

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The ROYAL MAIL magazine *for stamp collectors*

Volume 38 Number 12

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Bulletin

The Penny Black's forgotten designer? • Punch and Judy



The new Punch and Judy stamps celebrate puppet performers who continue to delight audiences of all ages, centuries after making their debut.



Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



Cover Punch, illustrated by George Cruikshank in 1828. Early illustrations retained the character of the bully from the *Commedia dell'arte*. Victorian illustrators later endowed him with some dignity, so that a 'Mr' was added to his name. Royal Mail's Punch and Judy issue is previewed on page 368. Illustration: Mary Evans Picture Library.

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.

1 August

Issue Stamp books with amended copy on back cover: 12 x 1st (Questa and Walsall), 12 x 2nd (Questa) and 6 x 1st and 6 x 2nd (Walsall).

3 August

Withdrawal Queen Mother miniature sheet, presentation pack, stamp cards, and commemorative document.

28 August

Issue Punch & Judy stamp cards.

3 September

Withdrawal Millennium Mind and Matter stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards.

4 September

Issue Punch & Judy stamps, presentation pack and stamp book (two Punch & Judy stamps and four 1st definitives – all on self-adhesive paper).

4 September

Withdrawal Special stamp book containing 1st class Tree & Leaf and 1st class Stone & Soil printed se-tenant, and eight 1st definitives.

17 September

Withdrawal Treasury of Trees prestige stamp book.

25 September

Issue Nobel Prizes stamp cards.

2 October

Issue Nobel Prizes stamps, presentation pack and commemorative document.

2 October

Issue Celtic Cross coin cover; Welsh airletter in discount packs of six.

2 October

Withdrawal Millennium Body and Bone stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards.

9 October

Issue Christmas stamps in 'Smilers' sheets. Details next month. Date to be confirmed.

Contents



Sir G S Mackenzie Could a sketch by a mineralogist be the inspiration for the Penny Black? John Holman looks at the similarities **365**

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 a 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 • Royal Mail is a trading name of Consignia plc, Registered in England and Wales, number 4138203, registered office 148 Old Street, London EC1Y 9HQ

Issues and withdrawals 354

Stamp scene Autumn Stampex; UK and overseas exhibitions; New publications; Societies news; Friends of the NPM 356



Special prize draw Win a pair of prestige stamp books 361

Royal Mail news News of forthcoming stamp issues; 2001 supplement for Royal Mail Luxury stamp album; Changes to E stamps and stamp books 362

Post Office Heritage Collections Proofs for the 1878 £1 stamp 364



Punch & Judy Royal Mail's new stamp issue celebrates the famous puppet performers 368

George V Royal Cypher issue Part 2, by Alan Moorcroft 371



Mainly Machins Report for specialist collectors, by D G A Myall 374



Europa stamps 2001 A further selection 376

Philately on-line A site for collectors of GB, by Ron Negus 377

Successful 'Royal' sale Richard West reports a historic auction 378

Postbag Letters to the Editor 379

Competitions £200 to be won in two easy-to-enter competitions 380

Events 380

Late news 381

Index to volume 38, by Dr Jean Alexander 382

Stamp scene Exhibitions • Societies news • New publications • Friends of the NPM

Stampex opening hours

19 Sept	12.00-19.00
20-22 Sept	10.30-18.00
23 Sept	10.30-16.00

Enquiries Stampex, 107
Charterhouse Street, London
EC1M 6PT. Telephone 020
7490 1005.

Autumn Stampex organised by the Philatelic Traders' Society, will be held at the Business Design Centre, Islington, London N1 from 19-23 September. Entry will be free; the prestigious catalogue details all the exhibits and dealers present. £5 vouchers, printed with advertisements in philatelic magazines, can be used at the exhibition with participating dealers who will display a sign on their stands. The vouchers will be accepted for a purchase of £25 or more with a limit of one voucher per transaction other than credit card purchases.

In the Gallery Bays there will be an exhibition by the Astro Space Stamp Club under the title 'Astro 2001'. The exhibits will be in 12 classes including Youth, Literature, Revenues and Cinderellas. Members of the Club will be on hand to assist and provide information. For those who like to keep their feet on the ground, the Annual Competition entries, sponsored by the British Philatelic Trust, will be found on the Village Green, and the National Youth Competitions, sponsored by the Trust, Stanley Gibbons, and Cavendish Auctions, will be displayed on the Mezzanine floor.

The dealers' stands, with about 20% from overseas, will satisfy all requirements for stamps, covers, accessories or literature. The new Royal Mail stand will offer the full range of current GB stamps and collectibles. The Gibraltar, Guernsey, Isle of Man, and Jersey post offices will have stands, and David Harrop will be showing part of his collection from the Manchester Postal Museum (see February *Bulletin*).

The Great Britain Philatelic Society, Concorde and Ceylon Study Circles, and the Wreck and Crash Mail Society will hold weekend meetings at Stampex, and members of the National Philatelic Society will man the information stand near the main doors. The National Youth Stamp Group will provide activities for young collectors including a free auction on the Saturday. Royal Mail will provide weekend Punch & Judy shows – stamps featuring Punch & Judy will be issued on 4 September •

UK exhibitions An exhibition of the work of Arnold Machin (1911-99) can be seen in the Student Rooms at the Royal Academy, Piccadilly, London W1 until 3 August. Mr Machin's design for the 'Machin' definitive will figure prominently and the display will include material from Consignia Heritage Services (formerly Post Office Archives and National Postal Museum).

The Picture Postcard Show will be held at the Royal Horticultural Society New Hall, London SW1 (29 August-1 September), followed by Autumn Stampex, 19-23 September (see below); Philatex, Royal Horticultural Society New Hall, London SW1 (25-27 October); and Thematica II, Carisbrooke Hall, Seymour Street, London W2 (23-24 November).

Following exhibitions in Newcastle, Brighton and Glasgow (1996, 1998, and 2000), the next ABPS National Exhibition will be hosted by the North Western Federation of Philatelic Societies, in Chester (29-30 November

Dealers For a listing of stand-holders, see the PTS website: www.philatelic-traders-society.co.uk

2002). The exhibition will be held just outside the city walls at Chester Racecourse. In addition to dealers, seminars and meetings, there will be competitive displays which will include Traditional, Social and a new Research class, also Literature and the now standard Inter-Federation and Youth competitions, and, hopefully, a display from the Royal Philatelic Collection. Corporate entertaining boxes will be available to private companies, federations and specialist societies •

Overseas exhibitions Philanippon '01 – the first international stamp exhibition in Japan for a decade – will be held at the Tokyo International Exhibition Center, known as the 'Tokyo Big Sight', 1-7 August. The theme of the exhibition is 'A Celebration of Stamps – Dreams from across the Globe'; it aims to attract children to the hobby. There are 17 British entries in the various competition classes, especially strong in postal history, plus a further 11 entrants in the Literature class. Great Britain is represented on the international jury by Alan J Griffiths, with Patrick Pearson on the Expert Team. As with many internationals, each day at Philanippon has a theme: 1 August Philanippon Day, 2nd Youth Philately, 3rd Stamp Culture, 4th Post, 5th Family, 6th Asia, and 7th International Friendship •

The next international will be Hafnia '01 in Copenhagen (16-21 October) to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the first Danish postage stamps. The competitive exhibits – in Traditional, Thematic, Open, and Literature classes – will occupy over 2000 frames. Over 150 dealers and overseas postal administrations will be represented •

International exhibitions next year will be: Indonesia '02 (Jakarta, 29 March-4 April), Spain '02 (youth exhibition, Dijon/Burgos, 10-18 May), PhilaKorea 2002 (Seoul, 2-11 August), and Amphilex (Amsterdam, 30 August-3 September) •

New publications *Scotland: Local Stamps Private Post*, edited by Jacques B Calmeyn, lists the local carriage labels of 20 islands: Bernera, Calve, Canna, Carn Iar, Davaar, Easdale, Eynhallow, Gairsay, Grunay, Hildasay, Inchmarnock, Iona, Pabay, St Kilda, Sanda, Shuna, Soay, Staffa, Stroma, and Summer Isles; also 1962 and 1971 Scottish strike post stamps and the 1987 Scotstamp label. A useful map shows the location of the islands. The listings give the year of issue, face values and brief descriptions but no prices or valuations; a number of stamps are illustrated •

Tourist cachets for use on postcards sent from Land's End were introduced in 1901 and over the past century over 120 printed or rubber stamped cachets have been used. To mark the centenary John Owen has produced a new edition of his *A Guide to the Postcard Cachets of Land's End*. It includes useful and well-researched background information and a well set-out listing of the cachets with colours, dates of usage and a price guide. All the cachets are illustrated •

ABPS enquiries Bill Hogg, 22 Watling Street Road, Fulwood, Preston PR2 8SY or Alan Randall Jones, 61 Cloverley, Brooklands Rd, Sale M33 3QE. For competition details and entry forms contact Michael Birks, 36 Trevor Road, Urms-ton, Manchester M41 5QH.



The Japanese PO issued 10 'sticker-type' stamps on 9 May 2000 to promote Philanippon. The stamps, in various shapes, are based on earlier designs, including the first Japanese overseas mail stamps of 1875.

Hafnia enquiries Danish Philatelic Federation. Telephone +45 32 50 18 86; Fax +45 32 50 18 87.

Scotland Local Stamps A4 size, price £7 postpaid UK, £9 Europa and £12.50 USA from the sole UK agents: Isle of Pabay, Broadford, Isle of Skye IV49 9BP.

Cachets of Land's End A5 size, spiral-bound for ease of use. Price £10.95 post paid from: John Owen, Mount View, 1 Back Gate, Ingleton, Carnforth LA6 3BH.

Stamp Lover and the NPS

For details write to: National Philatelic Society, 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1M 6PT.

For details of the NPS Library, see Richard West's article in the November 1999 *Bulletin*.

Camberley Stamp Club For details, contact Jack Davey, 01276 28173.

Welsh Philatelic Society For details, write to Paul Gaywood, 2 Fairways, Fulwood, Preston PR2 8FX.

Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB.

The Cumbria Postal History Society Secretary: David Collins, Blindcrakes, 34 The Parklands, Cockermouth CA13 0WW.

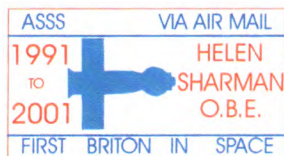
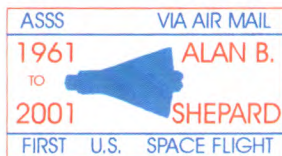
Societies news The June issue of *Stamp Lover*, journal of the National Philatelic Society, shows the new English definitive stamps on the front cover. It includes articles on Royal Mail's 'IMPS' (Integrated Mail Processing ink-jet postmarks), first airmails, us definitives and postal history, and the issues of Alaouites, Latakia and Alexandretta as well as news of NPS activities. One of the key features of this magazine is the Checklist of Articles in the British Philatelic Press, listing under country, thematic and subject headings articles and notes in the main UK philatelic magazines – the *Bulletin*, *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, *London Philatelist*, *Stamp Lover*, and *Stamp Magazine*. The current listing covers the period July-December 2000. It is a useful reference to check that you haven't missed any important articles on your collecting areas •

Realisations at the Camberley Stamp Club's April auction totalled £10,200; there were 186 postal bidders and 70 people in the room on the day. Regular meetings, which resume after the Summer break on 11 September, are held every second and fourth Tuesday in the month at 19.30 in St Michael's Church Hall, Camberley. Visitors are always welcome. The Annual Fair and Three Counties Convention will be held at Collingwood College off the A30 London Road, Camberley on 17 November •

The May Newsletter of the Welsh Philatelic Society contains articles of interest to stamp collectors and postal historians. Neil Prior begins a new series on 'Welsh Men and Women on Stamps' beginning with Sir Henry Morgan (c1635-88) who features on stamps from the West Indies. Eifion Roberts records special handstamps used in Wales in the second half of 2000, and Colin Peachey & Paul Reynolds detail postmarks used at Welsh offices last Christmas. Roger Broomfield provides the sixth update to his book *The Undated Postmarks of Wales 1840 to 1860*, and there are useful features on Prisoner-of-War mail, RSOS, and Welsh postal personalities •

Richard West wrote about the new concept of Social Philately in his *Alternative Ways of Collecting* booklet issued free with the April 2001 *Bulletin*. He featured material from the collection of Pat Grimwood-Taylor who will be giving Social Philately workshops to the following philatelic societies: Leicester on 29 September (contact J Bosworth on 0116 243 1877 for details), Huntingdonshire on 12 March 2002 (M Jackson, 01480 456 254), Bristol on 20 March (Mrs R Atkins, 0117 950 4427), Rotherham on 11 September (D Ward, 01709 541037), and Hull on 4 December (J Sussex, 01904 608824). Copies of Richard West's booklet are still available, price £2.95, from Royal Mail at the address opposite •

The Cumbria Postal History Society, which recently celebrated its 10th anniversary, exists to further the study of the Post Office and its services within the old constituent counties of Cumberland, Westmorland and the Furness district of Lancashire. It publishes booklets on the different types of postmark used since the early 19th century, as well as a regular journal. There are usually three meetings a year at different locations in the county. Anyone who would like further information or can provide information about the postal services and post offices in the county should contact the Secretary at the address opposite •



Astro Space Stamp Society

These airmail labels are still available, price £1 each sheet of 24 to non-members (25p to members) from: Jeff Dugdale, c/o Elgin High School, Elgin IV30 3YU. Please include SAE (UK) or four IRCs for overseas postage.

For other enquiries write to: Brian Lockyer, 21 Exford Close, Weston-Super-Mare BS23 4RE or visit the Society's stand at Autumn Stampex.

The Astro Space Stamp society celebrates the 50th issue of its well-produced journal *Orbit*. The first issue was sent out in January 1988 to 36 founder members. First editor Tony Bird recalls that 'production was a cut and paste job on my kitchen table, using a typewriter, lettraset, and felt-tip pens on A4 sheets, before photocopying onto A3 sheets of paper... In the early days we were contacted by many space enthusiasts who were interested in philately, but had little or no understanding of how to start a collection... I remember making up packets of stamps, from stocks that members had sent in and forwarding them on to those who wrote in.' Now the Society has grown to the extent that it is hosting the Astro exhibition as part of Autumn Stampex (19-23 September). The 50th issue of *Orbit* (June 2001) includes features on Apollo 15; Plants and Probes – Mars; Space Stamp Cachets and Handstamps of East Germany; Cygnus – the Flying Swan; profiles of Alexander Chizhevsky, Sir Martin Ryle, Sir Antony Hewish, Arno Allan Penzias, Robert Woodrow Wilson, and Professor Stephen Hawkin; and much else. The 42-page A4-size, profusely illustrated magazine is a credit to Editor Jeff Dugdale.

Earlier this year the Society produced the four airmail labels (etiquettes) above, celebrating Gagarin, Shuttle, Shepard and Sharman events ●

Punch and Judy at Covent Garden Come and see Punch and Judy in action! On 4 September, the day the new Punch and Judy stamps are to be issued, Tony Buckingham has arranged for Covent Garden's Mr Punch to provide live shows throughout the day. Bring your kids to see the fun! Konrad Fredericks is an internationally known 'Professor', as Punch and Judy men are called. He has performed over 5000 shows at Covent Garden delighting young and old with his traditional entertainment.

It is most appropriate that the show should be at Covent Garden where Punch made his first appearance in September 339 years ago. One of the most popular tourist attractions at Covent Garden is the world famous Punch and Judy Inn, and its sign is the design on the first day cover which you can get as a souvenir of the day to take home. Every time you see it in your collection, it will remind you of a great day out. The cover, which is

a special limited edition official Punch and Judy Inn first day cover published by Buckingham Covers, will be available at the tavern at £7.95. Actor Ronnie Barker is signing the cover, which bears all six stamps postmarked at Covent Garden. A few special covers will be double postmarked on 9 September, Punch's birthday. These cost £10.95 or signed by Ronnie Barker at £12.95 including donations to the National Theatre and his local hospice. Postage and packing is £1.35 and all major credit/debit cards are acceptable ●

Friends of the National Postal Museum The following statement was issued by the Council of the Friends in May: Following the Extraordinary General Meeting held in March, Council has since been reorganised and strengthened and volunteers have come forward. A new Secretary, Desmond Conboy of 50 St Mary's Grove, Chiswick, London W4 3LW has been appointed, as has a new Treasurer, Peter Robson of 141 The Ridgeway, Chingford, London E4 6QU. The new Editor of our twice-yearly journal *Crosspost* is Dr Geoffrey Eibl-Kaye of 1 Main Road, Littleton, Winchester SO22 6PS. We are very happy to announce that the Association of Friends continues to function, under new management, with visits and other functions being organised.

Council is also very conscious of the fact that although the Archives at Freeling House, Mount Pleasant have remained open, the National Postal Museum has not existed for several years and every effort is being made to get Consignia plc (formerly The Post Office) to form a new philatelic venue to display the vast holdings of Post Office records, both stamps and postal history and the printed matter which goes to make up the history of the British Post Office which was the first in the world to issue adhesive pre-paid postage stamps ●

ABPS awards For details write to: N M Russell, 59 Granby Avenue, Harpenden AL5 5QP.

Philatelic work recognised The Association of British Philatelic Societies has awarded Margaret Morris this year's Congress Medal. Margaret, well-known in philatelic circles throughout the UK and especially in her native Scotland, is a leading exponent of thematic collecting. She wrote *An Introduction to Thematic Collecting*, issued free with the April 1998 *Bulletin*, and was one of the leading figures in organising the successful Glasgow 2000 exhibition last year. Awards of Merit, for voluntary philatelic work at regional, specialist and local society level, will be given to: John Davies (National Youth Stamp Group), Rodney Frost (Ceylon Study Circle), Arthur Long (Lincoln Philatelic Society), Geoff Longbottom (Norfolk & Norwich Philatelic Society), Alec Marshall (North Western Federation of Philatelic Societies), Lawrence Remison (Streety Philatelic Society), and Graham White (Oxford Philatelic Society). Congratulations to all on this recognition of their good works.

The Yorkshire Philatelic Association has announced that Arthur Dent of the York Society and Michael Oxley of the Middlesbrough Society were invited to sign the Roll of Distinguished Yorkshire Philatelists at the Association's Convention at Pudsey on 2 June ●

Postal model In 1914 the GPO in Slough started to use single cylinder 3½hp motor cycles with wicker hampers in the side carriers to replace postmen on horseback. This combination vehicle increased the capacity to deliver the mail to outlying districts in all weathers.

BFM Collectables has produced a model of this vehicle, available price £34.95 postpaid from BFM Collectables, PO Box 69, Fleet GU13 9YN, telephone 01252 617952 (office hours). Mention the *Bulletin* when ordering for a £5 discount coupon redeemable against future purchases •

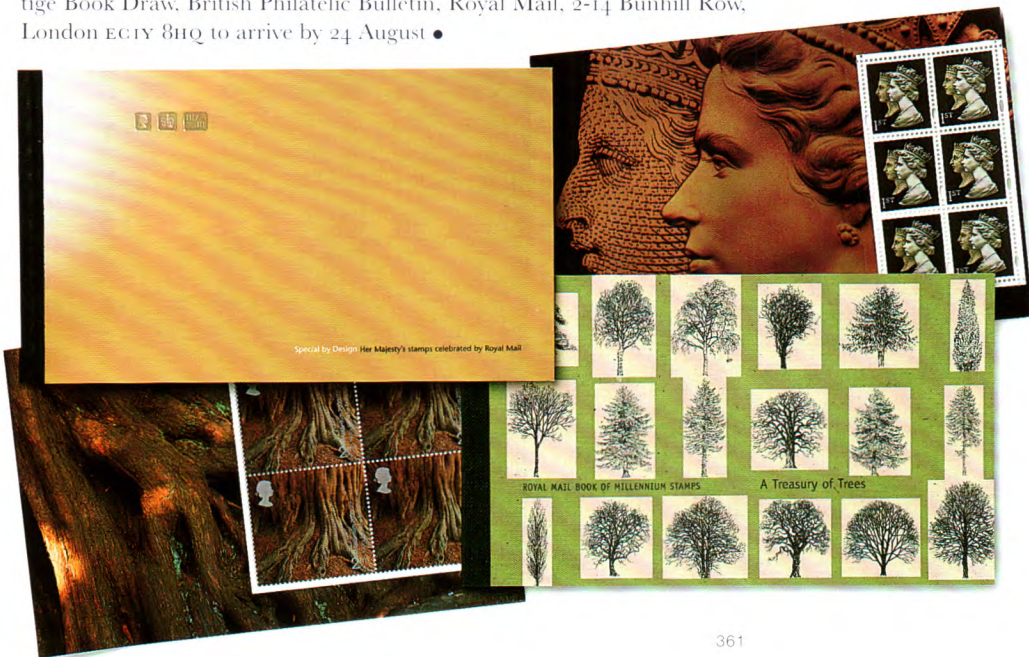


National Youth Stamp Group The Stamp Active programme is to be re-launched in the Autumn. Members will be kept informed and those running a junior stamp club are invited to join. Stamp Active provides help and support in running clubs. Stamp Active Days are being organised – for details contact Harry Wright on 0239 2730650. The NYSG is grateful to *Bulletin* readers who responded to the appeal for stamps published here in May •

Further donations are always welcome and should be sent to Anne Dummer, 2A Bryant Road, Kettering NN15 6JE. Telephone 01536 519959.

Special draw Win this pair of prestige books

WE HAVE six pairs of these attractive books for this month's draw. Simply write your name and address on the back of a postcard and send it to Prestige Book Draw, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8HQ to arrive by 24 August •



Royal Mail news Forthcoming stamp issues

• Royal Mail Luxury stamp album

Forthcoming stamps The Nobel Prize stamps (2 October) mark the centenary of the awards. The designs relate to the awards for Chemistry, Economic Sciences, Peace, Physiology or Medicine, Literature, and Physics. The stamps are 2nd, 1st, £ (European rate), 40p (airmail postcard rate), 45p, and 65p (basic airmail letter rates). In addition to the usual presentation pack and stamp cards, there will be a Postbag (childrens' pack) and commemorative document. Also going on sale on 2 October will be a coin cover incorporating a Celtic Cross design and £1 Northern Ireland coin.

A miniature sheet and prestige book marking the centenary of the Submarine Service will be available from 22 October. The miniature sheet bears four 1st class stamps featuring flags and ensigns: Union Flag ('Union Jack'), White Ensign, Jolly Roger, and the flag of the Chief of the Defence Staff. The sheet is being printed by Questa.

The sheet will also be included in the *Unseen and Unheard* prestige book (price £6.76) along with panes containing: two 2nd class and two 45p Submarines stamps; two 1st class and two 65p Submarines stamps; and four Scottish 1st class and four Scottish £ stamps. The panes are being printed in gravure by Questa – the first time they have printed the 1st and £ Scottish stamps. They printed the 2nd and 65p values in The Queen Mother prestige book last August. The Scottish stamps in sheets of 200 are by Walsall. Another new book will contain two of the Flags and Ensigns stamps plus four 1st class definitives, all on self-adhesive paper.

The final issue of the year will be the Christmas set, featuring robins, on 6 November. There will be five stamps: 2nd, 1st, £ (European rate), 45p, and 65p. The 2nd and 1st class stamps will also be available in books of 24 and 12 respectively. All Christmas stamps will be in self-adhesive format. A Christmas aerogramme (English and Welsh bilingual versions) will go on sale on 6 November as will the 2001 Year Pack and Year Book.

The 2002 programme will be (dates provisional): 15 January Kipling (10 × 1st class self-adhesives); 6 February Queen's Golden Jubilee (stamps and prestige book); 19 March Coastlines (10 × 1st class); 9 April Circus; 2 May Aircraft; 16 July Commonwealth Games, Manchester; 10 September London Bridges (four or five stamps); 24 September Astronomy (miniature sheet and prestige book); 8 October Post Boxes; and 5 November Christmas. All sets will contain five stamps unless otherwise stated. Stamps will be issued in June for the World Cup dependent on a home nation qualifying •

Cylinders

Q2 Q1 phosphor (Questa books) • W2 W1 phosphor (Walsall books)

Stamp books Text on the back cover of self-adhesive stamp books has been revised: the words Cod Post now appear after Ffôn Testun. The new printings will go on sale at post offices and retail outlets as stocks are required; they will be available from Tallents House and philatelic outlets from 1 August. The books are: 12 × 1st (Questa and Walsall), 12 × 2nd (Questa), and 6 × 1st and 6 × 2nd (Walsall). Stamps in the books are unchanged •

Smiles stamps With the recent reissue of the Smiles greetings stamps in the 'Smilers' series of sheets, readers may be interested to see the printer's sheet of the original Smiles 20p stamps issued in packs in February 1990. The issue was described here by the late Len Newbery in April 1990 •

The new 'Smiles' stamps printed in litho (3 July) are perf 14½ x 14; earlier gravure printings are 15 x 14.



Royal Mail stamp album A number of customers have asked about the stamps to be included in the 2001 supplement (continuation pages) to the Royal Mail Luxury Stamp Album. The criteria for inclusion are: stamps new in design, colour, value or shape from those which have existed previously; stamps which have a new perforation gauge or new phosphor characteristics; or stamps that have been printed using a different printing process from those which existed previously. The following stamps issued January-June 2001 will be provided for in the next supplement; a list of stamps issued July-December 2001 will be published later.

Special stamps: Millennium The Future (16 January), Occasions (gravure printed 6 February), Cats & Dogs (13 February), Weather (stamps and miniature sheet, 13 March), Submarines (10 April), Buses (stamps and miniature sheet, 15 May), Fabulous Hats (19 June).

Definitives and country stamps: Northern Ireland (6 March); England (23 April).

Provision will also be made for the 'panes' from the Queen Victoria and Submarines books (29 January and 17 April), and sheet of Occasions stamps with greetings labels (5 June). Please note that the Occasions stamps printed in litho are available only in the Smilers sheets with personal photograph (available from 1 May) or in sheets with pre-printed labels (from 5 June).

The album is available from: Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB, price £119.95 (Vol 1 covering issues 1970-89) and £99.95 (Vol 2, 1990-97). Sets of continuation pages for 1998, 1999, and 2000 cost £9.99 each. Empty binders are available, price £49.95 •

E stamps Following the increase in the basic European letter rate from 2 July, the definitive E stamp (national, English, Scottish and Welsh) and E Fabulous Hats stamp now cost 37p each, and books of four E national stamps are now £1.48. Stamps purchased before 2 July are now valid at 37p •

Post Office Heritage Collections

Material held in Post Office Heritage Collections can be viewed by appointment at Freeling House, Phoenix Place, London WC1X 0DL. Telephone 020 7239 2570.

Ron Negus reviewed the new Heritage Collections website, www.consignia.com/heritage in last month's *Bulletin*.

IN THE LAST FEATURE in this series (April) we featured a magnificent cover bearing six Penny Blacks, reminding us that 2001 marks the centenary of the death of Queen Victoria. This month we show an intriguing item from later in her long reign. The first British 10s and £1 stamps were issued in September 1878. The Heritage Collections include 10 progressive die proofs on glazed card of the 10s value and nine of the £1 denomination. These are dated between 16 April and 6 May 1878 and form the most complete series of their kind. They were acquired by Reginald M Phillips over a 20 year period, mostly from the collections of H C V Adams, R Hugh Sennett, and William Sugden.

Shown here are the proofs of the £1 stamp, dated 16 and 17 April 1878. These early proofs include frame lines, whereas later ones (and the issued stamp) do not. Another proof without frame lines, dated 27 April, was shown here in November 1990 •

Apr 16, 1878



Apr 17, 1878



Sir George Steuart Mackenzie The forgotten designer of the Penny Black? An enquiry by John Holman

AS IS WELL-KNOWN to all postal historians, a competition was held in 1839 for designs for adhesive postage stamps and postal stationery. One design in particular was quite similar to the finally issued Penny Black: a left-facing profile of Queen Victoria against a dark background, with empty panels left at the top and bottom where, in due course, the wording 'POSTAGE/ONE PENNY' was placed. This design was submitted by Sir G S Mackenzie – but who was this man whose design may well have been the inspiration for the Penny Black?





Coul House was built for Sir George in 1821, and remained the home of the Mackenzies of Coul until the Second World War. I am obliged to James Mackay for visiting Ross-shire to photograph Coul House (now a hotel) and the portrait of George Steuart Mackenzie at Sheriff Court, Dingwall.

THE 1839 COMPETITION was, in official parlance, open to 'Artists, men of Science and the public in general...' Announced in *The Times* early in September, at least 2600 entries were received by the closing date of 15 October. However of these only about 100 were actual designs; most entries were descriptions only and many amounted to several pages. It was, says Charles Goodwyn (see below), 'a Herculean task' to read, sort and examine the entries. Entries were not properly considered until November and Rowland Hill's resulting report

was submitted at the beginning of December. Anyone interested in the competition is referred to Chapters 7 and 8 of Douglas Muir's *Postal Reform and The Penny Black* published by the National Postal Museum in 1990. Muir writes: 'From all these ideas, and many others, Hill had to sift out the essentials and eventually fit together the component parts of the postal stationery and postage stamps as finally produced.'

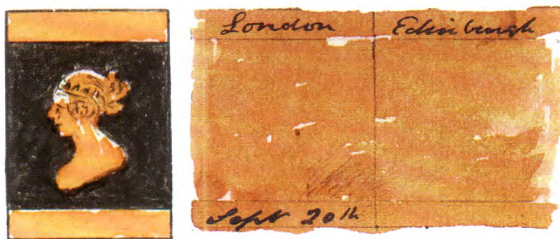
A number of the designs included some form of representation of Queen Victoria, and in his report Hill advised 'that either in the embossed or in the engraved part of the Stamp or perhaps in both, a head of the Queen by one of our first artists should be introduced...' What we now call a 'stamp' is referred to by Hill, at various places in his report, as a stamp or label.

One design in particular was quite similar to the issued Penny Black, with a left-facing profile of Victoria against a dark background with empty panels at the top and bottom. This design was by Sir G S Mackenzie. In his Stuart Rossiter Lecture in 1999 the Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection, Mr Charles Goodwyn, drew attention to the similarity between Mackenzie's design and the issued stamp and hinted that it was a pity 'the poor chap didn't get a prize'. Goodwyn referred again to the similarity in his book *Royal Reform* published by the Stuart Rossiter Trust: 'the ultimate Penny Black is very close indeed to the idea of Sir G Mackenzie.'

The design is now in the Royal Collection and illustrated here with the assistance of Mr Goodwyn. The design is also illustrated in his book (see above), Douglas Muir's *Postal Reform* and in the Souvenir Handbook to the Stamp World London go exhibition. The illustration in Muir's book shows the stamp at left with two 'wash' squares of stamp size to the right. In the panels at the top are written 'London' and 'Edinburgh' and in one of the panels at the foot the date 'Sept 20th'. Maybe Mackenzie intended this to indicate that the place and date of posting were to be inserted somehow.

The design was sent on 16 September, and received and given the Treasury reference 20639 two days later. Other entries or related correspondence from Mackenzie were submitted on 14 and 29 September, 28 October and 8 November (references 20226, 22038, 24979, and 26888).

Sir G S Mackenzie's Treasury Competition entry, reproduced below and p365 by gracious permission of HM The Queen. © HM The Queen 2001.



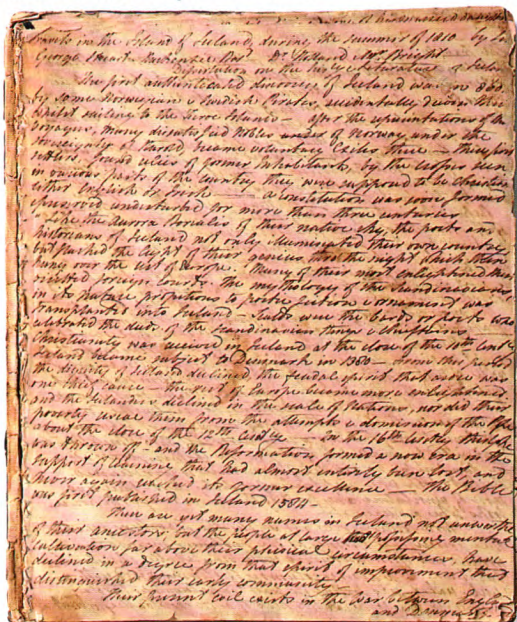
Who was this Sir G S Mackenzie whose design may well have been the inspiration for the Penny Black? He was most likely Sir George Steuart Mackenzie, born in June 1780, the only son of Major-General Sir Alexander Mackenzie of Coul, Ross-shire. He succeeded as the 7th baronet on his father's death 16 years later. He became a distinguished mineralogist, at the tender age of 20 being noted for 'a decisive proof of the identity of diamond with carbon'. According to the *Dictionary of National Biography* his experiments in this field 'made free use of his mother's jewels'. His work was recognised by election as Fellow of the Royal Societies of London and Edinburgh. He was later Vice President of the Edinburgh Society, and Deputy Lieutenant of Ross-shire.

In 1810, spurred by his fascination with mineralogy and geology, he journeyed to Iceland with Drs Henry Holland and Richard Bright and brought back 'a magnificent collection of mineralogical treasures'. The three published an account of their travels in 1811, Mackenzie contributing sections on mineralogy, rural economy and commerce. The following year he travelled to the Faroe Islands and reported his observations to the Royal Society in Edinburgh. Thereafter he drew up a report on the agriculture of Ross and Cromarty (1813) and from 1826 to 1848 wrote many papers on the 'parallel roads' of Lochaber. Other works included studies of the diseases and management of sheep, phrenology, the sending of convicts to New South Wales, principles of education, the origin of glaciers, and hothouses and conservatories. He married the daughter of the Sheriff of Ross-shire in 1802, having 10 children by this marriage. Following the death of his wife in 1835 he married again and fathered a son. He died in October 1848.

It seems to me that this remarkable man deserves more credit than he has received for the eventual look of the world's first adhesive postage stamp. To describe him as the designer might be going too far but his sketch is, as Goodwyn says, 'very close'.

I am obliged to James Mackay and Douglas Muir for their help and comments in preparing this short article. Douglas, however, remains unconvinced that Mackenzie's design was the inspiration for the eventual stamp design. He thinks the final design was very much a concoction of Hill and the printers, without any thought for overall design other than it should be beautiful – and even that was for a security reason, as he explains in his book. I am also obliged to Martyn A Hill and M McBey for their help in tracing the portrait of Sir George Steuart Mackenzie (shown on p365) which now hangs in the Sheriff Court at Dingwall, Ross-shire. The portrait is unsigned and was presented to the Court by Sir Robert Mackenzie of Coul, Bt in 1965 •

Manuscript of Sir George's account of his trip to Iceland in 1810 (property of James Mackay).



Punch and Judy New stamps celebrate the



Technical details

Printer and process Walsall Security Printers, gravure

Sheets 60

Stamp size 30 x 41mm

Perforation 14 x 15

Phosphor Two bands (vignetted)

Gum PVA

Gutter pairs Vertical

Cylinders and colours

W1 greenish yellow ● W1 bright magenta ● W1 new blue ● W1 grey black ● W1 violet ● W1 deep magenta ● W1 ultra-marine ● W1 silver ● W1 phosphor

SIX 1ST CLASS STAMPS featuring characters from Punch & Judy shows will be available from post offices, Royal Mail Tallents House Edinburgh, and philatelic outlets from 4 September. The stamps, printed in a horizontal se-tenant strip, feature: policeman, clown, Mr Punch, Judy, beadle, and the crocodile eating sausages. The Queen's silhouette is printed in silver at top left, with the 1st service indicator below at bottom right.

The stamps are the work of Keith Bernstein who photographed puppets made by Bryan Clarke, also known as 'Professor Jingles'. Mr Bernstein is a news & features photographer for major European and American magazines, including *The Sunday Times Magazine*, *Newsweek*, *Paris Match*, *Figaro*, and the *New York Times*. Bryan Clarke first became interested in Punch & Judy after seeing a show on Lowestoft Beach in 1945 and by age 12 he was the youngest Punch & Judy 'professor' in the world. He studied art at West Ham Polytechnic and turned his skills to puppet making and producing puppet theatres, and became a full-time professional in 1976 becoming Lowestoft beach's Punch & Judy man. During the winter months he produces hand-carved Punch & Judy puppets from blocks of beech or pine.

characters who have captivated generations



A well-illustrated presentation pack (left) containing the six stamps (price £2) and stamp cards (25p each) will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets. The FDC envelope and pack were designed by Howard Brown.

FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main post offices and philatelic outlets about a week before 4 September, price 25p. Orders for serviced FDCs with the four stamps or cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of Royal Mail Tallents House Edinburgh or Blackpool must reach Tallents House (address below) by the day of issue. Price £2.32 UK (including VAT) or £1.98 overseas (no VAT).

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, South Shields DO, Keppell Street, South Shields NE33 1AA (Blackpool postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FD0117' (Tallents House) or 'FD0118' (Blackpool). Covers can be posted or handed in at main post offices for the Blackpool postmark.

PUNCH & JUDY STAMP BOOK A book containing the stamps showing Mr Punch and Judy stamps and four 1st class definitives will be available from Tallents House and philatelic outlets from 4 September, price £1.62. All stamps will be self-adhesive, printed by The House of Questa in gravure •

Details of other 4 September handstamps will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin*, available on subscription from Tallents House (£10 UK and Europe; £21.75 elsewhere).

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



The 35p of the 1994 Picture Postcard Centenary shows a Punch and Judy show on the beach. On the Bureau's first day postmark for this issue, the crocodile steals Punch's sausages. The 19p in this set shows Blackpool Tower.

Punch appears on the covers of four £1 stamp books issued between September 1991 and July 1992, to mark *Punch* magazine's 150th anniversary.

Punch and Judy Mr Punch, the hook-nosed hunchback in a striped costume, is probably the best-known of all characters in street puppet shows. The origins go back to the European improvised drama of the 16th-18th centuries and the Italian *Commedia dell'arte*. In May 1662 Samuel Pepys wrote of witnessing a performance of Pollicinella in London's Covent Garden. This is the earliest known appearance of the character who was to become known as Punchinello and it is thought that at this time he was a marionette. *Punchinello*, published in 1832, was a forerunner of the famous *Punch* magazine which made its debut in 1841.

The Punch and Judy show story involves the dissipated, violent and cunning Punch killing his child, and attacking his wife, dog, and doctor. He is arrested and sentenced to death but beguiles the hangman into putting his own head in the noose. He is visited by the Devil who he vanquishes. Some aspects of the story may be based on vices in medieval morality drama.

Originally Punch and Judy was very much a London phenomenon where street theatre was very popular throughout Victorian times and up to the First World War. It has enjoyed a considerable revival, particularly in Covent Garden, in recent years. Yet for many people it will always be associated with the seaside – as famous as donkey rides, candyfloss and the fun fair. The stamps will bring back many happy memories of holidays long-gone •

Punch and Judy on stamps These are the first Royal Mail stamps dedicated to Punch and Judy, although characters have featured on earlier issues •

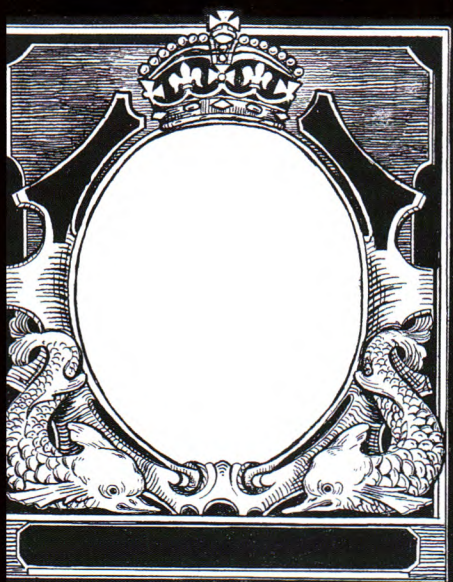


Mr Punch also appears on 20p & 1st class 'Smiles' greetings stamps of 6 February 1990 & 26 March 1991, and on special handstamps for Puncheston used on these dates. (The 1st class stamps were reissued in 'Smilers' sheets with pictorial labels or personal photograph in May 2000 and June 2001.)



The only overseas Punch and Judy stamp we can trace is this West German Europa issue of 1989. We should be pleased to hear from readers who know of any others.

The George V Royal Cypher
Issue 1912-24 Part 2, by Alan
Bloorcroft FRPSL



tram Mackennal's 'Dolphin' design, accepted
the ½ and 1½d values. This proof of the drawing
from the estate of Sir William Ellison-Macartney,
mer Deputy Master of the Mint.





An imperforate block of four which appears to come from trials of ink dyes made during 1916.

1/2d and 1 1/2d: the Mackennal dolphin frame with Coinage Head

In addition to the frames described in Part 1, Bertram Mackennal also submitted a 'Dolphin' design, and this was accepted with only minor alteration for the 1/2d and 1 1/2d values. In May 1912, after the decision to change from the Downey to a Profile head, a roller impression was taken of the 1/2d Downey Die and the head and values removed along with the backgrounds and foreheads of the dolphins. A fresh die was then laid and a Coinage head rolled in. JACH then engraved the values and completed the work to the Dolphins. The first die produced was for the 1 1/2d and later another die was prepared for the 1/2d, and examples of the completed die proofs of both are known in private hands.

No less than 18 shades are catalogued for the 1/2d value of which the 'very yellow Cyprus green' is the scarcest. It is believed only one sheet of this shade existed which was later cut up, and at least

one block of four is known in private hands. Sixteen shades are recorded for the 1 1/2d of which the 'pale brown' is perhaps the most sought after. The variation in shades was due in part to the shortage of ink supplies during the First World War.

Examples of imperforate 1/2d stamps are known overprinted 'SPECIMEN' and although no detail has been published, to date, as to their source, personal research at the BLPC has shown that they come from a series of colour trials carried out during 1913. BLPC hold five imperforate sheets printed, under control C13, in various inks, two of which were supplied by Shakell Edwards & Co, and the others 'prepared by Messers Harrison & Son'. These sheets were overprinted 'SPECIMEN'. Examples of these are known in private hands as well as perforated stamps overprinted 'CANCELLED' from controls D14 and E14 but at present no official record of these printings has been discovered.

During 1916 chemical tests were carried out on the 1/2d stamps to check the fastness of the ink. The imperforate stamps bear reference numbers on the reverse and several of these are known in private collections. Trials with ink dyes supplied by Imperial Chemical Group were also made during 1916 to see if they were suitable for stamp printing. Three shades were tested. Although two shades were considered close to the colour standard, they were not accepted. An imperforate block of four, which appears to come from these trials is known (shown above), as well as a few examples of stamps which bear a distinctive 'CANCELLED' overprint.

A small printing of the 1/2d was made on paper watermarked 'Multiple Script' under control C13 to provide stamps for issue in coils. However, a few complete sheets or part sheets appear to have been issued, as multiple pieces are known including two control blocks.

4d: Mackennal wreath frame with Coinage Head

The development of the 4d stamp is perhaps the most fascinating of all the values. It was planned to have the Eve 'Wreath' frame and so the first action, in May 1912, was to produce a bromide of the Eve frame with the Coinage head pasted over the Downey head. Eve then carried out various amendments to the frame, including a repositioned Crown and a new value tablet, during May and June 1912. Bromides and trials, produced by the Miller & Motley Printex (Printex) machine, are known of various stages of this work. The King was shown a bromide of the design and he thought the shading too black and the background too dark.

Accordingly Eve amended the design and trials are known of this in various colours. Imperforate singles mounted on cards dated 11 July 1912 in five shades are held by POH, and BLPC holds several imperforate blocks of four in black and some singles in colour which have been overprinted 'CANCELLED'. It seems possible that some of the colour trials were produced in these blocks of four. The King approved the amended design and requested a die be engraved. Because JACH was busy Lewis, his assistant, carried out the engraving and progressive die proofs, which differ in detail from Eve's amended design, exist that were pulled in September and October 1912. The King approved a proof from the completed die on 12 October 1912.

The PMG then decided that the coinage head was too large in Eve's Wreath frame. So despite the fact they had an engraved die approved by the King, the PMG decided to use the Mackennal Wreath frame already adopted for the 2d and 3d values. A transfer roller of the 2d die was used to lay down a fresh die with blank value tablets. The value was engraved and a roller taken up to produce a new 4d die. This was first proofed on 1 November 1912 and a copy sent to the King for his approval on 16 November 1912. A least one other example of this proof exists in private hands and BLPC has an example overprinted 'CANCELLED' which is most unusual.

Colour trials in three shades of green were made and imperforate examples mounted on card were submitted to the King. He approved 'pearl green' on 14 December 1912. BLPC and POH hold a set of each and at least one example of each of the shades is known in private hands (shown above) along with an imperforate block of four in the issued colour. Stamps overprinted 'SPECIMEN' come from the colour standard prepared under control C13 and at least one example of stamps in an unusual 'bluish grey-green' is known which comes from a printing under control B.13 which may have been a further colour trial. The 4d stamps were issued on 15 January 1913 and seven shades are listed for this value. A new colour standard appears to have been prepared during 1919 and the stamps overprinted 'SPECIMEN' of which examples are known in private hands •



Pearl Green.



Essays for Colour only.



Top: colour trial 'pearl green', one of three shades of green submitted, approved by the King on 14 December 1912.

Above: one of the progressive die proofs pulled in September and October 1912.

Key to abbreviations

BLPC British Library Philatelic Collections

JACH J A C Harrison (stamp engraver)

PMG Postmaster General

POH Post Office Heritage, now Consignia Heritage Services

To be continued next month

An earlier version of this article was published in *The London Philatelist*, September 2000. The author is Hon Treasurer of the Royal Philatelic Society London.

Mainly Machins Specialist collectors report by D G A Myall

Distinguishing the intaglio high values One of the features which makes the *Bulletin* the best stamp magazine around is the publishing of authoritative articles on stamp production such as that by Brian Janes of De La Rue Security Print which appeared in the June issue. As well as an excellent account of the Crona (or Krona) method of plate making used for intaglio small format high values, it contained some hints on how to separate this firm's stamps from those of Enschedé who first produced them. This is a subject which arouses great interest among collectors and there have been several attempts to help them in the task. Personally, I find the detection of shades rather difficult unless stamps are compared side by side. What is wanted, I feel, is some way of looking at a single stamp and being able to say who printed it. As Brian says, however, the same master die was used by both firms so there should be no appreciable difference. However...

The original Slania die was exhibited by Royal Mail at Stamp Show 2000 as part of their 'Eyes Right! The Definitive Story' stand. This die has a blank unengraved rectangle sized to accommodate the values. It was used for all four of them by both printers. The importance of the fact that these value tablets were not engraved by Slania cannot be over-emphasised. It is very difficult to detect differences by comparing parts of the design which were engraved by the same person even if the actual printing plates were made by different firms by different methods. To me, it makes much more sense to compare just the figures of value and the immediately surrounding area although I understand a deliberate attempt was made to match Enschedé's work. Examination of the value tablets under a $\times 10$ glass reveals tiny differences which I believe are constant and which enable the printings to be distinguished. In the main, these involve the size and number of the regular background dots, the making of which is a standard engraving technique. However, these differences are difficult to describe and it is easier to concentrate on the £ sign and the figures of value (see opposite page).

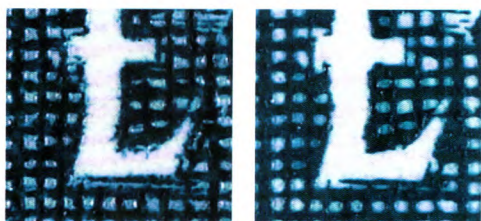
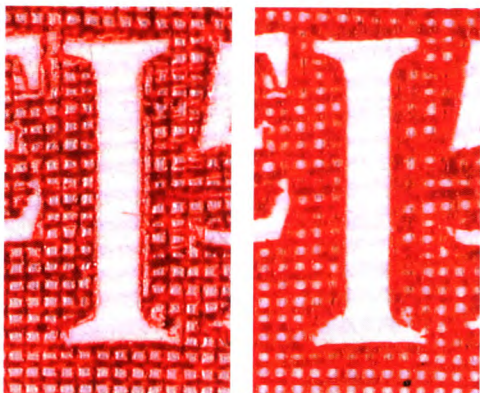
Rolls of 1000 1st & 2nd NVIs On 4 July Britain's first conventionally-gummed NVIs in sideways rolls were issued (shown opposite). Previous rolls of these stamps were delivered vertically. The method of delivery is chosen to suit the machine into which the rolls will be loaded. Machines at post offices, for example, deliver stamps in their normal upright orientation. Machines used by private firms usually deliver the stamps sideways.

Each roll contains 1000 stamps, printed in gravure by De La Rue with pva gum. The 1st class stamps have two blue fluor phosphor bars from 9mm bands; the 2nd class have a 4.5mm bar of the same phosphor. Both have the usual ellipses at each side. This was a bit of a surprise to me since ellipses on sideways-delivered coil stamps have given trouble in the past, usually by the web breaking under tension during the slitting and coiling operation at the printers. This is, I believe, why the rolls of 25p stamps made for *Readers Digest* in February 1996 did not have them. This problem may have been solved, of course, but if it has not we might expect to see what are called 'printer's mends' on these rolls. A break may be mended by sticking a piece of transparent paper over it on the gum side. These are sometimes called coil joins, but that is an incorrect term for such repairs. A coil join properly refers to the time when rolls of stamps were made from sheet printings by joining strips of stamps by their selvages. They do not occur on Machin stamps.

The stamps from these sideways rolls have the same phosphor characteristics as those from the vertical rolls of April 1997. Like those, the new stamps have the new image created by computer-controlled diamond stylus engraving. They also have the same, thin, value types. So, how can single stamps from these sources be distinguished? Because the new stamps were laid down sideways on the cylinder their direction of printing will differ from that of the vertically delivered stamps. Ascertaining the print direction can be tricky but there is an easier method. I have mentioned that rolls are made by slitting the printed and perforated web into stamp-wide columns and then

Distinguishing the intaglio high values At one time I thought a white mark below left of the £ sign would serve to distinguish the £1.50 values, but this appears only on some Enschedé stamps so

its absence leaves the question unresolved. The alternative method described here was suggested to me by Don Staddon, the well-known collector of and writer about modern GB material.



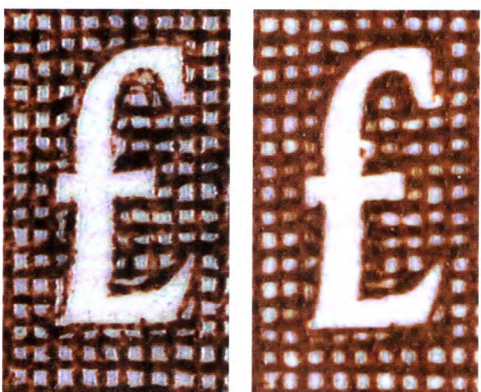
Left, £1.50 value Enschedé (far left): there is a broken white line immediately to the right of the stem of the figure '1'. De La Rue (left): the white line is absent.

Above, £2.00 value Enschedé (left): the dots under the base of the £ sign appear to form a thin white line. De La Rue (right): there is a slanting coloured line within the base of the £ sign as if the graver had slipped.



Above, £3.00 value Enschedé (left): there is a dark horizontal line in the lower curve of the figure '3'. De La Rue (right): the dark line is absent.

Right, £5.00 value Enschedé (right): two joined dots under curve of £ sign; 'loop' attached to inside of stem just above the crossbar is less obvious. De La Rue (far right): single dot under curve of £ sign; 'loop' is more pronounced than on Enschedé.



8



2nd CLASS NVI
1,000 STAMPS
RM US FORMAT

De La Rue
Security Print
UK



7



1st CLASS NVI
1,000 STAMPS
RM US FORMAT

De La Rue
Security Print
UK



NVI rolls These new rolls were produced for a firm in the USA from where the items are sent to the UK in bulk for posting to the addressees.

The leaders for both 1st and 2nd class stamps include the words RM US FORMAT which indicate their special purpose.

reeling these individually to make rolls. Slitting results in the perforation teeth having noticeably straight edges. Under a $\times 10$ glass (you do have one, don't you?) you should have no difficulty in distinguishing this appearance from the ragged edges produced when one stamp is separated from another by tearing. If you examine the perforated edges of a coil stamp in a clockwise direction starting at the top with the image upright the sequence will be either TCTC or CTCT (T = torn, C = cut). These sequences do not occur on stamps from sheets and booklets.

The 1997 NVI coil stamps are TCTC and the 2001 stamps are CTCT. So even if you drop your NVI coil stamps on the floor you can still identify their origins correctly.

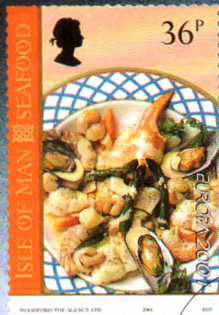
Millennium NVI errors The frameless brownish olive 1st class NVI issued last year is no longer on general sale but important errors are still being reported. This stamp was printed in books of 10 by both Questa and Walsall and first issued on 6 January 2000. Both are now known with the phosphor at least partially omitted. The Questa pane was reported in March 2000 and single stamps

are known with no phosphor and with only the left bar present. Last April the corresponding Walsall book was reported with a similar defect, although the known copies are believed to have been discovered almost a year earlier. Panes from this source are known with just the band over the margins between stamps in positions 2/7 and 3/8. These yield single stamps with only the right bar present as well as the two varieties occurring on the Questa pane.

Self-adhesive errors Perforations on self-adhesive stamps are simulated by what is called a kiss die cut process which acts rather like a pastry cutter. They are not true perforations since they do not separate one stamp from another and there are no holes. (They are there for security purposes to make a forger's life as difficult as possible.) Nevertheless, some stamps are known where the cutter failed to operate correctly. These, together with their background, are being described as imperforate. Those known to date are the 1st class stamps from the Walsall pane of 12 issued this year and the Questa sheet of 100 issued last September. The latter sell for about £200 a pair •

Text © D G A Myall 2001

Europa issues A further selection to last month's examples



Philately on-line Another GB collectors site, by Ron Negus

Welcome to **GBStamps.com**
The Place on the Web for Great Britain Philately



A sample copy of the *GBCC Chronicle* can be obtained by post from Parker A Bailey Jr, PO Box 773, Merrimack, NH 03054-0773, USA. Cost is \$2 or the equivalent in mint full-gum or self-adhesive stamps.

This site is dedicated to the collecting and study of the stamps of Great Britain and related material. It is also the online home of the Great Britain Collectors Club. You can write to me at larry@gbstamps.com with your comments and suggestions. [Down below](#) you can learn a little about me.

THE GREAT BRITAIN COLLECTORS CLUB (GBCC) is based in the USA and has an interesting website that is located at www.gbstamps.com. Two philatelists, Larry Rosenblum and David Alderfer, who also contribute a monthly column on British stamps to *Linn's Stamp News*, run it. The objectives of the GBCC are to bring together collectors of GB stamps and related material regardless of their level of collecting expertise. Members are encouraged to share information and the site includes a question-and-answer section.

The Club also publishes a quarterly printed magazine, the *GBCC Chronicle*, and extracts of some past articles from this are available on-line. Of particular interest is the regular 'In the Spotlight' feature in which interviews with well-known philatelic personalities are published. On the website at present are separate interviews with the editor of the *Bulletin*, John Holman, and with two of its regular contributors, Douglas Myall and James Mackay. This part of the site also includes reprints of the interviews with the designers David Gentleman and Jeffery Matthews.

A specimen copy of the magazine can be obtained for a nominal cost, and details are given above. The annual subscription to the GBCC costs \$18.50 in the USA, or \$27 elsewhere in the world, and an application form is provided.

Not surprisingly, a whole section of the website is devoted to Machin collecting. This includes a short history of Machins over the years, a report on Machin exhibits at The Stamp Show 2000 in London, answers to some frequently asked questions about the stamps and a light-hearted Machin

quiz. A number of links to other websites – in the UK and overseas – that will be of interest to collectors of Machins are provided, and all the pages have numerous illustrations. The GBCC also distributes the periodic Deegam Reports, written by Douglas Myall, which provide news of Machin developments.

Containing a great deal of news and information about GB issues, this site is clearly laid out and all the various sections are easy to access. The writing style employed throughout the text is friendly in tone. Any GB collector, regardless of his depth of knowledge, is sure to find a visit worthwhile, and will discover something of interest.

This site is based in America but gives details of British stamps. The opposite situation comes from Stanley Gibbons, the British company, who have now added the United States catalogue to their allworldstamps.com site. I reviewed this in the April 2001 issue of the *British Philatelic Bulletin*, and new countries are now being added at frequent intervals.

Gibbons are rapidly becoming a significant player in the on-line philatelic field and have recently announced a new service that will provide an archive of selected articles that have appeared in their magazine, *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*. Access to this wealth of past philatelic literature will require payment of a small subscription, but articles from the current issue will be reprinted on the internet free. The master site from which access to all the other Gibbons philatelic websites can be made is at www.comunitic.com ●

'Royal' sale success Richard West attends a unique auction



THE AUCTION ROOM at Spink was packed during the morning of 17 May for the sale of selected material from The Royal Philatelic Collection. Many present were probably bidding on behalf of clients, with most of the leading figures in the stamp trade to be seen. However, that in no way deterred several collectors attending in person, and entering into the bidding.

There is no doubt that for a few, the cachet of buying an item from The Royal Philatelic Collection was the incentive, and it mattered little which actual lot was acquired. Some of the lots were knocked down at quite reasonable prices, making such an objective quite achievable.

It was obvious throughout the sale that virtually all lots had been the subject of intensive postal bidding, but in the event room activity was so acute that the majority of lots fell to those actually present. Only two lots failed to find a buyer during the sale, but were sold subsequently.

There was a slight moment of tension as the sale opened with the revelation that there were no postal bids for the opening lot, an 1840 House of Lords One Penny envelope. There was really no need for concern: the room was certainly interested, and the item was knocked down at £1400. The second lot really established the mood, being a Penny Black used on 6 May 1840, the first day of official usage. The hammer was eventually brought down at an encouraging £20,000.

A block of four Penny Blacks, marginal from the bottom of the sheet, ended up at £14,000. Several imprimaturs were on offer: these varied in price from £3300 to £5200.

The 1840 Twopenny Blue, in a lovely bright blue, in a block of six, was knocked down at £20,000. The room certainly livened, perhaps

surprisingly, during the active bidding for a Twopenny Blue from Plate 2 in a mid-blue shade. Estimated at between £1500 and £2000, the lot was knocked down at £7000. The room also became excited by a block of 12 in a deep blue shade which ended up at £35,000.

It was clear someone was determined to acquire the lot comprising the 1841 One Penny red-brown in a complete set of 119 imprimaturs from Die 1, Alphabet 1, plates 12 to 131, including plate 77b: the hammer fell at £16,000. Perhaps surprisingly, the set of 59 imprimaturs, this time from Die 1, Alphabet 11, plates 132 to 177, and reserve plates 1 to 13, found a different buyer, who secured the lot for a hammer price of £9500.

Prices came more within range for those just wanting an item with a 'Royal' pedigree when the time came to offer the surface printed issues. £300 to £400 generally secured each of the lots in this section, although one fortunate buyer acquired a 6d mauve for a hammer price of £200.

The Queen Victoria high values are attractive designs, not least the 10s. With Maltese Cross watermark, an imprimatur in greenish-grey went for £3800, while a grey-green imprimatur with Anchor watermark sold at £12,000.

The £5 orange was offered as an imprimatur and as a fine unused example. In both cases the hammer price was £3500.

The 8d purple-brown of July 1876 which was prepared for use but not issued realised £2400. Keen interest was expected for another stamp of similar status, the 2d Tyrian Plum of May 1910. The unused example being offered had formed part of the display from The Royal Philatelic Collection at The Stamp Show 2000. This stamp was knocked down at £17,000.

The final two lots of the GB section were both 1R Officials from the reign of King Edward VII. The 5s bright carmine was sold at £3800, but the 10s ultramarine saw much more activity, and eventually the hammer fell at £15,000.

The Dominions and Empire understandably attracted slightly less interest, but only slightly. From Bahamas, the 6d lavender-grey from 1862

used went for £110, which proved to be the lowest price during the sale. However, this was not generally indicative of prices: Barbados 1/2d yellow-green of 1860 with pin perforation 12 1/2 realised £1800, while from Bermuda the 1874 'Three Pence' on 1d rose-red went for £6200.

It was left to the Cape of Good Hope to produce the sale's sensation. The 1d 'Woodblock' error of colour of pale milky blue in a pair with the 4d, naturally in the same colour, attracted very active bidding, eventually selling for £65,000.

After that, the rest of the sale seemed somewhat tame, and come the start of the Egypt and Suez Canal section, the number in the room had declined. Nevertheless, those that remained still

fought for the lots, and all found new homes.

The total hammer price ended at just over £644,000 (to which has to be added the auctioneer's premium). As has been well publicised, the initiative behind this sale of duplicate and surplus material for The Royal Philatelic Collection was to fund the purchase of a cover dated 6 May 1840 bearing a block of 10 of the Penny Black. (*Shown here in June 1996, p298*, ED). Buckingham Palace Press Office commented that the very satisfactory outcome of the sale allows The Royal Collection not only to acquire the cover, but also provides resources to invest in further acquisitions and to develop the facilities for the display and conservation of the collection •

Postbag Letters to the Editor

Stamp design Mary Price (June) seriously misrepresents the contents of my letter (March) when she accuses me of 'pouring scorn on the Sunflower stamp' from the Tree and Leaf issue. My letter made it perfectly clear that I was not criticising 'the superb photography' of Millennium issues, and indeed the Sunflower stamp well deserved its high rating in the readership poll as a flower photograph, which I understand was obtained from the Telegraph Colour Library. My point was simply that it could hardly represent the immense Eden Project in Cornwall, in the same way that a photograph of a bus ticket could hardly represent say a Glasgow 1928 Leyland Titan T01 double-decker bus! The biodomes in the Eden Project cover an area equivalent to 35 football pitches, and although the opportunity was missed during the Millennium (when the sunflower stamp was used), it is to be hoped that Royal Mail will issue an entire set of stamps on this most prestigious enterprise when it is completed. The May/June issue of *Engineering Designer* (journal of the Institution of Engineering Designers) devotes an entire section to the Eden Project, including spectacular photographs of some of the biodomes taken from a helicopter. Glad to see the return of excellent stamp designs among the 2001 British issues. W A WITHAM, NEWTON MEARNS, GLASGOW •

Stamp Camp A friend showed me the article in May regarding the Philatelic Youth Camp and Ross Burden. It was very pleasing to see the value of these camps acknowledged overseas, because we believe they are a very valuable component of encouraging youth collectors. The Philatelic Youth Council of New Zealand is alive and well. Amongst our activities we still run an annual Stamp Camp, and publish *Fun Philately* Newsletter four times a year; approximately 1000 copies are posted out. This year's Stamp Camp (started in 1966 by Rob Hunt) was held at the Narrows Park Camp, near Hamilton, in July. About 25 youngsters, with six adult leaders, attend. We try to have a different location each year, so all local youngsters have a chance to attend. Last year it was held in Christchurch, Auckland in 1999, and Wanganui in 1998. The size of the exhibit prepared at camp will vary. Usually there are eight pages, but some novices produce a four page exhibit. The experienced will often create a 16 page exhibit, and one enthusiast even managed 32 pages. Donations mean that costs can be kept to a minimum. Perhaps an adult from England would like to attend a Stamp Camp, with a view to getting these started there? JOHN WALLER, Chairperson Philatelic Youth Council of New Zealand Inc, AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND •

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



May identify The detail was from 2½d Festival of Britain stamp. The winner was D Lloyd of Essex.

May knowledge Answers: 1) M Farrar-Bell; 2) Spirit & Faith; 3) 1962. The winner was R White of Leicestershire.

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

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

- 1 Who designed the 1940 6d Stamp Centenary stamps?
- 2 In which year did the Dounreay Nuclear Reactor feature on a stamp?
- 3 Which colour is the current 41p Machin stamp?

Send your answer (addressed to either the August *Identify* competition or the August *Knowledge* competition), name and address on a postcard or back of a sealed envelope to: British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 2-14 Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8HQ. The senders of the first cards drawn in each competition on 21 September 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

Until further notice Postal Memorabilia displays at Museum of Lincolnshire Life, Burton Road, Lincoln and Manchester Postal Museum, Wythenshaw Park, Manchester (open 10.00-16.00). **Enquiries** D Harrop, 15 Hawthorn Road, Stockport SK4 3DQ.

Until January 2002 Exhibition Chand Collection of Classic Mauritius stamps at British Library, 96 Euston Road, London NW1. Open Mon-Sat 09.30-18.00, Sun 11.00-17.00. **Enquiries** 020 7412 7635/6.

Until 3 August The Life and Times of Arnold Machin exhibition at Royal Academy Schools, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1. **Enquiries** 020 7300 8000.

1-7 August Philanippion international stamp exhibition at Tokyo International Exhibition Center. **Enquiries** GB Commissioner B Sole, 3 Stockfield Rd, Claygate, Esher KT10 0QG.

11 August Sidcup Phil Soc fair at Emmanuel Hall, Hadlow Road, Sidcup.

11-12 August Portishead Convention at Somerset Hall, Portishead.

29 August-1 September The Picture Postcard Show (formerly BIPEX) at Royal Horticultural Society New Hall, Greycoat Street, London SW1. **Enquiries** Postcard Traders' Association, 0151 339 5422.

31 August-2 September 53rd International Stamp Fair & 40th Europa International Philatelic Exhibition at Riccione, Italy. **Enquiries** +39 0541 692194, Fax +39 0541 693614.

8 September Preston and District Phil Soc annual Stamp and Postcard Fair at Canterbury Hall, Preston. Over 20 dealers. **Enquiries** Paul Gaywood, 01772 713917 ●

Late news

Belgica 2001 I visited Belgica 2001 (Brussels 9-15 June) as neither juror, commissioner nor exhibitor, so I was able to wander at will and enjoy my stay without pressure. The standard of the exhibits was generally very high, with plenty of space between the rows of frames. What a pity that more people did not look at the wonderful material in them. Throughout the exhibition there were plenty of visitors – dealers I spoke to reported some 20,000 people there on the opening day and that business was brisk. The organisers arranged for 150 primary and secondary schools to be bussed to the exhibition; face painting, computer programmes and stamp designing were just some of the attractions for them. It was a shame that no use was made of the opportunity to show the youngsters all the interesting stories that could be told using philatelic items. IBRA in Nuremberg in 1999 was the first exhibition to combine live entertainment with philately and Belgica continued the trend. The stage, complete with sound system, was in the dealers' hall. Apart from one concert of chamber music, the singing and dancing was loud – and I mean loud! – preventing conversation. I gather the noise was experienced in the jury room and at the various seminars held during the show.

There were some nice touches for non-collectors. For instance, down one side of the main hall there was an art exhibition, as well as artists at work. For many, the highlight of any exhibition is the Court of Honour and Belgica was no exception. There were three British exhibits. Material from the collection of HM The Queen concentrated on a part of the collection formed by her grandfather, George V, including original artwork for the 'Seahorses' issue, considered by some the most beautiful of British stamps. The Royal Philatelic Society London showed the early issues of the Netherlands bequeathed to them by Donald Christopher Gray. The British Library, along with members of the Royal, showed the development of pre-paid mail before 1849, when Belgium issued her first postage stamps. Right at the entrance to the Court of Honour was a single

cover, heavily protected, inside a large showcase. This was one of the few surviving pieces of mail from Hiroshima in 1945 after the dropping of the atom bomb. Lent by the Federation of German Philatelists, it was a fascinating piece of postal history and a poignant reminder of the horrors of war.

A major surprise for many was that a thematic exhibit was nominated for the Grand Prix International, the first time this has happened. Damian Laege's (Germany) exhibit is certainly worthy of the honour. The prize, however, went to an exhibit of Norway, but the nomination of a thematic exhibit may be a pointer for the future. It is fitting that it should happen in Brussels, where the first thematic-only international exhibition was held in 1972 •

Congratulations to Alan Sabey on his gold medal at Belgica for his entry on the 1924 British Empire Exhibition stamps. His booklet on these stamps was included with the April 1999 Bulletin. ED

Roll stamps The new horizontal rolls of 1st and 2nd class stamps were printed from cylinders R7 phosphor R20 and R5 phosphor R21. For further details see Douglas Myall's 'Mainly Machines' article •

Sir John Marriott We are sorry to record the death on 3 July of Sir John Marriott, former Keeper of The Royal Collection. An appreciation of his philatelic work will be published next month •

Buses issue Celebrated at Cobham Bus Museum.



Cobham Bus Museum's RT 593, a 1948 London Transport double-decker, was suitably attired with 'perforations' for the occasion. Photograph by Graham Smith •

Index to volume 38 Compiled by Dr Jean Alexander

Air letters

2000 Christmas 8, 72
Welsh 287, 297, 327

Auctions

7, 94, 102, *West* 122, 191,
220, 223, 235, 255, 267,
292, 351, 378

Awards

ABPS 100
D&AD Awards 351
Elizabeth Blackadder 223
Floella Benjamin 200
New RDPs 324
Rowland Hill Awards 40, 72,
103, 223, 255, 260, 292

Biography

Alexander, Jean *West* 184
Asquith, Brian *West* 218
Burden, Ross *West* 282
Burnett, Paul 8
Hall, T W *Negus* 180
Hopkins, Adrian *Negus* 347
Fosbery, John *West* 316
Fryer, Gavin *West* 44
Mackenzie, Sir G S 365
Morris, Margaret 360
Northcote, Stuart *West* 23
Sole, Brian *West* 248
Trinder, Vera *West* 345
Vandervelde, Denis *West* 90

Book reviews

6, 70, 103, 105, 166, 255,
294, 357

British Library

Philatelic Collections 133,
159

British Philatelic Bulletin

Publications 298, 328
Writers' poll 100, 244

British Postmark Bulletin

296

Collectables

70, 314, 315, 230, 361

Computing

GB Decimal Booklets Study
Circle website 250
Philately on-line *Negus* 22,
43, 75, 121, 147, 186, 206,
246, 279, 299, 330, 377

Covers

28, 103, 155, (L)156, 233,
234, 265, 284, 296, 315

Definitives

Checklist 2000 152
Coils 295, 327, 374, 381
Country 309
England 169, 194, 197,
233, 309, (L)348, 349
Northern Ireland Warren 24,
135, 167, *Jones* 187, 199
Scottish 287
Decimal Machins *West* 122,
376
High Value 74, 311, 374
Machins (L)61, *West* 122,
134
Exhibition 325
Self-adhesive
Sheet printing 136, *Myall*
216, (C)310, 376
Booklet 104, 136, 170
Wilding *West* 122
Withdrawal 74, 105

Designers

Blackadder, Elizabeth 223
Fuchs Edward VII design 137
Gardner Jersey stamp
designer 191
Gentleman design album 115
Matthews colour palette 134
Rodney Miller Associates 168
Slania signing session 133

Edward VII

Coloured Paper *Gee* 20
Designs 137
Thematic *Matheson* 331

Events

30, 60, 94, 158, 190, 222,
254, 286, 318, 350, 380

Exhibitions

West 150, 325
ABPS 63
Amphilex 2002 261, 357
Armenia 132
Astro 2001 132
Belgica 132, 260, 293, 381
Chester 2002 356
Collect 2000 4
Glasgow 2000 4, 36, 41, 69,
Holman 142, 183
Hafnia 132, 325, 357
Hong Kong 2001 132, 255
Machin 325, 356

Monaco 2000 68

Nation's Cup 68, 120, 262
Philanippon '01 325, 357
Stamp Show 2000 29, 63, 71,
(L)92, *West* 150, (L)189
Stampex 4, 95, 127, 132, 164,
196, 287, 356
Thematica 63, 165, 223, 316,
356
Tokyo 132

Forces mail

West 77

George V

Coloured paper *Gee* 20
Royal Cypher definitives 322,
Moorcroft 336, 371

Maritime

Glasgow 2000 display 143
Hospital ship covers *Weeks*
207
Pollution drift cards *Mackay*
40, (L)156

Museums

Manchester Postal *West* 178
National Postal, Friends of
70, 165, 197, 360

Obituaries

Eldridge, Jim 233
Gardner, William 191
Griffiths, John O 319
Holding, Les 319
Lammer, Alfred 127
Lee, Alma 31
McKinnon, Raymond 31
Shrives, Peter 63
Spens, Lord 191

Overseas stamps

Negus 43, *Mackay* 52, 57,
69, *Negus* 75, 132, 329, 376

Post boxes

61, 93, 125 (C)191, 155, 189,
253, 285, 346

Post Office Heritage Collections

1972 General Anniversaries
182
Glasgow 2000 display *Muir*
88, 142
Victorian stamps 236, 364

Post Office/Consignia plc

191, 200
Christmas posting dates 105
Closure 200
Glasgow's sub post offices
67, 69, *Mackay* 76
Heathrow mail centre 327
Iona's PO *Mackay* 148
New Mail Centre 136
Poetry 38, 297
Postbus service 104
Post Office Board, Wales 38
Post Office Director 127
Staff changes 159, 287
Talents House 266, 297

Postage dues

191

Postal history See also

Scotland
Cross Post 165
Czechoslovak Military Field
Post *Beith* 145
European posts *Mackay* 300
Glasgow 2000 displays 143
Iona's PO *Mackay* 148
Jack the Ripper letter 319
Mis-sent cover *Mackay* 21
Mail by bus *Jones* 280, 326,
(L)349
March & Chatteris areas 166
Parcel Post postmarks (L)188
Printed postal impressions
253
Smart mail *Robinson* 176
Welsh slogan (L)284

Postbag

28, 61, 150, 188, 317, 379

Postcards

36, 292

Printers

De La Rue Security Print 311
Enschédé *West* 217
Perkins D cylinder printing
press (L)62

Railway letter stamps

93, 294

Royal Philatelic Collection

127, 142, 220, 235, 267,
351, 378

Scotland

Hampden Park *Mackay* 12

Iona Mackay 148, 232
 Islay Peachey 9
 Loch Lomond Mackay 210
 Scotland's Posts (book) 69
 Scottish Rail booklet 103
 Scran internet Mackay 12
 Stone of Scone 29

Social philately

Mackay 40, 143, (L) 156,
 183, 357

Societies and associations

Astro Space Stamp Society
 5, 230, 261, 359
 Brighton and Hove 133
 British Philatelic Trust 263
 British Postmark Society 324
 Concorde Study Circle 230
 Cumbria Postal History
 Society 358
 Eastbourne centenarian
 member 351
 Exhibition Study Group 166
 GB Collectors Club literature
 134, 229
 GB Decimal Stamp Book
 Study Circle 159, 249, 292
 GB Societies 37, 101, 196,
 261, 292
 George VI Society 164
 Insurance and Banking 315
 Methodist Philatelic Society
 37
 National Philatelic Society
 358
 Northeast Philatelic Weekend
 223, 230, 325
 Northern Ireland Philatelic
 Society 36, 292
 Philatelic Congress of Great
 Britain West 119, 324
 Philatelic Music Study Circle
 324
 Portadown and District PS
 booklet 133
 Revenue Society of GB West
 119
 Royal Philatelic Society 69
 Scottish Congress 197
 Studiegroep Britannia 230
 Welsh Philatelic Society 5,
 134, 261, 358

Special stamps

(L) 124, 125
 1940 Penny Black Centenary
Finn 268
 1951 Festival of Britain Gee
 276
 1964 Shakespeare Presen-
 tation Pack (L) 189

Forth Road Bridge Muir 89
 1972 General Anniversaries
 182
 1978-81 Proposed Scottish
 issue Muir 88
 1990 Greetings 363
 1999 Millennium series (L) 124,
West 150, (L) 156, 157,
 (L) 221, 351
 Quantities 231
 Scientists' Tale 100
 World of Music 29
 Withdrawals 136, 199
 2000 Body & Bone 2,
Mackay 12, 16, (L) 157
 Customised Christmas
 stamps 106, 318
 Mind & Matter Mackay 12,
 (C) 66
 Poetry 83
 Queen Mother miniature
 sheet 73, *Rapkin* 86, (L) 92
 Sound & Vision 51, 66, 80,
 (C) 98, 188
 Spirit & Faith 19, 34, 48,
 159, 287
 Stamp poll 100, 116, 244
 Stone & Soil 7
 Tree & Leaf 7, 317
 Yearbook & Yearpack 71,
 105

2001 Buses (L) 188, 199,
 226, 227, 240, 297, 298,
West 314, (L) 349
 Hats 233, 258, 272
 Nobel Prize 327
 Occasions stamps 38
 Supplement to issue 5, 171,
 231, 264, 295
 Pondlife 263, 290, 304
 Programme 74, 105, 294
 Punch & Judy 327, 368
 Submarines 169, 202, 232,
 265, 287, (L) 349
 The Future 83, 98, 112,
 (L) 188
 Weather 135, 162, 172,
 200, 264

Miniature sheets

Jeffrey Matthews 38, (L) 61,
 134, 152, 191
 Queen Mother 73, *Rapkin*
 86, (L) 61, (L) 92, (L) 156,
 (L) 188
 Weather 135, 162, 172,
 264, (L) 317
 2002 Programme 201, 287,
 362

Stamp booklets

Christmas 2000 51, *Myall* 118
 Greetings quantities 135

Label booklets
 Postman Pat 251
 Quantities 264
 Queen Victoria 104, 233
 Millennium
 Stone & Soil 7, *Myall* 47
 Tree & Leaf 7
 New £1 booklet 223
 Prestige stamp booklet *Myall*
 45, (C) 47, 74
 National Trust Jones 344
 Northern Ireland labels
Jones 187
 Queen Mother's Centenary
Myall 45, 287
 Tolkien & Beatrix Potter
Jones 91
 Treasury of Trees 7, *Myall*
 46, (L) 124
 Unseen and Unheard 287
 Wedgwood mis-cut *West*
 122
 Withdrawal 170
 Self-adhesive 104, *Myall*
 119, 136, 191, *Myall* 215,
 308, (L) 317, (L) 348, 362
 Cats & Dogs 130, 138, 169,
Myall 217, 263, 287, (L) 317
 Just So Kipling 287
 Submarines 308, (L) 349

Stamp collecting See also Thematics

A Momentous Year *West* 150
 Philatelic Scholarship 324
 Royal Mail stamp album 199,
 363
 Storage (book review) 6
 Youth philately 36, 71, 72,
 127, 159, 164, 191, 228,
 264, 265, 282, 287, 296,
 297, 324, 361, (L) 379

Telegraph stamps

Gee 84

Thematics

1840 Penny Black *Finn* 268
 British Heraldry *Saundry* 341
 Christmas *Martin* 108
 Cycling *Sole* 140, 248
 Hospital Ship *Weeks* 207
 Royalty 238, 326, *Matheson*
 331
 Sport (L) 189
 Water Europa issue 329, 376

Victoria

1840 Penny Black *Finn* 268,
 (L) 349, 365
 Coloured paper Gee 20
 Telegraph stamps Gee 84

Authors

Beith, R 145
 Finn, C 268
 Gee, F 20, 84, 276
 Holman, J 28, 142, 183, 266,
 365
 Jones, L 91, 187, 280, 344
 Mackay, J 12, 21, 40, 52, 57,
 69, 76, 148, 210, 300
 Martin, D 108
 Matheson, J 331
 Moorcroft, A 336, 371
 Muir, D 88, 89
 Myall, D 45, 118, 215, 374
 Negus, R 22, 43, 75, 121,
 147, 180, 186, 206, 246,
 279, 299, 330, 347, 377
 Peachey, C 9
 Rapkin, F 86
 Robinson, M 176
 Saundry, R 341
 Sole, B 140
 Warren, B 24
 Weeks, E J 207
 West, R 23, 44, 77, 90, 119,
 122, 150, 178, 184, 217,
 218, 248, 282, 314, 316,
 345, 378

Notes

(C) = correction

(L) = letter

Author's names are in italics

April 2001 issue contained a
 supplement: *Alternative Ways*
 of *Collecting* by Richard
 West. Each issue contained a
 supplement listing Commem-
 orative Covers.

CELEBRATING A SUBMARINE CENTENARY



In April 2001, the Royal Navy Submarine Service celebrated 100 years of history, gloriously recording its many heroic deeds and 4 vcs.

To commemorate this momentous occasion, Royal Mail issued four stamps featuring four classes of submarine: Holland, Unity, Swiftsure and Vanguard.

All four Submarines stamps have been reproduced as framed prints; the Holland and Unity Class ones are limited edition signed prints. Each frame includes the Submarine Service shoulder badge as well as the set of four submarine stamps.

In addition, on the two limited edition prints the stamps have been cancelled with the special submarine first day postmark and the prints have been personally signed by Commander J J Tull OBE, Royal Navy (Rtd), who is the Director of the Submarine Museum, Gosport.

Prices for these prints range from £49-£189. If you would like to know more about these or any other Royal Mail products please phone the number below (quoting reference 02 ABK), or contact Royal Mail at the address shown.

Royal Mail, Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB
UK telephone order line 08457 641 641, overseas +44 131 316 7483



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