

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The ROYAL MAIL magazine *for stamp collectors*

Bulletin

Volume 42 Number 12

AUGUST 2005 £1.10

Trafalgar anniversary issue •
Business customised stamps

60



1930 Brough Superior bespoke luxury motorcycle

British motorcycles: from a motor bicycle to the 160mph superbike, six new stamps span a century of world class manufacturing.



ISSUED BY BSA CYCLES LTD BIRMINGHAM

Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



Cover In the early 1900s, the munitions manufacturer Birmingham Small Arms diversified into motorcycle production. By 1926, when this advertising illustration was first published, BSA was one of the country's leading names. Illustration © Mary Evans Picture Library.

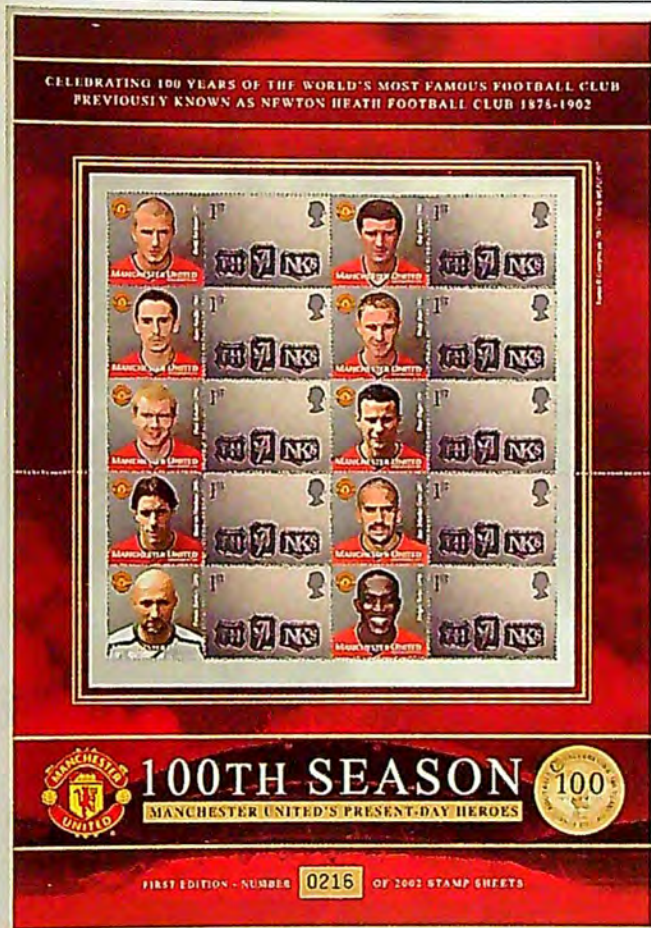
Issues Some items available only from Royal Mail Tallents House and Post Office Limited philatelic outlets at main post offices in Bath, Belfast, Birmingham, Brighton, Bristol, Cambridge, Canterbury, Cardiff, Chester, Colchester, Coventry, Croydon, Durham, Edinburgh, Exeter, Glasgow, Grimsby, Guildford,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

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

9 August	Issue Stamp ingot: 1929 £1 PUC stamp.
9 August	Withdrawal Royal Society of Arts stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards.
16 August	Issue Changing Tastes in Britain stamp cards.
23 August	Issue Changing Tastes in Britain stamps and presentation pack.
6 September	Issue Definitive Collectors Pack; Definitive Collection (definitive and country stamps).
6 September	Withdrawal Definitive stamp packs 57 (low values) and 58 (low values, July 2002).
8 September	Issue Classic ITV stamp cards.
15 September	Issue Classic ITV stamps, pack, and Smilers sheet.
15 September	Withdrawal Woodland Animals stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards.
23 September	Issue Castles Ingot Series no 1 (Windsor Castle stamp).
4 October	Issue Book containing definitive-size Smilers stamps, self-adhesive – see page 360.
4 October	Withdrawal Scottish Parliament miniature sheet.

End of War coin cover: clarification Our coin cover was shown on page 329 last month. It includes a medal, the obverse of which features the Ministry of Defence WWII logo. The reverse (not shown) features a celebratory ring of chiming bells – the reverse only was designed by Jeffery Matthews.

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The **British Philatelic Bulletin** is published monthly by Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ • **Editor** J R Holman • **Price** £1.10 single copies from Post Office Ltd philatelic outlets • **Annual subscription** £11.75 UK & Europe; £16.75 elsewhere. Send subscriptions to Royal Mail Talents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB • **Binders** (to hold 24 issues) £8.50, storage boxes (about 30 copies) £9.95 available by post from Royal Mail (Edinburgh address, above) • Royal Mail also publishes the fortnightly **British Postmark Bulletin**, giving details of forthcoming special handstamps. Available on annual subscription from Edinburgh address above. £12.25 UK and Europe, £24.95 rest of the world • **Copyright** Design & text Royal Mail Group plc, unless attributed to a specified author. All requests to reproduce any article should be addressed to the Editor, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ • **Design** Robert Maude • **Printed** in Great Britain by Beacon Press • **ISSN** 0953 8119 • Royal Mail is a trading name of Royal Mail Group plc. Registered in England and Wales no 4138203 registered office 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ

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Stamp scene Exhibitions, societies and auctions: Glenn Morgan keeps you posted

Enquiries Chris Oliver, NPS, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1M 6PT. Enclose a SAE, or for late applications email nps@ukphilately.org.uk from where NPS membership details are also available.

Thematic seminar The National Philatelic Society is holding a day-long thematic collecting seminar on Saturday 20 August at its London EC1 headquarters, when Brian Sole and Sheila Foster will give delegates the opportunity to learn about thematic collecting and displaying. The cost including coffee and lunch is a very reasonable £8 for NPS members or £10 for non-members. The topics covered include how to choose a subject, gather material and organise a collection, and how to select material to display and arrange it for competitions. Places are limited and the deadline for applications is 5 August •



Stampex enquiries Philatelic Traders Society (Organisers) Telephone: 01252 628006.

Philatex enquiries Contact the organiser, Trevor Davis, on 020 8946 4489.

Exhibitions Autumn Stampex (14-18 September, Business Design Centre, 52 Upper Street, Islington, London N1) will feature a variety of stands, from stamp dealers to Royal Mail, and from the National Philatelic Society to the Friends of the British Postal Museum and Archives. There are also the annual competitions covering traditional philately, postal history and thematics to aero philately and literature. Younger collectors can compete in the British Youth Championships and Stamp Active competitions. A Stampex postmark will be in use each day with a special 'First Day' one on 15 September for the ITV stamps (left). At the information stand a Stampex cover will be sold (35p), also 'customised sheetlets' of 10 White Ensign stamps with Nelson labels attached (£1 per stamp/label). A free postcard for visitors will feature the design of a proposed Nelson stamp of 1953 •

27-29 October are the dates for the very popular Philatex fair, which is again being held at the Royal Horticultural Society, New Hall, Greycoat Street, Westminster, London SW1 •

Grosvenor Auctions Phone 020 7379 8789 or see www.grosvenorauctions.com

Auctions Among the 1308 lots in Grosvenor's 26 May GB sale, which covered the entire spectrum of dates and subjects, was a 1601 Queen Elizabeth I 'Haste Post Haste' letter, sent from Dover to beyond Reading via London. This item was from the collection of the late Michael Jackson, the greatly missed dealer, collector and exhibitor, and had an estimate of £10,000-£12,000. Disappointingly, it remained unsold.

Those who collect modern material may have been surprised at the discovery of presentation packs of the early decimal definitives, containing stamps overprinted 'SPECIMEN'. The overprint is as found on the panes of the £1 *Stamps for Cooks* booklet, and on panes in the £1 *Story of Wedgwood* booklet from the one recorded book which has subsequently been split up to provide single stamps. The packs involved contain the low values from 1/2p to 10p, the recess printed high values of 20p, 50p and £1, and the 3p, 3 1/2p, 5 1/2p and 8p from each of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. These five auction lots all sold and collectively realised £4950 against a collective estimate of £5100-£7400, proving that there is an active market in rare modern material and that discoveries are still to be made •

Society Publications The June issue of *Thamescene*, the publication of the British Thematic Association, has appeared. It contains its usual range of useful features, articles and news including a look back at a philatelic autobiography, a report on a visit to the Australian Post Master Gallery, an obituary on Slania and much more besides •

The Great Britain Collectors Club quarterly *Chronicle* for April includes a feature article entitled 'From Hill to Bickerdyke: the Experimental and Early Machine Postmarks of England 1857-1901' by Jerry H Miller, which in its 14 pages covers this subject in great detail. Indeed, Jerry has a gold medal collection formed over a period of 20 years, so was well positioned to write this article. Other parts of the magazine cover another year on eBay, Mostly Machines, a book review of the new Errors catalogue by Tom Pierron and general society business •

The Insurance and Banking ps's publication *I&BPS Newsletter* for May, which is ably edited by Brian Sole, covers society news and articles on Cochins, ss *Great Britain* and responses regarding an earlier article about banks' post-war economy labels. Anyone employed in, or retired from, the financial services industry should contact the Membership Secretary •

Topical Time, the publication of the American Topical Association, has 92 pages in its May-June issue and is always a good read if topical (thematic) collecting interests you. Main articles in this issue cover a history of the UPU, America's Cup (Yachting) stamps, Peter Pan turns 100, Shakespeare's tragedies, the Twin Towers and Bernadette's Apparitions (Lourdes). There is also a useful critique on an exhibit entitled 'Chariots and Carriages', as well as the usual features and society business •

The Great Britain Philatelic Society's publications, *The GB Journal* and *The GBPS Newsletter*, both include articles of lasting value to collectors of British stamps and together amount to 66 pages. The May/June *Journal* covers subjects as varied as Lundy Telegraph 'creations' produced on a computer through to a feature on Mrs Georgina Kermode of coil stamp fame. The use of colour in some of the features adds to the enjoyment of receiving this publication. The *Newsletter* includes society business and shorter articles that are of no lesser value for their lack of length •

Studiegroep Britannia publishes *Britannia News* predominantly in Dutch, but all articles are well illustrated, and it is always worth checking out, for it covers all periods of British stamps. The May issue includes an extensive auction of almost 700 lots, and articles on registered mail, the latest new issues and part two of Parliamentary free-franking mail. There is also the 'bonus' in the form of a four-page English language article on variations in the £2 Questa gravure printed stamp booklet and two pages covering new issues from An Post, the Irish Post Office •

If postal stationery interests you, the Postal Stationery Society publishes an A4-sized 24-page journal that will prove necessary reading. The May issue focuses on the discovery of what is believed to be a trial 'Swift Air Plus Recorded' pre-paid envelope, King George V 'field service cards', 'Imperial penny postcard rate' stationery and Holy Land aerogrammes. In addition, there are many other useful smaller features •

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Rijsenburg, Netherlands, or
visit www.sgbritannia.nl

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Veney, Warminster BA12 7AY.

Enquiries Visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/> (note the lack of 'www' in the URL is correct).

Yahoo! Groups Yahoo! is much more than just the popular internet search engine that people use to locate appropriate web pages that match their needs. It offers many other services, including Groups. It can be described as one e-mail address and website that allows you to share photos and files, plan events, send a newsletter, stay in touch with like-minded people and discuss interests.

There are currently 642 Groups related to the hobby of philately and some naturally are of greater worth than others. Many are simply a chance to chat, exchange and buy or sell stamps at a fairly elementary level; while others are more scholarly in nature. Examples of the latter include Groups covering revenues and cinderellas, the work of the late engraver Slania, specialised modern American issues, Victorian stamps of GB... the list goes on.

Some Groups require that you join them before viewing is allowed – it's free; while others are public Groups that anyone can view. If you do not see a site that covers your interests, the great thing is that you can very easily start one! •

Mark Sargent's website
www.stampsforsale.co.uk

Mark Sargent Of interest to collectors of British material from every era will be Mark's newly updated website, which he claims is 'the most comprehensive price list of Great British Stamps on the internet in the world'. At the time of writing, the site had just been relaunched and some sections were lacking content, but it certainly seems to be a most useful source of material, with stock prices varying from £4450 for a Victorian £5 Orange fine mounted mint to mere pence for modern definitive items. Mark is a PTS member and a regular standholder at Stampex •

Stamp2.com This internet portal site continues to expand, and now includes many articles by eminent philatelic luminaries, such as Britain's David Beech and Francis Kiddle, together with American dealer Greg Todd. News, links, forums, a gallery, library, shop, video interviews and much more besides all go towards making this a site worthy of a regular return visit. Log on to www.stamp2.com and explore one of the most professional philatelic sites on the web •

A G Bradbury 3 Link Road,
Stoneygate, Leicester LE2
3RA. Order online at: www.bfdc.co.uk (type in the code 19008).

Nelson sheet Adrian Bradbury has recently issued his second Business Customised Sheet on the theme of Admiral Lord Nelson, following on from the popular Trafalgar sheet issued earlier this year. Using the newly available White Ensign stamp in a pane of 10 (design taken from the 1991 Flags and Ensigns miniature sheet), the labels feature Nelson and important dates and events in his life. Both sheets are available at £20 each including P&P from the address given opposite •

People news A book containing over 200 etchings, aquatints and lithographs by Paula Rego has been published by Thames & Hudson (price £29.95). The review of the book in the *Telegraph* featured her illustration used on the recent 1st class Jane Eyre stamp •

Royal Mail news Special issues • Smilers • Collectors packs • Stamp ingots • BPMA

Special issues The special stamps programme continues with the Changing Tastes in Britain (food) stamps, on sale from 23 August; they were previewed here in June. This month we preview the Trafalgar set to be issued on 18 October, three days before the 200th anniversary of the battle.

The Christmas issue (1 November) comprises 2nd, 1st, 42p, 60p, 68p and £1.12 self-adhesives featuring the Madonna and Child as seen through the eyes of different cultures, including those of Haiti (2nd), India (68p), North American Indian (60p), and Australian Aborigine (£1.12) as well as more familiar European interpretations (1st and 42p). The designs are by Irene von Treskow, who designed the 1998 Christmas and 1992 Tennyson issues. The stamps will also be issued in a gummed miniature sheet format. There will be Christmas stamp books (folded sheets) but no new Christmas air-letters (aerogrammes); the 2004 airletters (standard and bilingual versions) will be re-issued. The Christmas issue will be previewed next month •

Definitive and country stamps A new Collectors Pack containing the full range of low value definitives will be available from 6 September, price £7.80. It will contain: 1p, 2p, 5p, 9p, 10p, 20p, 35p (lime green), 40p, 42p, 46p, 47p, 50p, 68p, and £1 values, also self-adhesive 1st class, 2nd class, Europe (to 40g), Postcard (Worldwide), and Worldwide (to 40g) stamps.

Also available from 6 September will be a new Definitive Collection folder including the low value pack, high value pack (2003), four country stamp packs (2003), plus a set of four of this year's 42p country stamp. The new collection costs £28.

The delayed Northern Ireland 42p stamp printed by De La Rue is now available from Royal Mail Tallents House and Post Office philatelic outlets. It will go on sale at Post Office branches in Northern Ireland as stocks of the previous printing by Walsall are used up. Plate numbers and colours are: D1A black, D1A cyan, D1A yellow D1A phosphor, also D1B D1B D1B D1B.

The £2 definitive has now been printed from cylinder D2; supplies will go on sale as existing stocks are used up. The high value stamps are still on sale at Forces post offices, from Royal Mail Direct (for business customers), and remain on philatelic sale at Tallents House and from Post Office philatelic outlets •

Revised stamp book The 6 × 1st book has been reprinted with a revised advert for the Smilers service on the self-adhesive label on the inside front cover. The label, shown here, now features the LOVE rather than Hello Smilers stamp. The revised book is now available from Royal Mail Tallents House and Post Office philatelic outlets, price £1.80 •

smilers®

Your favourite photo with real Royal Mail stamps

It's as easy as 1,2,3!

- 1 Visit www.royalmail.com/customisedstamps
- 2 Send us your photo and choice of stamp design
- 3 Receive your sheet of 20 smilers®





A book containing the six new definitive-size stamps will be issued on 4 October.

New look for Smilers As announced last month, stamps for Smilers are being given a new look. The stamps will be definitive stamp size with a larger label, in response to suggestions by customers. At first the smaller-size stamp sheet will run in parallel with the larger-size stamp sheets. Stamps in the definitive size will be adapted from the designs of the 1990 Teddy Bear, 1996 Christmas 19p, 1997 Flowers (*Guzmania splendens*), 2001 'Union Jack', 2002 LOVE, and 2002 Hello stamps. The sheets will each contain 20 1st class stamps with customised image on the adjoining labels.

The sheets will be printed in litho by Cartor. Details of how to order customised Smilers sheets with the new definitive-size stamps will be available on the Royal Mail website and in leaflets/order forms in Post Office branches from late September. There will not be generic Smilers issued with these new stamps.

On 4 October we will issue a book containing the six definitive-size stamps as detailed above. All will be 1st class, printed in litho on self-adhesive paper by Walsall. There will be first day of issue postmarks for Tallents House and Windsor and the generic definitive FDC envelope (Winged Horse) will be available. Books and envelopes will be available through the normal post offices. These stamps are 'pictorial definitives' and books and serviced FDCs will be sent to low-value definitive customers with regular orders. Price £2.53 UK or £2.16 overseas.

Collectors wishing to service their own covers may send them stamped with the new stamps on 4 October to Tallents House for the Tallents House postmark, or to one of Royal Mail's five Special Handstamp Centres for the Windsor postmark. Quote FD0537 for Tallents House, FD0538 for Windsor. Details of sponsored handstamps for 4 October will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin*.

Customised Smilers sheets

For details of how to order Smilers sheets with your own image printed on the labels, phone 0845 074 2000 (UK customers) or +44 131 316 7483 (overseas) or pick up a Smilers leaflet/order form at a Post Office branch. Orders using digital photos can also be placed on the web at www.royalmail.com/smilers

Generic Smilers sheets containing 20 1st class ITV (Emmerdale) stamps will be available from 15 September. A generic Christmas sheet on 1 November will contain 10 × 2nd and 10 × 1st class Winter Robins stamps. For details of how to order customised versions of the sheets, with your own image printed on the labels, see opposite.

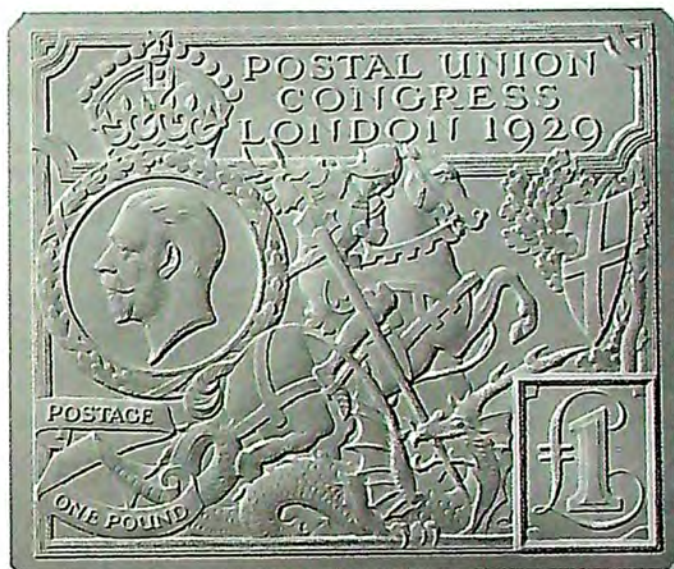
An album to house Smilers sheets is available from Tallents House, price £16.50 (order code PA668) and a slipcase £7.50 (PA676). The album includes pages for the issues of 2000-2002; continuation pages for 2003 and 2004 are available at £5.99 and £9.99 respectively (PA684 and PA694) •

Coming off sale Any remaining stock of the Royal Society of Arts stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards come off sale on 9 August, and the Woodland Animal stamps on 15 September. The British Journey issues for Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland remain on philatelic sale until further notice, although the books containing the self-adhesive 1st class stamps are now sold out •

Stamp ingots The last in the series of six ingots featuring stamps of the reigns of Edward VII and George V will be available from 9 August. It features the 1929 £1 Postal Union Congress stamp showing St George and the dragon designed by Harold Nelson, one of the most popular British special stamps. It is certainly the scarcest, with only 61,000 sold, and catalogued by Stanley Gibbons at £750 unused. An article on the PUC issue, by Fred Gee, was published here in May 1999.

The previous five ingots in the series, featuring the Edward VII 1d and £1 stamps, and George V 1d Mackennal head, 10s 'Seahorses', and 1d 1924 British Empire Exhibition stamp (the first British commemorative stamp), are all still available.

A new series of ingots featuring the 1955 Castles high value stamps will start on 23 September with the Windsor Castle stamp. This will be followed by the Edinburgh Castle stamp on 17 January and the Caernarfon and Carrickfergus Castle stamps later in 2006. Each will be produced in a limited edition of 3000. The Windsor Castle ingot will cost £24.95 plus handling charge (order code AH001). Orders to Tallents House, phone 08457 641 641 •



A plaster cast of the £1 PUC stamp ingot. The six ingots cost £26.95 each or £161.70 for the full set including a free Collection storage box. The storage box is also available separately, at £15.95 (order code AG008).

British Postal Museum & Archive The current exhibition telling the story of British stamps in the 19th century ends on 26 August; it includes unique registration sheets and items from the world-famous Phillips Collection. A new exhibition entitled 'Victorian Innovation' opens on 5 September. The Museum & Archive will be open on Saturday on 13 August, 17 September, 8 October, and 10 December. A number of special events are being held – call 020 7239 2570 to book a place. These include a visit to the Postal Heritage Museum Store at Loughton, Essex on 17 September, and a series of evening lectures: 27 September, The Royal Mail 1100-1635 (Philip Beale); 18 October, The Mail Coach Era (F Wilkinson); 15 November, Designing Stamps (David Gentleman); and 6 December, The Future of The Postal Heritage Trust (Tony Conder). 'Behind the Scenes' Archive Tours will be on 18 August, 15 September, 20 October, 10 November and 1 December.

The BPMA continues to expand its activities and publications under the strapline 'Our history through the post'. *A Guide to the Archive and Events Guide 2005* have recently appeared in a smart new A5 format, well illustrated in colour and containing much useful information about their services and where and when to meet-up with staff.

The *Newsletter* is now established as a useful 12-page A4 quarterly full-colour publication containing all the news about BPMA and its activities. The May-July issue includes details about the new online catalogue, competitions, a War Memorial survey and how you can spread the word and lend a hand with their work. There is also lots about the Friends, recent acquisitions, events past and present and details of new staff •

The BPMA Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL. Open Monday to Friday 10.00-17.00 (Thursday until 19.00). Telephone 020 7239 2570. Enquiries by e-mail to: heritage@royalmail.com

The BPMA, run by the Postal Heritage Trust, holds the collections of the former Post Office Archives and National Postal Museum.

Business customised stamps by Glenn Morgan FRPSL

SMILERS exist in three series and this article covers those for sale to companies, starting with a brief overview of the other two types to help distinguish them. They comprise A4 portrait or landscape sheets of water-activated or self-adhesive stamp paper carrying either 10 or 20 Greetings/Occasions stamps with labels attached bearing text or imagery and a decorative margin.

The first Personal Smilers sheet was launched at Stamp Show 2000, and this format continues in regularly updated issues. Orders can be placed either by sending a suitable photograph to Royal Mail or by sending a digital image via the Internet, with sheets posted to the customer. The decorative margins and stamps are pre-printed by a security stamp printer, with the label area left unprinted. The photographic image is then laser printed by Royal Mail onto the blank label stock.

Generic Smilers are produced to enable philatelic customers to acquire the stamps appearing alongside the photographs in the above series, but without paying for the premium photograph service. The labels bear generic images and have attractive margins. Sheets sell for 55p above face and have become extremely popular. The decorative margin, stamps and labels are all printed by a security stamp printer and no personalisation is feasible.

Business customised stamps It is this third series that collectors may be less familiar with, as they are not available directly from Royal Mail. They are intended for Royal Mail's business customers, where higher volumes of identical sheets are purchased, and are Smilers in all but name.

The customer designs the marginal area and the labels, and the entire sheet is then printed by a security stamp printer, including the stamp design(s) chosen by the customer from the range available. It is believed that all Business Customised Stamps have been printed by litho due to the limited print runs, and self-adhesive paper has yet to be utilised.

Prior to launch, Royal Mail's research revealed the following different uses for this series.

- **POSTAGE:** By attaching the stamp with its label to mail it acts as a means of personalising communications. Primarily aimed at small print runs, larger quantities can be handled by Royal Mail's equipment on the customer's behalf.

- **PROMOTION:** Labels can be used for displaying special offers, selling messages or gaming mechanics. These could be utilised for on-pack promotions to celebrate anniversaries, for example.

- **CORPORATE GIFTS AND COLLECTIBLES:** Sheets can be given as gifts to employees, or to valued customers. Sheet numbering is possible and they can be given away or sold loose, or framed to give a higher perceived value or potential retail price.

The lowest print run is 500 sheets (5000 stamps) with 50,000 viewed as an anticipated maximum. The premium for production above face is 35% for 500 sheets, down to 12.5% for 49,999 sheets and it seems that 5000 sheets is the maximum produced so far.

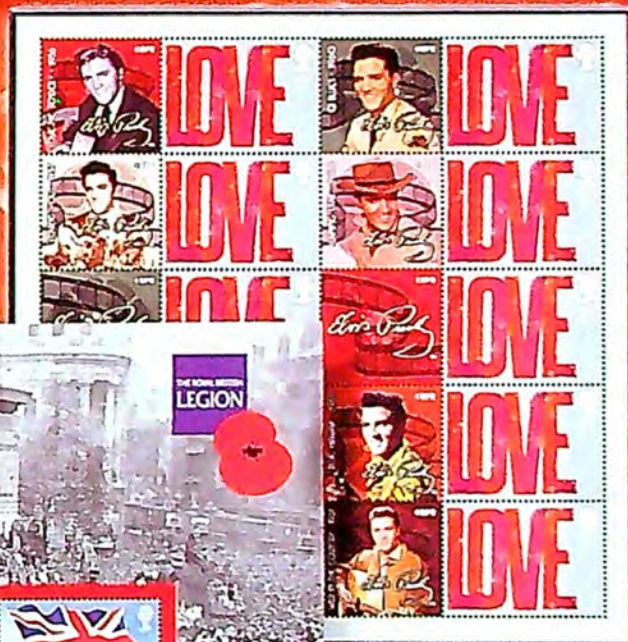
With some sport and entertainment issues there is the unusual element whereby philatelists are in competition with memorabilia collectors and sports fans. Many sheets (as high as 90%) are sold framed and are often signed by relevant celebrities. The promoter invariably has fees for the licensing of images, signatures and expensive advertising in the specialised media. Initial selling prices are fixed by the producers and can be in excess of £40 to cover these additional costs for the signed versions.

Catalogue listing The list on the following pages has not been produced from official records, as sponsors' details are confidential. Other sheets are probably unrecorded – especially if not produced for, or available to, the philatelic market.

Reports of missing sheets, updates or details of forthcoming issues are welcome, via the Editor please. The exact issue order is not feasible, as there is often not one. However, where a First Day of Availability date is known, this is shown under the heading FDOA. These entries appear at the beginning of each year's list, followed by the rest grouped by theme.

Stampex AUTUMN 2004
UK's National Stamp Exhibition

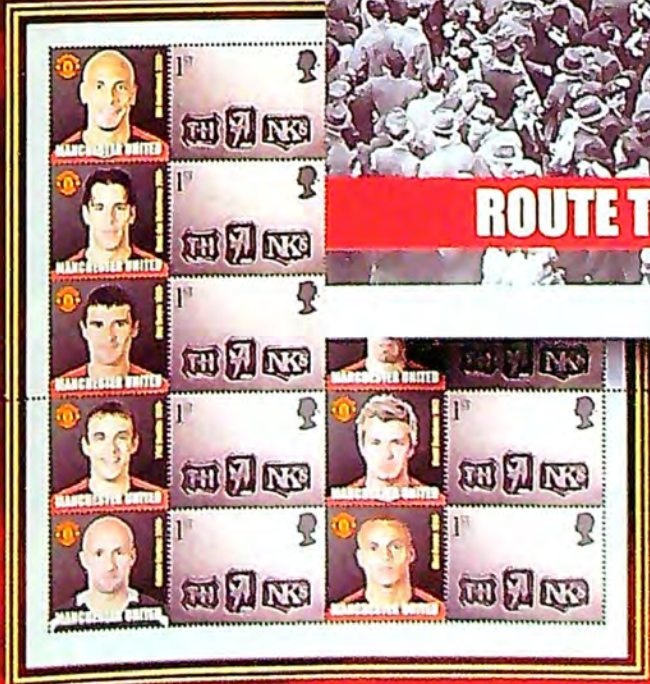
THE COMPLETE
ELVIS® MOVIE
COLLECTION CEPE



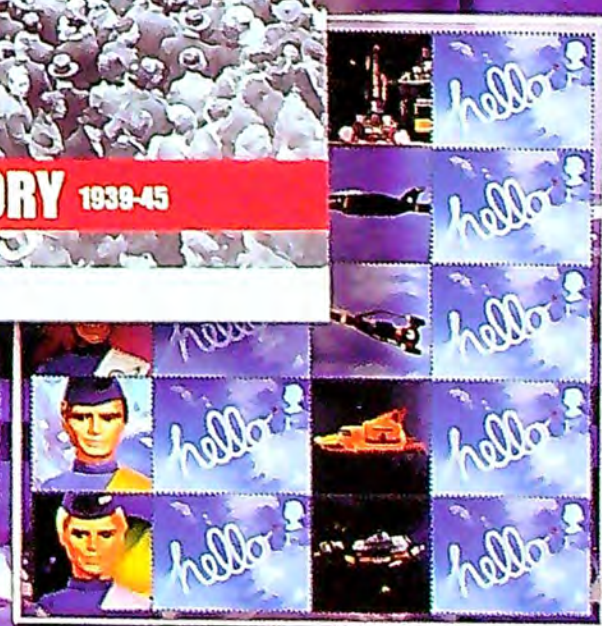
TEN STARS OF



ROUTE TO VICTORY 1939-45



MANCHESTER UNITED
PRESENT-DAY HEROES - 2002/2003



CLASSIC THUNDERBIRDS

Business customised stamp catalogue listing

Year	Theme	Commemorating	FDOA	Stamps ¹	Quantity ²	Price ³	Printer ⁴
2001/02	Vehicles	Eagle Coaches of Bristol: stamps type one		C10 P	U	£ 150	Q
	Vehicles	Eagle Coaches of Bristol: stamps type two		HT10 P	U	£ 150	Q
2002	Football	Manchester United: 100th season	6 March	HT10 P	2002N	£ 65	Q
	Football	Arsenal: heroes 2002/03 season	March?	HT10 P	2002N	£ 30	Q
	Football	Liverpool: Anfield's heroes 2002/03 season	March?	HT10 P	5000N	£ 30	Q
	Football	Manchester United: ten stars of Old Trafford	March?	HT10 P	5000N	£ 30	Q
	Football	Norwich City: centenary Canary legends	March?	HT10 P	2002N	£ 30	Q
	Football	Rangers: 10 Ibrox greats	March?	HT10 P	1000N	£ 33	Q
2003	Football	Arsenal centurions: scorers of 100+ goals	early 03	HT20 L	2000N	£ 35	Q
	Philatelic	Spring Stampex: 50th anniversary ⁵	28.02.03	H10 P	2250U	£ 23	D ⁶
	Philatelic	Autumn Stampex: 50th anniversary ⁵	17.09.03	B10 P	2912U	£ 13	W
	Rugby	World Cup: England rugby heroes 2003	10.10.03	HT20 L	2003N	£ 55	W?
	Rugby	World Cup: England world champions	08.12.03	HT20 L	2003N	£ 75	W?
	Football	Tottenham Hotspur: Spurs hall of fame		HT10 P	2000N	£ 28	W?
	Football	Manchester City: Maine Road greats		HT10 P	2003N	£ 28	W?
	Philatelic	Rushstamps: 45 years (blue background)		5FG+5FI10 P	1500N	£ 11	W
	Philatelic	Rushstamps: 45 years (maroon background)		5HC+5HT10 P	1000U	£ 11	W
2004	Philatelic	Spring Stampex: British Gibraltar ⁵	25.02.04	L10 P	2791U	£ 12	W
	Philatelic	Collect GB stamps: Stamp Show sheets	cMarch	2E10 P	1500U	£ 10	W
	Philatelic	Collect GB stamps: QV high values £1 PUC	cMarch	2E10 P	1500U	£ 10	W
	Rugby	World Cup: England heroes of final (1 of 2)	April	HC10 P	2003N	£ 19	W?
	Rugby	World Cup: England heroes of final (2 of 2)	April	HC10 P	2003N	£ 19	W?
	Television	Gerry Anderson's Thunderbirds puppets	April	H10 P	2500N	£ 18	W?
	Television	Dr Who: Companions, 10 assistants	mid-year	P10 P	1000N	£ 40 ⁸	W?
	Television	Dr Who: Companions, 10 further assistants	mid-year	P10 P	1000N	£ 40 ⁸	W?
	Television	Dr Who: the Daleks ⁷	mid-year	P10 P	2000N	£ 40 ⁸	W?
	Television	Dr Who: Tom Baker, the 4th Doctor	mid-year	P10 P	1000N	£ 40 ⁸	W?
	Military	60th anniversary of the D-Day landings	June	UF10 P	U	£ 30	W?
	Movies	Elvis Presley movies 1956-61	05.07.04	L10 P	2500N	£ 20	W?
	Movies	Elvis Presley movies 1962-64	05.07.04	L10 P	2500N	£ 20	W?
	Movies	Elvis Presley movies 1965-67	05.07.04	L10 P	2500N	£ 20	W?
	Movies	Elvis Presley movies 1967-69	05.07.04	L10 P	2500N	£ 20	W?
	Philatelic	Collect GB stamps: high values 1867-1955	cAugust	S10 P	1000U	£ 10	W
	Philatelic	Autumn Stampex: British competitions ⁵	15.09.04	UF10 P	1825U	£ 10	
	Television	Dr Who: Katy Manning	Autumn	P10 P	1000N	£ 40 ⁸	W?
	Television	Red Dwarf cult TV series	Autumn	P10 P	1000N	£ 30 ⁸	W?
	Naval history	Trafalgar: Nelson on label by L F Abbott	21.10.04	UF		£ 15 ⁹	W?
	Football	Arsenal: heroes 2004-05 season		UF10 P	2004N	£ 20	W?
	Football	Chelsea: heroes 2004-05 season		UF10 P	1000N	£ 20	W?
	Football	Manchester United: heroes 2004-05 season		UF10 P	1000N	£ 20	W?
	Formula One	Jordan Racing 1991-2004		HC10 P	950N	£ 20	W?

Catalogue listing continued

Year	Theme	Commemorating	FDOA	Stamps ¹	Quantity ²	Price ³	Printer ⁴
2004	Movies	Spider-Man comic book character		3HT+7HC10 P	2500N	£ 25	C
	Movies	X-Men United comic book characters		3HT+7HW10 P	2500N	£ 30	C
	Olympics	Gold medal winner Sir Steve Redgrave		UF10 P	4950N	£ 20	W?
	Olympics	Ten great British gold medal winners		UF10 P	4950N	£ 20	W?
	Railways	175th anniversary of the Rainhill Trials		UF10 P	2004N	£ 20	W?
2005	Television	Dr Who: Colin Baker, the 6th Doctor	early 05	P10 P	1000N	£ 40 ⁸	C
	Television	Dr Who: Sylvester McCoy, the 7th Doctor	early 05	P10 P	1000N	£ 40 ⁸	C
	Naval history	200th Anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar	14.02.05	UF10 P	1805N	£ 20	C
	Philatelic	Spring Stampex: Rotary Centenary ⁵	23.02.05	H10 P	2250U	£ 10	C
	Military	Route to Victory £1 RBL charity premium	07.04.05	UF10 P	U	£ 8	C?
	Railways	British steam locomotion 1822-1866	May	UF10 P	1000N	£ 25	C?
	Railways	British steam locomotion 1870-1894	May	UF10 P	1000N	£ 25	C?
	Railways	British steam locomotion 1897-1923	May	UF10 P	1000N	£ 25	C?
	Railways	British steam locomotion 1923-1938	May	UF10 P	1000N	£ 25	C?
	Railways	British steam locomotion 1938-1960	May	UF10 P	1000N	£ 25	C?
	Television	Dr Who: the new 9th Doctor and assistant	May	H10 P	1500N	£ 25 ⁸	C
	Television	Dr Who: UN International Taskforce (UNIT)	May	P10 P	1000N	£ 25 ⁸	C
	Naval history	History of Lord Nelson	August	WE10 P	1805N	£ 20	C?

Due Autumn Stampex, Captain Scarlet, Bagpuss and Dr Who: Peter Davison, the 5th Doctor

NOTES

1 Stamps key

B Teddy Bear (1991 Greetings)
 C Cartoons set of ten (1996 Greetings)
 E Entertaining Envelopes set of five (2004 Occasions)
 FG Flower: Gentiana (1997 Greetings)
 FI Flower: Iris (1997 Greetings)
 H Hello Vapour Trail (2002 Occasions)
 HC Hallmark Cheers (2001 Occasions)
 HT Hallmark Thanks (2001 Occasions)
 HW Hallmark Welcome (2001 Occasions)
 L Love (2002 Occasions)
 P Planets (1991 Greetings)
 S Smiles set of ten (1991 Greetings)
 UF Union flag (2001 Flags & Ensigns MS)
 WE White Ensign (2001 Flags & Ensigns)
 The number after the letters = stamps in sheet. P = portrait, L = landscape format.

2 Quantity Number of sheets produced. 'N' indicates that each has a unique serial number and print-run figure. 'U' indicates that a sheet is un-numbered.

3 Price Current estimate based on recent dealer listings and e-bay realisations.

4 Printer C: Cartor. D: De La Rue. Q: Questa. W: Walsall. A question mark here indicates uncertainty on this information.

5 As many as 7500 stamps from each Stampex issue are given away to visitors. Figures in the body of the listing refer to the number of sheets left after breaking-up and damage. (This is not the only instance where large quantities of stamps are intentionally removed from sheets by producers, as various other issues have

been used in promotional mailings, FDCs or commemorative covers.)

6 Despite De La Rue being recorded as printer of this sheet, it seems likely that as they had purchased Questa in 2002, they would have let them print this sheet using their tooling and expertise.

7 Sheet bears an erroneous inscription that 1000 were printed; 2000 exist.

8 Price for unsigned version. For signed, add £5-£25, depending on signatory.

9 Only known on cover, selling at price shown for stamps with attached label and a Gibraltar Trafalgar coin in edition of 9500. Business Customised Stamp sheets not available to collectors so far.

ENQUIRIES

Benham (football): 01303 226777
 www.benhamcovers.com

A G Bradbury (Nelson): 0116 2705367
 www.bfde.co.uk

Rushstamps (general): 023 8028 2044
 www.rushstamps.co.uk

Stamp Centre (TV/film): 020 7836 2341
 www.scificollector.stamp-centre.co.uk

Stampex Sheets for show attendees only, or stamp dealers subsequently

Westminster Collection (Royal British Legion): www.rblstamps.com

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

David Akehurst, Adrian Bradbury, Mike Czuczman, Allan M Grant, Steven Scott

Trafalgar August, 1805: a month's calm, by Nigel Fordham

IN AUGUST Nelson could at last go home, not to his wife Fanny but to Emma Hamilton, Horatia their four year old daughter, and to Merton, his beloved estate that they made their dream home.

August was also a time for diverse matters in Nelson's life. On 1 August he was sailing back to England and writing the first of a number of letters to the Admiralty to chase prize money he was owed or was in dispute over. This was a pre-occupation of his and other senior Naval officers to chase for what was rightfully theirs but could easily be 'lost in bureaucracy'. He also worried about the intentions of the enemy fleet which he still thought might be heading for Ireland.

Matters in France and Europe were however very volatile. Austria, far from being cowed by Napoleon's threats, signed a treaty with Russia and Britain against France on 9 August. Napoleon remained frustrated and bitterly disappointed at his fleet's inability to take the Channel for him. At the same time Villeneuve, Commander-in-Chief of the French and Spanish fleet, was unhappy at the thought of meeting Nelson, writing: 'I do not hesitate to say that I will be sorry to meet twenty of them. Our naval tactics are antiquated. We know nothing but how to place ourselves in a line and that is just what the enemy wants.'

On the night of 15 August Villeneuve made his way to Cadiz, shadowed by British frigates. On arrival at Cadiz Admiral Cuthbert Collingwood took up station outside the port to observe the enemy fleet. He had insufficient ships to mount a meaningful blockade, but there was no alarm as the French and Spanish had no intention of coming out to fight.

On 25 August Napoleon abandoned his plans to invade Britain in favour of an assault on Austria; furious at what he felt was Villeneuve's personal failure to give him control of the Channel.

By now Nelson was as sure as he could be that the enemy was in the Mediterranean, and on 17 August he anchored at Spithead, two years and two months since he left England and invited his old friend Keates of HMS *Superb*, which had been sailing with him, to have dinner on the *Victory*.

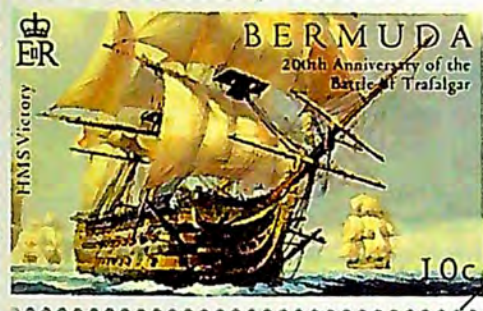
Nelson was again busy writing letters to the Admiralty, advising where he was, giving details of some Spanish merchant ships that he had captured and taken as prizes, and listing the money that had been removed from the ships (\$151,000), which was held by his fleet for safe keeping and their use as necessary.

He raised the case of James Marguette, a pilot for the Leeward Islands. Marguette had stayed on board the *Victory* when Nelson was chasing the enemy fleet around the Caribbean, and was still on board when Nelson began his race back across the Atlantic. Nelson commended him to the Admiralty saying what a good job he had done, and asked for him to be looked after in London, paid for his trouble and found a berth as a pilot to enable him to return home. In addition Hardy, his Captain on the *Victory*, was ill and Nelson sought, and received, Admiralty permission for him to go ashore and convalesce. This was typical of Nelson's caring attitude to people and good management techniques.

Meanwhile, *Victory* had been placed in quarantine despite Nelson's assurances that all was well on board. His dinner invitation to Keates had to be cancelled and he had time to write letters to his brother, the Rev Dr Nelson, about his recent adventures in the West Indies, and to his secretary John Scott, congratulating him on his hard work and zeal in looking after his affairs. Nelson had a high regard for Scott and was deeply upset when he was killed alongside him at Trafalgar.

At last, on 21 August, Nelson arrived at Portsmouth to be welcomed by a large cheering crowd; adoration followed him everywhere. In Piccadilly Lord Minto wrote that on seeing Nelson mobbed, he grabbed his arm 'so that I was mobbed too. It was really quite affecting to see the wonder and admiration and love'. Lord Radstock recorded: 'Lord Nelson arrived a few days ago. He was received in town almost as a conqueror and was followed around by the people with Huzzas.'

In between the time with his 'family' he was engaged with more correspondence, inviting his friend Captain Keates to Merton, trying to get



"Thus it may be exemplified by my life that perseverance in any profession will probably meet its reward. Without having any inheritance, or having been fortunate with prize money, I have received all the honours of my profession, been created a Peer of Great Britain and received many rewards from different potentates and states.

Therefore I say to the reader "Go thou and do like wise".
Nelson, Merton, 24 August 1805

The four decked Spanish ship Santissima Trinidad was the largest vessel of her time. Captured at Trafalgar, she sank on 24 October 1805. Admiral Federico Gravina commanded the Spanish fleet of 15 ships. Seriously wounded at Trafalgar, he died in 1806.



his brother-in-law a job in Customs and Excise, and warning the Prime Minister of French intentions towards Sardinia.

Nelson was also concerned about ship board mail. He wrote to William Beckford over the loss of four mail/despatch vessels since December; he couldn't be sure if the mail had been lost with a ship due to enemy action, lost at sea due to bad weather, or if it had gone to the West Indies and still hadn't returned.

After less than 10 days at home, the Prime Minister told Nelson that the *Victory* would be needed for the forthcoming battle. Nelson took this as a personal call to arms. It was not so, as at this time the *Victory* was being considered for Cornwallis's fleet! A surprise indeed in retrospect, and something Nelson was unaware of at the time.

Nelson had little rest, but enjoyed the time with his family and especially his friends who were invited to Merton to enjoy the splendid hospitality. War, however, was never far from his mind. He made arrangements for his old friend Sir Edward Berry to be appointed to HMS *Agamemnon* in time to fight at Trafalgar, and continued to work on his Trafalgar battle plan which he would explain to his Captains in a few weeks time. Time was running out •

Sea Britain 2005 events in August For further information visit the Sea Britain 2005 website: www.seabritain.com

03.08	The Trafalgar Lecture, Falmouth, Cornwall
August	The Trafalgar Tour: various British ports
August	The Nelson and Napoleon exhibition: National Maritime Museum, Greenwich

Trafalgar Commemorating Nelson's triumph



Technical details

Printer Cartor Security Print, France

Process Lithography

Stamp size 60 x 21mm

Sheets 24 and 48

Miniature sheet size 190 x 67mm

Perforation 14.5

Phosphor Two bands

Gum PVA

Gutter pairs Vertical

SIX STAMPS, a miniature sheet and a prestige stamp book marking the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar will be available from Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and from Royal Mail Tallents House Edinburgh from 18 October. The stamps are printed in se-tenant pairs of 1st class, 42p, and 68p values and feature images from a painting, *Panorama of the Battle of Trafalgar*, by William Heath (1825) owned by the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich. The painting shows the progress of the battle: 1st class (left) the *Entrepreante* with dismasted British *Belle Isle*; (right) Nelson wounded; 42p (left) British cutter *Entrepreante* attempting to rescue crew of burning French *Achille*, which later exploded; (right) the schooner *Pickle* (at right) that carried news of the battle and of Nelson's death to England; 68p (left) Nelson attacking in two columns; (right) combined fleet putting to sea from Cadiz – guns firing either as signal to weigh anchor or as a salute. The Queen's silhouette and value/service indicator are positioned at top left, with the inscription TRAFALGAR 1805-2005 printed at bottom right of each stamp.

The miniature sheet contains one of each stamp: the two 1st class and one 42p stamp in the top row, and the second 42p and both 68p values below. The border of the sheet shows waves, and the word TRAFALGAR is printed in the top border.

The stamps were designed by Dick Davis who frequently works on maritime themes for Royal Mail; his previous stamp issues include the 1998 Lighthouses and Submarines and Flags stamps of 2001.

The stamps will be issued to Post Office branches in sheets of 24. Sheets of 48 with gutter margins will be available from Post Office philatelic outlets and Royal Mail Tallents House. The stamps are the same size as the Commonwealth Games and Classic Locomotive stamps of 2002 and 2004.



The first day cover envelope features a shot which entered *Victory's* bow and was lodged in its timbers at the Battle of Trafalgar.



FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets about a week before 18 October, price 25p. Orders for serviced FDCs with the stamps or miniature sheet cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of Tallents House Edinburgh or Portsmouth must reach Tallents House (address below) by the day of issue. Price £3.71 UK, £3.16 overseas. Please state if stamps or miniature sheet required.

Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (Tallents House postmark), or any of our Special Handstamp Centres (Portsmouth postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FD0523' (Tallents House), or 'FD 0524' (Portsmouth). Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for the Portsmouth postmark.

Details of other handstamps for 18 October will be given in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House (£12.25 in UK & Europe; £24.95 elsewhere). For a free sample copy write to the Editor, *British Postmark Bulletin*, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1Y 8HQ.

PHILATELIC PRODUCTS A pack containing the six stamps (£3.30), and seven stamp cards (30p each) will be available from Tallents House, main post offices and philatelic outlets. The pack, written by Richard Woodman and designed by Grade Design Consultants, features a portrait of Nelson by Lemuel Abbott (1798), a British 32-pounder gun, and a diagram of the Battle of Trafalgar showing the positions of the opposing fleets. The seven stamp cards feature the six stamps and the miniature sheet.

Prestige book The second of the 2005 prestige books, entitled *Battle of Trafalgar Death of Nelson*, will be available from 18 October, price £7.26. Written by Richard Woodman and designed by Webb & Webb, it tells the story of Trafalgar and the life of Horatio Nelson. Illustrations include a cartoon of Nelson by Lemuel Francis Abbott (1800); a painting of Nelson's flagships by Nicholas Pocock (1807); Nelson's uniform with fatal musket-ball hole; and an engraving of Nelson's internment at St Paul's Cathedral, January 1806.



Prestige stamp book panes

Three 1st class White Ensign stamps (as first issued in miniature sheet, October 2001).

Machin definitives: top and bottom rows 1st class, 50p, 1st class; middle row two 68p separated by label showing lifemask of Nelson cast by Franz Thallerin, Vienna, 1800.

Trafalgar stamps: top 1st class, middle 42p, bottom 68p (left-hand stamps from pairs).

Trafalgar stamps: top 1st class, middle 42p, bottom 68p (right-hand stamps from pairs).



The book and panes of Trafalgar and White Ensign stamps were printed by Cartor in litho, and the pane of Machin definitives in gravure by Walsall. A first day cover will be offered bearing the Machin stamps pane with label. This can be ordered from Tallents House, price £4.24 UK or £3.92 overseas. Please state if Tallents House or Portsmouth postmark required •

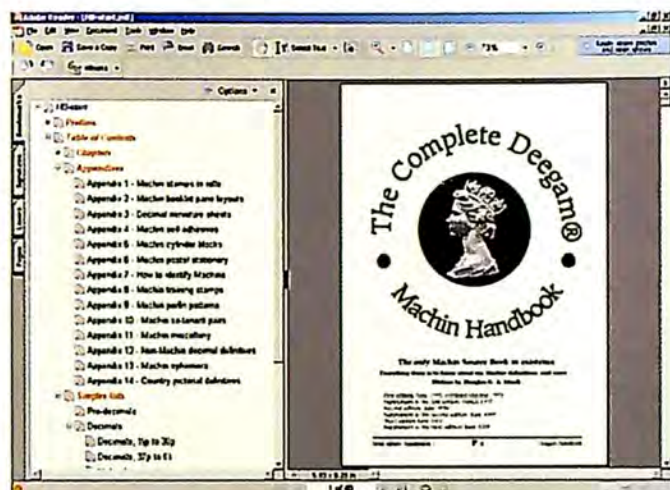
The £5 coins encapsulated in the Coin Cover, below, feature the Battle of Trafalgar by Clive Duncan, and Horatio Nelson by James Butler. Shown here at 78% actual size.



Special covers Royal Mail are producing three special covers. The Coin Cover (shown below, £24.50) is entitled 'Horatio Nelson and the Battle of Trafalgar' and bears the six stamps and two encapsulated £5 Royal Mint Trafalgar coins. The Ingot Cover (£39.95) is entitled 'Life on board ship in Nelson's Navy' and bears the miniature sheet and a silver reproduction of the 1951 2s6d definitive featuring HMS *Victory*. The stamps/miniature sheet on the two covers are cancelled by a special Burnham Thorpe, Kings Lynn handstamp showing a ship's wheel. Burnham Thorpe is where Nelson was born in 1758. The coin and ingot covers are in limited editions of 30,000 and 3000 respectively. A Cachet Cover is also being produced. This comprises a special limited edition numbered FDC bearing the six stamps, carried on board a replica of HMS *Pickle* and given a special cachet to this effect. Price £8.95. Further details next month •



Philately on-line The electronic Handbook, by Ron Negus



READERS of the *Bulletin* are well acquainted with Douglas Myall and have shown their appreciation by selecting him repeatedly as their favourite author in the annual poll. As well as being widely known for his regular articles, Douglas is famous as originator and publisher of the *Deegam Handbook*. This work is the accepted authority for all matters connected with the Machin series.

The first edition of this book appeared in 1993. It has been regularly updated since then, and the current third edition was published in July 2003. Details of new issues and discoveries on previous Machin stamps are reported regularly in a series of papers called 'Deegam Reports'.

Douglas has now produced a CD-ROM version of the whole work, incorporating data from all Deegam Reports to date, entitled *The Complete Deegam Machin Handbook*. In the introduction on the CD, Douglas says that this is '... a Handbook (with) one main objective: to provide the collector with all the information he needs to enable him to identify unknown single stamps with the Machin head, as far as that is possible.' As a further aid, the CD contains the exclusive 'Deegam Profiles'. These are stamp-sized identity tags with printed descriptions that identify why any particular stamp is different from another. These are intended to be placed by the relevant specimen in the album and provide all necessary writing up.

The CD is an excellent product and will be welcomed by collectors of Machins. The pages of the printed *Handbook* are shown, in colour for stamp specimens where appropriate. Access to the full

The Deegam Handbook The new CD is available directly from Douglas Myall, 2 Elizabeth Avenue, Bridport, Dorset DT6 5BA. This first release covers all the Machin stamp issues up to 26 April 2005.

information about every type of Machin issue is given. Searching for different aspects of any particular issue is simplified by the extensive use of links within the text. Jumping from any topic to get more detail and then returning to the original place is as simple as making a couple of mouse clicks, and is much easier than leafing through a printed volume. Any page shown can be printed out in standard A5 size, or larger, if required.

As well as the widespread links throughout the text, a pane on each screen contains another navigation aid termed Bookmarks. These are a simplified table of the main contents which allow the user to jump from one topic to another, and show the first page of the Handbook relating to a chosen topic. A standard alphabetical subject index is also included. Selecting a page number in this index brings that page immediately to the screen.

An easily understandable tutorial is included, fully describing how to use the CD. This explains how to set up the software and lists options available in the presentation of the pages. The pages were created using the Adobe Portable Document Format, the worldwide standard for sharing electronic documents. The required reader software is included on the disc, allowing the information to be displayed on both PC and Mac machines. For PC users who wish to transfer the Handbook to their hard disk for faster access, a set of icons has been included to identify desktop shortcuts.

In the Handbook, catalogue details of individual values are a considerable portion of the text. For any given value, there is only one place to look to get its required data. It is not necessary to know who printed it, by what method, in which paper/gum combination or in what format it was issued. The navigation system between pages, together with the unique numbering system, ensures what you are looking for is easy to find. An appendix contains examples of the Deegam principles in action, including how to sort Machin kiloware.

Ease of identification is a major strength of the Handbook, and a remarkable achievement given that Douglas identifies as many as 17 attributes that can make any particular Machin different from another. These attributes provide the astonishing diversity of the Machin series. Obviously, only a few collectors will be willing to spend their time trying to find specimens of each variety that can be identified. For this reason, the Handbook divides its catalogue information into three levels: beginner, intermediate and specialist.

The simplest approach (Level 1) recognises the attributes of different values, colours, shape and design. At Level 2, these are increased to include differences of paper, gum, phosphor types etc, printer and method of printing. The specialist, at Level 3, adds to the above differences in perforation, source (sheet, coil or booklet), types and settings of the head and value, lengths of phosphor bars and direction of printing. There is a Level 3a provided for the ultra-specialist, who includes errors in production processes, but there are very few collectors in this category.

Purchasers of the CD can register their ownership and will receive future Deegam Reports free by e-mail, keeping their Handbook up to date. As well as this updating service, the CD contains all 1272 pages of the 3rd edition of the *Handbook*, 850 pages of the Supplement due to be issued in printed form later in 2005 and 8500 Deegam Profiles for writing up the Machin singles.

At a price of £39 including post and packing to anywhere in the world this is an incredible bargain. Payment can be made by sterling cheque, or by PayPal in sterling. Overseas rates are \$75 (for USA) or 60 euros (in Europe). Credit cards or foreign currency cheques are not accepted.

When the *Handbook* first appeared in 1993, with just over 500 pages, my brother James reviewed it in the *Bulletin*, saying '(Collectors) will welcome, as I do, having in one book the whole complex story of Machins acutely analysed. I hope, too, that quite a few complete beginners will buy this work and tackle level 1. They will surely find Douglas Myall encourages them...' With the expanded book in its new electronic format, these words are as appropriate now as they were then •

Treasures of the BPMA In



Royal Mail Parcel Post Motor Coach, London to Brighton, at Kears Oak. The first Journey, June 2nd 1905.

IN JUNE 1993, I was lucky enough to visit Royal Mail's Kidbrooke depot in London with a group from the Association of Friends of the National Postal Museum (as it was then called). The site was a large motor vehicle workshop and storage area, and we spent a happy day looking at new vehicles that were being converted for service, others that were being repaired after accidents and veterans that were being restored. When RM Kidbrooke was closed not long afterwards the vehicles were offered to the Postal Museum, which selected the most important and they, together with other vehicles that had been stored at sites elsewhere in the country, now form the BPMA's vehicle collection, most of which is safely housed at the Museum Store in Debden, Essex. One vehicle which is not there is a travelling post office carriage, currently undergoing specialist restoration at Crewe.

There have been three open days at the Museum Store this summer, in May, June and July, and one more remains on 17 September (call 020 7239 2570 or email info@postalheritage.org.uk for further information and to book a place). The store, which is easily reached from the Central Line's Debden Underground station or from Junction 5 of the M11, is a large modern unit on an industrial estate, and contains not only vehicles but letter

his continuing series, Martin Robinson looks at mail vehicles



*Royal Mail Parcel Post Coach, London to Brighton on Clayton Hill.
The last Journey, June 1st 1905.*

boxes, stamp cancelling and letter sorting machinery and all sorts of other postal artefacts, including Rowland Hill's office desk and one of the Weigh & Pay machines which had been on trial at Alfreton, Luton and Broadgate, London EC for six months last year. On the open days, curators are at hand to give you a conducted tour and to answer questions.

I joined a tour led by the knowledgeable and ever-enthusiastic Christine Jones, who showed us around the collection of several dozen vehicles – vans large and small, motorcycles, pedal cycles (including the famous 'hen and chickens' centre cycle), mobile post offices, electric tow trucks and pedestrian-controlled delivery vehicles. The oldest is a 1935 Morris Minor 6cwt van (there is an open-fronted 1910 Dennis van, but this is a replica made in 1970) and the most recent a 2000 Ford Fiesta Courier Kombi. There is a wide range of petrol and diesel postal delivery vans, including Morris 8 and Morris Commercial vans from the 30s, 40s, 50s and 60s, a 1970 Reliant Robin (this wasn't originally a Royal Mail vehicle, but the Post Office did use a few), engineers' and PO 'Telephones' vans, a TV detector van, a postbus, box vans, mobile post office motive units and trailers, several motorbikes and mopeds, and parcel delivery carts.

Back at BPMA I was looking for something to illustrate this article, and came across the nice pair of picture postcards shown above, one featuring the horse-drawn Royal Mail London to Brighton Parcel Post Coach on Clayton Hill during its final journey on 1 June 1905, and the other the Royal Mail London-Brighton Parcel Post Motor Coach at Friars Oak making its first journey on the following day, 2 June 1905. The BPMA also has the time bills and contracts for this service, which illustrates how a theme can be pursued through different areas of the collections: artefacts, postal history and archives.

These postcards are also quite appropriate as 2006 is going to be celebrated as the centenary of the first motor vehicles owned and operated by Royal Mail – there were earlier motor vehicles, but usually leased from contractors. During the year some of the BPMA's vehicles will be on public display at various venues round the country look out for them •

The British Postal Museum & Archive Open Monday to Friday and selected Saturdays 10.00-17.00, Thursdays until 19.00. Call 020 7239 2570 or see www.postalheritage.org.uk for more details. To make an appointment to view philatelic material call the Curator of Philately, Douglas Muir, on 020 7239 2565.

Friends of Postal Heritage For details write to Mrs Avis Harms, 13 Amethyst Avenue, Davis Estate, Chatham ME5 9TX.

Mainly Machins D G A Myall's specialist report: new De La

Country pictorial definitives As recounted earlier, De La Rue's gravure capacity was temporarily unavailable while their ATN press was being relocated from Byfleet to Dunstable. This explains why Walsall printed the first of the 42p gravure stamps. At the same time, De La Rue must have been having an unrelated problem with their lithographic capability, and Walsall also printed the Northern Ireland stamp by this method. The three De La Rue gravure values were issued on 10 May, but their lithographic problem was not resolved in time and the Northern Ireland stamp was delayed until 26 July.

The Northern Ireland pictorial definitives have always been printed by lithography whereas the corresponding stamps for the other three countries are printed in gravure. I understand that the reason for this is that lithography is better suited to the designs rather than that the quantities required are insufficient to warrant gravure.

One interesting effect of this policy decision is that The Queen's head on the stamps for Northern Ireland is markedly different from that used on the stamps for England, Scotland and Wales, or rather it was until recently. Let me explain. The lithographic head is plain white, whereas the gravure version was printed in silver until the advent of the Wales stamps with the white borders. These were printed by De La Rue and issued on 14 October 2003. Instead of being printed in silver as before, the head was plain white, very similar to the lithographic version. The design on the Wales stamp is darker than most, and this change was probably intended to enhance the phosphor signal, which was the announced reason for all these definitives being given white borders.

The Walsall and De La Rue gravure printings of the 42p stamps are a very good match indeed, but it is possible to look at a single stamp and tell which firm printed it. There are several ways of doing this but the easiest is to look at the back of the stamps under a $\times 10$ glass. Both firms used on-line web perforators, which leave traces of powdered paper and gum, swarf, at the holes. On the Walsall stamps this is at the top of the holes but

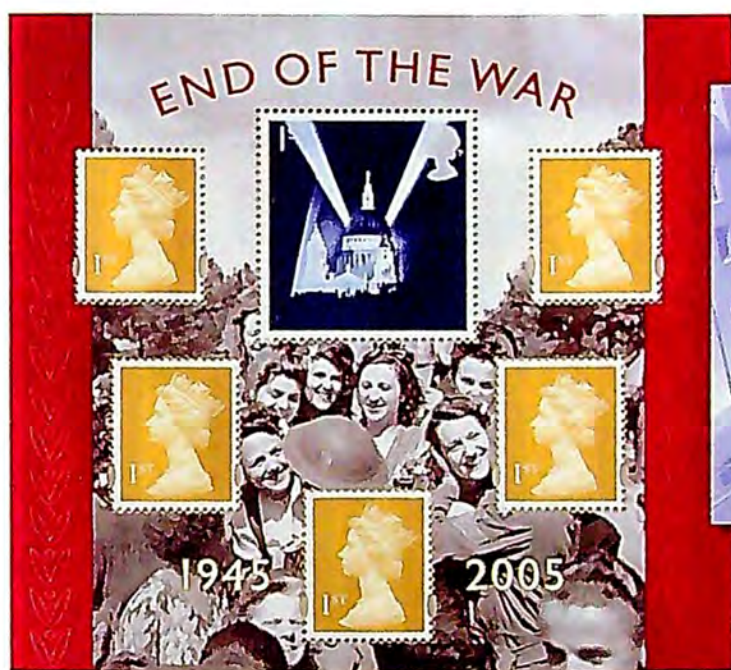


on the De La Rue stamps it is at the bottom. This method does not work for lithographic stamps as off-line sheet perforators are used for these. I will see if the two 42p stamps can be distinguished when I have seen the July issue.

The rise and rise of miniature sheets Nearly every postal authority in the world issues stamps in the form of a miniature sheet (MS). These contain a small number of stamps and have wide margins into which the stamp designs often extend and which are used to describe the issue. These sheets are aimed at collectors, as they serve no operational purpose. However, their philatelic nature makes them popular with their intended market, and the best are not only well-designed but have an acceptable reason for their existence. This was certainly true of our own sheets originally.

Great Britain's first official MS was issued on 1 March 1978. It contained the set of four British Architecture stamps depicting an historic building from each of the four countries of the Union. It sold at 10p over the combined face value of the stamps, the excess going to a fund to support the London 1980 international stamp exhibition. A second sheet was issued on 24 October 1979 containing the four stamps commemorating Row-

Rue country pictorials, and the ever-popular miniature sheet



42p country stamps printed by De La Rue, and two recently-issued miniature sheets with definitives and country stamps.

land Hill's death centenary; it also sold at a premium of 10p. A third was issued on 7 May 1980 containing a single 50p stamp featuring a montage of London buildings designed by graphic artist Jeffery Matthews; this sold at 25p over face. These ventures were very successful, and funds remaining after the exhibition were returned to philately by the formation of the British Philatelic Trust for the promotion of the study, research and dissemination of knowledge about philately.

The stamp shows of 1990 and 2000 were also publicised in this way, with a MS being issued in each of the three years preceding the exhibition. The premiums for the 1988 and 1989 sheets were 22p and 27p. The 1990 sheet was the first to contain a Machin, a single 20p 'double head' stamp issued to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Penny Black. The sheet sold for £1, the premium of 80p being the largest to date.

In 1999, Royal Mail issued its first MS to be sold without a premium, ie, at the face value of the stamps it contained. These were four of the 64p Hubble telescope stamp from the Scientists' Tale in the Millennium series. This was the first time that a MS contained more than one example of the same stamp, a precedent which has been followed often since.

Since the year 2000, miniature sheets have been issued more frequently. Some of them are very colourful, such as the Jeffery Matthews colour palette sheet of 23 May 2000, the two decimal Wilding sheets of 5 December 2002 and 25 May 2003, the sheet marking the opening of the Scottish Parliament and issued 5 October 2004, and the Wilding Castles sheet of 22 March 2005. All of these featured definitives. Of less interest to me are the sheets containing special issues, but many collectors like them.

The number of miniature sheets issued by Royal Mail to date has led them to produce a special album to house them. This comprises an attractive burgundy-coloured landscape-format A5 cover holding 10 leaves. Extra packs of 10 leaves can be bought separately from Tallents House. Each leaf is large enough to hold any of the miniature sheets issued so far, including the End of the War sheet issued on 5 July. The binder has two rings which are prevented from dropping below the cover by a wire holder. The leaves are single-sided. I would have liked to have seen double-sided ones, which would double the capacity of the album without bulking it; after all, miniature sheets will never be any thicker than one sheet of paper – will they? •

There's more to stamps than collecting Dorothy Smith

BUYING A STAMP enters one into a contract with the postal services. For a particular price the purchaser expects the letter, card, package or parcel to be delivered to the given address. Thus stamps can be of great interest not just for their design, rarity, value or country of origin, but also for their place in time. Keeping the stamp, complete with postmark, address, and message is, therefore, as important and fascinating as mounting and categorising individual stamps in albums.

Take this postcard as an example. It is historically intriguing. It portrays a kitten or small cat sitting on its haunches. It wears upon its head an Edwardian feathered hat, and around its shoulders is a fringed shawl pinned at the front with a badge. The badge has 'Votes for Women' printed on it, and the colours of the clothes are purple, white and green. These are Suffragettes' colours, which immediately place the card in context. It signifies the period when the Women's Suffrage movement was either being established or well under way, maybe around the early 1900s to the 1920s. To confirm this piece of historical recording, the animal rests one paw on a placard which states 'We demand the vote' written in upper case letters. So that there may be no doubt about the purpose of this card, the words 'An Advocate for Women's Rights' are printed along the bottom edge. Thus this card could have been sent from a supporter, or sympathiser, of the movement.

Turning it over one finds the normal layout of a postcard, unchanged over the years, with room for a message on the left-hand side and the stamp and address on the right. The card is one of A & G Taylor's 'Orthochrome' series of Pictorial Post Cards with the address of this company as 70 and 78 Queen Victoria Street London EC, dated 1892. The firm is allowed the 'By Appointment' royal insignia but to show that by that time Queen Victoria had died, the words 'to her late Majesty' had been added. Andrew and George Taylor owned one of the largest studios in the United Kingdom in the late 19th century, with branches in many towns other than London. They were particularly known for their photographic *cartes de visites*.



70 Queen Victoria Street is now the address of a mobile phone shop, maybe a fitting successor to its earlier owner – instant verbal communication rather than written messages which would take time to receive. However, the early postal services prided themselves on same-day delivery.

The stamp is seemingly ordinary, a pale olive green with the head of King Edward VII facing left. Although the postmark is dark and slightly obliterating, the stamp can be recognised as a halfpenny in price. Edward VII succeeded to the throne in 1901 after his mother, Queen Victoria, died. The Victorian era had become that of the Edwardians. The King died on 6 May 1910, not long after this card was sent. The postmark shows that the card was dealt with at Hampstead sorting office with just N.W. denoting a postal district. It is dated 21 February 1910 and time at 12.5am, early morning working.

finds the messages in a suffragette postcard



Both sides of the suffragette postcard, and stamps issued in 1968 and 1999 in memory of the campaign for women's rights.

The addressee was H Sortman, Esq of 27 Belton Road, Forest Gate, Essex. Nothing is known of him or his address, although doubtless the house is still standing, unless, of course, it has been destroyed to make way for 'progress', a road widening scheme or erection of a commercial venture, for instance. From the 1901 Census it appears that the house was not then built, thus it will be Edwardian rather than Victorian.

The writing, in ink, is not copperplate. In fact it is not well formed, but nor is it a 'poor' hand. It appears to have been written swiftly. There is no name given for the sender. One assumes that it is a woman, a supporter of the Women's Suffrage movement. Some words are difficult to read but the message appears to be: 'We suffragette the colours will get so we live in hopes if we die in despair we only want Womens rights and Mens lefts.' There is no punctuation and the words run diagonally across the message section. It is a message with a play on words, emphasising the distinctive colours of the suffragette movement and acclaiming the rights of women, intimating that men should take a back seat.

The Women's Social and Political Union (the WSPU) was founded by Emmeline Pankhurst and her daughters Cristabel and Sylvia. This was the first and largest militant suffrage group in Great

Britain, and one of its main aims was to secure votes for women, to attain democratic parity with men. The term 'suffragettes' was coined by the *Daily Mail* newspaper in 1906. By the time this card was written thousands of women had joined the women's suffrage movement, demonstrating both noisily and violently, chaining themselves to railings and when imprisoned going on hunger strike and enduring forced feeding.

Postcards were part of their publicity or propaganda materials. It can only be surmised as to why this particular postcard was sent. Perhaps certain men were being targeted, men of some prominence and influence in their community. Perhaps men at random were being made aware of the suffragette cause. Perhaps H Sortman was known to be 'anti-woman' in some way or another. There were, of course, men who were sympathetic to the women's cause but it is unlikely that the message written on this card indicated that the recipient was such a supporter.

The half-penny stamp might have been soaked off the card, or it might have been cut off or torn from the corner of the card. Either way, its impact would have been lost. For here is a relatively common stamp which had been entrusted with a very particular message. It contributes to social history •

A different direction in stamp design by Glenn Morgan

Design Directions Awards

Left: one of Jane Trustram's designs to raise awareness of missing persons. Right: one of Kelly Dix's designs to promote dance, and attract a younger audience to stamp design.



FOR FIVE DAYS, from 23-27 May, the Pentagram Gallery in London's Notting Hill district became home to an exhibition relating to postage stamps. Unusually, there were no stamp dealers, or even collectors present, but this apparent anomaly is easily explained.

Since 1971, Royal Mail has sponsored a yearly stamp design competition in association with the Royal Society of Arts, last reported in the *Bulletin* of May 1997. The first bursary was for a set of four stamps on industrial archaeology, and David Gentleman was one of the judges of 76 entries received. This year, the number of entries was in the region of 200, reflecting the growing importance that some students and their tutors attach to this specialised area of the graphic arts.

The RSA Design Directions Awards contain 14 other categories and it is the premier competition in socially responsible design, encouraging young designers to 'engage with the broader social and environmental context of society'. The competition also allows Royal Mail to keep in touch with the youngsters, encouraging them to have a voice in the stamp design process.

This year's brief was to 'design a set of stamps that responds to the appeal for a more contemporary, forward-looking approach in stamp subject and design'. Unusually for this competition, the choice of subject was left open – it could be either global or national, specific or general; it could have a purpose or mark a current/topical

event or interest. The key was to make the stamps appeal to a new and younger audience than perhaps is currently the case.

Meeting the challenge, the designers produced an imaginative and varied response, with themes ranging from youth dance to raising awareness of the risks of testicular cancer among 20-30 year old men. My favourite set was one showing environmental risks and animals in danger. These designs incorporated the computer message boxes that pop-up on our screens, such as the choice to 'save' or 'delete'. It was a clever concept, without being too clever, and fully answered the brief of appealing to the young.

The exhibition was the culmination of all the hard work put in by the entrants and was intended to celebrate the work of the six students on the short-list. Examples of other entries that did not make the short-list were also on view, and it was at a private viewing on the Tuesday evening that the winners for 2004/05 were announced.

Jane Trustram, studying at Falmouth College of Arts, received the Royal Mail Award Travel Award of £2500 and De La Rue Security Print Travel Award of £900. Jane designed a high impact awareness campaign to help trace missing persons which, through stamps, would reach all corners of the earth.

Kelly Dix, also of Falmouth College of Arts, won the Internship Award with Pentagram sponsored by Royal Mail worth £1250. Kelly's set of

stamps works to promote dance within the youth population, and to attract a younger audience to stamp design.

Michelle Edwards, of the University of Huddersfield, received the Royal Mail Award Travel Award of £2500. Michelle's stamps tell a different child's story, some good, others bad, inspired by the BBC's Children in Need appeal and family childhood stories.

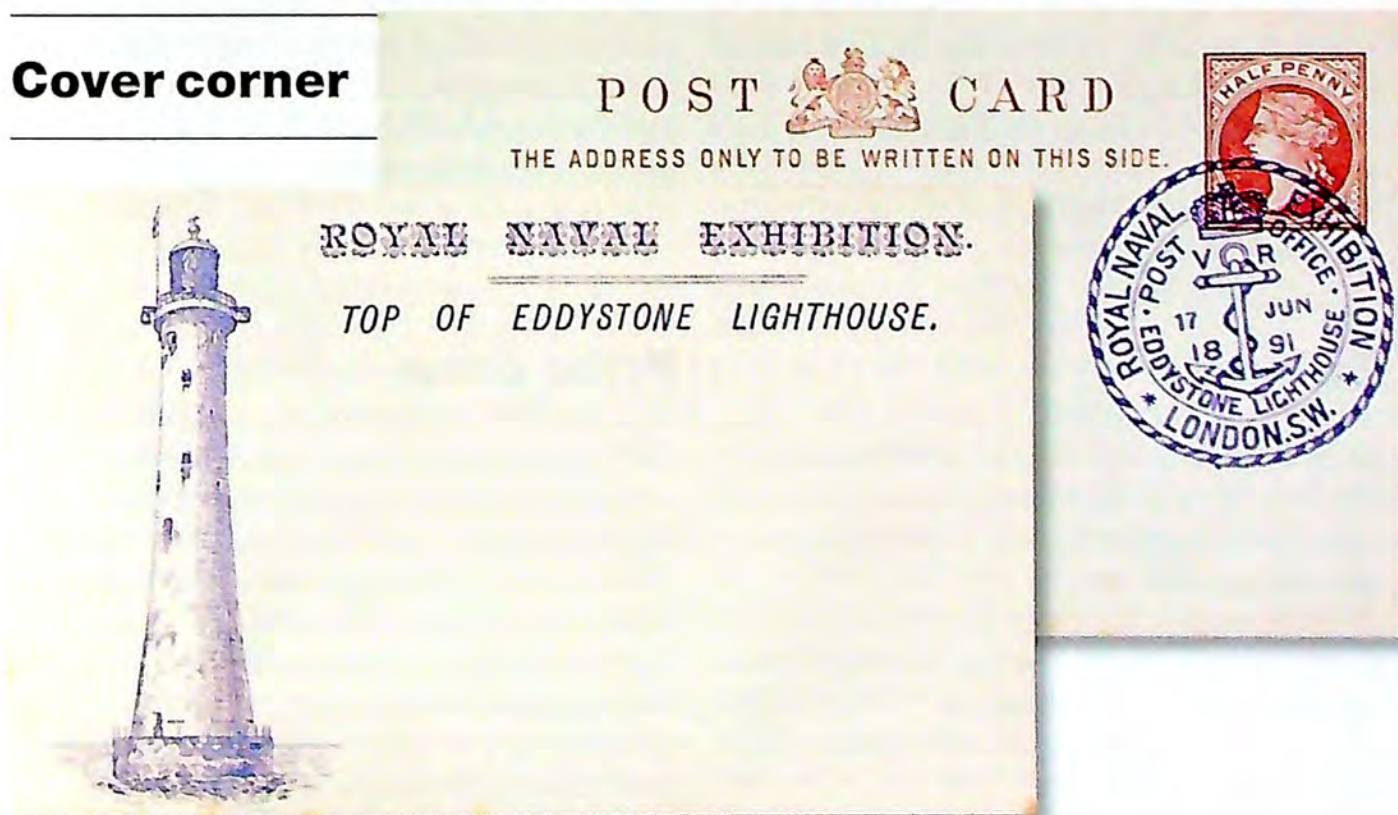
Ali Esen studying at Middlesex University won the Internship Award with Lewis Moberly sponsored by Royal Mail worth £1260. These regional dialect stamps look at the diversity of language within England in terms of changing accents and how regional dialects play a major role in defining people's characters.

As a proof-reader, it was perhaps inevitable that I would be critical of any imperfections in the text

accompanying the images. However, some of the students seemed to lack the ability to use words in the intended context, spell correctly or use correct grammar. I wish them well with their cvs and agency 'pitches' because however creative they are, it is my belief that their lack of English language skills (or possibly it is simply sloppiness brought about by the e-mail and text age) would put off a prospective employer or agency client. Design is all about attention to detail and communication, and words will forever remain an important and integral part of that creative process.

Putting that gripe aside, the entries on show were of an extremely high standard and worthy of being issued as postage stamps. I hope that all of the entrants have fruitful careers in design and that Royal Mail continues to support the arts in this manner for many years to come •

Cover corner



1891 Royal Naval Exhibition This 1/2d brown postcard with the special illustration on the reverse is cancelled with a fine 'Royal Naval Exhibition London sw Eddystone Lighthouse Post Office' cancellation dated 17 June 1891. Posted in Eddystone Lighthouse? Well not quite – the exhibition featured a scale model of the lighthouse with a postbox at the top. The exhibition was held at the

Royal Hospital Chelsea 2 May - 24 October 1891 and, according to the British Postmark Society's *Special Events Postmarks of the United Kingdom*, the special postmark was used from 30 May until the exhibition closed. Struck in shades of blue and, rarely, in violet, it is given a code 'E' valuation, ie from £15 to £40. *Robert Phillifent* •

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



May identify The detail was from the 1946 2½d Victory stamp. The winner was J Miles of Gloucestershire.

May knowledge Answers: 1) 1973 and 1988; 2) orange; 3) Sydney. The winner was K Muttlow of New York.

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

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

- 1 Which company printed the 1924-25 Empire Exhibition stamps??
- 2 In which year did an Archdruid feature on a stamp?
- 3 Who is the new President of the Royal Philatelic Society London?

Send your answer (addressed to either the August *Identify* competition or the August *Knowledge* competition), name and address on a postcard or back of a sealed envelope to: British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ. The senders of the first cards drawn in each competition on 16 September will each receive £100. Ten runner-up prizes of presentation packs or first day covers will be awarded in each competition. The competitions are not open to Royal Mail employees •

Events

28-30 July GBPS York Weekend Meeting at Moat House Hotel, York. Enquiries D Harman, Greylands, Melton, Woodbridge IP12 1QE, or see website www.gbpsmemsec@aol.com

29-30 July York Racecourse Coin and Stamp Fair at The Grandstand, York Racecourse, Fri 11.00-17.00, Sat 10.00-17.00. Admission free. Enquiries 01793 513431 or 020 8946 4489.

19-24 August Taipei 2005 – 18th Asian International Exhibition, Taipei World Trade Center Exhibition Hall, Taipei, Taiwan.

31 August - 3 September The Picture Postcard Show (BIPEX) at the Royal Horticultural Hall, London SW1 (National Postcard Week 28 August - 3 September) •

Prize draw

FOR THIS MONTH'S PRIZE DRAW we have three of each of the new Definitive Stamp Collections packs (see Royal Mail News, page 359). For your chance to win one, simply write your name and address on the back of a postcard and send it to Definitive Stamps Collection Draw, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ to arrive no later than 31 August. Five runners up will be sent the new pack of definitive stamps.

Prize draw winners The winners of the Trooping the Colour prize draw in the May *Bulletin* were: Miss M Phillips of Wiltshire, 1st prize; B Thompson, Cheshire; K Reader, New Zealand; P Gibbs, Kent; Mrs B Messer, London; and M Tauru, of Finland •

Late news



Bulletin contributor is honoured Shown above is Nigel Fordham receiving the LVO from HM The Queen at Buckingham Palace in June. Nigel, an authority on the life of Nelson, was formerly the Head of the Crown Agents Stamp Bureau •

Victorian Innovation cover The British Postal Museum & Archive is to issue its first limited edition commemorative cover, to mark the opening of its new exhibition on 5 September 2005 – Victorian Innovation. It will feature envelope-making at the Great Exhibition of 1851. Serviced with a special one-day handstamp, it will be available on the BPMA website (www.postalheritage.org.uk) or by post from the BPMA, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL. Price £4.95 including postage, cheques to be made payable to Postal Heritage Services Ltd. This will be the first in a numbered series of BPMA collectible covers, some of which will illustrate the heritage behind Royal Mail stamp issues •

Stamp award Royal Mail has received the Asiago award for the most beautiful stamp of 2004 – the 68p value in the Royal Society of Arts issue. The award was received at a ceremony in Milan on 17 July. The stamp was designed by Derek Bird-sall RDI •

The RSA's 21st century manifesto seeks to stimulate enterprise, expand education and encourage the policies and lifestyles that will ultimately eliminate waste.

The Royal Society of Arts 1754-2004



ZERO WASTE

Catalogues The 2005 edition of Stanley Gibbons *GB Concise Catalogue* is now available, with colour illustrations included for the first time. It lists all British stamps up to and including the Magic stamps in March. The GB market is very active at the moment – from the classics to modern miniature sheets – and the prices have been checked and revised, with many significant increases. The 2004 Classic Locomotives miniature sheet is now priced at £25 mint or used, although this is just £10.50 on FDC. Some good constant varieties are now listed (and illustrated) on George VI issues. Inclusion here may well encourage collectors to check their stamps for such varieties and increase interest in this often neglected area. As always, a useful work of reference. 456 pages. Price £24.95; available from stamp dealers and booksellers or from Stanley Gibbons Ltd, Parkside, Ringwood BH24 3SH; UK postage £3.95 •

New President of Royal Chris Harman RDP was elected President of the Royal Philatelic Society London at the AGM on 30 June. An interview with Mr Harman will be published in next month's *Bulletin*. John Sacher is now the Senior Vice-President and Alan Moorcroft Vice-President •

Welsh Philatelic Society The WPS will publish a bumper colour 100th issue of its *Newsletter* this September. The Society reports that the Archive of Welsh Postal History is progressing well with over 6000 pre-1840 entries. A manuscript copy of *Postal History of Wales* by A E Trent has been turned into a hard copy, and for the first time the Society has a CD-ROM of this publication. The next WPS meeting will be at Oswalds, Bangor on 1 October. Enquiries: Marion Turner, 2 Coed Y Glyn, Gellilydan, Blaenau Ffestiniog LL41 4EL •

Prize winners The winner of the David Gentleman book *Artwork* (June *Bulletin* draw) was M Packman of Surrey. Runner-up prizes went: to J Ryan, Essex; R Hanson, Spain; S Kelly, Canada; J & S Sames, Lincolnshire; and C Collins, Worcestershire •

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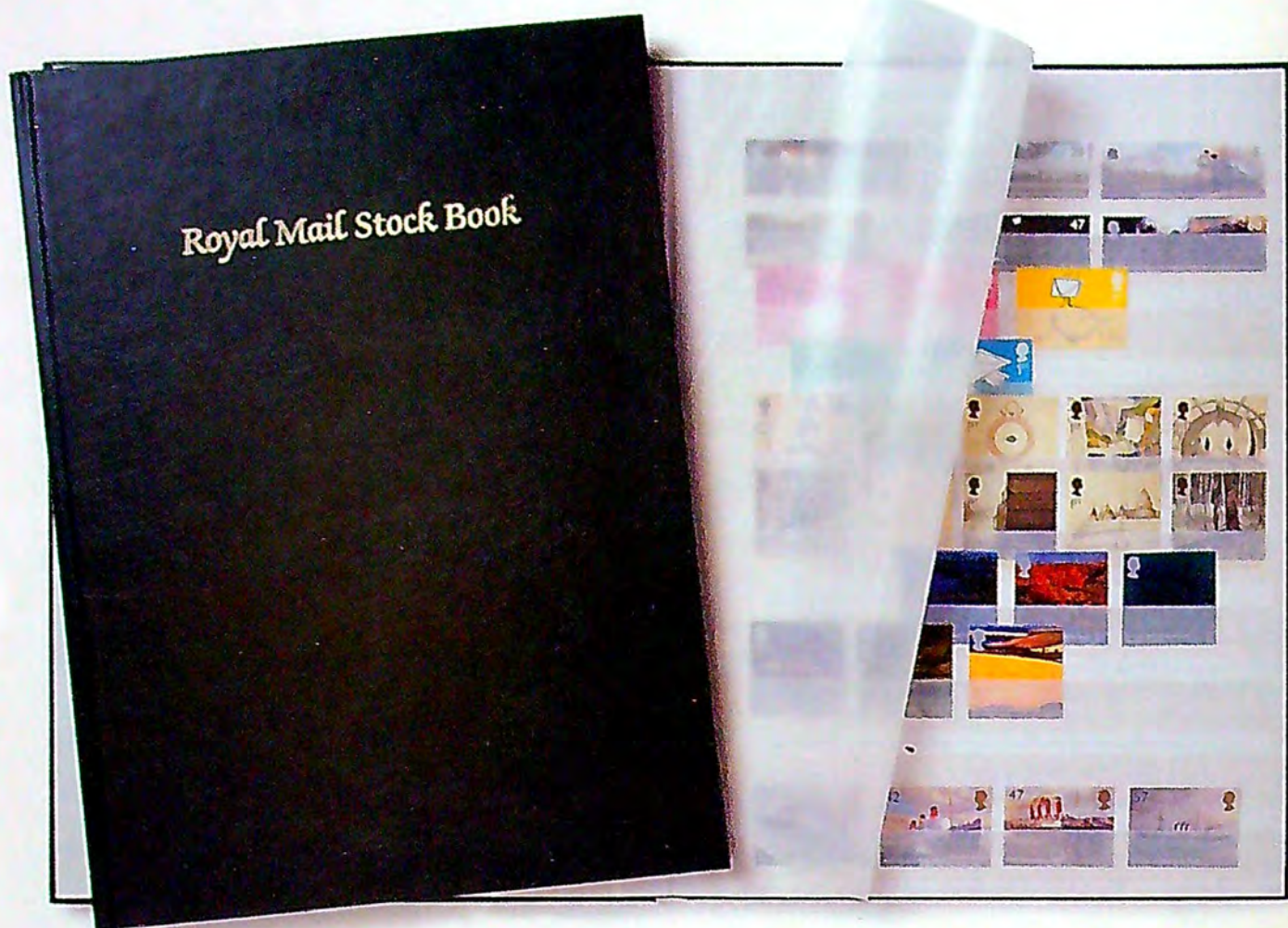
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- Notes**
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 Each issue contained a supplement listing Commemorative Covers.
 The March issue included the booklet *The First Castles High Values* (British Philatelic Bulletin Publication No 10).

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Royal Mail

Review

The information service *for*
collectors and cover producers

AUGUST 2005

Special announcement to cover producers The number of requests for announcements in this Review has grown rapidly in recent months. Regrettably we must now restrict announcements to one cover per producer per month •

A G Bradbury Royal Mail marks the 50th anniversary of ITV with a set of six special stamps on 15 September. The 2nd class stamp features the late John Thaw as Inspector Morse. To coincide with this issue, Adrian Bradbury has produced a limited edition cover depicting John Thaw at the BAFTA Awards Ceremony of 2001. The picture shows him receiving the Lew Grade Audience Award and the Academy Fellowship for his role as Morse. Covers are limited to 250 numbered copies, price £12.50 postpaid •



BAFTA AWARDS 2001
John Thaw won the Lew Grade Audience Award and the Academy Fellowship for his role as Inspector Morse in the series of the same title



Orders and enquiries A G Bradbury, 3 Link Road, Stonegate, Leicester LE2 3RA. Order online at www.bfdc.co.uk by typing 19299 in the Quick Search box.

Rotary Club of London The Club hosted the last stop on the worldwide tour of the Rotary Centennial Bell. To commemorate the event, a cover has been specially produced together with a first day handstamp, which cancels the Trooping the Colour stamps (7 June). Price £12.50 postpaid UK; add £1 for overseas orders. The number of covers produced is limited to 300, and it is hoped to have a small number of these signed by honorary members and dignitaries associated with the Club •



Orders and enquiries Ian Balcombe, 21 The Marlowes, London NW8 6NB.

Phil Stamp Covers offer their latest FDC, featuring the Changing Tastes of Britain stamps. The illustration depicts a snapshot of the ever-changing choice of meals to be enjoyed at the average school – that is, since a certain celebrity chef was involved in overhauling the menus. The cover is cancelled with their official 'Cookham, Maidenhead' handstamp. These limited edition covers (100 numbered copies) cost £13.95 postpaid to any destination. The complete collection of Phil Stamp Cartoon Covers can be viewed and purchased online at www.philstampcovers.co.uk •



Orders and enquiries Phil Stamp Covers, PO Box 178, Dartford DA2 7YE. Telephone (Steve Oliver) 01322 278674. E-mail sales@philstampcovers.co.uk



Orders and enquiries Buckingham Covers, Church House, 136 Sandgate Road, Folkestone CT20 2BY. Telephone 01303 850688. E-mail sales@internetstamps.co.uk.

Buckingham Covers *The Flying Scotsman* on the Forth Rail Bridge was the first of Buckingham Covers' Rail Coin Covers. The great Terence Cuneo painting illustrates this cover, and two rail stamps are cancelled with a special rail postmark together with the 1964 stamp. Finally, the new £1 FRB coin is encapsulated within the design. Each cover costs £13.95. There are also a few signed by Richard Hannay (Robert Powell) from the film *The 39 Steps*, for £19.95. The next Cuneo rail cover is for the Menai Bridge. There is also a rail-only version for £7.95 in the popular Buckingham Rail series – send for details. Postage, packing and insurance costs £1.65. All major credit cards accepted •



Orders and enquiries: Stamp Publicity, PO Box 623, Folkestone, CT20 9AB, Telephone 01303 850672.

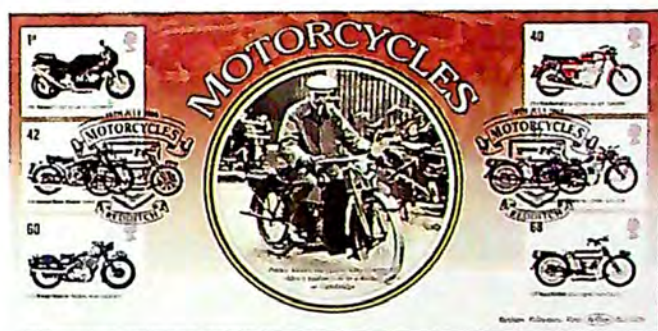
Stamp Publicity *The Battle for the Ashes* – will Freddie and the Durham destroyer along with Hoggy and the Jones boy make the Aussies taste leather or Giles put them in a spin? Stamp Publicity has produced 250 sets of five covers for the Test series. Each has a special postmark and individual design. The covers cost £5.95 each for Lords, Edgbaston, Old Trafford, Trent Bridge and the Oval, or £29.75 for the complete set of five. It is hoped that signed versions will be available later. Stamp Publicity also has available the superb official Lords cricket covers, also priced at £5.95. If you collect cricket covers, send for lists. Credit/debit cards are accepted. Postage is £1.65 •



Orders and enquiries Stamp Sales, Island of Pabay, Broadford, Isle of Skye, IV49 9BP. E-mail stampsales@pabay.org

Island of Pabay A new £2 local stamp (local carriage label) for this small island, located off the east coast of Skye, was issued on 2 June to record the launch of the exciting new book *Skye Birds*, by R L McMillan. The stamp features a photograph of a gannet diving for fish, taken by Rob Day at Elgol, Skye in August 2004. Mint stamps are available at face value plus postage – £1 UK/Europe, £2 elsewhere. FDCs with the local stamp cancelled by bi-coloured island handstamp and Scottish 1st class stamp postmarked Portree cost £5, postage £1.50 UK/Europe, £3 elsewhere. (*Skye Birds* is available from Bob McMillan, 11 Elgol, Broadford, Isle of Skye IV49 9BL, price £14 postpaid.) •

Benham The Motorcycles stamp issue of 19 July continues the transport theme which began four years ago with buses. These stamps feature six classic British motorcycles of the 20th century. Benham's cover shows them flanking an image of Prince Albert, later King George VI, riding a motorcycle to a lecture whilst he was a student in Cambridge. The stamps are cancelled by a pictorial Redditch postmark for the location of Royal Enfield's UK factory. Please quote media code BPE0508A, product code BLCS306A, and mention the *Bulletin* when ordering. Price £9.95 plus £1.95 postage and packing •



Orders and enquiries Benham House, Freepost DR175, Folkestone CT20 1BR. Telephone 01303 226777. Fax 01303 221327.

M Tanner has produced a full colour cover, limited to just 15 numbered copies, celebrating the annual ceremony of Trooping the Colour. This ceremony has marked the official birthday of The Queen since 1959. Princess Elizabeth took the salute for the first time in 1951; The Queen attended on horseback until 1986. Artist Stuart Smith has depicted The Queen in a montage of three images, the latter taking the salute in the mid-1950s. The cover, shown here at mock-up stage, bears the six stamps cancelled twice with the Queen on Horse, Horse Guards Avenue pictorial postmark. Price £16.49 UK, £17.49 overseas. The cover comes with a free informative colour postcard of the cover image. Additional postcards are available at 60p each plus postage 60p UK or £1.20 overseas if ordered separately. Numerous Royalty philatelic items are available – when enquiring please state Royal theme/person, and enclose three 1st class stamps for illustrated list •



Orders and enquiries M Tanner, 180 Whitehorse Road, West Croydon CR0 2LA. Fax/answerphone 020 8684 9757 for credit cards only.

GB Covers Hand-made, limited edition, full set official FDCs are produced by the founder and Life President of the GBFDC (the Association of Collectors of GB First Day Covers) for Association members. The new cover, produced for the Trooping the Colour stamps, features a Coldstream Guardsman holding the colours at the ceremony. Strictly limited to 63 signed and numbered, some remain for sale to the general public at £21 including informative insert, postage and packing •



Orders and enquiries GB Covers, 102 Regal Way, Kenton, Harrow HA3 0RY. E-mail waldo@metronet.co.uk



Veterans Charities Consortium continues with their 'Heritage of Britain' Series FDC NO 14 commemorating the First Battle of St Albans. The Castles miniature sheet has been cancelled with a special Forces Post Office handstamp (BFPS 2829) dated 22 March in commemoration of the 550th anniversary of the battle. The covers have been flown over the battlefield and details of the battle are enclosed in the cover. Price £6.50 plus 50p postage. Small quantities have been signed by the Lord Lieutenant, High Sheriff, and Deputy Lieutenants of Hertfordshire •

Orders and enquires Group Captain W Randle, 60 Shelves Way, Tadworth KT20 8QF.



Forces Post Office The BFPO has produced this special cover for the Trooping the Colour ceremony by the Irish Guards on 11 June. The cover is available with 1st class Trooping the Colour stamp at £3 or with full set of six stamps for £6. The stamp(s) are cancelled by a special Trooping the Colour Forces postmark. Profits from the sale of covers are donated to services charities •

Orders and enquiries Philatelic Officer, BFPO 777 London.

Cover producers wishing to announce a **recent** or **forthcoming** cover should submit typed copy of up to 100 words. Please follow the style above: the text should give a brief description of the cover, state the stamps and postmarks it will bear and give retail price and address to which collectors should send orders or write for further information. 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 October 2005 *Review* should be sent to The Editor, *British Philatelic Bulletin*, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ by 8 August. Copy for November should arrive by 9 September. The Editor regrets he cannot enter into correspondence or telephone conversations with collectors or cover producers concerning covers announced in this *Review*.

Additional Stamp Issue To commemorate London being declared the host city for the a sporting event in 2012, a souvenir miniature sheet will go on sale on 5 August. This will contain six 1996 sport stamps, now as 1st class instead of 26p. The design of the final stamp in the se-tenant strip of five from 1996 will be repeated in the sheet in which the six stamps will be printed in a block (2 x 3). The captions on the stamps will be amended to refer to London 2012. The sheet, price £1.80, measures 116 x 104mm, and will be printed in litho by Walsall. The stamps were originally designed by Design House using photographs by Nick Knight.

A Royal Mail first day cover envelope will be available (25p) as will a presentation pack (£2.30). There will be no stamp cards.

First Day of Issue postmarks will be available for Tallents House (FD0539) and London E15 (FD0540). Covers for these postmarks may be submitted until 1 September. Serviced Royal Mail FDCs can be ordered from Tallents House until 1 September, price £2.53 UK, £2.16 overseas. Please state postmark required.



5-8-2005



Nominate Special Stamps for 2008 Royal Mail's Philatelic Sector invites you to nominate subjects for issues of special stamps in 2008.

Please remember the criteria for special stamp issues:

1. To commemorate important anniversaries
2. To celebrate events of national and international importance
3. To reflect the British contribution to world affairs, in particular to the Commonwealth and Europe, in a variety of fields of activity including the arts and sciences
4. To reflect the many and varied aspects of Britain and the British way of life
5. To extend public patronage to the arts by encouraging the development of miniscule art
6. To fit in with Royal Mail Group plc's commercial targets for philately

The following conventions also apply:

1. Any topic which may be conceivably be controversial or cause offence nationally or internationally is avoided, eg political implications or propaganda, particular religious factions
2. No living person, other than Royalty, is depicted as an individual. However teams can be featured, as on the stamps marking England's Rugby World Cup victory
3. Anniversaries are restricted generally to 50 years or multiples thereof
4. Past and future years are considered to ensure a balance and variety of subjects taking one year with another
5. Within a year's programme the aim is to provide a variety of categories of subjects

All suggestions will be carefully considered for inclusion in the list of subjects put forward for market research to gauge interest and popularity.

Suggestions can be submitted on the reverse of this announcement or on a separate sheet of paper and should be sent by 2 September to: Stamp Programme Manager, Royal Mail Philatelic Sector, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ. We regret we are unable to acknowledge receipt of suggestions or to engage in correspondence on the matter.

The names of all who suggest subjects will be entered in a prize draw and the first five drawn will be sent a 2005 Yearbook when published in November. Remember to enclose your name and address.

We look forward to hearing from you.