

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The ROYAL MAIL magazine *for stamp collectors*

Bulletin

Volume 40 Number 7

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Extreme Endeavours issue •
Photostamps of the world



Amy Johnson is remembered along with six other extraordinary individuals in Royal Mail's Extreme Endeavours stamps, to be issued on 29 April.

Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



Cover Amy Johnson, whose record-breaking flights in the 1930s made her the 'Empire's heroine'. In this issue we preview the Extreme Endeavours stamps, and look at the lives of the adventurers featured. Portrait of Amy Johnson by John Capstack, © Capstack Portrait Archive.

Credits Page 211: R F Scott, photographed by Herbert Ponting © Royal Geographical Society. Page 212: Amy Johnson, Getty Images. Page 213: Freya Stark book cover and drawing, John Murray (Publishers) Ltd. Page 214: Hillary and Tenzing on Everest, © Royal Geographical Society. Studio photography pages 210-14 by Geoff Dann.

Issues Note some items are available only from Royal Mail Tallents House Edinburgh 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 Gatwick Airport, Glasgow Grimsby, Guildford, Harrogate Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool London (Trafalgar Square and Eastcheap), Manchester, Newcastle upon Tyne, Norwich, Nottingham, Oxford, Plymouth Portsmouth, Southampton Southend-on-Sea, Stevenage Stratford-on-Avon, Stroud Truro, Windsor and York

4 March	Issue 6 × 1st class stamp book – 4 × definitives and 2 × 'Hello' (2002) Occasions stamps • 1st class Welsh stamp printed by De La Rue.
18 March	Issue Fun Fruit & Veg stamp cards.
18 March	Withdrawal Coastlines stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards.
25 March	Issue Fun Fruit & Veg stamps and presentation pack.
27 March	Issue Universal Europe and Universal Rest of World definitive stamps in books of four • Stamp cards – Universal Europe stamps and 1st class definitive in gold.
27 March	Issue 6 × 1st, 12 × 1st and 12 × 2nd books with 'The Real Network' added to Royal Mail logo on cover (stamps unchanged from previous issues).
8 April	Withdrawal Circus stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards.
22 April	Issue Extreme Endeavours stamp cards.
22 April	Issue Ingot cover: Pillar to Post 1st class stamp.
22 April	Withdrawal 2002 Occasions generic Smilers sheet.
24 April	Withdrawal Queen Mother stamps and presentation pack.
29 April	Issue Extreme Endeavours stamps, presentation pack and stamp book containing four 1st class definitives and two 1st class Extreme Endeavours stamps (self-adhesive).
	Competitions The closing date for our February Knowledge and Identify competitions is 14 March and not 14 February as stated last month. Entries are still welcome •

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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 Limited philatelic outlets • **Annual subscription** £11.75 in UK and Europe; £16.75 rest of the world. Subscriptions should be sent to Royal Mail Talents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB • **Binders** to hold 24 issues, price £7, are available by post from Royal Mail (Edinburgh address above) • Royal Mail also publishes the fortnightly *British Postmark Bulletin*, which gives 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 specific author. All requests to reproduce any article should be sent to the Editor, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ • **Design** by Robert Maude • **Printed** in Great Britain by the Perivan Group Limited • **ISSN** 0953 8119 • Royal Mail is a trading name of Royal Mail Group plc. Registered in England and Wales, number 4138203, registered office 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ

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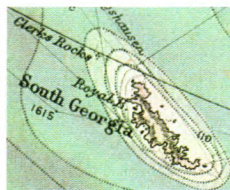
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Iris latifolia



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Stamp scene Exhibitions • New literature • NE Philatelic Weekend • Auction news

Best of the Reign Send your vote to Thematica Best of the Reign Competition, Thematic Exhibitions, PO Box 8843, London N3 1HL by 31 May. Remember to add your name and address.

Exhibitions The next Thematica exhibition will be held at the Carisbrooke Hall, Seymour Street, London W2 on 28-29 June. Thematica is aiming to discover the best stamp of the reign of Elizabeth II. All collectors are being asked to put forward their nominations, with cash prizes and a weekend in Paris to be won. The early 1950s were traumatic, yet exciting, times for Britain. Still recovering from war, a fresh dawn of hope had emerged with a new monarch. The past 50 years have witnessed vast changes in every aspect of life, not least our postage stamps. Far more stamps are produced these days, in bolder, brighter designs and printing techniques have had a major impact. Collectors are invited to select what they consider to be the best designed stamp in three categories: 1) stamps issued by Royal Mail (British Post Office); 2) stamps issued by Guernsey (including Alderney), Isle of Man, and Jersey; 3) stamps issued by other Commonwealth territories (included in Part 1 of the Stanley Gibbons catalogue). All the stamps chosen must bear either the portrait of Elizabeth II or her Royal cipher, and must have been issued since her accession in 1952. The sender of the first entry drawn at random on the closing date will receive a cash prize of £100. The 10 most popular stamps will be shown at Thematica and visitors can vote for their all-time favourite. If your top three matches the overall selection, you could win a free weekend trip to the French national stamp exhibition in Paris with £250 spending money. The runner-up will receive £100 •

Brno 2005 exhibition e-mail: namprovoz@ozjm-r.cpost.cz for further information.

A European Postage Stamp Exhibition, Brno 2005, will be held in Brno in the Czech Republic, 10-15 May 2005. The exhibition marks the 200th anniversary of the 'Battle of Three Emperors', which took place near Austerlitz, and the 60th anniversary of the United Nations. The exhibition, organised by Czech Post and the Union of Czech Philatelists, follows successful exhibitions in Prague in 1998 and Brno in 2000 •

GBPS For details contact Debbie Harman, Greylands, Melton, Woodbridge IP12 1QE.

Society publications The January/February issue of the GB Philatelic Society's *GB Journal* includes features on Transitional Shades Identified as Beaufort House Printings?; The First Paper Contract for QV Line-Engraved Stamps, 1d Die 2; Alphabet 3, Plate 22; Validity of Overprinted GB Stamps; 4d Late Fees; Late Use of the 10d Embossed; Wilding Booklet Discovery; and Machin Self-Adhesives to Look Out For. The latter refers to the 2nd and 1st class self-adhesive Machins with perf 14.5 x 14 (instead of 15 x 14) – now listed in SG's *Collect British Stamps* and priced at £30 each mint. There are the usual book reviews and adverts for major dealers in GB stamps. The front cover features, in colour, one of Barnett Freedman's designs for the 1935 Silver Jubilee issue and a recently discovered Penny Black Plate 1A used on 6 May 1840 (to be sold at Bonhams in February). The accompanying GBPS *Newsletter* contains interesting notes on 1867 Spray watermark reversed, Seahorse watermarks, Plate 11 on cover, Har-

rierson provisional printings 1934-35, Manchester City cancellation, squared circle cancels and demonetisation/invalidation of QV stamps as well as reports of recent GBPS meetings and Society chit-chat. The two publications make for good and stimulating reading for serious collectors of GB stamps of all periods.

The January issue of *Orbit*, journal of the Astro Space Stamp Society, includes articles on From Newton to Juno: Britain in Space by Yuri Zhemchihin of Russia, and on the Rev Nevil Maskelyne, Astronomer Royal 1765-1811, by John Berry who includes his own 'fantasy' design for a Maskelyne stamp. Society membership costs £10 in UK/Europe or £15 elsewhere •

Astro Space Stamp Society

Details from Secretary Brian Lockyer, 21 Exford Close, Weston-super-Mare BS23 4RE or see the ASSS website: www.asss.utvinternet.com/

North East Philatelic Weekend The 27th annual weekend will be held at the Swallow Hotel, Gateshead, 16-18 May. The programme will include talks/displays on Trieste (Brian Asquith), Penguins (Ross Burden), Revenues (Clive Gardiner), Jamaica (Dr Paul Farrimond), and French Aviation (John Hammond). In the event of work commitments preventing Ross Burden attending, Margaret Morris will display her gold medal thematic collection 'Astronomy'. There will be the usual social activities much enjoyed by regular participants •

NE Philatelic Weekend

Enquiries Miss V Beeken, 162 Canterbury Road, Newton Hall Estate, Durham DH1 5XT. Telephone 0191 386 1931.

Auction news Spink's British Empire auction (20 March) will include two major rarities. The first is the unique Australian Commonwealth 1930 2d golden scarlet tête-bêche mint pair. The error was first reported in 1931 as being contained in a £1 book sold at the GPO in Melbourne. A subsequent report stated that the error came from a post office 'south of Yarra'. The pair was last sold at auction in 1980. Spink estimates £20,000-£25,000 for the pair. The second rarity is the Virgin Islands 1867 1s black and rose-carmine with the figure of the Virgin omitted. Very few have survived, this example being from position 4 from the sheet of 20. Unused and uniquely with part original gum, this example is arguably the finest known of this major error. Last offered in 1990, the stamp realised £32,000. Spink now estimate it at £35,000-£40,000 •

Spink enquiries

Spink, 69 Southampton Row, London WC1B 4ET. Telephone 020 7563 4000.

An auction of Stamps and Covers of the World will be held on 4 June.

In Cavendish's December auction, a beautiful £5 orange with neat cds made £1725 and a three country combination cover (France/GB/Egypt) of 1875 made £4025 – one of eight lots topping the £1000 mark. A plate 3 1d black on cover from Jersey to Plymouth went for £483, an imperf marginal pair of 3d rose plate 3 made £3450, while a corner single unofficially perforated made £1265. A 2s pale blue abnormal, plate 3 on piece with a 4d vermilion realised £4600 (estimate £1000) and an unissued 8d purple brown at £2760 went for nearly twice the estimate. A George V 1s deep bronze brown control strip (£2300), Office of Works 1903 10d (£1265), and 1881 3s Telegraph (£1380) left no doubts about the continuing popularity of GB stamps •

Cavendish enquiries

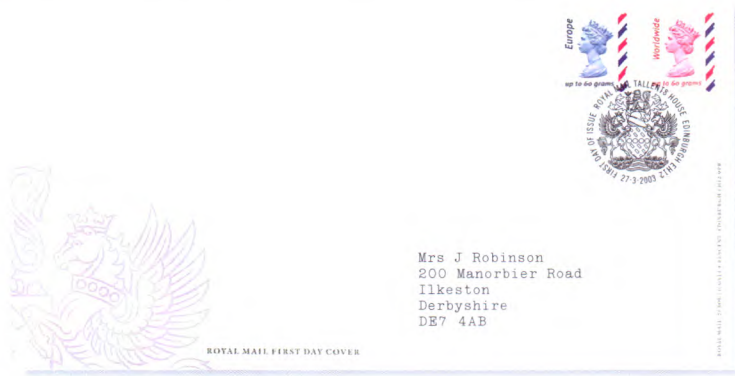
Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, 153-157 London Road, Derby DE1 2SY. Telephone 01332 250970.

The 6-7 March sale will include the Chan Hong Kong collection and important Asia and British Royalty Postal History.

Bulletin back issues Mr G Bryant has for disposal copies from 1976 to the 1990s. Contact him at 38 Cawthorne Road, Barugh Green, Barnsley S75 1LQ. Telephone 01226 385879 for details •

Royal Mail news

New rates, new universal stamps and books • Ingot covers • Smilers



The stamps above are proofs: they will be inscribed 'up to 40 grams', not 60g as shown. Changes to postal rates had not been confirmed at time of going to press.

Top left: the new universal NVI stamps are adapted from the Machin definitive, with airmail chevrons in the design.

Revised postal rates and new overseas stamps Revised postal rates are expected to be introduced on 17 April. Details of any new stamps to cover UK rates will be given next month. Some European rates will also increase, the basic rate increasing from 37p to 38p – this is already covered by the E stamp which will now be sold at 38p (£2.28 book of six). Books containing new Universal Europe and Universal Rest of World stamps covering rates to 40g will go on sale on 27 March. The Europe book will initially cost £2.08 (four stamps at 52p rate) and Rest of World book £4.48 (£1.12 rate to Airmail World Zone 2).

The stamps have the Machin head as the central part of the design, with a red, white and blue chevron down the right side, and wording 'Europe' or 'Worldwide' at top left and 'up to 40 grams' below the Queen's head. The Queen's head and wording are printed in ultramarine on the Europe stamp, red on the Worldwide stamp. They are the same size as all other definitives. The design is by Sedley Place, printing by Walsall in gravure.

Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes (standard design, shown at left – part of the Royal Mail Group coat of arms) will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets about a week before 27 March, price 25p. Orders for FDCs with the two new stamps cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of Tallents House or Windsor must reach Royal Mail (address below) by the day of issue. Price £2.36 UK or £2.01 overseas.

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 Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Wexham Road, Slough SL1 1AA (Windsor postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FD0325' (Tallents House), or 'FD0326' (Windsor). Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for the Windsor postmark. Details of other handstamps will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House (£12.25 UK/Europe; £24.95 elsewhere). For a sample copy write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ.

A well-illustrated pack containing the two new stamps (shown left, price £2) will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets. Also available will be two new stamp cards (25p each), one showing the new Universal Europe stamp, the other the current 1st class Machin gold definitive ●

Special issues The Fun Fruit and Veg stamps go on sale on 25 March; the 10 self-adhesive stamps were previewed last month. April's issue of special stamps – Extreme Endeavours – is previewed this month. On to May, when a second Wildings miniature sheet will be issued, a companion to that released in December. Full details next month.

Last year's Occasions stamps and the Coastlines set will be withdrawn from sale on 4 March and 18 March respectively. The packs and stamp cards will be withdrawn at the same time. The Circus and Queen Mother stamps, packs and postcards (Circus only) go off sale on 8 April and 24 April respectively ●

New printer for Welsh stamp The 1st class Welsh country stamp has now been printed by De La Rue (previously Walsall). Supplies will go on sale at post offices in the Principality as required, with philatelic availability from Tallents House and Post Office philatelic outlets from 4 March. As with the Walsall printing, the stamp is produced in gravure in sheets of 200. Comparison of the two printings shows a close colour match although there is slightly more of a metallic sheen on the dragon on the DLR printing. The Walsall printing has white gum whereas there is a bluish tinge to the gum on the DLR stamp. No first day of issue facilities will be available ●



PILLAR TO POST
STERLING SILVER INGOT AND STAMP SET

The convenience of travelling with your letters will have been offset by the disappearance of the silver ingot.

The 'Pillar to Post' set was designed by Richard Hargrave, with elaborate engravings by J. J. Smith.

1857. Although the name 'Pillar to Post' was used in the 1850s, it was not until 1861 that the first official 'Pillar to Post' stamp was issued. This is the only one of the first City of London 'Pillar to Post' stamps to be issued in 1861. It is a 2nd class stamp, and is the only one of the first City of London 'Pillar to Post' stamps to be issued in 1861.

1857. The silver ingot was issued in 1857. This is the only one of the first City of London 'Pillar to Post' stamps to be issued in 1857. It is a 2nd class stamp, and is the only one of the first City of London 'Pillar to Post' stamps to be issued in 1857.

ROADSIDE LETTER BOXES.
Notice to the Public.
DAVID PLACE, NEW STREET, CHANCERY, ST. CLERK'S ROAD, LONDON, E.C. 4.

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INGOT COVER
Issued in 1857.
The ingot cover is a silver ingot, and is the only one of the first City of London 'Pillar to Post' stamps to be issued in 1857. It is a 2nd class stamp, and is the only one of the first City of London 'Pillar to Post' stamps to be issued in 1857.

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Ingots covers feature artefacts from the postal and social history of the time of the post-box on the ingot, ranging from the 1850s to the 1980s.

Orders for ingot covers should be sent to Royal Mail Tallents House.

Ingot covers and folders The first of five covers incorporating silver ingots of the Pillar to Post stamps is now available. The first cover includes an ingot of the 2nd class stamp and bears a pair of the 2nd class stamps cancelled by a special Edinburgh postmark. Price £29.95. The second ingot cover bearing a pair of the 1st class Pillar to Post stamps will be available from 22 April, price £29.95. The third and fourth ingot covers are scheduled for issue in July and October. An ingot cover (also coin and bank note covers) will be available in connection with the Coronation Anniversary stamps in June – details will be published nearer the time.

A series of attractive folders containing silver ingots of Victorian stamps is in preparation. These will feature: Penny Back, Halfpenny Red, embossed shilling, £5 orange, Penny Lilac, and 1s stamp from the 1887 'Jubilee' issue. Details of availability will be published here when known. These folders, and a storage device to house them, will be available from Tallents House, Edinburgh •



New stamp books Readers are reminded that a new book will be issued on 4 March – this will contain four 1st class definitives and two of the 1st class 'Hello' Occasions stamps of 2002. All are printed in gravure by De La Rue (Questa) on self-adhesive paper. The Hello stamp in sheets of 100 was printed in litho on gummed paper. The book costs £1.62.

The UK rate books are being reprinted to include 'The Real Network' strapline on the cover. This is now used on Royal Mail advertising, letter heads, etc. The books – 12 x 1st and 2nd and six x 1st – will be available from philatelic outlets from 27 March •

Smilers sheets Shown here are the new generic Smilers sheets for Flowers (21 January) and 2003 Occasions (4 February). They are available from Tallents House and Post Office philatelic outlets, price £5.95 each. Tallents House order codes AT003 and AT004 respectively. The 2002 Occasions generic Smilers sheet (XA031) will be withdrawn from sale on 22 April •

The Flowers stamps in this sheet do not have elliptical perforations, an easy way to distinguish single stamps from the original printing of 1997.





Prestige stamp books: introductory offer A special offer is available from Tallents House only until 23 September 2003. Until then collectors can order the *Across the Universe* (September 2002) and *Microcosmos* (February 2003) prestige books together in a special presentation folder for just the cost of the two books – £13.82 (order code YB021). The empty folder is available, price £2.49 (order code PA669). Orders to: Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB •

Christmas stamps D Rose of Norwich reports that the 1st class Christmas books (sheetlets) were also printed by cylinders 1A 1B 1C 1D 1E 1F and 1A 2B 1C 2D 1E 2F as well as 1A 2B 1C 1D 1E 2F which was recorded here last October •

First day postmarks A list of the alternative first day postmarks for 2003 special issues was published here in January (page 134). At the time the postmark for the Beauty of Scotland stamps (15 July) hadn't been decided. It will be for Baltasound, Unst, Shetland – location of the most northerly post office in the UK. An article on the Baltasound Post office was published in the *British Postmark Bulletin* of 9 November 2001 •

Competition and prize draw winners The three prize winners in the competition sponsored by Universal Philatelic Auctions (November) were: A Hine of Worksop, A Sidaway of Castle Douglas, and P Schofield of Holyhead. Winners of the Mystery Prize Draw (also November) were: Mr Zunkhoun, Belgium; D Ruffell, Taunton; Rev W Smith, Chelmsford; Miss G Johnson, London; B Whiffins, Kingston upon Thames; P Smith, Middlesbrough; J Corlett, Isle of Man; Angela Kent, Padstow; K Thornhill, Leicester; K Sheng, Singapore; J Copsey, Italy; J Duffett, Gillingham; H Hartley, Nelson; Mrs A Gray, Gourrock; R Payne, Pickering; J Rapley, Taunton; D McLellan, Harwell; R Clark, South Harrow; P Witter, Liverpool; and B Kassner, Germany. Winners of the Packs draw (December *Bulletin*) were: B & S Smoker, Sunbury; J M Webster, Bridgnorth; R Knighton, Great Yarmouth; K Khoo, Singapore; and J Willard, France •

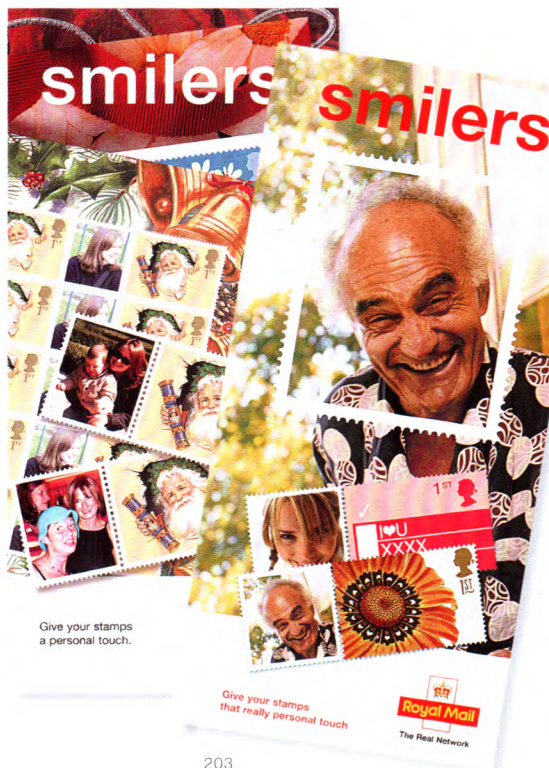
Smilers photostamps Glenn Morgan looks at personalised stamps around the world

It is widely known that Australia Post pioneered the idea of personal photographs alongside postage stamps, and their postal patrons have truly taken to the idea, offered as Personalised Stamps and P-Stamps. The product was later to be adopted and adapted by several countries, including Great Britain (Smilers), Canada (Picture Postage), Indonesia (Personalized Stamps and PRISMA), New Zealand (Personalised Stamps), Singapore (MyStamp), and Slovakia (Personal Stamp). Although each postal administration has its own term for their products, I find the generic term 'photostamp' is easier to use in conversation and articles.

Most countries have a perforated tab in a portrait format to the left or the right of the stamp area, thus ensuring that there is a clear divide between the public (stamp) and private (photograph) elements. An exception is Canada, where they supply photographs on sticky labels that are then attached by the purchaser directly onto an actual stamp.

The process To obtain a photostamp from any of the participating postal authorities involves the same process, whether a face-to-face service, or by mail order. You supply, or have taken, your photograph, complete an order form, such as the two examples from Royal Mail shown at right, and make payment. That is all that there is to it for the customer.

The postal administration then takes over and scans the image digitally into a computer, possibly adjusting the contrast and undertaking image cropping to ensure that the key element (you!) will be included. They then sometimes run-off a test print of the photographs only on non-stamp paper to ensure that the result will be satisfactory. The pre-printed stamp sheets are then printed and in seconds the blank panels reserved for the photographs are filled with your image. The finished sheets are then either handed back to you or posted directly to your home.



Opposite Promotional leaflets from overseas authorities and for Royal Mail's trial mail order service at Christmas 2000. For this service, you submitted a photograph with this order form and payment, and a few days later you received your Smilers for Christmas sheets through the letter box.

It really is that simple, although the technology behind the process is quite sophisticated. Australia took this digital printing method one stage further for the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games. They printed complete sheets of stamps overnight that depicted their gold medallists and had them on sale by lunch time the next day, but that's another story!

Royal Mail trials Royal Mail wanted something special that would attract non-stamp collecting members of the public to The Stamp Show 2000. They worked with The House of Questa and Kodak to offer 'Smilers' photostamps to exhibition visitors. The basic procedure was like that described above and involved completing a simple order request form, paying, posing for your photograph and a short time later you collected the finished product. It proved to be a very popular feature of the show and attracted a great deal of media interest at the time.

At Christmas 2000 Royal Mail offered a mail-order service. This successful trial gave Royal Mail the opportunity to research the market, the potential for profit and the technology, clearly giving its approval to continuing with this initiative.

Incidentally, a full listing of the sheet combinations produced for overprinting with photographs appeared in the *Bulletin*, April 2002 issue and has been kept up to date in later editions.

Product pricing The Smilers product appears not to have captured the imagination of the public quite as much recently as in those early days at The Stamp Show 2000 and during the Christmas period. Indeed, there were rumours in collector circles during 2002 that the product was going to be withdrawn due to the high cost and lack of demand.

Order	Cost per sheet	Stamps per sheet	Cost per photostamp	Cost for one photo only	Cost for 20 photos
20 stamps	£14.95	20	75p	48p	£9.60
40-80 stamps	£13.95	20	70p	43p	£8.60
100-180 stamps	£11.95	20	60p	33p	£6.60
200+ stamps	£11.50	20	58p	31p	£6.20

It is true that the costs have steadily risen for 20 photostamps. At The Stamp Show 2000 they cost £10, Christmas 2000 was priced at £11.90, Christmas 2001 saw a price hike to £12.95, and the current cost is £14.95 (except the World Cup issue, which is priced at £12.95). The price goes down if more than one sheet is ordered.

My employment involves print production, so I appreciate that there are fixed set-up costs. With photostamps, these include the processes recorded above, so the initial costs are as high for producing a single sheet as for one hundred sheets, thus enabling the larger runs to become cheaper. Even so, there seems to be a large discrepancy between UK and overseas prices.

Let us hope that with such pressure on the management of Royal Mail to make profits for both the business and the government, that pricing does not cause the concept to fade away.

Excuse me, are you a Stamp ?



MY
collection & recollection

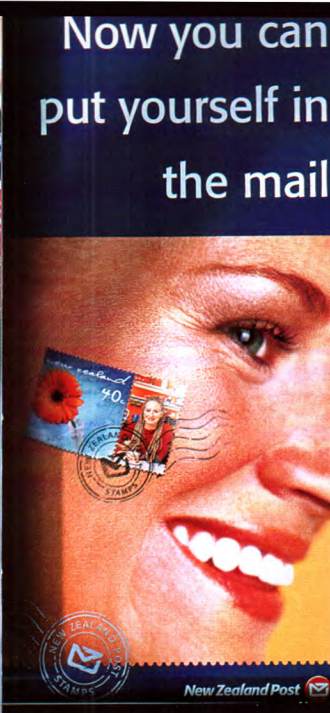
GET INTO STAMPS™ FOR CHRISTMAS



SMILERS™ FOR CHRISTMAS

Royal Mail

Now you can put yourself in the mail



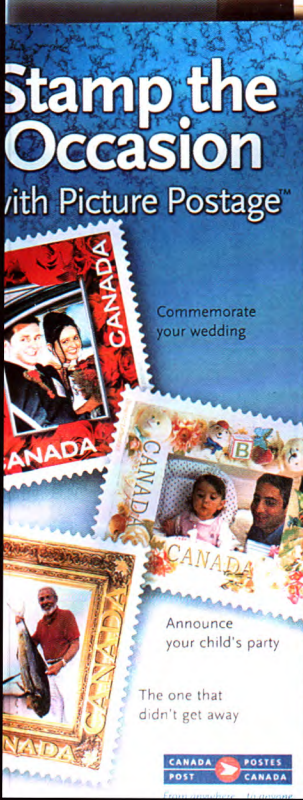
New Zealand Post

Stamp the Occasion with Picture Postage™

Commemorate
your wedding

Announce
your child's party

The one that
didn't get away



CANADA POSTES
POST CANADA

PERSONALIZOVANA ZNAMKA

Poslite svoj pozdrav a viancu!

BLAHOŽELANIE



Máte nájem príjemne prekvapí svojich priateľov, rodinu a známych?
Buďte originálni a pošlite im pozdrav so známou
a vlastnou fotografiou!
Personalizované známky ponúkajú jedinečnú príležitosť
ako osláviť blahoželanie listy a pozdravy.

Pozdravy Vám možnosť vytvoriť si vlastnú poštou
známku - ošetriť si vybrat svoju fotografiu a o pár dní Vám
Slovenská pošta doručí Vašu známku.

POSTA SLOVENSKO

Personalised Stamps Order Form



45c AUSTRALIA

1.00 AUSTRALIA

45c AUSTRALIA

45c AUSTRALIA

40c AUSTRALIA

Personalise your stamps
with life's greatest moments

POST AUSTRALIA



Royal Mail's two new generic Smilers are 2003 Occasions and Flowers – see also p201 of this *Bulletin*.

Generic Smilers These sheets contain pre-printed non-personalised imagery or text on the label area and are sold to enable collectors to get the sheets without the cost of using the personalised route. They are sold with a surcharge of 50p over their face value.

Perhaps encouragingly for Smilers collectors, a recent issue of *Stamp Preview* shows that Smilers generic sheets are now able to be added to standing order accounts and that 'approximately four sheets' will be issued annually. This presumably shows a level of commitment to the photostamps concept.

Incidentally, France has this year copied the Royal Mail concept by also producing a generic sheet in several different versions.

Trials elsewhere Trials, beyond those countries listed at the beginning of this article, and often inaugurated at philatelic exhibitions or trade shows, have included Belgium, China, France, Hong Kong SAR, India, Ireland, Japan, South Korea, Switzerland, Thailand and probably elsewhere.

One can be sure that other countries will jump on the band wagon over the coming years in order to offer an element of fun for their customers and an extra revenue source for themselves.

Rarities This new branch of collecting will have a good following by a small but keen group of collectors, and rarities are already starting to appear. Some of our own Smilers are already living up to their name for philatelic visionaries, as prices start to rise on some of the unique sheet formats that most collectors neglected to obtain at the time. If Royal Mail ever release print quantities of the personalised sheets, then expect some surprises – pleasant if you own them, not so pleasant if you do not.

It is not just in the UK where there are potential rarities. In India, where trials were undertaken in 2001 at an international trade show, a mere 513 sheets were produced. Considering that there were seven totally different sheet types on sale and if every sheet was sold in equal quantities (unlikely), there can only ever be a maximum of 73 sets in the world. As the show was non-philatelic, it is also unlikely that more than a handful of sets were philatelically inspired and retained in collections. Five of the seven sheets produced at the show are shown opposite.

Therefore, my advice to any reader considering photostamps is that you start collecting now and fill those gaps while there is still the possibility of achieving relative completeness. Log on to www.royalmail.com/smilers or pick up a leaflet at your local Post Office branch. Alternatively, ring 0845 074 2000 between 0830 and 1730 Monday to Friday and join in the fun. Now you can order more simply submitting your digital imagery, thus enabling online orders to be placed ●

Glenn Morgan is Librarian of the National Philatelic Society and author of books on letter boxes on stamps, the Santa Service and Royal Household Mail. An interview with Mr Morgan was published in the February 1998 *Bulletin*.



MERAYAKAN MILENIUM BARU Celebrate the New Millennium



INDONESIA 2000 Seri No. 4



INDIA'S FIRST PERSONALIZED STAMP

INDIA'S FIRST PERSONALIZED STAMP



INDIA'S FIRST PERSONALIZED STAMP



INDIA'S FIRST PERSONALIZED STAMP



India Post Pavilion



INDIA'S FIRST PERSONALIZED STAMP



Extreme Endeavours Next month's stamps



Technical details

Printer House of Questa (now part of De La Rue)

Process Gravure

Stamp size 60 x 21mm

Sheet size 50

Perforation 15 x 14.5

Phosphor 2nd class one band
others two bands

Gum PVA

Gutter pairs Vertical

Cylinders and colours

All values Q1 gold ● Q1 black
● Q1 magenta ● Q1 yellow ●
Q1 cyan (blue) ● Q1 phosphor

British Postmark Bulletin

For a sample copy write to:
The Editor, British Postmark
Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old
Street, London EC1V 9HQ.

Tariff increase The prices of
the 2nd and 1st class stamps
and presentation pack will be
increased if a proposed tariff
increase comes into effect
from 17 April. The pack will
then cost £2.80.

THE THEME of next month's issue of special stamps is Extreme Endeavours and honours seven people who have tested themselves in such endeavours. The six, large format, stamps on this theme will go on sale at Post Office branches and philatelic outlets and Royal Mail Tallents House, Edinburgh on 29 April. They depict: 2nd class Amy Johnston, 1st class Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay, 42p Freya Stark; 42p Ernest Shackleton; 47p Francis Chichester; and 68p Robert Falcon Scott. The stamps mark the centenary of the birth of Amy Johnston and the 50th anniversary of the conquest of Mount Everest. The six stamps were designed by Howard Brown.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets about a week before 29 April, price 25p. Orders for FDCs with the six stamps cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of Tallents House or Plymouth must reach Royal Mail (address below) by the day of issue. Price £3.25 UK or £2.77 overseas.

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 Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Penarth Road, Cardiff CF11 8TA (Plymouth postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FDC09' (Tallents House), or 'FDC310' (Plymouth). Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for the Plymouth postmark. Other handstamps will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House (£12.25 UK/ Europe; £24.95 elsewhere).

PHILATELIC PRODUCTS A well-illustrated pack containing the six stamps (shown opposite, price £2.75) and stamp cards (25p each) will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets.

STAMP BOOK A book containing four 1st class definitives in gold and two 1st class Extreme Endeavours stamps will be available from 29 April, price £1.62. All six stamps are self-adhesive, printed by De La Rue ●

recall the achievements of seven explorers and adventurers



Stephen Goodwin, writer of the presentation pack, tells us that explorers and adventurers lend a dash of colour to life. Their exploits are testimony to the courage and passion of the human spirit. Yet triumph was often tempered by tragedy. Scott of the Antarctic perished while his rival Shackleton lost not a life in one of the great survival epics of history. Hillary and Tenzing's 1953 success on Everest followed years of rebuffs to mountaineers by avalanche, wind and cold. Endeavour on land was matched in the air by Amy Johnson and at sea by Sir Francis Chichester, whilst romantic nomad Freya Stark travelled alone into remote corners of Arabia.



Mrs J Robinson
200 Manorbie Road
Ilkeston
Derbyshire
DE7 4AB



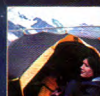
The latter was a full of extraordinary grit in the most inhospitable terrain on Earth. Hauling sledges and enduring wind chill of minus 50°C, Finnes and Dr Mike Stroud were the first to cross the Antarctic landmass without supply drops or motorized assistance. At 2164 kilometres it was the longest polar journey in history and required the pair to fend off blizzards.

Who inspired him? It was not, he admits, polar heroes Shackleton or Scott, though he came to admire them later. His guiding spirits were Livingstone and Stanley, and the exotic Sir Richard Burton and Lawrence of Arabia. After service in the SAS and fighting communists for the Sultan of Oman, Finnes explored the Nile and repeatedly returned to the desert looking for the fabled lost city of Ugar. His ultimately successful search spanned 26 years.

Despite losing his fingertips and having raised more than £5 million for charity, Finnes' competitive urge is still fierce. He is guarded about future ventures. The poles, he thinks, have been all but exhausted, but adds: "If one of our expedition friends nags us with some amazing idea, then it is hard to say no."

Rough Finnes' expeditionists have to from frozen Arctic lakes to barren desert. Between 1879 and 1982 he the first polar navigation of the Earth

Rebecca Stephens was the first Brit to climb the highest mountain in one world's seven continents, reaching it of Everest in May 1983.



REBECCA STEPHENS was the first British woman to climb Mount Everest and to be the 'Magnificent Seven' – the highest summits on each of the world's seven continents. As one of those – Vinson – is in Antarctica and another – Carstensz Pyramid – rises from dense jungle on a South Pacific island, misty contrasting climates go with the challenge. And then there is Everest. The highest mountain in the world presents hikers with the full gamut of hazards – collapsing ice cliffs, avalanches, screaming winds, and sub-zero temperatures – plus the thinnest, most oxygen-starved air on the planet.

Yet Stephens fell in love with Everest and returned from a 1983 journalistic assignment to the mountain's Tibetan side determined to do it. "I just got really green," she says. "We all got turned on by different things and I just got being in the mountains." Then one evening at the Royal Geographical Society in London she heard Sir Edmund Hillary talking about his historic ascent with Sherpa Tenzing in 1953. Forty years after Hillary and Tenzing's triumph, Stephens followed in their footsteps up Nepal's Khumbu valley. She had quit a secure job to be part of a British expedition, but failure seemed inevitable as the Everest season came to an end. Stephens was close to collation and the weather forecast was grim. "I knew the chances were very slim, but I had to know



The presentation pack was written by Stephen Goodwin and designed by Silk Pearce.

Adventurers in the news The extraordinary

Ernest Shackleton stamps

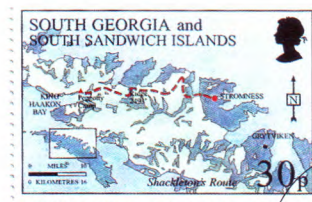
British Antarctic Territory
2001 (SG 337)
Falkland Is 1999, with Scott &
Wilson (MS 847), 2000 (867)
Ireland 2001 (1386)
Ross Dependency 1957 and
1995 (2, 36)
South Georgia 1996 (261)
South Georgia 2000
(the memorial at Hope Point)
Falklands Dependencies 1980
(grave in South Georgia)

Stamp books

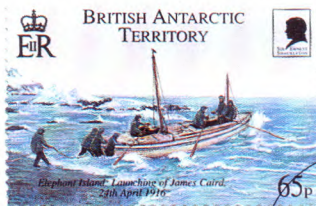
GB 10s covers, August and
November 1969

Sir Ernest Shackleton Shackleton (1874-1922), born in Co Clare, Ireland, attended Dulwich College before joining the Merchant Navy. He is best remembered for his 1914 attempt to cross Antarctica, when his ship *Endurance* was crushed in pack ice, and for his rescue of the crew without loss of life. He died of a heart attack in South Georgia on a fourth expedition in 1922 and was buried at the whaling station at Grytviken. A bronze statue of Shackleton by C Sargeant Jagger (1932) can be seen by the Royal Geographical Society in Exhibition Road, London SW7, and a blue plaque was affixed at 12 Westwood Hill, Sydenham, his home 1884-1904, in 1928.

New Zealand issued expedition stamps in January 1908 for Shackleton's expedition and in 1911 for Scott's. These comprised NZ stamps respectively overprinted 'King Edward VII Land' and 'VICTORIA LAND'. According to the Stanley Gibbons book *Philatelic Terms Illustrated*, an issue of British stamps suitably overprinted for the Shackleton-Rowatt expedition of 1922 was aborted following Shackleton's death. Articles on the postal arrangements for Shackleton's expeditions were published in the *Bulletin* in May and June 1989 (by Tony Gammons), and July 1998 (by James Mackay).



1895



1900

1902 On 28 December, with Dr Edward Wilson and Shackleton, the *Discovery* expedition's junior officer, Scott reached 82°17S – a record at that time



SHACKLETON'S MEN SAVED.

RESCUED AT FOURTH ATTEMPT.

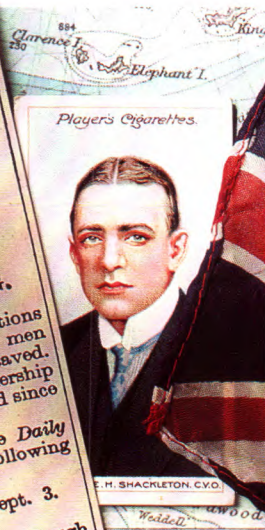
MESSAGE FROM THE KING.

As we announced in our later editions yesterday, Sir Ernest Shackleton's men marooned on Elephant Island have been saved. The party, numbering 22, under the leadership of Mr. Frank Wild, had been on the island since April.

By the courtesy of the Editor of the *Daily Chronicle* we are able to print the following telegram from the explorer:—

PUNTA ARENAS, Sept. 3.

All well. ... in a fog through ... Wild's ...



Longitude West

40

30

individuals of the Extreme Endeavours issue

Robert Falcon Scott Scott (1868-1912) was born near Devonport and entered the Navy in 1881. He commanded the 1901-03 Antarctic Expedition and in *Discovery* (now preserved in Dundee) explored the Ross Sea and discovered King Edward VII Land. Promoted to captain in 1906, he took part in a second expedition in *Terra Nova* in 1910. With Edward Wilson, Lawrence Oates, H R Bowers, and Edgar Evans, 'Scott of the Antarctic' reached the South Pole on 17 January 1912, a month after Norwegian Roald Amundsen. Disappointment turned into tragedy on the return journey, when the team perished in a blizzard 11 miles from safety. The bodies and their papers (last entry 29 March) were later found by a search party and Scott was awarded a posthumous knighthood. A statue by his wife Kathleen (1915) was erected in his memory by officers of the Royal Navy in Waterloo Place, London, and the Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge is named after him. A plaque was affixed to 56 Oakley Street, Chelsea, his home 1905-08, in 1935. His son, Sir Peter Scott (1909-89) was a well-known artist and ornithologist, and founder of the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust. Stamps marking the Trust's 50th anniversary were issued in 1996 (*Bulletin* March 1996).

Robert Falcon Scott stamps

GB Polar Explorers 9p 1972
Albania 1995 (SG 2605)
British Antarctic Territory 2001 (334)
Comoros 1992 (SG 806)
Falkland Is 1999, with Wilson and Shackleton (MS 847)
Ross Dependency 1957 and 1995 (2, 35)

Special cancellations

Forces PO 18 January 1982;
RRS *Discovery* 21 March 2001

Stamp book

GB 4s6d November 1968,
featuring *Discovery*



1914-17 Shackleton's *Endurance*

expedition. In January 1915, the *Endurance* was trapped in pack ice and drifted for 1300 miles before sinking in October. The crew took the ship's boats to Elephant Island and from there, Shackleton sailed 800 miles to South Georgia to get help. The crew were rescued from Elephant Island in August of 1916

1909 On 9 January, Shackleton, with Frank Wild and John Adams, reached 88°23'S (97 miles from the Pole), beating Scott's record

1912 On 17 January, Scott reached the South Pole, but died with his four companions on their return journey. Right, Scott in Antarctica



"These Rough Notes and Our Dead Bodies Must Tell the Tale."

GROUP AT SOUTH POLE.

Cairn and Cross that Mark Spot Where the Heroes Died.

Nothing is here for tears, nothing to wail
Or knock the breast, no weakness, no contempt,
Disgrace or blame, nothing but well and fair,
And what may quiet us in a death so noble.

The Antarctic pictures which *The Daily Mirror* is able to reproduce to-day are the most remarkable, in their tragic interest, which have ever been published. Their interest is unique; they stand alone. They are the actual photographic records of one of the most splendid, the most inspiring tragedies in the world's history. It is fitting that they should be published on which Commander E. R. G. Evans, is



Amy Johnson Amy Johnson (1903-41) was born in Hull, the daughter of a fish merchant. She was educated at Sheffield University and then moved to London and found work as a typist. Interested in aviation, she joined the London Aeroplane Club and became the first woman to become a certified ground engineer. She qualified as a pilot in December 1929 and with only 50 hours of flying experience, made the first woman's solo flight (in *Jason*) from England to Australia, taking 17 days. This achievement earned her £10,000 from the *Daily Mail*. In 1931 she flew to Moscow and back and the next year to Cape Town (with a second record flight in 1936). She married James Mollison in 1932 (divorced six years later) and together they flew across the Atlantic in 39 hours in 1933. At the start of the Second World War she joined the Air Transport Auxiliary. Whilst delivering a new fighter plane to a base in south east England, the plane caught fire; Johnson baled out and was lost over the Thames estuary. In 1987 a blue plaque was affixed to her former home in Vernon Court, Hendon Way, Cricklewood, London. Three special postmarks (Croydon, Hull, and Forces Post Office) were used on 5 May 1980, the 50th anniversary of her flight to Australia.



1925

1928 Freya Stark's journey to the forbidden land of the Syrian Druze

1931 Amy Johnson flew from England to Japan in record time

1930 Amy Johnson made the first solo flight to Australia by a woman

1932 Amy Johnson flew from England to Cape Town setting a record for a solo flight

HER OWN STORY

CAPTOWN, Friday. After her thrilling solo flight from London across the blazing sands of the desert and through tropical storms in the thick jungle of Africa, Mrs. Amy Mollison landed here at 1.30 p.m. (G.M.T.) to-day. She had successfully broken her husband's London to Capetown record by exactly ten and a half hours. She landed skilfully in the teeth of a

Dame Freya Stark Freya Stark (1893-1993) was born near Paris and brought up by her mother, and later educated at Bedford College and the School of Oriental Studies. During the First World War she nursed for the Red Cross in Italy and in the 1920s visited and studied in the East, becoming a travel writer of books such as *The Valley of the Assassins* (1934) and *A Winter in Arabia* (1940). In 1944 she travelled to North America and then to India, and assisted British intelligence during the Second World War. She married the Orientalist Stewart Perowne (1901-89) in 1947. Her fascination with archaeology and history of the East led to books on Turkey and Afghanistan. She was a prolific letter writer, and a volume of her letters was published in 1988. Stark often travelled alone, into remote areas of Iraq, Iran and southern Arabia, and continued into old age, journeying down the Euphrates river in 1976, aged 83. She wrote over 30 books (her pre-war titles are lighter reading), and was awarded the DBE in 1972. Her writing style has been described thus: 'an unassuming friendliness and curiosity which make her observant and humane descriptions of the life of remote communities memorably lifelike.'



An illustration by Freya Stark from *The Lycian Shore*.

'To awaken quite alone in a strange town is one of the pleasantest sensations in the world.'

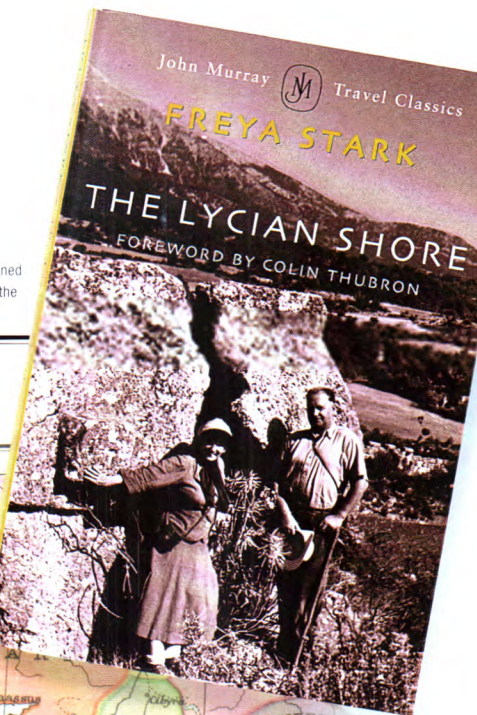
FREYA STARK

1936 *The Southern Gates of Arabia* by Freya Stark published

1941 Amy Johnson was drowned when her plane crashed over the Thames estuary

1936 Amy Johnson recovered her 1932 record in another solo flight from England to Cape Town

1940 *A Winter in Arabia* by Freya Stark published



Hillary and Everest stamps

Rumania 1985, Hillary (5010)

India October 1953, conquest of Everest (SG 344-5)

Nepal 1960, 1970, 1971, 1978, 1982, Everest (140, 249, 269, 361-2, 426)

Sierra Leone 2002, International Year of Mountains series, Everest (4021)

Special labels

Special labels were used on mail posted from the Everest Expedition of 1924; one was shown in the *Bulletin* of October 1971 (page 12)

Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay Hillary (born 1919) and Tenzing (1914-86) made history on 29 May 1953 when they became the first to reach the summit of Mount Everest. They were part of the British expedition led by John Hunt. Sir Edmund was born in New Zealand and educated at Auckland University College before he worked on his father's farm, becoming a knowledgeable apiarist (bee-keeper). He joined the Royal New Zealand Air Force in 1943 and was knighted (KBE) after the Everest triumph in 1953. In 1995 he was made a Knight of the Garter. He set up the Himalayan Trust, a medical and educational charity for the Sherpa people of Nepal, and was New Zealand's High Commissioner to India, 1984-89.

Tenzing Norgay, normally referred to as Sherpa Tenzing, was born near Makalu, Nepal. He made his first climb as a porter to an Everest expedition in 1935, reaching 23,000 feet in 1938 and 28,215 feet in 1952. The following year he and Hillary reached the summit, news of their achievement reaching London on the eve of The Queen's Coronation. Tenzing was awarded the George Medal and became head of the Institute of Mountaineering in Darjeeling and President of the Sherpa Association.



1953 Hillary and Tenzing reached the summit of Everest. Above, the two climbers during their ascent

1956 *The Lycian Shore* by Freya Stark published



1960 Francis Chichester won the first solo transatlantic yacht race in *Gipsy Moth III*

1952 Tenzing climbed to 28,215ft on Everest

1954 Tenzing appointed head of the Institute of Mountaineering in Darjeeling, India

1958 Edmund Hillary and a New Zealand team reached the South Pole, the first people to take this overland route since Amundsen and Scott in 1912

1962 In *Gipsy Moth IV*, Francis Chichester won the transatlantic yacht race, breaking his own 1960 record

HILLARY DOES IT

The news came late last night that Edmund Hillary and the Sherpa guide, Tenzing, of Colonel Hunt's expedition had climbed to the summit of Earth's highest peak, 29,002 feet high.

Queen Elizabeth the Second, resting on the eve of her crowning, was immediately told that this brightest jewel of courage and endurance had been added to the Crown of British endeavour. It is understood that a message of royal congratulation was sent to the climbers.

Announcers broke into U.S. radio and television programmes last night to relay the news.

Hillary, a 34-year-old New Zealander, and Bhotia Tenzing, 38-year-old leader of the Sherpa guides and bearers, are said to have made the final 1,000-foot ascent from Camp Eight on the upper slopes.

... apparently accomplished on Monday.

‘At that great moment for which I had waited all my life, my mountain did not seem to me a lifeless thing of rock and ice, but warm and friendly and living.’

TENZING NORGAY

Sir Francis Chichester Chichester (1901-72) was born at Barnstaple, Devon, the son of a clergyman, and educated at Marlborough. He emigrated to New Zealand in 1919 where he made a fortune as a land agent. He returned to Britain 10 years later for flying instructions and made a solo flight to Australia in a Gipsy Moth plane in 19 days. During a world flight in 1931 he was badly injured in a plane crash in Japan (wreck covers survive from this flight), and took five years to fully recover from his injuries. During the Second World War he served as an air navigation instructor and in 1953 took up yacht racing. In 1960 he won the first single-handed transatlantic yacht race in *Gipsy Moth III*, sailing from Plymouth to New York in 40 days. In 1966-67 he circumnavigated the world in *Gipsy Moth IV*, sailing from Plymouth to Sydney in 107 days and returning via Cape Horn in 119 days – a total journey of 29,600 miles in 226 days. From Plymouth he sailed on to Greenwich where he was knighted by The Queen with the sword used by Elizabeth I to knight Sir Francis Drake. He had earlier, in 1964, been awarded the CBE. He made a solo transatlantic crossing in 1971, at the age of 70, establishing a solo speed record along a straight line of 4000 miles •

Francis Chichester stamps

GB circumnavigation 1967

Norfolk Island 1974 (151)

Palau 1996 (MS985)

Special cancellations

Pictorial handstamps were used at the Philatelic Bureau, Greenwich and Plymouth on 24 July 1967, the first day of issue of the Chichester stamp, and a standard first day postmark was used at Chichester for that day. Special cancels were used at Plymouth on 28 May 1967 (date of his return), and at Barnstaple on 12 October 1967 when Chichester was honoured by his home town.



1966-67 Francis Chichester's solo circumnavigation in *Gipsy Moth IV*

1970

1972 Freya Stark made a DBE

1975

1967 Gipsy Moth stamp issued; Francis Chichester knighted

1971 At the age of 70, Francis Chichester set a solo speed record for sailing along a straight line of 4000 miles from point to point

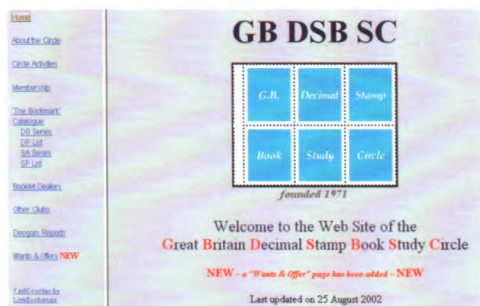
Round-world stamp



THIS design by Michael Goaman for a special 1s. 9d. stamp to mark Sir Francis's voyage was released by the Post Office yesterday. The stamp, announced by the Postmaster-General, Mr. Edward Short, will be on sale in July. It will be double normal size in blue, red, green and grey.



Philately on-line Ron Negus looks at GB decimal booklets



www.gbdsbsc.kabsi.at/ For an information pack on the Great Britain Decimal Stamp Book Study Circle, details of membership and a sample copy of the Circle's magazine, write to the Membership Secretary, Mr Tony Wilkins, 3 Buttermere Close, Brierley Hill, West Midlands DY5 3SD. Mr Wilkins can also be contacted by e-mail at tony.wilkins300@virgin.net

THE DECIMAL STAMP BOOKLETS of Great Britain have undergone many changes since their introduction in 1971. The Great Britain Decimal Stamp Book Study Circle has kept abreast of changes from that date and booklets remain a very popular collecting area. One of the founders of the Circle, and its first President, the late Len Newbery, wrote many articles for this *Bulletin* on the topic. Douglas Myall was another founder member whose own articles are greatly appreciated by current readers of the *Bulletin*.

The Study Circle has its own web site at www.gbdsbsc.kabsi.at/ where details of its activities can be found. The Circle's membership exceeds 650 world-wide. Their interests range from those who simply wish to be advised of new booklets as they appear through to specialists who research specific types. A regular magazine, *The Bookmark Journal*, keeps members in touch and this is supplemented by an occasional bulletin, *Stop Press*, with details of new issues.

The website contains an overview of the Circle's history and information about its current activities. Membership details are given, and an application form can be printed out for completion and submission by post. On other pages the names and addresses of dealers who specialise in booklets are listed and there are links quoted to other societies that have an interest in GB material. Members' wants and offers are advertised to encourage exchanges.

The site includes exhaustive listings of the various issued booklets classified in accordance with the series numbers they have been allocated in

The Bookmark Catalogue. This publication was first issued by the Circle in 1973 and is the standard reference work. For each booklet, the different printing processes, primary sheet layouts, perforation types, marker bars, and phosphor inks and papers used are dealt with in detail. For those who do not wish to collect or study in depth, the catalogue also contains simplified listings of all relevant information. This important publication has now reached its seventh edition and the printed version contains over 1700 pages. Previous editions were available only to Circle members, but the general public can buy this latest one. The website has some sample pages that can be downloaded, including the Table of Contents.

As the site shows, the collection and study of British decimal stamp books makes a fascinating subject. They have been the main source of different varieties of Machin definitive stamps and, indeed, the only source of many of them. It is appropriate, therefore, that the Study Circle is the distributor of Douglas Myall's authoritative *Deegam Reports*, free with their magazine. The main content of each of these supplements to the *Complete Deegam Machin Handbook* (since the second edition) are listed.

In early 1971, the first 'stitched' variety of decimal booklet appeared. The folded booklets, then the window books, followed these. Now the Non Value Indicator stamps are issued in this format and permutations of different collectable specimens seem endless from just over three decades of existence. The Study Circle described here can help you to make sense of this diversity •

Posting boxes 215

THE FIRST of this month's photographs (reading clockwise from below) shows a pair of pillar boxes in Madeira, sent by David Trussler of Winchester, who describes their design as 'similar to British boxes but with screw-top-like lids'. The red one is for island mail and the blue one for foreign and mainland Portugal. They are dated 1980 and were apparently cast on the island.

Patrick Roast of Christchurch, Dorset sends a photograph, taken about 10 years ago, of an Edward VII box on the corner of Parkanaur and Burges Roads in Thorpe Bay, Essex.

John Alistone of Poole, Dorset sends a photograph showing the oldest operational box in England – at Barnes Cross, Holwell, Dorset. A plate on the box shows that the box was manufactured by John Butt & Co of Gloucester.



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

Major R W Smith of Cliftonville, Kent submits a photograph of the two boxes in Ramsgate Road, Margate, one a Victorian box no longer in service, and a modern box of the present reign. The older box bears a plate worded: 'This Victorian Post Box has been in service since 1903. It was originally installed in Helena Avenue and was then moved to Buckingham Road in 1935. It was finally re-sited to Ramsgate Road in 1977. The box was sealed in March 1997, because the aperture of the box could no longer cope with the ever-increasing size of modern day envelopes. In consultation with The Margate Civic Society and Thanet Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Royal Mail decided to install a modern box next to the old one, to show how post box design has changed over the last one hundred years.' ●



Michael Sefi As he commences his new duties, the Keeper of The Royal Philatelic Collection talks to Richard West



THE NEW KEEPER of The Royal Philatelic Collection is Michael Sefi. Having been deputy to Charles Goodwyn since 1996, with particular responsibility for the Great Britain section, Michael is no stranger to the Collection.

From the moment when Charles Goodwyn announced his retirement as Keeper in the autumn of 2002, there has been great interest as to who would take on this important role. Such has been the awareness of the Collection that Charles engendered, and the fascination created, certainly among stamp collectors, that the position of the Keeper is seen as increasingly important. For, while the Collection is the personal property of The Queen, many regard this as a 'national' collection, and eagerly await the opportunities to view extracts on selected occasions (occasions which have increased in number under Charles).

It was apt that Michael should have particular responsibility for the Great Britain part of the Collection, as King George V and VI, plus the Queen Elizabeth II Wilding definitives, are his own collecting specialities, having undertaken noteworthy studies of the Downey Head. His

collections have achieved Large Vermeil medals in South Africa in 1997 and China in 1999 and a Gold medal at Hafnia in Copenhagen in 2001. His research on the King George V definitives has been published in the journal of the Great Britain Philatelic Society, of which he has been both President and Treasurer. Michael's collecting interests also include the Commonwealth of Australia and Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika.

Back to The Royal Collection, in his role as deputy he planned the exhibits that went to the international exhibition in Cyprus and to Chester in 2002, as well as preparing a display for the members of The Royal Philatelic Society London. He also accompanied exhibits from the Collection at several exhibitions, including Moscow in 1997, Bulgaria and China in 1999, Brussels in 2001, and, not unnaturally, at the major presence at The Stamp Show 2000.

Chartered accountant After school, Michael qualified as a chartered accountant with Mann Judd, which subsequently merged with Touche Ross (now Deloitte & Touche), where he specialised in personal taxation, and then moved on to Noble Lowndes & Partners Ltd, a major firm of consultants and actuaries.

After leaving Touche Ross, he became considerably more involved with philately, and not only with The Royal Philatelic Collection. Since 1991 he has been a member of the Council of The Royal Philatelic Society London, and is now the Chairman of its Publications Committee.

He is a Trustee of the RDP Trust, which has responsibility for the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, widely regarded as the highest honour which can be bestowed on a philatelist.

Philatelic consultant However, perhaps the position for which Michael is most widely known is as Consultant for the British Philatelic Trust. In this role Michael has been active in several areas, in particular the production of a wide range of

informative leaflets, many of which were available at The Stamp Show 2000. He also worked closely with the Association of British Philatelic Societies and with the National Philatelic Society in creating a UK Philately website (which can be found at www.ukphilately.org.uk).

Not that philately is his entire life – although it might become so now – being married with three (now adult) children. He has other interests, including naval history of the 19th century, railway history, open water diving, skiing, and, if forced, gardening.

The future So what plans has Michael in his new role as Keeper of The Royal Collection? He intends to continue the initiatives which Charles Goodwyn started, not least making the Collection available to researchers and, where appropriate, displaying sections at exhibitions both in the United Kingdom and overseas. Collectors in the UK can therefore look forward to continuing to see extracts at significant events such as the national exhibitions staged every two years by the Association of British Philatelic Societies. He intends to complete the task of mounting and

compiling an inventory of the King George VI section of the Collection. This work was started by Charles, and is about two-thirds completed. In this, Michael will be assisted by Rod Vousden, who has just retired from his curatorial role within the British Library Philatelic Collections.

Michael will also pay particular attention to the question of the preservation and conservation of the Collection. Many collectors complain about the levels of lighting at exhibitions, and not only of The Royal Philatelic Collection. However, it must be remembered the impact that light has on philatelic material, and that the effects are cumulative.

In all these endeavours, Michael will have a deputy, Suresh Dhargalkar, LVO, who has worked with Charles and Michael on the Collection for some years.

Michael recognises that there are challenging times ahead, with much to do, and that the task will be no sinecure. He also feels it is daunting, conscious of the great philatelists who have been Keepers in the past. He is aware that here is a legacy and tradition which must be recognised and acknowledged •

Special draw Another chance to win 10 presentation packs



OUR PACKS DRAW in December proved so popular that we have decided to repeat it. We have 50 packs to give away – 10 each to the senders of the first five cards drawn on 7 April. Write your name and address on the back of a postcard and send it to Packs Draw, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ •

Cover corner

BULLETIN READER Arthur Bidston submitted this cover after seeing the mourning cover shown here in January 2001. It contained a letter from novelist Charlotte Brontë to her lifelong and closest friend Ellen Nussey on the death of her mother

in July 1849. The Brontës lived at Haworth where their home is now a museum and popular tourist attraction. Charlotte and Emily featured on two of the Famous Authoresses stamps issued in July 1980.

The reverse of this cover has clear impressions of Leeds, Keighley, and Haworth postmarks.



Frank Aldridge of Devon sends this interesting cover for the Farmers' Tale stamps of 7 September 1999. This bears the four stamps plus the 17p value from the 1986 Domesday Book set all cancelled by a special handstamp for Laxton, Nottinghamshire.

Laxton is noted as the last village with the medieval open field strip farming system. Strip farming was the subject of the 19p Farmers' Tale stamp and medieval peasants ploughing the land are shown on the Domesday stamp •

Farmers' Tale first day cover of 7 September 1999, with a 1986 Domesday Book stamp.



Postbag Letters to the Editor

In December we invited readers to recall the issue of the first Wilding stamps in December 1952.

In 1952 when I was 12, my mother died and I felt lost, so a friend of mine said 'why don't you collect stamps?'. Well I did have a small collection, but I then decided to specialise in GB. This was at the end of 1952 so I went along to our local post office and bought my first Wildings; it cost me 4d which was a lot from my 6d pocket money a week, but what a joy. I must now save up 3s 3½d for the new Coronation stamps and all the new Wildings that were still to come. These would have to be saved for, so I asked the milkman if I could help him, so I would have more money for my hobby. I would look for watermarks, different shades, inverted and many other different trends, that would be issued between then and June 1967, and even now, after 50 years of collecting I have all the Wildings mint. However I am still missing one used – the 3d left hand inverted watermark (SG 615cWia) – not an expensive stamp but hard to find. There are lots of Wildings and it seems still more to come. Thank you Dorothy Wilding for the design and the Post Office for issuing them – keep it up. ALAN SIDAWAY, CASTLE DOUGLAS ●

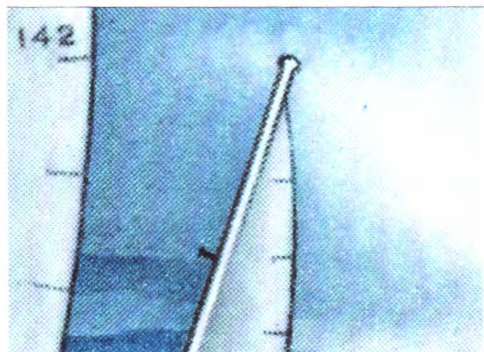
Back in December 1952 I was 15 years old and in my final week before being discharged from hospital. I had been there for nearly five years with a TB hip and it was in 1948, the year of the Silver Wedding issue, I became interested in and started to collect GB stamps. When the first two Wildings were issued on Friday 5 December 1952 one of the nurses arranged the 1½d and 2½d on a plain cover for me at the local post office, Coleshill, Birmingham. Fifty years later, on 5 December 2002, I sent to myself, again on a plain cover, the corresponding 1st and 2nd stamps from the excellent Wilding miniature sheet. Over the Wilding years I obtained the Tudor, St Edward's and Multiple Crown watermarks, the graphite and phosphor graphite issues, all in cylinder blocks of six. In 1970 I sold the lot through Cav-

endish Auctions of Derby for the princely sum of £248 to get married! I still have the single sets. Quite a few of my friends in hospital were collectors and this wonderful hobby provided us with many hours of enjoyment in our long confinement and I am still as keen today as I was all those years ago. I often wonder if any of my hospital friends are still interested in stamp collecting and perhaps subscribe to the *Bulletin* as I have since it was first published. I think the Machin issue is one of the finest but perhaps because of sentimental reasons I still have a fondness for the Wildings of 50 years ago. DEREK WHITMORE, COALVILLE, LEICS ●

James Seymour I read with interest but with no surprise the very interesting article on James B Seymour by Ron Negus (January *Bulletin*). I did not have the privilege to know Mr Seymour. However, my parents moved to South Woodford in the late 1960s and one of their neighbours happened to be one of the sons of Mr Seymour. This gentleman not only assisted and encouraged me to become a stamp collector, but also passed on one or two anecdotes concerning his father. If my memory serves me correctly, Seymour had placed some of his stamp collection in bank vaults in the City. During the Blitz of 1940 the relevant bank was destroyed but the actual vault was left intact. Once the vault was opened, the stamps appeared to be in pristine condition until handled, when they were reduced to dust. (The heating of the vault following the bombing had dried out the paper on which the stamps were printed. I have always wondered what Seymour's collection would have been if it had not been so affected by war damage.) My second recollection is that some of the auctions of Seymour's stamp collections in the early 1950s were actually broadcast by the BBC.

Mr Seymour was, I believe, the second person to own a motor car in the UK and his motor car was, up until at least the 1970s, an exhibit in the local history museum in Walthamstow. HOWARD REDGWELL, LONDON E1 ●

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



December identify The detail is from the 1966 3d Christmas stamp. The winner was Dr G Pegg of Bristol.

December knowledge The answers: 1) Reynolds Stone; 2) The Settlers' Tale; 3) Charles Goodwyn. The winner was J O'Hare of Galway.

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

- 1 Who designed the 1973 County Cricket stamps?
- 2 Which Millennium stamp set featured a harp?
- 3 In which years did the Albert Memorial appear on stamps?

Send your answer (addressed to either the March *Identify* competition or March *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 14 April will each receive £100. Ten runner-up prizes of presentation packs or FDCs will be awarded in each competition. The competitions are not open to Royal Mail employees •

Events

26 February - 2 March Spring Stampex at Business Design Centre, London N1. Displays by British Aerophilatelic Federation & Czechoslovak PS. **Enquiries** Stampex, 020 7490 1005.

27 February - 1 March Philatex at Royal Horticultural Hall, Greycoat Street, London SW1. 27 Feb 11.00 - 19.00, 28 Feb 10.00 - 18.00; 1 Mar 10.00 - 17.00. Admission free. **Enquiries** 020 8946 4489 or 01793 513431.

1 March Display 'Early British Letters' by Malcolm Ray-Smith to GB Philatelic Society, at Spring Stampex, Business Design Centre, London N1, 14.00. **Enquiries** A Claridge, 01376 584412.

1 March - 13 April Exhibition of Brecknock Postal History, organised by Welsh Philatelic Society, at Brecknock Museum & Gallery, Brecon.

15 March Worcester PS WORPEX 2003 at Oldbury Park Primary School, Oldbury Road, St Johns, Worcester. Three Counties Convention, 28 dealers (listed on Society website: www.stampdomain.com/worcester) **Enquiries** 01905 640541.

15 March Display 'Two Queens - Victoria and Elizabeth' by Phil Kenton to GB Philatelic Society at British Philatelic Centre, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1. **Enquiries** A Claridge, 01376 584412.

15-16 March Welsh PS meeting with Postal History Society, Castle Hotel, Brecon. **Enquiries** P Gaywood, 2 Fairways, Fulwood, Preston PR2 8FX.

22 March Federation of Surrey Philatelic Societies Convention (hosted by Bookham Stamp Club) at Old Barn Hall, Church Rd, Great Brookham, 10.30 - 16.30. 15 dealers. **Enquiries** R Partridge 01372 456760 •

Late news

Royal Mail news update Packs of the Fun Fruit & Veg stamps (25 March) will be available from 440 branches of Sainsbury's. The packs will have a punch hole for hanging on display, but otherwise will be the same as the sealed packs sold at post offices. The pack was shown last month (p178). The £1.50, £2, £3 and £5 definitives are to be printed in future in gravure rather than recess (intaglio). Availability is expected in July.

2004 Stamp programme Special stamp issues for next year are: January, Lord of the Rings; February, Trains (+ miniature sheet and PSB), and Occasions; March, Beautiful Britain – Northern Ireland; April, Merchant Ships (+ miniature sheet); May, Royal Horticultural Society (+ PSB); June, Beautiful Britain – Welsh History; July, Beautiful Britain – London; August, Royal Society of Arts; September, Woodland Animals; October, Crimea; November, Christmas. Dates of issue to be announced ●

New Birds catalogue Stanley Gibbons has recently published a 5th edition of its popular *Collect Birds on Stamps*. Polls of thematic collectors invariably show birds as the favourite subject. This new edition, revised by Dr Malcolm Ogilvie, lists over 17,200 stamps (some 4700 more than the last edition), depicting nearly 2900 different species. The Systematic Listing has been revised to reflect continuing efforts to harmonize English names. 368 pages, A4 format. Price £29.95 plus postage from Stanley Gibbons Ltd, Parkside, Ringwood BH24 3SH. Other SG catalogues cover Chess, Fish, Fungi, Railways, Shells, and Ships. Motor Vehicles is in preparation ●

Exhibitions 'Postal Roots' tracing 2000 years of postal history in Brecknockshire, organised by the Welsh Philatelic Society, is on show at the Brecknock Museum & Art Gallery, Brecon, 1 March - 13 April. Open Mon-Sat 10.00-17.00, and Sun 7 April 12.00-17.00. This traces the development of the postal system since Roman times, with emphasis on postal rates, handstruck marks,

conveyance of the mail, rural deliveries, letter carriers and postmen, village sub-offices and the technical advances of the 20th century. A fine illustrated handbook is available at the exhibition or from Mr Scott Archer at Penmelin, Upper Llangynidr, Crickhowell NP8 1NW, price £1.50 postpaid. A cover and special postmark is available from Mr Scott Archer – price £3 with 1 March cancel, £2 for later dates.

'From Pillar to Post', at the Dartford Borough Museum, Market Street, Dartford, Kent until 26 April, was inspired by the Pillar to Post stamps issued last October. Objects, pictures and photographs illustrate the early history of the postal service, with particular reference to Dartford. Included are photographs of the former Dartford Head Post Office where, as a schoolboy, the *Bulletin* Editor bought stamps for his collection. Open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 12.30-17.30 and Saturday 09.00-13.00 and 14.00-17.00.

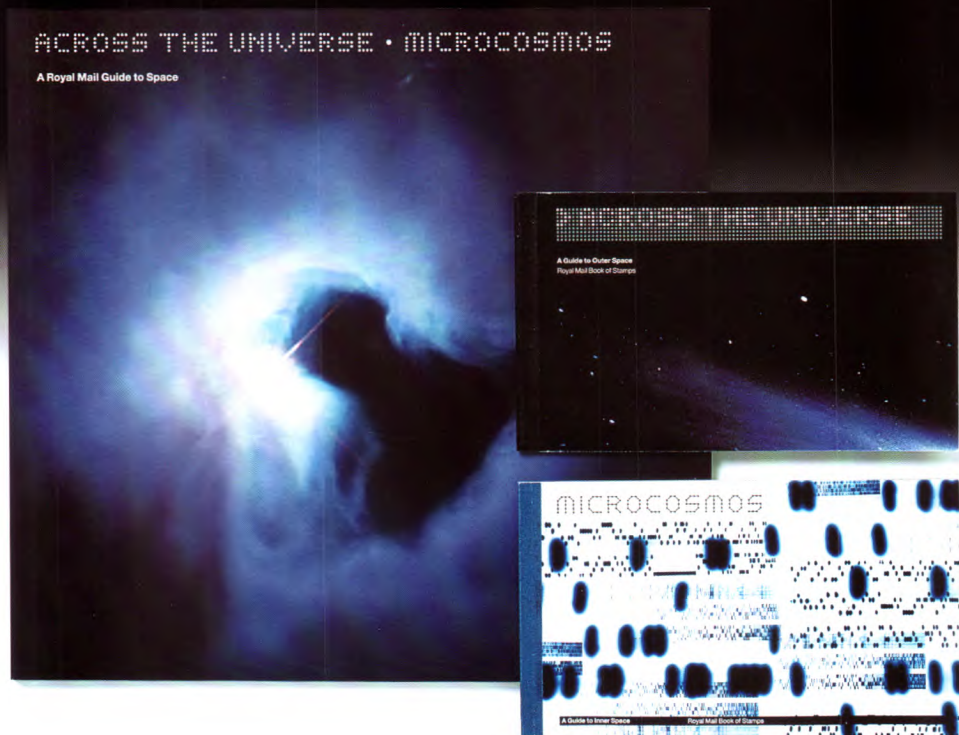
The Lincoln Philatelic Society present Stamp Lincs 2003 at the Museum of Lincolnshire Life, Lincoln, 6 April - 2 May. Open 10.00-17.30, Sunday 14.00-17.30. A Stamp Fair and Family Fun Day will be held on 26 April.

A European Philatelic Exhibition – St Petersburg 300 – will be held at the LENEXPO Exhibition Centre, 7-14 November. Send £1 in stamps for Bulletin 1 and application form to: Brian Sole, 3 Stockfield Road, Claygate, Esher KT10 0QG ●

Society news The Concorde Study Circle celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. Its December Newsletter includes the latest news of Concorde stamps, postmarks and covers, illustrating cards flown during Golden Jubilee year. Membership of the CSC is £10 UK, US \$15, 17 euros. For details contact B L Asquith, Alandale, Radcliffe Gardens, Carshalton Beeches, SM5 4PQ ●

Obituary Michael Jackson the postal history dealer of Huntingdon died in January. He had recently announced his retirement and was disposing of his stock. His last appearance at an exhibition was at Chester 2002 last November ●

Prestige stamp books introductory offer



Prestige stamp books are jewel-like publications, each exploring a stamp theme and containing panes of stamps in unique combinations. They are a must for any collector.

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