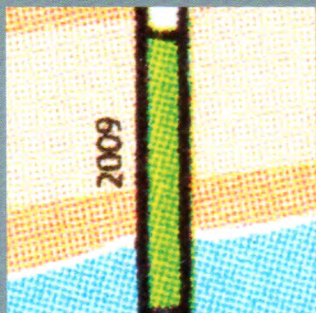
To complete the site there is a guest book, links, details of the organisational committee, technical details for uploading exhibits, newsletters and the chance to donate. The site has been visited by collectors from 141 countries and averages over 200 first-time visitors every day, with the UK being the fifth highest user.

I recently benefitted from being able to examine and save onto my hard drive an exhibit that I had missed seeing at an international show. I learned a lot of new information about this obscure subject that has not been recorded elsewhere. Sadly, by the time of my viewing, the exhibitor had died, and the collection had been disposed of, but fortunately his exhibit lives on within Exponet. I can think of no better example as to why you should support this website, as both a visitor and potential exhibitor •

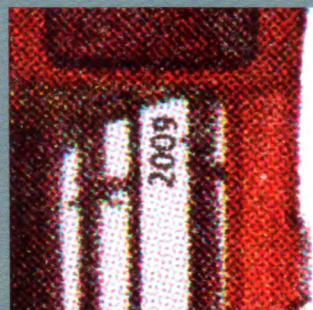


The home page of Exponet
www.japhila.cz/hof/exponet_menu.htm

Hidden dates Richard West reveals how to find the year of



Dates hidden on six special stamps of 2009 (from top left): Olympics Canoe Slalom stamp; Royal Navy Uniforms Admiral; St David from the Celebrating Wales miniature sheet; 1st class Flightless Cormorant stamp from the Charles Darwin miniature sheet; Pagoda stamp from the Kew Gardens miniature sheet; and Routemaster Bus from the Design Classics set.



issue hidden in the design of special stamps

DURING 2009, Royal Mail has once again secreted the year of issue somewhere on each of the designs of the special stamps. For those who want to search out these 'hidden dates' for themselves, read no further. For others, here is where to look on each of the stamps. Many are difficult to locate, requiring quite a search if you use these dates to keep your collection in order of year of issue. Happy hunting!

Design Classics Spitfire: inside of left-hand (looking at the stamp) wheel just under the aircraft body • Miniskirt: by the model's right-hand elbow • Mini: at lower right of the windscreen just above the bonnet • Anglepoise lamp: to the left at the top of the lower stem • Concorde: to the left of the right-hand (looking at stamp) wheels, just below the wing • Telephone kiosk: near the base of the right-hand side of the kiosk • Polypropylene chair: just under the seat to the front of the front legs • Penguin books: at the bottom of the right-hand side of book cover • London Underground map: to the left of the Northern Line (in black) just below London Bridge • Routemaster: to the right of lower deck front passenger window.

Robert Burns The date is included in the caption on the two special stamps; no dates are included on the Scottish definitives.

Charles Darwin stamps The date is hidden at the bottom of the right-hand phosphor band on each stamp.

Charles Darwin miniature sheet 1st Flightless Cormorant: at the top of bird's feet • 1st Giant Tortoise: between tortoise's shell and rear foot • 81p Marine Iguana: alongside iguana's front leg, above its toes • 81p Floreana Mockingbird: below body behind leg.

Celebrating Wales 1st Red Dragon: between the dragon's neck and wing • 81p St David: to left of cuff of St David's right hand • 81p National Assembly: to left of the lamppost by the entrance to the Assembly Building • 1st Welsh Dragon: definitive, no hidden date.

Industrial Revolution 1st Boulton: on far right chimney • 1st Watt: just inside the machinery, two thirds down the left-hand side of the stamp • 50p Arkwright: on the left-hand spindle, towards the base of the machine • 50p Wedgwood: on Wedgwood's collar just under right ear • 56p Stephenson: among the wires and pulleys, roughly halfway between the base of the Queen's neck and chimney • 56p Maudsley: just inside the machine to the right of Maudsley's left coat lapel • 72p Brindley: between the building and the tree seen through the right-hand arch of the bridge • 72p McAdam: above shoulder of far left-hand road builder. ►

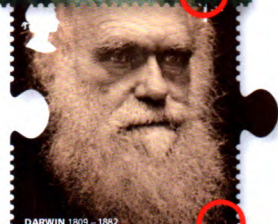
1ST



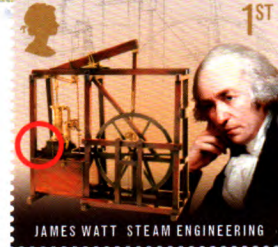
Routemaster Bus
Design team led by AAM Durrant



1759 ROBERT BURNS 2009



DARWIN 1809 - 1882



JAMES WATT STEAM ENGINEERING



The House of Tudor On all values and on the miniature sheet, the date is below the design at bottom left of the stamp.

Plants Round headed Leek: in a gap at '3 o'clock' on the uppermost flower • Floating Water Plantain: between leaves at lower centre of stamp • Lady's Slipper Orchid: between leaves halfway down stamp, just left of centre • Dwarf Milkwort: to the right of the main cluster of leaves near the bottom of the stamp • Marsh Saxifrage: between the leaves of the smaller of the right-hand flowers • Downy Woundwort: between the leaves of right-hand flower, just above the main leaves • Upright Spurge: in the middle of the leaves to the left of the Queen's head • Plymouth Pear: between leaves of the right-hand flowers • Sea Knotgrass: just above the lowest of the left-hand cluster of leaves • Depford Pink: between the leaves of the right-hand flower.

Kew Gardens miniature sheet 1st Palm house: on the path at lower right of stamp • 1st Millennium Seed Bank: at far left of the curved roof • 90p Pagoda: to the right of the Pagoda, near its base • 90p Sackler Crossing: in water above the branch of the tree at lower left of the design – about one inch above the 'l' of 'Sackler'.

Mythical Creatures On all values: out of the right-hand phosphor band at lower right of stamp.

Post Boxes 1st: at bottom left of collection plate • 56p: in mortar at bottom left-hand corner of box • 81p: at bottom right of collection plate • 90p: in mortar at bottom right-hand corner of box.

Fire and Rescue Service On all values: out of the right-hand phosphor band at bottom right-hand corner of stamp.

Royal Navy Uniforms 1st Flight Deck Officer: just below Officer's left hand • 1st Captain: below right upper arm • 1st Second Officer: by gas mask under the right hand • 90p Able Seaman: under right arm by wheel • 90p Royal Marine: to left of the right thigh of the Marine below rifle • 90p Admiral: below right cuff.

Eminent Britons All stamps are 1st class. Perry: just above collar, below right ear • Purcell: just above the left shoulder • Busby: just above collar of suit, below right ear • Gladstone: on collar just by the chin • Wollstonecroft: just above the dress behind the neck • Conan Doyle: just above collar of suit, below right ear • Campbell: just above sleeve above 'n' of 'Donald' • Fryd: above her right shoulder near neck, on leg of one of the dancing children • Johnson: just above collar, to the left of the wig below right ear • Ryle: just above collar of suit below right ear.

Olympic and Paralympic Games All stamps are 1st class. Canoe Slalom: to the left of the far left marker • Archery: just below the quiver at bottom right of stamp • Track: between the athlete's left hand and thigh • Aquatics: on the diver's right foot • Boccia: out of white line halfway down right hand of stamp • Judo: between the legs of the contestant in white • Equestrian: to the right of the jockey's stirrup below front left leg of the horse • Badminton: just below the shuttlecock, on grey band • Weightlifting: to the top of the weightlifter's right arm, by the weight • Basketball: at the top of the player's left leg.



Christmas All values including miniature sheet: at bottom of phosphor band at left of stamp (except for the 2nd class where the band is down the centre of the stamp) •

Commemorative covers New this month



GB Covers FDC (edition of 40) serviced with Royal Society stamps, cancelled by a special Evolution Wallace Road London N1 postmark. Each authorised and numbered. **Price** £16 plus £2 postage payable to GB Covers •



M Tanner A Sir Matt Busby cover (edition of 30 numbered copies), also featuring Duncan Edwards, Ryan Giggs and Old Trafford. Busby is shown signing his manager's contract. A 1st class Sir Matt Busby stamp is postmarked

Manchester 8/10/2009... Busby 1909-1994. A filler postcard comes with each cover. **Price** £14.99, postage £1.50 worldwide. A choice of two different Sir Matt Busby maximum cards is available. £10 each plus £1.50 postage. Different art/postmarks. Enquire for Stones, Pink Floyd, David Bowie, Led Zepp, Beatles •



Cotswold & Stuart Covers The unusual and collectable EP-size Classic Album Covers sheetlet is available on a C4-size FDC with a special handstamp. **Price** £7.95 plus £2.50 UK postage •

Orders and enquiries

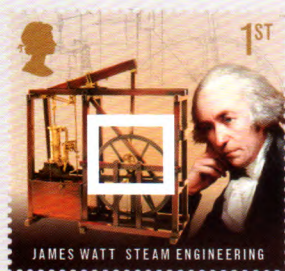
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Cover producers wishing to announce a recent or forthcoming cover should submit copy of up to 75 words in the style above. The text should briefly describe the cover, state the stamps and postmarks it will bear, and give retail prices and an address for orders and enquiries. Announcements are published on a first-come-first-served basis and may be modified or shortened at the Editor's discretion. Copy for consideration for the May *Bulletin* should be sent to The Editor (address on p195) by 8 March. The Editor regrets that he cannot enter into correspondence or telephone conversations concerning announcements in this Covers section.

Competitions Win a copy of *Artwork*, by David Gentleman



December identify The detail was from the Pioneers of the Industrial Revolution James Watt stamp. The winner was J Warmbrunn of Germany.

December knowledge The answers: 1) Sally Stiff; 2) 1988 Welsh Bible; 3) Monte Carlo, Monaco. The winner was Mrs P Coad of Middlesbrough.

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

- 1 What was the colour of the George VI 11d definitive stamp?
- 2 Who designed the 1966 Birds stamps?
- 3 In which year was David Gentleman's first set of stamps issued?

Send your answer (addressed to either the March *Identify* competition or the March *Knowledge* competition), name and address on a postcard or back of a sealed envelope to: British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 35-50 Rathbone Place, London W1T 1HQ. The senders of the first cards to be drawn in each competition on 9 April will each receive the *Artwork* book. Runner-up prizes of presentation packs, first day covers or stamp cards will be awarded in each competition. The competitions are not open to Royal Mail employees. ●

Events

Until 15 March David Gentleman exhibition at the British Postal Museum & Archive. See p203.

Until 30 June Post Abolition exhibition at Sugar & Slavery Gallery at the Museum of London Docklands, London E14. Festival of Stamps event. See p199.

Until 30 October King George V exhibition at Bath Postal Museum, 27 Northgate Street, Bath. Festival of Stamps event. **Enquiries** 01225 460333.

Until 31 December Philatelic Rarities exhibition at British Library. Festival of Stamps event. See p198.

6 March Streetly PS Stamp Fair, Collingwood Centre, Collingswood Drive, Pheasey, Birmingham, 10.00-16.40. 16 national stamp, postal history & postcard

dealers. Displays by Society members. Admission 20p adults, 10p children. Refreshments and parking available. **Enquiries** B Hyner, 0121 357 5340.

27 March Westbex 2010, Kennet School, Thatcham, Berks, 10.00-16.00. Free admission & parking. NPS regional meeting, Thames Valley Federation displays, 24 dealers (stamps, postal history, etc). **Enquiries** G Stewart 01635 866942, or www.tdps.org.uk

7 April - January 2011 Impressions of Africa: Money, Medals & Stamps exhibition, British Museum, London WC1. Festival of Stamps event.

May - October Display of Rugby stamps and postal history, World Rugby Museum, Twickenham Stadium, Twickenham. Festival of Stamps event ●

Late news

London 2010 Festival of Stamps



International Stamp Exhibition
8th – 15th May 2010
Business Design Centre
Islington, London N1 0QH
For further information:

www.london2010.org.uk



LONDON 2010 FESTIVAL OF STAMPS

This new book of six definitive stamps with an advertisement on the inside front cover for the London 2010 International Stamp Exhibition will go on sale on 30 March. Price £2.34 (£2.46 from 6 April).

Royal Mail news A Kings & Queens prestige medal collection (No 3) will go on sale on 23 March (price £44.95) and a City of London coin cover (£15.95) on 21 April •

Events The North of Ireland Philatelic Society will hold its exhibition and fair at St Nicholas' Church Hall, Cadogan Park, Lisburn Road, Belfast, on 27 March, 10.00-16.00. Enquiries: Norman Scott, 028 9079 5530 •

The 34th North East Philatelic Weekend will be held at the Holiday Inn, Emerson, Washington, Tyne & Wear, 21-23 May. Displays will be: Pembroke Postal History (Gerald Marriner), History of Lufthansa Service to South America (Ian Nutley), The Life & Times of George VI (Daphne McMillan), Queen Victoria (Ian Shaw) and Malta (Colin Searle). There will be an auction and social activities, including banquet and raffle. The cost of the weekend, including accommodation and meals, is £190. To book, write to Val Beeken, 162 Canterbury Road, Newton Hall Estate, Durham DH1 5XT, or phone 0191 386 1931, by 29 March •

The British Thematic Association invites entries for the 2010 BTA Cup thematic competition. This 32-sheet competition, judged by national thematic rules, will be at the Swinpex Exhibition, St Joseph's Roman Catholic College, Ocotol Way, Swindon, on Saturday 12 June 2010. This invitation is open to all, whether members of the BTA or not. Entry forms can be downloaded at www.brit-thematic-assoc.com or by writing to Richard Wheeler, 'Kincora', Boode Road, Braunton EX33 2NW. The cost of entry is £15. Applications are required by 29 April, and entries by 29 May.

The BTA will hold its AGM during the exhibition (starting at 14.00), followed by Anne Stammers' display 'From Rocks to Riches', telling the story of how the earth's minerals and precious metals have been transformed by mankind into many wonderful products. This collection won 1st place in the BTA Cup competition in 2009.

The BTA will take part in the Scottish Philatelic Congress at Dewar's Centre, Perth on 17 April. The entries for the annual Friends of Thematica competitions will be displayed, also entries for the Barclays Cup competition for young collectors. Richard Wheeler, BTA Chairman, will show his award-winning exhibit on masks, puppets, carnival, etc – Richard was a professional puppeteer. This can be seen in the Hay Room at the Dewar's Centre, 12.00-13.45. Children welcome.

For more information on the BTA contact Peter Denly, 9 Oaklands Park, Bishops Stortford CM23 2BY, or visit www.brit-thematic-assoc.com •

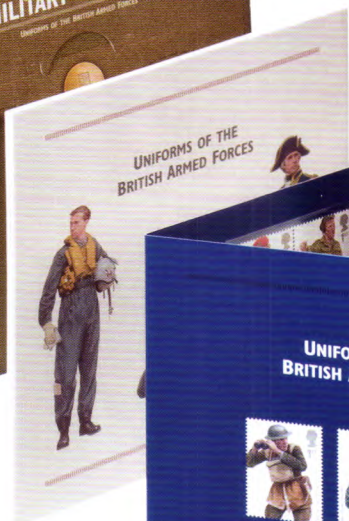
Bulletin back issues The Baptist Missionary Society Stamp Bureau has been donated a large number of *Bulletin* issues (vols 1-45), which it wishes to sell. Price £1 a copy for vols 1-2 and 10p a copy from volume 3 onwards, plus postage. Incomplete volumes can be split, but not complete volumes. All monies raised go to charity. Contact Richard Camp on richardbcamp@yahoo.co.uk for e-mail list or send 40p in stamps for a printed list to Mr Camp: 3 Barnfield Crescent, Wellington TF1 2ES.

Mr L E Hughes of Hitchin offers a run of the *Bulletin* from November 1988 to August 2006 free to any reader who is willing to collect. Telephone Mr Hughes on 01462 454432 •

Military Uniforms collectors pack



This replica of a Post Office Rifles cap badge is included in the pack (shown smaller than actual size).



Price £29.95

Order code PB408

Handling charge UK £1.45,
Europe £1.55, rest of world
£2.15

This limited edition product uniquely features all three sets of the Military Uniforms stamps (Army, RAF and Navy Uniforms) within a beautifully designed pack. In addition to the three sets of mint stamps, the pack includes • A high-quality replica of a Post Office Rifles regimental cap badge – this army regiment's rich history is inextricably linked with the Post Office from whose workers it was formed • A stunning wall chart featuring the uniforms depicted on the stamps, alongside three new specially commissioned pictures of uniforms exclusive to this pack. These images form a timeline charting the development of military uniform throughout the ages • A wealth of intriguing information about the Post Office Rifles, who fought in three major wars. Alongside this is the story of the Fovant regimental cap badges, which have been carved into the Wiltshire hillside by proud servicemen.



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