

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The ROYAL MAIL magazine for stamp collectors

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Bulletin

Annual poll results • Classic
British buses on new stamps



A new set of stamps celebrating the double-decker
bus will be issued on 15 May.

Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



Cover An early incarnation of the familiar red London bus, a detail from a 1948 poster. The Buses stamps are previewed on page 240. Image © British Commercial Vehicle Museum Trust.

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

3 April	Withdrawal Millennium Life & Earth stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards; Botanic Gardens label book and unfolded pane.
3 April	Issue Submarines stamp cards.
10 April	Issue Submarines stamps and presentation pack.
10 April	Withdrawal High value £1.50, £2, £3 and £5 printed by Enschedé and presentation pack.
16 April	Issue English country stamp cards.
17 April	Issue Submarines stamp book: 2 × 1st Submarines and 4 × 1st definitives, all self-adhesive • £1 stamp book, revised postcode text on second label in pane.
23 April	Issue English country stamps and presentation pack.
24 April	Issue English country stamps ingot cover.
1 May	Issue Occasions stamps in 'Smilers for You' sheets produced to order with customised image on labels. Available in sheets of 20 Love, ABC (baby) or Moving Homes stamps, or mixed sheet of 10 Cheers and 10 Thank You stamps. Available only to order from Royal Mail Tallents House, Edinburgh.
1 May	Withdrawal Millennium Art & Craft stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards.
8 May	Issue Buses stamp cards (five stamps, one miniature sheet).
15 May	Issue Buses stamps, miniature sheet, presentation pack, and 'Postbag' (pack for young collectors).
21 May	Withdrawal Stamp Show 2000 products: Jeffery Matthews and Her Majesty's Stamps miniature sheets, Exhibition card (pack containing Jeffery Matthews sheet mint and cancelled), and Smilers sheet (greetings stamps and labels).
24 May	Issue Submarines medal cover (Available only from Royal Mail Tallents House).

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The **British Philatelic Bulletin** is published monthly by Royal Mail, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8HQ • **Editor** JR Holman • **Price** 85p for single copies, from Post Office Counters philatelic outlets • **Annual subscription** £9.50 in UK and Europe; £13.50 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 hand-stamps. Available on annual subscription, from Edinburgh address above: UK and Europe £10, rest of the world £21.75 • **Copyright** Design and text. Consignia PLC, unless attributed to specific author. Requests to reproduce any article should be sent to the Editor, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8HQ • **Design** by Robert Maude • **Printed** in Great Britain by The White Dove Press • **ISSN** 0953 8119

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This month The Editor previews this issue



THIS MONTH we preview the Buses stamps to be issued on 15 May. Although rather less glamorous as a means of transport than planes and boats and trains (I feel a song coming on), buses play an important part in the lives of many people in getting to work, shopping, and travelling for pleasure. If, like me, you don't drive, getting around on buses is a vital part of a holiday. This is Britain's first set of stamps featuring buses – I hope a worthy tribute to drivers and conductors the length and breadth of the country.

We announce in this issue the results of the 2000 Favourite Stamp and Favourite Bulletin Author poll. Your favourite individual stamp came as no shock to me but I was rather surprised by the favourite set. The comments added by some of you to your poll form made interesting reading.

Included in this *Bulletin* is the eighth in our Bulletin Publication series, a look at some of the new ways of collecting that have become popular in recent times. Written by Richard West, Editor at Large of *Stamp Magazine*, I hope this booklet will be of interest to all readers whatever their current form of collecting. Not surprisingly, Richard includes a section on Social Philately – a very new aspect of collecting, launched in the UK at the Glasgow 2000 exhibition last November. Copies of the seventh publication, *New Technology for Stamp Collectors* (given free in the *Bulletin* last April), are still available, price £2.95, from Royal Mail, Talents House, 21 South Gyle, Edinburgh EH12 9PB. Earlier publications are now out of print.

Finally, to mark the 75th birthday of HM The Queen on 21 April, we feature a selection of British and Commonwealth stamps depicting Her. She has, almost certainly, featured on far more stamps than any other person. Let us know your favourite. JOHN HOLMAN •

Stamp scene Youth at the Royal • Society news • Isle of Man • NE Philatelic Weekend



National Youth Stamp Group
Contact John Davies, 3 Longfellow Road, Banbury OX16 9LB.

Youth Day at the Royal It is not often that youngsters are seen running up and down the stairs at the Royal Philatelic Society London, the UK's premier philatelic society – but it happened on 13 January when the Royal played host to some of our leading young collectors. The visitors had travelled from as far afield as Exeter and Lincoln for the open day. President, Gavin Fryer, with the help of John Davies, Chairman of the National Youth Stamp Group, and other members of the Society entertained the group who looked around the museum, library and displays. UV lamps and other accessories were laid out for the youngsters to use, and the hands-on workshop proved very popular. Some of the children brought along their collections and were helped with advice on

their competition entries. After Mr Fryer's brief introduction the children and their parents looked around the meeting rooms, talked to members, and visited the library and workshop.

Each child was presented with a 'goodie bag', courtesy of the British Philatelic Trust and Stamp Active. John Davies commented: 'we were delighted that we were able to help these enthusiastic young collectors continue to enjoy the hobby and learn more about collecting. The fact that no one seemed to want to leave shows that there is still plenty to interest young people in stamp collecting.' Gavin Fryer added 'having seen the fun and interest of the children, we look forward to hosting another open day in January 2002.' •



Postal uniforms on stamps The Isle of Man Post Office is issuing six stamps showing postal uniforms, set against a background reproducing postmarks of the period.

Another set, marking The Queen's 75th birthday, features British definitives and Isle of Man Regional stamps depicting the Wilding and Machin heads of The Queen. These stamps are shown in our special Queen's Birthday feature on page 238 •

Society news The January issue of the GBCC *Chronicle*, quarterly publication of the Great Britain Collectors Club, includes several features of interest to collectors of old and modern British stamps. Theo Brauers has conducted extensive research on the scarcity of Victorian issues on cover and provides a listing of known covers for issues of 1867-1900: SG numbers 121, 126/7, 130/134, 151, 154, 178/179, 180/181, 183, 186, 195, 196, 212 and 214. In two instances only a single cover is known. Mark Robinson writes on 'Confessions of a Machin Enthusiast', and Michael Yates records new issues and withdrawals in his aptly-named 'Stamp Pregnancies, Births, and Deaths' column. Tom Current and Paul Phillips review Great Britain: Domestic and International Postal Rates and Fees, 1871-1999 by Anthony S Wawrukiewicz. In his 'Mostly Machins' column, Larry Rosenblum looks at the Jeffery Matthews Machin colour scheme, and Viv Sussex writes under 'Postal History' on blind or dead letters in the British Post Office. Derek Ballard records a presentation box containing the 1990 miniature

Isle of Man enquiries Isle of Man Philatelic Bureau, PO Box 10M, Douglas, Isle of Man IM99 1PB.

Great Britain Collectors Club Enquiries about the Club and activities: Parker A Bailey, 17 Greenwood Road, Merrimack, NH 03054, USA.

sheet and a Penny Black 'coin' given to Royal Mail staff to mark the 150th anniversary of the first adhesive postage stamp in 1990, and in his 'Bent Corner' Tom Current looks at a 'Red Cross Postal Message Scheme' cover of 1941 and reports on his GB overprints project. Former Club President, Gordon Milne, interviews John Holman, Editor of this *Bulletin*, in the 'In the Spotlight' feature; leading philatelic writer James Mackay is the subject of the interview for the April issue •

Concorde Study Circle For details contact Brian Asquith, Alandale, Radcliffe Gardens, Carshalton Beeches, SM5 4PQ.

Studiegroep Britannia For details contact P S Gimberg, Duivesteijnstraat 16, 2272 AN Voorburg, Netherlands.

Astro Space Stamp Society 21 Exford Close, Weston-super-Mare, BS23 4RE. For details send a large SAE (UK readers) or four international reply coupons (overseas).

The Concorde Study Circle, founded in 1978, publishes an interesting Newsletter. The December 2000 issue includes features on Concorde stamps, postmarks, illegal Russian issues, videos, postcards, match booklets, etc – all profusely illustrated. It is essential reading for anyone trying to keep up to date with Concorde material •

The February issue of *Britannia News*, published by the Studiegroep Britannia in the Netherlands, is largely a postal history number, containing features on Victorian covers, postage paid postmarks, and the history of the Dutch in India. The accompanying auction catalogue of over 450 lots, included everything from Victorian stamps to Machins •

The Astro Space Stamp Society, which celebrates its 15th birthday this year, has recently produced four labels commemorating important space anniversaries: *Vostok 1*/Yuri Gagarin, first man in space, 1961; Alan B Shepard, first US space flight, 1961; 20 years of Shuttle, 1981; and 10th anniversary of Helen Sharman first Briton in space, 1991 •



New model vans and post boxes BFM Collectables have produced models of a Ford TT in the livery of a 1920s Royal Mail delivery vehicle and Royal Mail Model T van of 1913. Both are in limited editions of 250, price £18.95 each postpaid. A new set of post boxes has been produced: Victorian Penfold, Victorian wall box and lamp box. Price £9.95 each postpaid.

Orders/enquiries: BFM Collectables, PO Box 69, Fleet GU13 9YN. Telephone 01252 617952 (office hours) •

NE Philatelic Weekend For details send SAE (6 X 9in) to: Mrs D M Martin, 46 Briardene Crescent, Kenton Park, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 4RY. Bookings must be made by 17 April.

Northeast Philatelic Weekend The 25th anniversary Weekend will be held at the Swallow Hotel, Gateshead, 18-20 May. As always, this will be a mixture of philatelic talks and displays and social events, enjoyed by all participants. The speakers this year are: Dr Jean Alexander (Supermarket Philately), Pat Grimwood-Taylor (Social Philately), Michael Booker (Col-ditz – the Philatelic Story), Christine Earle (Aspects of Archery), and Jeffery Matthews (Jeffery Matthews Designs). As usual, there will be a souvenir booklet produced to commemorate the event. This will contain a block of four of the Gateshead Millennium Bridge stamps (two gutter pairs), also a 1st class Boots label. These booklets, issued in a limited number, are not Royal Mail productions •

Bulletin back numbers A reader offers a run of the *Bulletin* from September 1990 to September 2000 (with just three issues missing) to anyone prepared to pay for the carriage plus a donation to Multiple Sclerosis funds. Contact Michael Root, 5 Kelburne Close, Winnersh, Wokingham RG41 5JG •

Royal Mail news Smilers • Queen Victoria covers • Submarines • Hats stamps preview

Occasions stamps in Smilers sheets Trials of customised stamps, known as 'Smilers' took place last year, in the form of sheets of Greetings stamps with Stamp Show 2000 labels and Christmas stamps with appropriate festive labels. Both were also available to order with the customers' own image in place of the label.

From 1 May 'Smilers for You' sheets of Occasions stamps will be available to order with your own image in the formats listed right. These sheets will be available to order only from Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB, price £11.95 each (reduced prices for two or more sheets). For details of ordering contact the special department on 0845 074 2000 (UK customers) or +44 131 316 7489 (overseas).

A 'generic sheet' containing four of each Occasion stamp with appropriate related labels will be available from Royal Mail Tallents House and Post Office philatelic outlets from 5 June, price £5.95. Enquiries 08457 641 641 (UK) or +44 131 316 7483 (overseas).

All Occasions Smilers sheets are being printed by Questa in lithography. There will be no first day facilities.

The Stamp Show 2000 Smilers sheet (greetings stamps) are available from Tallents House until 21 May, price £2.95. Christmas Smilers sheets, intended for withdrawal in January, will now remain on sale until October, price £3.99 sheet of 20 × 19p stamps, £2.95 sheet of 10 × 1st class •

Smilers for You formats

- 1 Sheet of 20 'Love' stamps
- 2 Sheet of 20 'ABC' (baby) stamps
- 3 Sheet of 20 'Moving Home' stamps
- 4 Sheet of 10 'Cheers' and 10 'Thank You' stamps

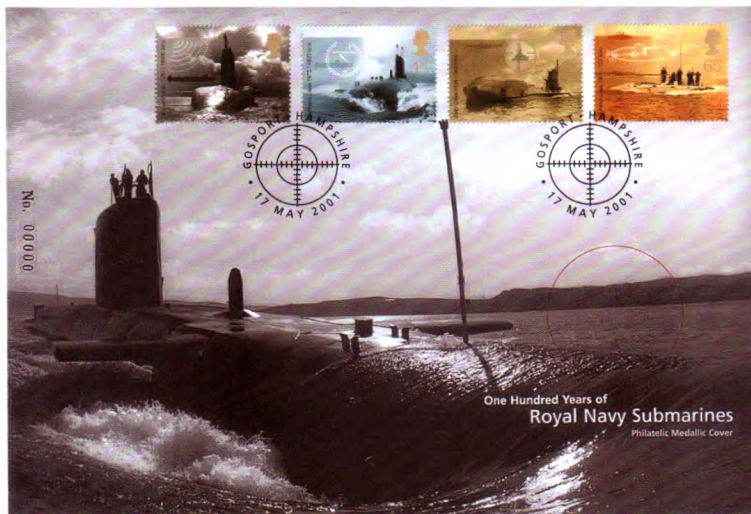
1999 stamp quantities

Inventors' Tale		Workers' Tale		Farmers' Tale		Artists' Tale	
20p	15,673,800	19p	15,436,500	19p	14,426,300	19p	12,039,400
26p	17,445,300	26p	17,238,400	26p	15,897,100	26p	13,322,700
43p	4,610,100	44p	4,553,900	44p	4,523,500	44p	3,016,400
63p	4,494,000	64p	4,413,600	64p	4,414,000	64p	2,900,900
Stamp cards	61,595	Stamp cards	50,755	Stamp cards	50,035	Stamp cards	49,660
Travellers' Tale		Entertainers' Tale		Soldiers' Tale		Royal Wedding	
20p	15,446,100	19p	16,466,800	19p	15,505,700	26p	17,718,000
26p	17,231,800	26p	17,906,300	26p	17,133,000	64p	4,615,800
43p	4,521,200	44p	4,712,800	44p	4,648,000	Stamp cards	95,630
63p	4,398,700	64p	4,578,500	64p	4,504,800		
Stamp cards	50,020	Stamp cards	52,855	Stamp cards	49,155		
Patients' Tale		Citizens' Tale		Christians' Tale		Solar Eclipse	
20p	13,956,800	19p	15,469,300	19p	286,437,000	Miniature sheet	528,225
26p	15,356,900	26p	16,423,400	26p	132,634,400		
43p	3,526,700	44p	4,572,200	44p	17,645,000		
63p	3,408,600	64p	4,428,600	64p	15,950,300		
Stamp cards	49,365	Stamp cards	53,385	Stamp cards	58,415		
Settlers' Tale		Scientists' Tale				Millennium Timekeeper	
20p	15,232,100	19p	14,247,300	10 × 26p book	5,101,150	Miniature sheet	2,150,600
26p	16,745,400	26p	15,897,800	20 × 19p book	6,096,225	Stamp cards	42,044
43p	4,496,500	44p	3,710,400				
63p	4,372,600	64p	3,574,600				
Stamp cards	63,445	Stamp cards	63,390				

Quantities for stamp cards are sets.

The Submarines Philatelic Medallic Cover to be issued 24 May, price £12.95.

Note: date on postmark will be 24 not 17 May.



The 10 April Bureau first day postmark for the Submarines stamps.

Submarine stamp books and cover A book containing four 1st class definitives and two 1st class Submarine stamps will be available from philatelic outlets from 17 April, price £1.62. Printed by Questa, all stamps will be self-adhesive.

A prestige stamp book entitled *Unseen & Unheard*, commemorating the Submarine Service centenary, will be issued on 22 October. This will contain a pane of four 1st class special stamps that will also be sold as a miniature sheet. The stamps portray the White Ensign, Union Jack, Flag of the Chief of the Defence Staff, and the Jolly Roger of HMS *Proteus*.

A Submarine Philatelic Medallic Cover, with medal marking the Submarine Service centenary, will be issued on 24 May, price £12.95. This bears the four Submarines stamps cancelled by a special Gosport handstamp ●



Iona post office In January we published a feature article marking the 150th anniversary of the establishment of a post office on the Hebridean island of Iona. To commemorate the anniversary, Post Office Retail Network Manager, Irene Boyd, presented the Sub Postmaster Crawford Morison with a brass plaque inscribed 'Presented by The Post Office on 12th January 2001 to Iona post office in recognition of 150 years service to the community of Iona'. Our photo shows Ms Boyd

unveiling the plaque, watched by Mr Morison. His family, from Glasgow, made holiday visits to Iona for 20 years. They enjoyed the community so much that they decided to settle on the island in 1988. Mr Morison ran the post office from a caravan until the Old Store building was renovated for use. There are some 2000 post offices in Scotland, visited by three million customers each week ●



Fabulous Hats stamps On 19 June, coinciding with Ascot week, four special stamps featuring Fabulous Hats will be issued. Photographed by Nick Knight, the stamps feature hats by some of Britain's top designers: Pip Hackett, Dai Rees, Stephen Jones, and Philip Tracey. Illustrations above are at proof stage; a preview of this issue will be published next month •

Queen Victoria covers Two special covers will be available from 20 June. A coin cover (price £15.95) will bear two 1st class Queen Victoria/Elizabeth II NV1 definitive stamps and the self-adhesive label showing Victoria and the Albert memorial from the stamp book issued in January. The two stamps will be cancelled by a pictorial Osborne House, Cowes postmark applied in gold ink. The cover design features a painting of the young Queen Victoria. Encapsulated in the cover is the new £5 coin featuring Queen Victoria. The reverse of the coin, designed by Mary Milner Dickens, shows a bust of Victoria enclosed within the Great Exhibition Arch at the Crystal Palace which Victoria opened in 1851. The obverse features the standard portrait of HM The Queen by Ian Rank-Broadley.

A banknote cover (price £49.95) continues the Victoria theme, honouring both the Queen and one of the great scientists of her reign, Charles Darwin. The cover features a photograph of Victoria in old age and bears two of the 26p Darwin stamp from the 1999 Scientists' Tale set cancelled by a pictorial postmark showing the towers of Westminster Abbey. The cover encapsulates the new Victoria £5 coin and new Bank of England £10 note showing Darwin and a Galapagos Finch on the reverse. The notes for these covers bear a unique serial number prefix •

Orders for Victoria covers

should be sent to: Royal Mail
Tallents House, 21 South Gyle
Crescent, Edinburgh EH12
9PB.

England stamps The cylinders and colours are: 2nd 1 silver 2 mid blue 50 phosphor; 1st 1 silver 1 brick red 49 phosphor; E 1 silver 1 oak green 49 phosphor; 65p 1 silver 1 purple 49 phosphor •

Obituary Jim Eldridge, Royal Mail's Postmark Manager, died on 9 February at the early age of 53. Jim had worked for the Post Office in various capacities but it is as Manager of the London North Special Handstamp Centre and Postmark Manager that he will be long remembered. I first met him when I took over the Editorship of the Bulletins in 1988; he was then in charge of the Special Postmark Duty at the East Central District



Office in King Edward Street. He used to call in at my office at the National Postal Museum to tell me about the new postmarks so I could announce them in the *Postmark Bulletin*. I quickly appreciated that he was quite a character, always smiling and often with a stock of good jokes and witty remarks. When the Special Handstamp Centres were set up in 1990, Jim became the Manager of the London North Centre at King Edward Street, leading an enthusiastic team which quickly gained a good reputation with collectors and the trade. Collectors and dealers often took their covers in for handstamping and for a chat with Jim and his colleagues. In 1995 after the London North and South Handstamp Centres merged and moved to Mount Pleasant, Jim transferred to Royal Mail National as Postmark Manager, co-ordinating the six Handstamp Centres. His experience at the London SHC served him well in his new job which involved postmark policy and sorting out the difficulties that arose from time to time. This he did with flair and good humour and always with fairness. After Royal Mail Stamps & Collectibles was set up in 1999 he was frequently called upon for advice on new products and services and how changes would affect the philatelic community. His experience and knowledge will be greatly missed.

Jim was a very sociable person and liked meeting people at exhibitions. He enjoyed the internationals at Alexandra Palace in 1990 and Earls Court last May. Some readers may have met him on the Postmark stand at Stamp Show 2000. He carefully planned that stand and it was his idea to produce a special Stamp Show supplement to the *Postmark Bulletin*. His colleagues in Stamps & Collectibles in London and Edinburgh, and at the Handstamp Centres, will miss him and send their sympathy to his wife and family. We have all lost a good friend. JOHN HOLMAN, EDITOR •

Cover corner The Czechoslovak Field Post in Great Britain

60. VÝROČÍ ČESKOSLOVENSKÉ
POLNÍ POŠTY VE VELKÉ BRITÁNII



IN JANUARY we published an article on the Czechoslovak Military Field Post in Britain, by Richard Beith. This prompted Otto Hornung to tell us that the Czech Post Office has issued a special postcard to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Czechoslovak Fieldpost in Great Britain. However, as Mr Hornung points out, the illustration on the card is of a cover from the USA with arrival handstamp in Britain, rather than a cover sent from Britain carrying British stamps. In the background behind the cover is re-printed the daily order of the cs Brigade stating that the Fieldpost Office was opened on 1 December 1940. There was no special 60th anniversary postmark; the imprinted stamp on the postcard is cancelled by a postmark for the 82nd anniversary of the Postal Museum •

Postcard issued by the Czech Post Office to mark the 60th anniversary of the Czechoslovak Field Post in Great Britain. Our thanks to Mr Hornung for supplying this for illustration.

Post Office Heritage Collections A superb Victorian cover in the R M Phillips Collection

THIS MONTH we feature a superb cover from the R M Phillips Collection of Victorian stamps, reminding us that 2001 marks the centenary of the death of Queen Victoria, and 150 years since she opened the Great Exhibition on 1 May (below, in a painting by Henry Selous). The cover bears a strip of six Penny Blacks from plate 1A, corner letters HG-HL, each cancelled by a strike of the Maltese Cross handstamp applied in red ink. It was posted in London on 21 May 1840 to an address in Salisbury Square. The 6d rate pre-paid mail weighing between two and three ounces. It is interesting that six penny stamps were used rather than three twopence ones. As often happened, the cover was folded for filing, the crease coming between the first two stamps in the strip. There are good margins around each stamp – often not the case as the imperf stamps were cut from the sheet with scissors and clerks were not always careful with their cutting! This fine cover was the ‘choice’ of former *Bulletin* editor John Memmott, writing in the September 1988 issue. Viewing by appointment (see below) ●

Post Office Heritage, Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL.
Telephone 020 7239 2570.

of stamp portraits, in honour of this occasion



Stamps reproduced by kind permission of the British
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Buses New stamp issue features the famous

Leyland X2 open top
London Central Motor
Omnibus Co 1908

Leyland Titan TD1
Glasgow Corporation
Transport 1928

Daimler COG5
Birmingham City
Transport 1937

AEC Regent III, RT type
London Transport
Executive 1948



London General B type
London General
Omnibus Co 1911

AEC Regent 1
Leeds City Transport
1934

Utility Guy Arab Mk II
Swindon Corporation
Transport 1943

Bristol KSW5G open top
Eastern National
Omnibus Co 1953

Technical details

Printer House of Questa

Process Lithography

Stamp size 41 × 30mm

Miniature sheet size 120 × 105mm

Sheets 100

Perforation 14.5 × 14

Phosphor All-over

Gum PVA

Gutter strips Horizontal,
between two strips of stamps

Cylinders and colours

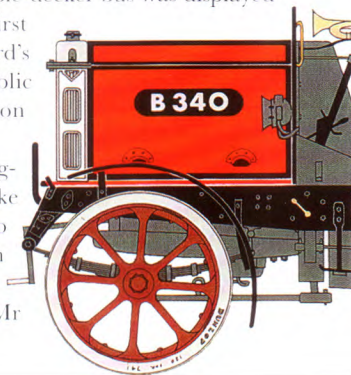
Sheets of 100 Q2 new blue
● Q2 greenish yellow ● Q2
magenta ● Q2 black ● Q2
grey ● Q2 phosphor

Five stamps featuring British buses will go on sale at post offices, Royal Mail Tallents House in Edinburgh and philatelic outlets on 15 May. They will also be available in miniature sheet format from philatelic outlets.

This will be the first in a series devoted to transport; stamps featuring aircraft will be issued next year. The Buses stamps, each at the inland 1st class rate (27p) form a horizontal se-tenant strip. 16 buses are featured, all are either fully restored, being restored, or are still in service. Each stamp features two complete and two half buses, the design extending across two stamps. Part of the design also appears in the left and right sheet margins and in the horizontal gutter between two strips of stamps.

The stamps depict the major changes of double-decker bus design across the country over the last century. The buses chosen represent a good spread in time, in geographical location, in livery colours and spread of manufacturers and body builders. There are a number of significant transport anniversaries this year – the first double-decker bus was displayed at the Great Exhibition in 1851, and the first London electric tram ran between Shepherd's Bush and Kew Bridge in 1901. The Public Transport Congress will be held in London next month.

The stamps are the work of Michael English, noted for his 1960s posters of bands like The Who. Mr English took three weeks to photograph the buses, before painting each for use on the stamps. Each painting took about two weeks, thus the entire set took Mr English some 35 weeks to complete.



Opposite: A London General Omnibus Company 'B' Type Motor Bus of 1910. Illustration by David J Trussler, from *Early Buses and Trams*.



W. A. Peacock Esq

Salisbury Square



HM The Queen's 75th birthday A selection

TO MARK Her Majesty's birthday we feature here a number of British and Commonwealth stamps featuring different portraits of Her as Princess Elizabeth and as Queen. Stamps marking Her 75th birthday are being issued by, amongst others, Alderney and Jersey •



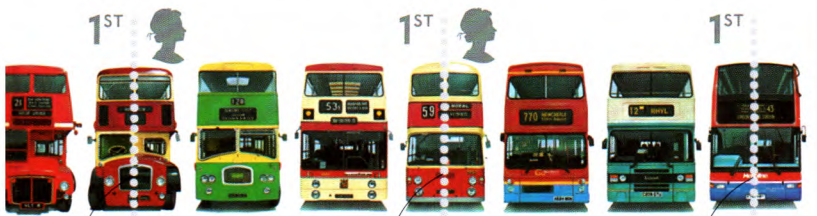
British double-decker, both past and present

AEC Routemaster
London Transport
Executive 1958

Leyland Titan PD3/4
Southdown Motor
Services Ltd 1967

Daimler Fleetline
CRG6LX-33 Belfast
Corp Transport 1973

Leyland Olympian
ONLXB/1R Arriva
Cymru 1985

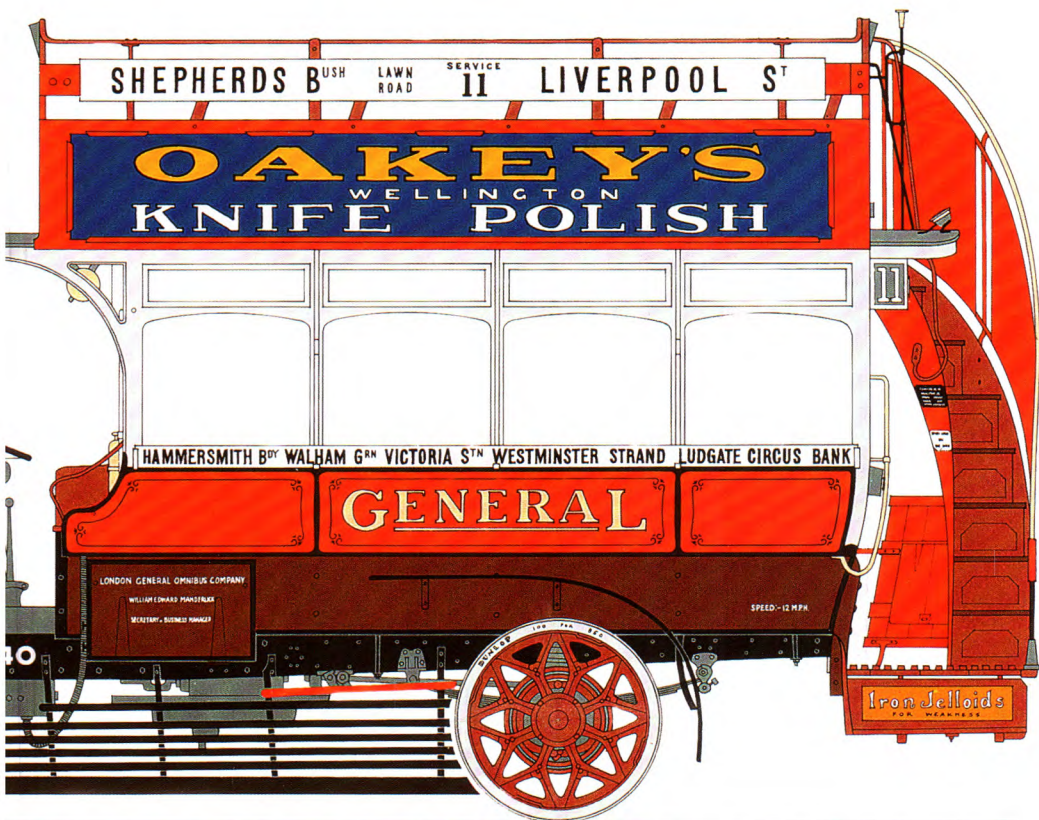


Bristol Lodekka FSF6G
Cheltenham District
Traction Co 1961

Leyland Atlantean
PDR1/1 Manchester
City Transport 1968

MCW Metrobus
DR102/43 Go North East
1984

Dennis Trident
Metroline London
Northern 1999





The miniature sheet (right, as reproduced on a stamp card), shows the stamps in three rows. The sheet is captioned: BUSES/CLASSIC BRITISH/DOUBLE-DECKERS.

Other handstamps for 15 May will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin*, available on subscription from Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (£10 UK/Europe; £21.75 elsewhere).

For a sample copy write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8HQ.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets about a week before 15 May, price 25p. Orders for FDCs with the five stamps or miniature sheet cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of the Bureau or London WC2 must reach Royal Mail (Edinburgh address below) by the day of issue. Price £2 UK (including VAT) or £1.71 overseas (no VAT). Please indicate whether stamps and/or miniature sheet covers required.

Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB (Bureau postmark), or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Mount Pleasant, London EC1A 1BB (London WC2 postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FDO111' (Bureau), or 'FDO112' (London WC2). Covers can be posted or handed in at main post offices for the London postmark.

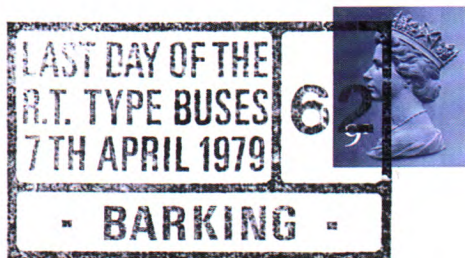
MINIATURE SHEET The miniature sheet (price £1.35) shows the five stamps in three rows, comprising two horizontal rows of two stamps and the third of a single stamp. As on the sheets of 100 stamps, part of the image of the buses at the left and right of each stamp is printed in the sheet margin.

PHILATELIC PRODUCTS A well-illustrated pack containing the strip of stamps (price £1.70) will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets. The pack, designed by Delaney Design Consultants, includes an article by Gavin Booth. Six stamp cards (25p each) show the five stamps and miniature sheet. A 'postbag' – a children's pack containing the stamps and related material – will be available from Royal Mail Tallents House and selected Post Office Counters outlets, price £5.99 •

Buses These are the first British stamps devoted to buses. The familiar red London buses can be seen in the traffic in front of the Royal Exchange on the 17p stamp in the 1985 Royal Mail set and a Royal Mail postbus featured on the 22p value in the same issue. Drawings of early horse-drawn buses, by David Gentleman, featured on 25p stamp book covers in 1971.

In rural areas mail is carried on Royal Mail's own fleet of postbuses which started back in the 1960s with services in Wales, Scotland and the West Country. Articles, by Martin Robinson, on postbus services, postmarks and tickets have been published in the *Bulletin*, most recently in June 1998. In the past certain companies carried bags of mail on behalf of the Post Office and others provided posting boxes on their vehicles – various routes were reported here in June 1992, p232; February 1993, p140; July 1993, p270 and August 1995, p361.

Many bus companies used to operate parcel services, carrying packages between bus stations or to be collected by the addressee at agency shops or at bus stops en route. Such services were much used for the carriage of parcels of newspapers, medicines, and other urgent goods. Special parcel stamps (sometimes called labels or tickets) were affixed to such parcels. Today few companies offer parcel services, those that do being mainly restricted to Scottish routes •



Bulletin stamps poll The Editor announces your favourite



IN DECEMBER we invited you to vote for your favourite set of special stamps of 2000, also your favourite individual stamp and *Bulletin* author. This was our 15th annual stamp poll and, as in previous years, we received a good response from readers in all parts of the world.

Favourite set As always, points were allocated for each vote for the set: three points for first choice, two points for second, and one point for third. This enables us to get a clear picture of the relative popularity of each issue. The voting was as shown opposite.

For interest, past winners were: 1986 Nature Conservation; 1987 Flowers; 1988 Linnean Society; 1989 Birds; 1990 Queen Mother; 1991 Maps; 1992 Wintertime; 1993 Autumn; 1994 Age of Steam; 1995 Christmas; 1996 Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust; 1997 The Great Tudor (Henry VIII); 1998 Lighthouses; and 1999 Scientists' Tale.

Favourite stamps For comparison, the favourite individual stamps of 1996-99 were the Wildfowl & Wetlands 19p; Henry VIII 26p; Endangered Species 20p; and Scientists' Tale 64p.

Favourite Bulletin authors This was the fifth year we had conducted this poll. Douglas Myall won in 1996-98, James Mackay in 1999 and in 2000 Douglas Myall was again your favourite author. James Mackay, Dorothy Martin and Ron Negus were voted second, third and fourth.

Draw winners All the voting forms went into the proverbial hat (really a large cardboard box) for the two draws. The first drawn in the FAVOURITE STAMPS draw was M Tombs who wins £400. Runner-up prizes of £100 each were sent to I Dawson, J F G Jones, and C Yardley. The winner of the FAVOURITE BULLETIN AUTHOR draw was P Franks who receives £150. Douglas Myall also receives £150 as favourite author.

Our thanks to all of you who cast your votes. My thanks also to Barbara Best of Royal Mail's Design team, who counted up all the votes.

Still available The first three sets of 2000 Millennium stamps have now been withdrawn. Life and Earth comes off sale on 3 April and Art and Craft on 1 May. All sets are still available in the 2000 Yearpack and Yearbook •

stamps and Bulletin authors of 2000, and prize draw results



Favourite stamps The numbers following each value are as in December's *Bulletin*.

Above and Beyond 19p 1	139	Tree and Leaf 45p 31	10	Mind and Matter 45p 35	2
Tree and Leaf 1st 30	130	Mind and Matter 65p 36	10	Above and Beyond 26p 2	1
Tree and Leaf 65p 32	98	Stone and Soil 45p 27	9	Water and Coast 19p 9	1
Spirit and Faith 1st 42	88	Sound and Vision 45p 47	9	Queen Mother, Prince of Wales 52	1
Queen Mother, Queen Mother 51	78	Stone and Soil 1st 26	8	Stone and Soil 2nd 25	0
Spirit and Faith 65p 44	67	Stone and Soil 65p 28	8	Body and Bone 45p 39	0
People and Place 1st 22	47	Life and Earth 1st 14	8	FAVOURITE SETS	
Fire and Light 44p 7	30	Art and Craft 65p 20	7	Tree and Leaf	1262
Above and Beyond 64p 4	25	Mind and Matter 2nd 33	7	Spirit and Faith	1123
Life and Earth 2nd 13	18	Art and Craft 1st 18	5	Queen Mother	953
Water and Coast 26p 10	17	Body and Bone 2nd 37	5	Above and Beyond	635
People and Place 45p 23	17	Body and Bone 65p 40	5	Fire and Light	465
Queen Mother, The Queen 49	17	Sound and Vision 1st 46	5	People and Place	410
Spirit and Faith 2nd 41	16	Sound and Vision 65p 48	5	Life and Earth	344
Spirit and Faith 45p 43	16	Water and Coast 44p 11	4	Sound and Vision	217
Body and Bone 1st 38	13	Art and Craft 2nd 17	3	Water and Coast	176
Fire and Light 19p 5	11	People and Place 65p 24	3	Stone and Soil	120
Fire and Light 26p 6	11	Above and Beyond 44p 3	2	Body and Bone	118
People and Place 2nd 21	11	Fire and Light 64p 8	2	Mind and Matter	100
Tree and Leaf 2nd 29	11	Water and Coast 64p 12	2	Art and Craft	98
Mind and Matter 1st 34	11	Life and Earth 44p 15	2		
Sound and Vision 2nd 45	11	Life and Earth 64p 16	2		
Queen Mother, Prince William 50	11	Art and Craft 45p 19	2		

Philately on-line Ron Negus reviews allworldstamps.com,

The introductory screen of allworldstamps.com, Stanley Gibbons' new website.

allworldstamps.com
the on-line stamp catalogue from Stanley Gibbons

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Country:
Option 1:
Option 2:

Stanley Gibbons No:
Range of Numbers: to
Year:
Range of Years: to
Currency:

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THE FIRST PART of the on-line Stanley Gibbons catalogue, which was mentioned in this column in February, is now operational. The first section, examined for this review, covers the stamps of Great Britain, Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man. However, the firm intends to add others on a regular schedule and by the time this article appears in print other British Commonwealth countries should be accessible via the internet. Eventually, all 22 parts of the existing printed Gibbons catalogues will be transferred, so that collectors can access priced details of more than 370,000 stamps issued by countries worldwide. A schedule of the expected dates when particular countries will be added is promised shortly.

Given the objective of transferring the complete printed version on-line, the name of the site at www.allworldstamps.com is most appropriate. Access to the actual catalogue pages is free, apart from the user's own internet charges. In addition, the catalogue can be used as the basis for organising a collection, but this requires registration. On payment of a small annual fee, registered users can create a virtual collection, compile want lists and get up-to-date valuations of their holdings. Details of current fees will be given on the site, but are initially £15 per annum. To encourage visitors to the site, a 14-day free trial of these extra services is being offered for a limited period.

To view the catalogue, basic details of an area of interest need to be entered on the opening

welcome screen. This starts with selecting the country name from a list of those countries currently covered. Then two 'option' lists are provided, and the contents of these will change depending upon the country chosen. For example, in Great Britain, the first Option list allows a choice of individual reigns, regional issues or other formats. Selection of the last-named brings up the second Option list allowing selection from Postage Due, Postage Fiscals, Officials, Booklets and QEII Pre-decimal and QEII Decimal.

Another approach to page selection is also available after the main country has been chosen. This is given by entering a specific SG number or a range of SG numbers or, alternatively, by typing in a year of issue, or a range of years. Appreciating that their catalogue is recognised worldwide, Gibbons have organised the site so that prices can be shown in US dollars, French francs, Japanese yen, or euros, as well as sterling. The choice of currency is the final selection to be made, and the list of currencies shows the exchange rate being employed in each case.

Selecting from the available headings, or entering SG numbers or years, brings the required catalogue pages into view. On the top of each page the total number of stamps included within the chosen grouping is shown, plus how many individual screens are needed to see them all. A reminder is also given that all information displayed is protected by copyright.

the internet version of the Stanley Gibbons catalogue series



A typical catalogue page.



The individual screens for each page have a similar layout and show the same level of detail that can be found in the printed edition of the catalogue. For GB pages, for example, this includes the name of the designer, date of issue, description of set, paper type, and perforation as main headings. For individual values the SG number, face value and colours are quoted. For the first appearance of any given value in the listing, a small coloured illustration of the stamp is shown. Entries may also list varieties, identified by alphabetic suffix, but these do not have an illustration.

Used and unused catalogue prices are shown, in the selected currency, for each entry. As with the printed catalogue, some of the rarer items do not have prices allocated and an asterisk is inserted instead. The site contains explanatory notes about Gibbons' pricing policies and an appropriate note about the effect of condition upon value.

Underneath each stamp listed, two boxes are provided for use by registered users. The first of these can be ticked to indicate that the stamp concerned needs to be added to the virtual record of the collection, and the second is to show the item should be included upon a want list. If either of these boxes is ticked, a new page appears with the selected items shown again but separated between additions and wants. In both of these sections the user can mark whether the stamp in question is mint or used and see the prices of each. An additional feature on these pages is that

provision is made to add notes. As an example, it is suggested that this space might be used to record the source of the specimen in the collection or the actual price paid.

When the virtual collection has been created in this way to mirror the actual stamps currently owned or wanted, the site will provide a valuation of either category in the selected currency. This is the sum of the catalogue prices for all specimens that have been marked. It is a useful starting point for obtaining an overall valuation for a collection by applying whatever percentage of catalogue price the collector feels is justified by the type and condition of his material.

The ease of pricing is a major advantage that the internet offers. With the printed catalogues, reprints with new prices are often only produced at infrequent intervals depending upon the popularity of the particular country. Once the catalogue is on-line, Gibbons state that they will amend prices on a regular basis and, therefore, these will be more up-to-date than the printed versions. As all owned items would already have been marked on the catalogue pages, a full revaluation can be achieved without effort.

A final feature is a contact page enabling users to e-mail Gibbons' design team. This page contains an invitation for collectors to make suggestions on how the site could be improved. It can also be used as a means of advising the team of any technical difficulties being experienced •

On your bike Richard West sets out in pursuit of Brian Sole

You rush home from work: you have to drive 20 miles that evening to give a display to a local philatelic society. You grab your bag, and reach your destination with five minutes to spare before you are due to speak. Then you realise to your horror that you have picked up your briefcase, not your bag with the display. Such was the fate of Brian Sole, when invited to speak at Farnham.



a member of The Royal Philatelic Society London, the National Philatelic Society, and his own local, Kingston Philatelic Society.

Another collecting interest is Cinderella material (he is a member of the Cinderella Stamp Club and the Revenue Society of Great Britain).

This stems from his days helping with

security at the British Philatelic Exhibition (now Autumn Stampex): in thanks, he received special versions of the BPE souvenirs. This led to a collection of such exhibition souvenirs, to which he has added the many items produced for the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain over the years.

In 1997 Brian took early retirement, but has found life as busy as ever. His exhibiting experience means he is now a nationally accredited judge for thematics. On the international scene, he has acted as British Commissioner for a number of exhibitions. More recently he was involved with both the Functions and Awards Committee of The Stamp Show 2000, and with the thematic content of the Collector Information Centre.

But it is those visits to give displays to societies that have been most likely to test his nerves. Such as the visit to Gloucester, when he just missed the train from Paddington, having rushed from his office in the City. He eventually reached the venue with his audience anxiously awaiting the arrival of their speaker. Or the time he had to dash from a business conference in Bristol to catch the train to give a display at Solihull. Again he arrived just in time to present his talk, but reaching his hotel after the meeting, serving of dinner had finished. The next morning it was up at 5.30pm, too early for breakfast, to catch a train back to Bristol. He returned just as the conference was about to resume. His colleagues meanwhile had enjoyed a good evening meal, with plenty to drink, and a satisfying breakfast.

Then came the time to speak to Farnborough. The vote of thanks was given, and began with the words 'You must be glad you remembered to bring your stamps with you this time!' ●

Last year the citation for Brian Asquith on receiving the Congress Medal was presented by Brian Sole. They are frequently mistaken for each other: both are Brian, and both have a wife named Anne. Their transportation preferences are slightly different: while Brian Asquith prefers Concorde, Brian Sole is happy with cycling.

A keen touring cyclist, collecting the theme 'Go by cycle' came almost by accident. But it has been successful, having won many medals, up to vermeil, both nationally and internationally, and has been enjoyed by many philatelic societies over the years – even by Farnham. A neighbour kindly rushed over the bag of stamps, so Brian was able to give at least part of his planned display.

Brian is happy to be deeply involved with the hobby. He has been Chairman and Secretary of the British Thematic Association (BTA), and of the Friends of Thematica. He will always be found behind the scenes of Thematica, often assisted by Anne. He is a member of the Bicycle Stamps Club, and of the American Topical Association.

He was involved with the BTA from its outset, speaking in favour of forming such a body at the 1983 Philatelic Congress of GB in Bath, where a paper was presented on thematic philately. He found the enthusiasm of Margaret Morris, Franceska Rapkin, and the late Alma Lee contagious.

Brian's career was in insurance (another similarity with Brian Asquith, who was in banking). He joined the Insurance and Banking Philatelic Society, with which he has always pulled his full weight, having undertaken most of the key roles. This was his first taste of a philatelic society, one which he clearly liked, having gone on to become

The Great Britain Decimal Stamp Book Study Circle



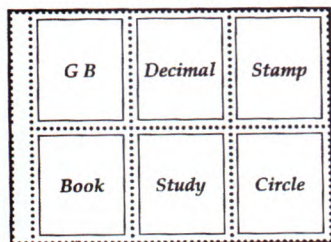
To celebrate the Circle's 25th anniversary in 1976, a private issue 'Jubilee Booklet' was produced, including the pane and label commemorating HM The Queen's 70th birthday.

In April 2001 the Great Britain Decimal Stamp Book Study Circle will be celebrating the 30th anniversary of its founding in 1971. In a letter to *Stamp Collecting* shortly after 'Decimal Day' on 15 February 1971, Neville Emms, one of the founder members of the Circle, suggested a club should be set up to concentrate on the study and collection of decimal stamp books.

Following his letter, Emms met up with Len Newbery, who was a leading expert on pre-decimal GB stamp books, Douglas Myall and Ken Davis in the Lyons Corner House opposite Charing Cross Station, where it was agreed a circle should be established. Newbery became President; Emms, Secretary; Davis, Treasurer and Myall, Editor of a proposed journal. A further mention in *Stamp Collecting* led to around 100 members joining the fledgling Circle. Membership rose quickly and soon passed the 100 mark. Thirty years later, membership stands at around 650 scattered throughout all continents of the world.

The Circle was never intended to be just a 'collector's club' and, although the emphasis was towards the study of stamp books, every level from beginner to specialist was to be catered for. All aspects of the stamp books were to be studied and in addition to the stamps themselves, the covers, interleaves, production methods, packaging, Post Office advertising and anything else that members felt relevant to stamp books, was included.

The first edition of '*The Bookmark*' Journal prepared by Douglas Myall was published in July 1971. This was a very modest affair by today's standards consisting of five typewritten pages produced on a portable typewriter in a distinctive script typeface. Although a few hand drawings were included, illustrations were conspicuous by their absence but by the end of June 1972 six editions of the journal totalling 95 pages had been published. '*The Bookmark*' Journal has been a regular feature throughout the life of the Circle and Hanns Jörg Fasching, an Austrian, has been editor since 1991 and in spite of English not being his native tongue produces a publication of renowned quality. Five editions of the *Journal* running to around 150 pages are published in a typical year. All new stamp book issues are extensively described and are supported by illustrations and diagrams where appropriate. Technical articles and research studies are also included for those who wish to specialise in greater depth.



founded 1971



Special Issue Souvenir

*Joint meeting between GB DSB SC
and BDSSC at Earls Court, London
Saturday 27 May 2000*

To celebrate meeting with the British Decimal Stamps Study Circle at Stamp Show 2000, the Circle issued a souvenir which included the Postman Pat book pane (shown above and opposite).

in June 2000 when it was described as 'one of the most impressive special-interest sites'. The website includes information about the Circle, summary details of all decimal stamp books and panes issued since 1971 and a 'chat room' to enable visitors to the site to communicate with others about any matter relating to the subject of decimal stamp books.

From an early time, meetings were held in Langley, Birmingham, where members met to discuss new finds and to purchase material from regular visits of the local philatelic counter. Meetings in Langley were later supplemented by meetings in London and, although visits to both venues by philatelic counters were unfortunately ceased by Royal Mail some years ago, the Circle continues to hold three of four informal meetings a year in London and Langley where members can meet to buy, sell or exchange material and discuss their interests in a friendly and convivial atmosphere.

In 1976, the 25th anniversary of the Circle was commemorated and, to mark the occasion, the Circle produced a private issue 'Jubilee Booklet'. The booklet included the pane and label commemorating HM The Queen's 70th birthday, the first time that Royal Mail had given such a private issue its approval.

The Circle participates in many exhibitions and philatelic events. We held a meeting at Stamp World London 90 at Alexandra Palace and more recently attended Midpex, Swinpex and The Stamp Show 2000, where an informal joint meeting between our Circle and the British Decimal Stamps

In 1973 the first edition of 'The Bookmark' Catalogue written by Douglas Myall was published. This was followed by further editions written by Myall in 1975, 1983, 1985, 1986 and 1991. In addition to his other responsibilities as Journal Editor, in 1993 Hanns Jörg Fasching was elected to be Catalogue Editor and completely rewrote the Catalogue with the 7th edition being published in 1999. The Catalogue has received international acclaim and was awarded a Large Silver Gilt medal at Stampex, a Gold medal at Chicagopex and a Vermeil medal at WIPA 2000. It was also awarded the prestigious National Postal Museum medal, and gained an Award of Merit for Fasching from the ABPS for services to philately. The first supplement to the 7th edition was published in 2000 and the Catalogue currently comprises over 1800 pages covering all aspects of decimal stamp books issued during the past 30 years. The second supplement covering all recent issues will be published shortly.

Internet site Shortly before Christmas 1998, the Circle opened its own website on the Internet and received a commendation from *Stamp Magazine*

Study Circle attracted around 100 members and other interested visitors. To celebrate this event the Circle produced a commemorative souvenir that included the pane from the Postman Pat book of four 1st class stamps issued by Royal Mail to promote the exhibition.

More recently, resulting from an invitation by the Friends of the National Postal Museum, Jim Ranger, a past President of the Circle, and Roger Knights, the Circle's Publicity and Public Relations Officer, gave a presentation to the 'Friends' at their Annual General Meeting in November 2000, covering the history of the Circle and the history of the development of decimal stamp books since 1971.

Postal auctions have always been a regular feature of Circle life enabling members to buy and sell surplus material, and one is included with every edition of the *Journal*, with a typical auction including 1500 to 2000 lots attracting both sellers and buyers from a wide section of the membership.

To the casual collector, decimal stamp books and the definitive Machin head stamps they contain are often considered to be dull and lacking interest. This cannot be further from the truth! The stamps themselves have seen constant change throughout the past 30 years with different papers, gums, perforation types, fluorescent coatings, printing processes and printers, etc. The books have also been manufactured in many different ways providing stitched, folded, machine-vended, so called 'window' or 'bar-code' and prestige types that in many instances have provided stamps that are unique and are only available from a stamp book source. The year 2001 has also seen further changes in the development of stamp books with the introduction of self-adhesive stamps.

Our 30th anniversary meeting will be held on Sunday 8 April 2001. If you are interested in GB decimal stamp books you are most welcome to come along to the event in Langley, Birmingham when the doors will open at 9 am •

Further details of the venue at Langley and membership can be obtained from Tony Wilkins, Membership Secretary, 3 Buttermere Close, Brierley Hill, West Midlands, DY5 3SD. Telephone 01384 891373.

For more information about the Circle you should contact Roger Knights, Publicity and Public Relations Officer, 7 Old Farm Close, Needingworth, St Ives, Cambs PE27 4SG, or visit the Circle's website at <http://www.gbdsbsc.kabsi.at>

The Stamp Show 2000 Commemorative Pane



Limited edition special issue souvenir - 1/100

Competition Sponsored by Omniphil



Win a Mint 1d black, sg cat £3500 or receive a guaranteed £60 cat 1841 2d blue if you request home viewing service.

Most of us live too far away from the nearest stamp shop. Because shops have such high overheads our competition sponsors Omniphil provide a postal only Home Viewing Service, enabling them to pass on the savings to you, with their 'every approval request is a winner' of a good quality guaranteed genuine £60 cat 1841 2d blue. This is why Omniphil can afford to reward you to view a selection with no purchase necessary and absolutely no obligation to continue. Obviously they are hoping that you will find stamps missing from your collection and become long-term clients. In order to entice you further they offer good quality British stamps at substantial discounts off sg plus an additional 33% value loyalty bonus if you can spend as little as £12 or more: you can take an extra 33% value *free*.

With nearly 43 years supplying stamps and over 1000 regular approval clients the Omniphil Home Viewing Service does not just supply British stamps upon approval. They also hold wide stocks of British Empire, Europe East and West and most foreign countries worldwide.

Reply now and they will guarantee you a free £60 sg cat price 1841 2d blue in good quality. If you would like to see what they have to offer and receive your free 1841 2d blue just drop them a line, telling them all the countries you are interested in, and if you collect used and mint. You can stop their service any time and there is no obligation to make a purchase. Reply to: Omniphil Home Service, Bulletin Blue, PO Box 29, Stroud GL6 6RW.

To enter the competition answer the questions below and send, with your name and address, on a postcard or back of an envelope to: Sponsored Competition, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8HQ to arrive by 11 May. Entries must be posted separately; multiple entries in one envelope will be disregarded.

- 1 Who is Chairman of the National Youth Stamp Group?
- 2 Which island post office celebrated 150 years in January?
- 3 Which was voted the favourite stamp of 2000 by *Bulletin* readers?

1st prize (left, top): 1840 1d black, letters CE, a most attractive not quite four margins mint unused, no gum, example of excellent colour and impression, sg cat £3500 • 2nd prize (left, middle): 1883 10s ultramarine, letters KC, sound used well centred example, good colour, cancelled by two part London oval strikes, sg cat £375 • 3rd prize (left, bottom): 1883/4 1s dull green, letters QE, fine used, well centred, excellent colour, part cds postmark example, sg cat £200+.



The answers will be found in this *Bulletin*. The competition is not open to employees, families or agents of Royal Mail or Omniphil •

Postbag Letters to the Editor

Printed Postage Impressions I note in January's *Bulletin* that you hope to include more about PPIS, and recommend readers to consult the Quarterly Bulletin of the British Postmark Society for more information. It should be noted that little news about PPIS appears in the BPS Bulletin, as the PPI Study Circle publishes a separate newsletter only for those interested in PPIS, some of whom are not members of BPS. DR E R INMAN, BECKENHAM

Readers interested in PPI News should contact Dr Inman: 28 Downs Hill, Beckenham BR3 5HB. ED •

Weather stamps Yes, as you so rightly pointed out, I was intrigued by the creatures stated to be shown on the Weather stamps (February *Bulletin*). Goldfinch, yes, butterflies, no! What is actually shown is a Peacock butterfly on the left and, to my mind, what is clearly a Jersey Tiger Moth on the right. The moth is mainly night-flying and relatively uncommon, normally being found along the south/south western coastal areas. JOE TALLENTS, WEYMOUTH •

Posting boxes 203

THIS MONTH'S photographs are of boxes overseas. The first two, sent in by R B Brockhurst of Hampshire, show boxes, with Royal cipher, outside the post office in Dumballa and at Galle, both in Sri Lanka, formerly Ceylon.

The second two photographs, submitted by Luigi Cobisi of Florence, Italy, show boxes in Switzerland and France. The GR box, with 'Post Office' sign is at Schwanenplatz, Lucerne. An inscription on the posting times plate reads: 'Presented to our twin town Lucerne, and the PTT, from the Royal Mail and the citizens of Bourne-

mouth to mark the 700th anniversary of Switzerland' (1991). Mr Cobisi tells us the box appears to be in use. His second photo is of an Elizabeth II box in the Rue Gutenberg in Strasbourg. A yellow tag prevents use but Mr Cobisi suggests this may be a temporary closure as collections from the box are reported. The photo was taken on a Saturday when no collection was scheduled •

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.



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



January identify The detail is from the 19p Weather stamp. The winner was A S Allen of Leicestershire.

January knowledge The answers: 1) Andrew Restall; 2) Above & Beyond; 3) Hong Kong. The winner was J Wright of Essex.

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

- 1 Who designed the 1966 World Cup 6d stamp?
- 2 Which Millennium stamp set featured a tap?
- 3 In which year did Sarah Ferguson appear on a stamp?

Send your answer (addressed to either the April *Identify* competition or the April *Knowledge* competition), name and address on a postcard or back of a sealed envelope to: British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8HQ. The senders of the first cards drawn in each competition on 18 May will each receive £100. Ten runner-up prizes of presentation packs or FDCs will be awarded in each competition. Competitions are not open to Royal Mail employees •

Events

8 April GB Decimal Stamp Book Study Circle meeting at Langley, Birmingham. **Enquiries** Roger Knights, 7 Old Farm Close, Needingworth, St Ives PE27 4SG.

14 April Maidstone & Mid Kent Phil Soc Stamp Fair at Grove Green Community Centre, Maidstone (close to Junction 7, M20), 10.00-16.00. **Enquiries** B Stone-street, 01622 675784.

21 April Assn of Sussex Phil Socs convention, hosted by Horsham & Dist PS, at Forest School, Comptons Ln, Horsham, 10.00-16.30. Computer workshop from 10.30. **Enquiries** G Frankcom, 01903 884139.

21 April GB Philatelic Society meeting at British Philatelic Centre, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1, 11.00 Members' workshop and President's Display (College Stamps, etc by Chris Harman). Dealers. **Enquiries** A Lajer, 0118 934 4151.

21 April Exeter & Dist Phil Soc Annual Stamp Exhibition and Fair at Priory High School, off Topsham Road, Exeter, 10.30-16.30. Children's Corner, Club competition and displays, 12 dealers, refreshments. **Enquiries** Andrew Pavey, 01392 445194.

21 April Camberley & Dist Stamp Club Annual Public Auction at Morgan Centre, High Street, Crowthorne. Viewing 10.30, bidding 14.00. **Enquiries** Dr John Pugh, 01276 63879.

28 April Ashford (Kent) Phil Soc Stamp & Postcard Fair at Norton Knatchbull Grammar School, Hythe Road, Ashford. Open 10.00-16.30. **Enquiries** 01233 639927.

28 April Railway Philatelic Group Annual Convention at Royal Station Hotel, Newcastle upon Tyne. **Enquiries** Fred Taylor 01670 760252 •

Late news



Hong Kong exhibition Shown above are crowds at the international exhibition in Hong Kong in February. Some 40,000 people are estimated to have visited the exhibition on the first day alone, keen to buy the miniature sheets that went on sale that day. There were queues to see the Royal Philatelic Collection. The British Post Office stand was busy throughout the exhibition •

Rowland Hill Awards Finalists for the Philatelic Traders Society Business Enterprise and Development Award are: Robert Danzig, Eric Friedman, and Malcolm Sprei. The winners in all categories of the Rowland Hill Awards will be published in next month's *Bulletin* •

Cavendish Auctions The 25-26 January sale included some fine GB material including the Shetland Islands collection of Ernest Sterne. £2300 was paid for a 1795 manuscript mark of Lerwick; £757 each for the Ganderhouse and Walls local cancels on covers, and £690 for a Sandness local cancelled cover. A Fore's Comic Envelope No 1 used with wafer seals raised £862, an unused but thinned VR 1d black £1495, and a 2d blue on cover from Stromness, Orkney £575. The Wreck of the ss *Great Britain* cover made £2300 and a 1660 official EL pre-paid due to the suspension of the franking privilege reached £977. A 1661/2 cover made £747 and Great Plague covers of 1665 £977 and £690. The sale on 27 April includes the John Firebrace collections of Devon and GB used abroad.

Enquiries: Cavendish Philatelic Auctions 153-157 London Road, Derby DE1 2SY •

Stanley Gibbons news The 12th edition of the Stanley Gibbons *Great Britain Specialised Stamp Catalogue vol 1 Queen Victoria* has recently been published. The stamps of the Circular Delivery Companies are now listed for the first time, the listing based on the award-winning collection of Chris Harman. The notes covering perforations on Victoria issues have been revised as a result of the publication of *Stamp Perforation: The Somerset House Years, 1848-1880* by Ray Simpson and Peter Sargent. The so-called Government Trial perforation 14 (NO CE4), has been deleted as research has demonstrated that these stamps cannot possibly have been perforated in the 1850s when it was previously claimed this perforation trial took place. There are revisions in the layout of the 1d Black Plate 5 section, and the date of issue of the 2d Blue has been amended to 6 May 1840 following the authentication of a cover sent on that date from London to Louth. Revisions have also taken place in the Postal Fiscal section, again with the assistance of Mr Harman. Many mint prices have been increased, also fine used which are becoming increasingly difficult to find. The growth of interest in postal history has led to quite spectacular increases for stamps showing the individual Maltese Cross cancels. 480 pages, card covers, price £29.95 from Stanley Gibbons Strand shop or Stanley Gibbons Publications, Parkside, Ringwood BH24 3SH. Postage £1.50 UK, £8 rest of world.

Stanley Gibbons will be holding a special Centenary Auction at 399 Strand on 21-22 June. SG Auctions began in 1901 when Martin Ray & Co held a sale in Fleet Street; the company became Harmer, Rooke & Co in 1908 and was acquired by SG in 1958. Among the many highlights in the auction will be the magnificent 'Wilson Wong' gold medal collection of Bahawalpur, including the earliest known mail from Bahawalpur, dated 1839. The auction includes notable items from Nepal and Tibet, China, Hong Kong, Zeppelin covers, and Turkish postal history, as well as GB, Commonwealth and Foreign stamps. Enquiries: Colin Avery or Ryan Epps, +44 (0)20 7836 8444 •

REMEMBERING THE FESTIVAL OF BRITAIN



When King George VI opened the Festival of Britain in London on 3 May 1951, after a decade of 'austerity and exertion', it was declared a 'tonic to the nation'. The festival was a huge success, acclaimed for its invention, creativity and foresight, right down to the striking set of stamps issued to commemorate the event.

Now, 50 years later, Royal Mail celebrates the Festival's opening with the issue of highly collectable commemorative products based on the

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