

BRITISH PHILATELIC

The ROYAL MAIL magazine for stamp collectors

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Bulletin

Results of annual stamp poll
• Tintagel's Old Post Office

**'The Wilding definitives collection II
1953-59': Royal Mail continues its
series of miniature sheets marking
the Wildings' 50th anniversary.**



Forthcoming issues and withdrawals



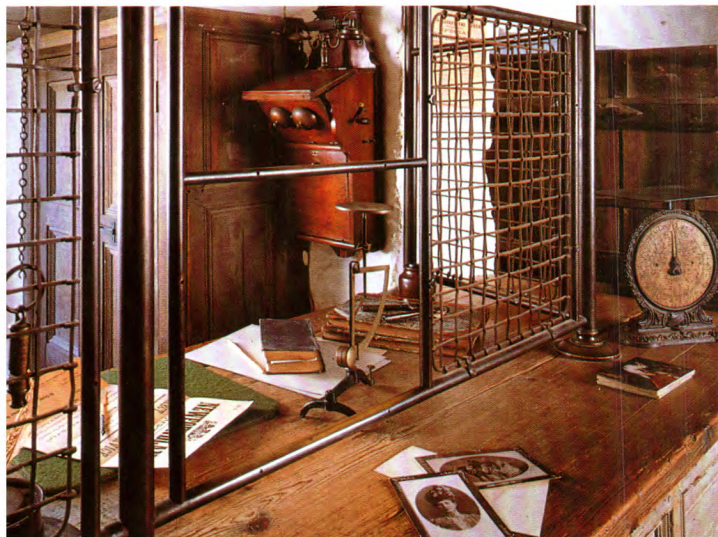
Cover The portrait by Dorothy Wilding, used on the stamps that bear her name. On p234, we preview the next miniature sheet in the Wilding series, to be issued on 20 May. Stamp shown at proof stage.

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

8 April	Withdrawal Circus stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards.
22 April	Issue Extreme Endeavours stamp cards.
22 April	Issue Ingot cover: Pillar to Post 1st class stamp.
22 April	Withdrawal 2002 Occasions generic Smilers sheet.
24 April	Withdrawal Queen Mother stamps and presentation pack.
29 April	Issue Extreme Endeavours stamps and presentation pack, and stamp book containing 4 × 1st class definitives in gold and 2 × 1st class Extreme Endeavours (all six stamps self-adhesive).
1 May	Withdrawal Airliners stamps, presentation pack and stamp cards.
6 May	Issue Victorian Ingot collection no1: Penny Black.
20 May	Issue Wilding Collection II miniature sheet and presentation pack.
20 May	Withdrawal World Cup stamp, miniature sheet, presentation pack and stamp cards.
26 May	Issue Coronation Anniversary stamp cards.

Postal rate changes At time of going to press we are still awaiting confirmation of postal rate changes delayed from April. Changes to basic UK and European rates are of course covered by the 1st and 2nd class and 'E' NVI stamps, but a 34p stamp will be required for the 2nd class rate between 60 and 100 grams. This stamp, printed in lime green, may be issued in early May. Further details will be published in the May *Bulletin*.

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Pintagel Old Post Office A 14th-century manor house, Pintagel's village post office for nearly 50 years, offers an opportunity for a philatelic collection. Martin Robinson looks at the possibilities 240

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Stamp scene Rowland Hill • Exhibitions • Meetings • Publications • Auction news



Otto Hornung

Rowland Hill Awards The awards for philatelic achievement during 2002 were presented at a dinner held at the Draper's Hall, London on 18 March. Comper for the evening was well-known TV chef (and philatelist) Ros Burden. The awards were presented by Gavin Macrae, Director Royal Mail Stamps & Collectibles, Francis Kiddle, Chairman of the British Philatelic Trust, and Nigel Howarth of the Philatelic Traders' Society, the three sponsoring organisations. Each winner received a certificate printed bearing a 1995 Rowland Hill stamp tied by a special cachet and an attractive Perspex award featuring Rowland Hill's signature •

The 2002 Rowland Hill Awards winners and runners-up

ROYAL MAIL INNOVATION AWARDS

Journalistic Excellence: Print & Broadcast Media Soccer AM (Sky Sports Channel, 11 May, on World Cup Smilers stamps). Runners-up Boyd Tonkin, *The Independent* and Cat Bartman, *Eastern Daily Press*

Journalistic Excellence: Philatelic Writing Ashley Lawrence (A message brought to Paris by Pigeon Post, *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, June). Runners-up Richard West & Steve Fairclough, *Stamp Magazine*; and John Holman, *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*

Post Office Excellence Haslam Crescent Post Office, Bexhill-on-Sea. Runners-up East Street PO, Sittingbourne, and Lewsey PO, Luton

BPT INITIATIVE AWARDS

Personal Contribution to Youth John Browning for helping introduce children to collecting since 1947, forming clubs in schools and producing a newsletter

Young Collector Jade Needs for advances made in a variety of collections and for involvement in local, national and international events. Runners-up Prashanthini Shanthakumar and Emily Rookes

Authorship/Research David Davies for *Forgeries of Portugal and Colonies*, filling a significant gap in the philatelic literature of Portugal. Runners-up Bryan Jones and Don Staddon

Community & Teamwork Chester 2002 Organising Committee for an enjoyable,

worthwhile and well-attended exhibitor Runners-up Philatelic Congress of Great Britain 2002 and Phil Kenton

New Horizons Dr Tony Goodbody for his CD encouraging the over 50s to collect stamps. Runners-up Planet Stamp web site, and 'The Queen's Stamps' (Golder Jubilee touring exhibition)

PTS ENTERPRISE AWARDS

Business Enterprise and Development Rick Warren. Runner-up Malcolm Richardson

Personal Contribution Anthony Shields

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

Otto Hornung

Postal Roots A handbook is available at the exhibition or from Mr Scott Archer at Penmelin, Upper Llangynidr, Crickhowell NP8 1NW. Price £1.50 postpaid.

Exhibitions 'Postal Roots' tracing 2000 years of postal history in Brecknockshire, organised by the Welsh Philatelic Society (Cymdeithas Ffilatelig Cymru) is on show at the Brecknock Museum & Art Gallery, Captain's Walk Brecon until 13 April. Open Monday-Saturday 10.00-17.00; Sunday 7 April 12.00-17.00. The exhibition, prepared by members of the Welsh Philatelic Society, explains how written messages have been conveyed from writer to addressee since Roman times. Artefacts from the National Museums and Galleries of Wales throw light on the Roman courier system, and Royal Mail Heritage in London has loaned the first semi-automatic letter cancelling machine as used in Brecon nearly a century ago. The National Library of Wales and Hereford Record Office have contributed letters going back to 1560, while specialist collectors of Welsh postal history have loaned later examples. The exhibition focuses mainly on the role of the

Post Office within the old county of Brecknock, but also treats the subject briefly in much wider national and worldwide contexts. Maps illustrate the carriage of letters by drover or postboy on horse to coach and post-bus, while rare prints and photographs, including some from the Museum of Welsh Life at St Fagan's, combine to give a colourful and informative display. The exhibition has been jointly funded by Royal Mail, Cardiff and the WPS •

The 'From Pillar to Post' exhibition at the Dartford Borough Museum, Market Street, Dartford until 26 April features a mixture of objects, pictures and photographs illustrating the early history of the postal service, with particular reference to Dartford and district. Open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 12.30-17.30 and Saturday 09.00-13.00 and 14.00-17.00, admission free •

Midpex 2003 – the ABPS national show for specialist societies – will be held at the Midlands Sports Centre for the Disabled, Tile Hill, Coventry, on 28 June. Open 10.00-16.00, admission 50p including programme. Some 50 societies and 40 dealers are expected to attend. The Midland Sports Centre is near Tile Hill station, reached by local trains from Coventry or Birmingham International. This will be the fifth Midpex, previous events having proved popular •

The fifth ABPS national exhibition is being organised by the Association of Essex Philatelic Societies in Basildon, 20-21 November 2004. The main competitive class will be Aerophilately, with experimental Special Studies and Social Philately classes. Previous ABPS national exhibitions were held in Newcastle (1996), Hove (1998), Glasgow (2000), and Chester (2002) •

Philatelic Congress The 85th Philatelic Congress of Great Britain will be held in Gateshead, to mark the centenary of the North-East of England Philatelic Association, on 4-6 July. Congress will be based at the Swallow Hotel, one mile from Newcastle city centre and near the Gateshead Metro station. The programme will include talks by Michael Sefi (What is it about GB?), Richard West (Youth Philately), Stephen Holder (Philately 1903-2003), and Francis Kiddle (Poster Stamps) as well as social events and the ceremony of signing the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists. Congress was last held in Newcastle in 1992 •

Tallents House will have a stand at the Annual Congress of the Association of Scottish Philatelic Societies will be held at the Dewar's Centre, Glover Street, Perth on 25-26 April. Open Friday 14.00-18.00, Saturday (dealer's day) 10.00-17.00. See website www.scottishphilately.co.uk •

Dundee Philatelic weekend The ninth residential philatelic weekend will be held at the Queen's Hotel, 24-26 October. The cost of the weekend, including meals, is £117. Speakers are: John Scott (Novelty Postcards; Maritime Ephemera), Claire Angier (Red Cross Hospitals in France, First World War), Brian Asquith (Concorde), Derek Nathan (British Guiana), and Alex Shepherd (Royalty). There will be a mini auction and much enjoyment all round •

Pillar to Post exhibition
Enquiries 01322 224739

Midpex 2003 Details available from Mervyn Benford, Clouds-hill, High Street, Shutford, Banbury OX15 6PQ; or e-mail mbenford@bigfoot.com

ABPS exhibition prospectus
Send A5 SAE to: Frank Jones, Redcliffe House, 21 Thoroughgood Road, Clacton-on-Sea CO15 6AN, or see website: www.basildon2004.org.uk

Philatelic Congress of GB
All bookings to Cliff Garside, 8 Deyncourt, Durham DH1 3QB, telephone 0191 384 5468, by 31 May.

SCOTTISH POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

ASPS CONGRESS • PERTH 26.04.03

Dundee Philatelic Weekend
For bookings and enquiries contact Ken Norris, 30 Luss Brae, Hamilton ML3 9UT. Telephone 01698 425120.

Membership of the Royal

For information contact Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY. Telephone 020 7486 1044. Website www.rpsl.org.uk

Young Collectors at the Royal Over 30 young collectors, accompanied by parents, grandparents and friends, took part in the third Young Collectors' Day at the Royal Philatelic Society London on 18 January. The President, Gavin Fryer, welcomed them to a 'hands on' day with displays to view and study together with the opportunity to ask for guidance with their own collections. Four of the young collectors, who had recently enjoyed success in competitions here and abroad, displayed their collections: Emily Rookes (A Glossary of Philatelic Terms), Georgina Rookes (New Zealand Health stamps), Charlotte Rookes (Before the Penny Black), and Jade Needs (Australia KGV Heads, 1914-38). The young collectors were given a tour of the building to see the Society's famous library and the museum, took part in a quiz organised by Richard West and Susan Ellis, and enjoyed tea. A spokesman for the Society said 'with enthusiastic young collectors like these, the future of stamp collecting is assured and in good hands.' ●

Cavendish enquiries

Cavendish Philatelic Auctions, 153-157 London Road, Derby DE1 2SY. Telephone 01332 250970. See website www.cavendish-auctions.com

The sales on 10-11 April will feature West Indies.

Auction news In the Cavendish auction on 24 January, two Lighthouse albums of mint Victoria to Elizabeth II GB issues made £6900 (estimate £3500) and a collection of pre-decimal booklets went for £1495 – nearly 10 times the estimate of £150. There was a lot of interest in the Yorkshire Postal History collection of the late Dennis Boyes – strong in parcel post labels and with good sections of Bradford, Leeds and York material. A carton containing a large collection of covers, cards and parcel post labels from small towns and villages made the best price – £977 (est £300) ●

Spink Further details available from Richard Watkins, David Parsons or Nick Startup at Spink, 69 Southampton Row, London WC1B 4ET. Telephone 020 7563 4000.

Spink are delighted to be auctioning the outstanding collections and company stock of GB and British Empire formed by the late William 'Bill' Frazer. This remarkable holding, including a wealth of rarities, will be included in a series of auction sales over the next 12 months. The first auction, on 30 April, will include the company stock in some 200 stock books. This will primarily be offered as one country or country group lots and will be supplemented by a number of individual items. There is also a range of covers. This will be followed on 8 May by a Rarities auction comprising over 100 lots of selected stamps from the collection encompassing some remarkable and rarely offered individual items and multiples. In later sales, the collections will be offered in geographically grouped auctions. The collections were largely formed in four Imperial albums, two for mint and two for used, which when presented for sale were literally overflowing, having been filled to capacity over the years the collections were put together. Many of the rarer items emanated from such famous collections as Ferrary, Caspary, Hurlock, Amundsen, Duveen, Townsend and Wood; further important individual items are ex T Allen, the renowned expert with whom William Frazer worked closely. The award-winning display collections of Sudan and Virgin Islands will complete the series of sales. The Sudan, which in addition to the display leaves includes a further 25 volumes, offers a wonderful array of early historical items including letters written by General Gordon, outstanding Camel issues, covers and cancellations. The Virgin Islands includes superb essays and proofs together with an example of the famous 'Missing Virgin' error ●

New list Rushstamps has recently published Rush Telegraph no 26 containing 48 pages of GB and worldwide special offers. These include imperfect pairs of the 2002 2nd class Christmas stamp, mis-cut 1st class NV1 definitives, 1977 Silver Jubilee Tour covers, FDCs of the original Wildings, signed cricket covers, philatelic numismatic, medallion and banknote covers, and much else •

Publications The February issue of *The Bookmark Journal*, the magazine of the Great Britain Decimal Stamp Book Study Circle, contains detailed write-ups on the Christmas issue (and the Two Towers promotion) and the *Across the Universe* prestige book. Robert Bostock writes on Harrison uncut window book covers, and Roy Ingram reports on the somewhat arcane topic of labels used on packages of stamp books sent to post offices •

The January issue of the *GBCC Chronicle* (journal of the Great Britain Collectors Club) includes an interview with Chris Miller, a noted collector of Second World War censored mail. In his 'Mostly Machins' column, Larry Rosenblum looks at current developments, some of which he is far from happy about, and speculates about future issues. Dr David Leivers provides a detailed article on marginal markings on Victorian 1d and 2d stamps, and there is a useful index to the *Chronicle* for 2002. The April *Chronicle* will include an interview with Douglas Muir, former Editor of this *Bulletin* and now Curator Philately, Royal Mail Heritage.

The February issue of the *ABPS News* (journal of the Association of British Philatelic Societies) includes a report of the Chester 2002 exhibition, and looks forward to Basildon 2004. The Post Office update section looks at future issues and there is a profile of John Hammonds, Chairman of ABPS Executive Committee (also see January *Bulletin*). A record of recent displays and details of forthcoming events are to be found in 'Around the societies' section. *ABPS News* is essential reading for all keeping up to date with 'organised philately' in the UK. The ABPS has also published a new edition of *Philatelic Lecturers & Displays* – a useful guide for society secretaries of collectors willing to give talks and displays •

The February *Newsletter of the Letter Box Study Group* previews future meetings in Lincoln (5 April) and London (7 June), includes reports on the Photograph Archives, the Budapest and Isle of Wight postal museums, as well as the usual mix of reports on letter boxes, letter box postcards, and readers' letters. Sent out with the *Newsletter* is an order form for data sheets, lists, cards, etc available to Group members •

The February *Britannia News*, journal of the Studiegroep Britannia, includes reports of new GB and Ireland issues, features on Smilers stamps, slogan postmarks, stamped to order stationery, and a detailed article on the postal history of Baroda state (India). Sent with the journal is an auction catalogue of GB and Empire/Commonwealth material. For details, write to P de Rooij (right), or see website www.sgbritannia.nl •

Rushstamps PO Box 1, Lyndhurst SO43 7PP. Telephone 023 8028 2044.

GB DSBSC For details of the Circle contact R Webster, 8 Claypit Terrace, Whitchurch SY13 1LG or visit their website: www.gbdsbcs.kabsi.at

GBCC For details, contact Parker A Bailey, 17 Greenwood Road, Merrimack NH 03054, USA, or visit their website at www.gbstamps.com/gbcc

ABPS 107 Charterhouse Street, London EC1M 6PT.

Letter Box Study Group For details contact Val Scott, 38 Leopold Avenue, Handsworth Wood, Birmingham B20 1ES, or see website www.lbsg.org

Studiegroep Britannia P de Rooij, Verlengde Horstlaan 4, 3971 MP Driebergen-Rijsenburg, Netherlands.

STUDIEGROEP
BRITANNIA



Royal Mail news Stamp programme • New books • Royal Mail's website • Ingot covers



The Queen's Coronation, to be issued 2 June, and the 21st birthday of Prince William of Wales, to be issued 17 June. All are proofs, shown at 85% actual size.

Special issues The Extreme Endeavours stamps, previewed last month, go on sale on 29 April. In addition to the stamps, there will be a book containing four 1st class definitives in gold plus two 1st class Extreme Endeavours stamps, all self-adhesive.

No new special stamps will be issued during May, but the second Wildings miniature sheet goes on sale on 20 May – details are published elsewhere in this *Bulletin*. There will be two sets of special stamps in June – marking the 50th anniversary of The Queen's Coronation (2 June) and the 21st birthday of Prince William of Wales (17 June) Details next month.

Last year's Circus and Queen Mother stamps, packs and postcards (Circus only) go off sale on 8 April and 24 April respectively. The Airliners and World Cup stamps and miniature sheets go off sale on 1 May and 20 May respectively. Order now if you still require these for your collection •

2004 Stamp programme The stamp issues for next year are given below; dates of issue to be announced. The Trains and Merchant Ships issues will include miniature sheets. There will be prestige stamp books for the Trains and Royal Horticultural Society issues •

January	Lord of the Rings	June	Beautiful Britain: Welsh History
February	Trains	July	Beautiful Britain: London
February	Occasions	August	Royal Society of Arts
March	Beautiful Britain: Northern Ireland	September	Woodland Animals
April	Merchant Ships	October	Crimea
May	Royal Horticultural Society	November	Christmas

PSB folders Orders to: Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB.

Prestige stamp books introductory offer A special offer is available from Tallents House only until 23 September 2003. Until then collectors can order the *Across the Universe* (September 2002) and *Microcosmos* (February 2003) prestige books together in a special presentation folder for just the cost of the two books – £13.82 (order code YB021). The empty folder is available, price £2.49 (order code PA666) •

Postal rate increases The proposed increases for April have been postponed. Details of any increases to take effect in May will be given in next month's *Bulletin* •

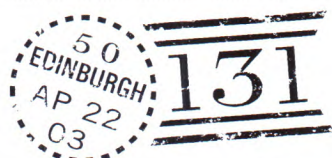
Stamp books Shown here are the new Europe and Worldwide stamps issued in stamp books on 27 March.

At the same time the 1st and 2nd class books were issued with the revised Royal Mail logo with the wording 'The Real Network'. Cylinder numbers seen at time of going to press are: Worldwide w1 red w1 blue w1 phosphor; 6 x 1st w1 gold w1 phosphor •



Ingot covers and folders The second of five covers incorporating silver ingots of the Pillar to Post stamps will be available from 22 April. The covers feature artwork relating to the postal and social history of the time of the postbox shown on the ingot, ranging from the 1850s to the 1980s. The second cover includes an ingot of the 1st class stamp and bears a pair of the 1st class stamps cancelled by a special Edinburgh postmark. Price £29.95. The third and fourth ingot covers are scheduled for issue in July and October. Orders for these covers should be sent to Royal Mail Tallents House. An ingot cover (also coin and bank note covers) will be available in connection with the Coronation Anniversary stamps in June – details will be published next month.

A series of attractive folders containing silver ingots of Victorian stamps is in preparation. These will feature: Penny Black, Halfpenny Red, embossed shilling, £5 orange, Penny Lilac, and 'Jubilee' 1s stamps. The Penny Black folder will be available from 6 May, price £26.95. Orders to Tallents House, Edinburgh •



The postmark for the second of the five Pillar to Post ingot covers.

Royal Mail website Visit www.royalmail.com/stamps for the 2003 Stamp Calendar – and find out more about special stamp issues. This on-line calendar lets you know when the special stamps are issued throughout 2003, and gives you the opportunity to buy the stamps and products online by linking you direct to the Royal Mail Shop. The current stamp issue is always shown, and you can find out what relating products are available, and the reasons behind the issue. This is also the place buy and find out more about definitives and covers (coins, banknote, ingots and medals). By visiting the site regularly, you will keep aware of the latest stamp issue so you never miss out. The stamp issues are normally shown two weeks before issue date which gives you a chance to see the stamps and read all about the issue in advance •

Business sheets Sheets of 100 of the 2nd class and 1st class (gold) self-adhesive stamps printed by Walsall without the matrix (margin) surrounding each stamp are now available from Royal Mail Tallents House and Post Office philatelic outlets. Sheets with the matrix intact, printed by Enschedé, went on sale last July •

Smilers sheets The 2002 Occasions generic Smilers sheet (XA031) will be withdrawn from sale on 22 April •

The Wilding definitives collection II, 1953-59 Second in



Illustrations are at proof stage
– some of the values will be
changed.

Technical details

Printer De La Rue

Process Gravure

Stamp size 20 × 24mm

Sheet size 123 × 70mm

Perforation 15 × 14, with
ellipses on vertical sides

Phosphor One band 20p
class, two bands others

Gum PVA

Watermark '50' (Golden
Jubilee)

Paper Uncoated, cream tint
to stamp borders

THE FIRST MINIATURE SHEET this year goes on sale at main Post Office branches, Tallents House and Post Office philatelic outlets on 20 May. It contains nine definitives in Wilding designs, a companion sheet to that issued last December on the 50th anniversary of the first Elizabeth II stamps. The sheet, price £2.52, contains nine stamps and a label reproducing the UK national floral emblems as shown in the bottom left hand corner on the original 2½d, 3d, 4d and 4½d stamps.

The stamps in the sheet are of the following values (in the design and colours of the original value, shown in parentheses): 8p (4d), 68p (1s6d), 4p (3d), 10p (6d), 20p (7d), 28p (9d), 42p (10d), 34p (11d) and E (4½d). The sheet, which measures 123 × 70mm, was designed by Rose Design, with type by Mike Pratley. The original stamp designs are by: M C Farrar Bell 3d, 4d, and 4½d (4p, 8p, and 20p), George Knipe 6d and 7d (10p and 19p), Mary Adshead 9d, 10d and 11d (27p, 42p and 41p), and Edmund Dulac 1s6d (68p).

To match the originals as closely as possible, the miniature sheet is printed on watermarked, uncoated paper with a tint around the stamps giving the effect of a creamy paper as used for the Wilding stamps until 1962.

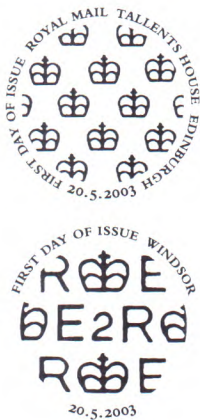
FIRST DAY FACILITIES Unstamped Royal Mail FDC envelopes will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets about a week before 20 May, price 25p. The design reproduces the national floral emblems as shown on four values in the Wilding series. Orders for FDCs with the miniature sheet cancelled by a pictorial first day postmark of Tallents House Edinburgh or Windsor must reach Tallents House by the date of issue. Price £3.38 UK or £2.88 overseas.

a series marking the 50th anniversary of the Wilding stamps

Collectors may send stamped covers on the day of issue to: Royal Mail Tallents House, 21 South Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PB, or Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Wexham Road, Slough SL1 1AA (Windsor postmark), marking the outer envelope 'FD03 11' or 'FD03 12'. Covers can be posted or handed in at main Post Office branches for the Windsor postmark. Details of sponsored handstamps will be announced in the *British Postmark Bulletin* – available on subscription from Tallents House. For a sample copy write to: The Editor, British Postmark Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ.

Covers for first day and sponsored postmarks can bear the complete sheet or any stamps from it subject to a minimum 20p postage.

PHILATELIC PRODUCTS A well-illustrated pack containing the miniature sheet will be available from main Post Office branches and philatelic outlets, price £2.90. The pack includes illustrations of the work of Enid Marx, Mary Adshead, and Michael Farrar Bell, together with an unused stamp design by George Knipe and a photograph of Edmund Dulac at work. There will be no stamp cards for this issue.



THE WILDING DEFINITIVES COLLECTION II 1951-1959

words 'postage' and 'revenue'.

A deadline of 30 June was set and during July the panel considered a total of 75 designs. This was reduced first to 39 and then to a shorterlist of nine, and presented to Her Majesty. With minor modifications a final five designs were approved. The Postmaster General suggested that the first five values be in each of the chosen designs, and repeated in pairs on threes throughout the range. An alternative was 'half-set, 2½d-4d, 6d-8d and 9d-1s. In October, higher values (1½d and 19d) were agreed to cover increased overseas postal rates.

The first two values were issued on 6 December 1952, covering basic postal rates with further values issued throughout 1953. Achieving satisfactory colours sometimes proved difficult such as for the 4½, 19d and 19½d, issued on 2 November. The latter stamp was issued in shades including Winstone bottle Vert, Nickel, Blue, Jade and Spectrum green before a simple green was selected. The 19d was printed in

The Wilding definitives collection II - 1953 - 1959

was educated in Reading, the Central School of Arts and Crafts and the Royal College of Art Painting School. She worked mainly in textile design and printing and book illustration. She designed posters for London Transport and during the War served as textiles expert on the Board of Trade. She designed the 1976 Christmas stamps.

was trained in the photographic process at Harrow printers before the War, later employed there as a commercial layout artist and designer. He also designed the 1928 Silver Wedding 2½d stamp.

trained at the Slade School of Fine Art, and from the 1920s much of her work was devoted to creating murals. Her last major work in this area completed in 1962. She also designed the 2½d stamp in the 1949 CPE series and the 1957 500d Janinevere 2½d.

was known as a pioneer of pull-ups onto the trow, decorator best known as a designer of stained glass and for restoring the Great West Window in Bath Abbey. His Coronation and definitive stamps were followed by the 1½d stamp in the Salvation Army issue of 1965.

was born in France, worked in Britain from 1927 and was naturalised in 1962. He was best known as an illustrator but was involved in many other areas of design, including stamps. He created the 1937 Coronation stamp and his 1942 design for the Queen's Coronation net was given approval. Although he died on 28 May, Enid Marx encouraged Edmund Dulac's block design seems more than ever to have caught the postmark first-class quality in a very moment was. How sad that Dulac should have died before his stamp was issued.

Darren O'Higgins of De La Rue supplies this information about the printing techniques used for the recent Wilding miniature sheets, comparing them to those available to his predecessors at Harrisons in the 1950s.

Printing 50 years ago and now In 1952 the inks used were solvent based (Toluene); now the inks are spirit based. (Toluene is now banned for health reasons.) Solvent based inks are of stronger density than spirit based and thus on some colours require less ink to achieve the depth of colour. The inks in 1952 would have been specially formulated for uncoated paper whereas in 2002 coated paper is the norm. In 1952 the cylinders were chemically etched; now they are mechanically etched on a Klisch diamond etching machine. Chemically etched cylinders followed by the manual engraving of individual cells produces a different cell profile to that produced by a Klisch machine. In 1952 the impression cylinder applied heavy mechanical pressure only; now electrostatic assist rollers draw the ink from the cylinders. The impression cylinder in 1952 applied tons of mechanical pressure to the paper during the printing process to draw the ink out of the cells. Air pressure and electrostatic assist now perform that function. Thus the single colour Wildings combined some fine detail with strong background or solid colours.

Due to a combination of the three reasons above, particularly ink and cylinders, it proved difficult on some values to achieve the right colour strength whilst maintaining detail. The more ink we applied to get the depth of colour, the more detail started to be lost. If we concentrated on the detail then the background or solid areas of colour appeared weaker.

The paper used for the Wildings was uncoated and this was replicated for the current versions. It was interesting to note that when the essaying was in progress we tried the essays on coated paper as a comparison and found that a closer match could be achieved in terms of colour and detail although the coated paper made the overall appearance different.

For further information about the design and printing of the original Wilding stamps, see Bulletin Publication No 9 *The Wildings: The First Elizabeth II Definitives*, included free with the April 2002 *Bulletin*. Copies of the publication are still available from Royal Mail Tallents House, at £2.95 (order code PB362). A photograph of the diadem worn by The Queen on the stamps was shown in the July *Bulletin* (page 331).

The Wildings Planning of the first definitive issue of The Queen's reign began shortly after her accession on 6 February 1952. Later that month The Queen was photographed at the studios of Dorothy Wilding, a leading London society photographer. On this occasion The Queen wore a tiara. The images were not considered entirely suitable and a further session was held in April when The Queen wore the famous diadem made for King George IV. An image from this second session was approved for use on the stamps. Designs using the approved head were submitted by leading artists and designers and a Committee set up to select the best. The first values – 1½d and 2½d covering basic UK postal rates – went on sale on 5 December in time for Christmas postings. Further values followed in batches on 6 July, 31 August and 2 November 1953, 18 January 1954, with the series being completed on 8 February 1954 – two years and two days after The Queen's accession.

Decimal versions of the Wildings started with the 20p, 26p and 37p stamps in *The Definitive Portrait* prestige book of 1998, and the 1½d and 2½d reissued as 1st and 2nd class stamps in the *A Gracious Accession* book in February 2002. These two NV1 stamps plus 1p, 2p, 5p, 33p, 37p, 47p and 50p values were included in the first miniature sheet issued last December and still available from Tallents House and Post Office philatelic outlets ●

Bulletin stamps poll

The Editor announces your favourite stamps and Bulletin authors of 2002, and prize draw results

IN DECEMBER we invited you to vote for your favourite set of special stamps of 2002, also your favourite individual stamp and *Bulletin* author. This was our 17th annual stamp poll and, as an in previous years, we received a good response from readers in all parts of the world. A number of readers added comments to their voting form, and a selection of these is featured on page 239.

Favourite set As always, points were allocated for each vote for the set: three points for first choice, two points 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 overleaf. The London Bridges set, designed by Robert Maude and Sarah Davies, was the clear winner, with Pillar to Post and Christmas in second and third places. Bridges scored more than twice the number of votes than the 2001 winner – Weather.

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; 1999 Scientists' Tale; 2000 Tree and Leaf; and 2001 Weather.

Favourite stamps The London Bridges stamps again took the honours, your favourite individual stamps being 1st class and 47p values showing Tower and Blackfriars Bridges. In third place was the Lion stamp in the World Cup issue. The voting figures are shown on the following page. The Tower Bridge stamp scored three times the number of votes achieved by the 2001 winner, the Union Jack flag stamp. For the record, the previous favourite individual stamps were: 1996 Wildfowl & Wetlands 19p; 1997 Henry VIII 26p; 1998 Endangered Species 20p; 1999 Scientists' Tale 64p; 2000 Above and Beyond 19p; and 2001 Flags – Union Jack.



Douglas Myall, the winner of this year's favourite authors poll, and the runner-up, Dorothy Martin.

Favourite Bulletin authors This was the seventh year we had conducted this poll. Douglas Myall, as in five of the six previous years, was again voted your favourite author. Dorothy Martin, Ron Negus, and Richard West were voted second, third and fourth. There were some kind words expressed for many of the authors, in particular Douglas Myall – several readers describing his series of articles as 'essential reading'. Several also said they looked forward to Mrs Martin's annual Christmas article. 'This', wrote a reader in Middlesex, 'should not detract from Dorothy receiving the recognition that is given to the more prolific *Bulletin* authors. Her articles are well researched, informative and a joy to read – and very welcome as part of the festive season for *Bulletin* readers.' Richard West's series of first day covers proved popular and Richard will be writing further articles on covers and Royal Mail postcards.

Draw winners All the voting forms went into two draws. The four winners of £50 each in the FAVOURITE STAMPS draw were: R Jones of Sheffield, B Schimansky of Germany, B Gray of Lincolnshire, and M Donovan of Cheshire. Winners of £50 each in the FAVOURITE BULLETIN AUTHOR draw were D Green of Somerset and M O'Connell of Ireland.



Favourite stamps and sets The number following each value is as shown in December's *Bulletin*

Bridges 1st 61	273	Golden Jubilee E 13	5	Kipling 10	1
Bridges 47p 63	179	Occasions 18	5	Coastlines 23	1
World Cup Lion 45	80	Queen Mother E 37	5	Coastlines 28	1
Christmas 1st 75	69	Commonwealth Games 2nd 50	5	Circus 1st 32	1
Bridges E 62	33	Peter Pan 68p 59	5	Circus E 33	1
Pillar to Post 2nd 69	33	Kipling 7	4	Circus 45p 34	1
Christmas 2nd 74	32	Kipling 8	4	Airliners 65p 44	1
Astronomy 66	31	Golden Jubilee 45p 14	4	Pillar to Post 68p 73	1
Queen Mother 1st 36	23	Coastlines 26	4	Occasions 16	0
Queen Mother 65p 39	21	Coastlines 29	4	Coastlines 30	0
Golden Jubilee 65p 15	19	Queen Mother 45p 38	4	Airliners E 42	0
Bridges 68p 64	19	Commonwealth Games 1st 51	4	World Cup 46	0
Astronomy 65	19	Peter Pan E 57	4	World Cup 48	0
Occasions 20	18	Peter Pan 47p 58	4	World Cup 49	0
Coastlines 22	16	Kipling 1	3	FAVOURITE SETS	
Christmas 68p 78	15	Kipling 4	3		
Commonwealth Games E 52	14	Kipling 5	3	London Bridges	2185
Airliners 2nd 40	13	Occasions 17	3	Pillar to Post	1015
Golden Jubilee 2nd 11	12	Circus 2nd 31	3	Christmas	786
Pillar to Post E 71	12	World Cup 47	3	Coastlines	567
Pillar to Post 1st 70	11	Christmas 47p 77	3	Astronomy	486
Peter Pan 2nd 55	10	Coastlines 21	2	Kipling	477
Astronomy 67	10	Coastlines 25	2	Commonwealth Games	383
Coastlines 24	9	Circus 65p 35	2	Queen Mother	363
Airliners 1st 41	9	Commonwealth Games 47p 53	2	Golden Jubilee	236
Airliners 45p 43	9	Commonwealth Games 68p 54	2	Peter Pan	193
Bridges 2nd 60	8	Pillar to Post 47p 72	2	Airliners	173
Astronomy 68	8	Christmas E 76	2	World Cup	171
Golden Jubilee 1st 12	7	Kipling 2	1	Circus	100
Occasions 19	7	Kipling 3	1	Occasions	80
Coastlines 27	6	Kipling 6	1		
Peter Pan 1st 56	6	Kipling 9	1		



Readers' views A number of readers added comments to the voting form. Whilst some stated that they disliked all, or most, of the stamps issued during 2002, the majority thought the designs were an improvement over recent years, especially the Millennium issues of 1999-2001.

One reader considered the Christmas set the 'best Christmas stamps for years', another thought it 'the best Xmas ever – beautiful', and continued 'it was a difficult choice this year, so many good issues.'

A reader in Essex suggests 'We need new formats to make the album page attractive, leaving out the Commonwealth Games issue and the two upright issues (*Queen Mother and Pillar to Post* ED), the rest are monotonous in the extreme.'

A reader on the Isle of Wight thought 2002 was 'another awful year for designs for useless events'. He thought that only the Bridges, Astronomy and Pillar Boxes were 'worthwhile' and described the Jubilee issue 'as the worst in the Commonwealth' as it 'didn't show full head'.

A reader in Canada wrote at some length, his main points being: 'too many issues in the year; subject matter and purpose of the issue not always identified (specifically the Kipling and Peter Pan issues) on the stamp; designs not sufficiently intricate or different one from the other – same Queen's head, same font, same sort of layout – basically a picture with "bits" stuck on; and apart from Queen and Queen Mother a definite lack of people – where are all the famous Britons?' However another reader 'hated the bits of Air-liners – why not pictures of the whole planes?'

A reader in Hertfordshire thought the 2002 issues amounted to 'an excellent year – very difficult to choose' but thought there were 'too many miniature sheets'. A reader in Surrey is of the opinion that the World Cup stamps should only have been issued if the event was held in the UK or if a UK team won. He also thought the Queen Mother stamps were a missed opportunity and compared them unfavourably to the 'stunners' which were issued by Guernsey and Jersey.

A reader in Thailand wrote: 'The Golden Jubilee did not do justice to the occasion or the person! One such noticeable absent item – the colour GOLD. We pray for better for the Coronation series.' He praised the Coastlines issue and described the additional photos in the Coastlines postcard book as 'a must-have item'.

As always it was interesting reading through the comments and seeing the final scores. My thanks to all who returned the voting form, particularly our overseas readers. Forms were received from some 29 countries: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Macau (China), Malaysia, Malta, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, and the USA.

My thanks also to Barbara Best of Royal Mail's Stamp Programme team, who counted up all the votes. This was the eighth and final time Barbara undertook this task; she has now retired from Royal Mail. We wish her well for the future •

The Old Post Office, Tintagel Opportunity



At this time of year Tintagel, on the north coast of Cornwall, will be fairly quiet, but in the height of the tourist season it is packed with British and overseas visitors, many of whom come because of the village's association with King Arthur.

IT HAS TO BE SAID that, even supposing Arthur existed, there is no real evidence of any such connection, most of which originates in the world of legend created by writers from the 12th century Geoffrey of Monmouth to Alfred, Lord Tennyson

and other latter-day mythomaniacs. The castle site, suspended over the sea and maintained by English Heritage, is impressive and archaeological finds confirm occupation in Roman times, but the present ruined remains date only from the 13th century. Apart from the castle, the real gems in Tintagel are the Old Post Office, the only surviving 14th-century manor house in the area; the 11th-century church of St Materiana; the vast bulk of the King Arthur's Castle Hotel, completed in 1899; and, oddly enough, King Arthur's Great Halls, built by the custard millionaire F T Glasscock (pronounced Glazcock) in the 1920s, which contains excellent stonework, pre-Raphaelite stained glass windows and an extensive library of Arthurian literature, reflecting its builder's enthusiasm for the subject.

Saved from demolition Even in the late 19th century Tintagel, or Trevena as it was called, was popular with visitors, and the result of this can be seen in the village today, as many old buildings were pulled down and replaced by the gift shops, tea rooms, restaurants and hotels which now crowd Fore Street, as many Cornish high streets are called. Few of the older buildings survived this onslaught and when in 1895 the Old Post Office was put up for sale, it was bought by Catherine Johns, one of a group of concerned local artists, with a view to its preservation. In 1900 the National Trust (NT)

for a philatelic collection, by Martin Robinson



agreed to buy the building for a nominal £200, which was raised by public subscription. It was leased to Miss Johns for her lifetime and finally vested in the NT in 1903. This year therefore marks the centenary of the Old Post Office's passing into the ownership of the NT.

The origins of the building are not recorded but it is evidently a small manor house dating from the 14th century, and might have been the home of the owner of the manor of Trevena. It is a rare example of a mediæval domestic building in the far south-west of England. In the early 19th century letters for Tintagel were brought by foot messenger from Camelford, six miles away. The increase in postal traffic after Rowland Hill's introduction of the Penny Post in 1840 led to improvements in postal deliveries for rural areas, and in 1844 the GPO established a Letter Receiving Office in Trevena to serve the scattered population of the district. A room was rented for this purpose from the owner of the old manor house, and was used until 1892 when the owner sold the building and the GPO had to find other premises nearby. The house had been the village post office for nearly 50 years and has been known ever since as the Old Post Office.

In 1971 the building was renovated and a downstairs room was furnished as a Victorian village post office. The nearest telegraph office had been three miles away at Boscastle but by 1890 the telegraph wires had been brought to Tintagel, where sub postmaster William Cobbledick Balkwill operated a Spagnoletti receiver of the type now to be seen by the counter. The post room is also the gift shop selling cards and other souvenirs, including stamp-like NT Cornish Passport labels; these can be cancelled with a rubber stamp, of which several versions have existed over the last 30 years.

The Old Post Office, Fore Street, Tintagel, is open from 29 March to 2 November this year, every day from 11.00 to 17.30 (11.00 to 16.00 from 1 October). Further details are available from the NT website www.nationaltrust.org.uk



Opposite, clockwise from top left: four NT labels, 1971; the First National Standard wall-box; circular cachets from the 70s, 80s and 90s, and for the NT's 1995 centenary; cachets, the new label and Tintagel self-inking datestamp; and the NT cover and special handstamp, 2 June 1971.

Philatelic souvenirs Let's look at the possibilities of a philatelic collection based on items which have appeared over the years. When the Old Post Office was restored and opened to the public in 1971 the event was marked by a commemorative cover and special handstamp on 2 June, inscribed THE OLD POST OFFICE / TINTAGEL, CORNWALL / OFFICIAL OPENING, together with the National Trust's acorn logo and a very inaccurate depiction of a Victorian letter box set in a stone wall. The cover showed the Old Post Office itself and was NO 1 of the NT series. Other collectibles included pictorial admission tickets, picture postcards showing the exterior of the building and the post room, a set of four pictorial labels and a cachet applied by means of a rubber stamp. Several postcards have been issued since then, and

many commercial cards also show the Old Post Office. A more recent NT card shows the rugged exterior of the building. The heavy slates have bent the rafters into an uneven silhouette and the main chimney is in three stages. Next to the window of the post room on the left is a Victorian wall letterbox, which was probably added at the time of the restoration, as older photos don't show it. This is a treasure in itself, being one of only a dozen survivors of the First National Standard wallboxes made by Smith & Hawkes of Birmingham in 1857. This was a short-lived type as in 1859 the design was improved by the addition of a pedimented top and hood to keep rainwater out of the posting aperture, and a further new design was introduced in the same year. The other postcard shows the restored post office counter with its heavy grille inside the post room. The grille was removed in 2001 as it would not have been there in Victorian times, so this card is no longer sold and the picture of the post room in the guidebook has been replaced by one of James Archer's painting *La Morte d'Arthur*.

The ticket to admit one adult shows a line drawing of the building in a decorative framework, and the child's ticket, on blue-grey card, has a different view in an oval frame. The four labels, which went on sale in 1971 and were sold to exhaustion in the 1980s, show the NT's acorn logo (1p); Octavia Hill, one of the NT's three founders (3p); the Old Post Office (5p); and Barras Nose, part of the NT coastline just north of Tintagel (10p). A new label introduced recently, and one of six showing NT properties in Cornwall, shows a pleasant watercolour of the building. Four of the cachets used since 1971 are illustrated, lettered THE OLD POST OFFICE / TINTAGEL and with interchangeable date, with and without arcs, in serif and sans serif letters, and struck in green, black and blue. There was also a special one to commemorate the centenary of the Trust in 1995. A square pictorial cachet, struck in blue or black, is used to stamp NT Cornish Passports, and an older framed version, now retired, was inscribed: PTI / OLD POST OFFICE / TINTAGEL / NATIONAL TRUST / CORNISH PASSPORT.



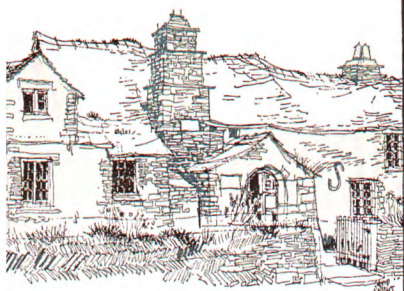
OLD POST OFFICE, Tintagel, Cornwall.
Post Room

CWL 65/04

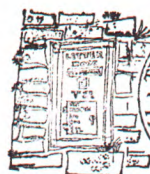


The National Trust

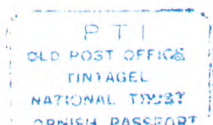
The Old Post Office, Tintagel
14th Century - Restored and officially
opened 2nd June, 1971



NATIONAL TRUST SERIES, No.1



THE OLD POST OFFICE,
TINTAGEL



THE OLD POST OFFICE, Tintagel, Cornwall
(© National Trust/Ann Hicks)





Above: a special handstamp in use throughout 2003. Right: the four special handstamps used since the first of 1971.

References

- NT guides to the Old Post Office (1984 and 2000)
The National Trust Guide (3rd edition, 1984)
 Charles Thomas: *Tintagel, Arthur and Archaeology* (Batsford/English Heritage, 1993)
 Martin Robinson: *Old Letter Boxes* (Shire Publications, 2000)

Postmarks Since the first special handstamp of 1971 there have been five others depicting the Old Post Office. In connection with the 1985 Arthurian Legends stamps, a special handstamp was used on 3 September, inscribed LEGENDARY CAMELOT / OLD POST OFFICE / TINTAGEL CORNWALL. There were two special handstamps linked with the NT centenary stamps in 1995: one was on 11 April; and on 25 April the official first day of issue handstamp for the prestige booklet was also from the Old Post Office. In 1997 a set of stamps depicting post offices commemorated the centenary of the National Federation of Sub-Postmasters and, although the Old Post Office itself wasn't featured on the stamps, it appeared on one of the special handstamps. Finally, a special handstamp in use throughout 2003 is inscribed: CENTENARY OF THE OLD POST OFFICE / TINTAGEL and shows a rather more accurate drawing of its letter box. Covers to receive this handstamp should be sent to the Special Handstamp Centre, Royal Mail, Penarth Road, Cardiff CF11 8TA requesting handstamp number 8331. Covers should bear at least 1st class postage.

Thanks are due for her help to Mrs Kelly Palmer, Custodian of the Old Post Office, to the National Trust for permission to reproduce the two postcards, and to John Holman for help with two of the illustrations ●

Spring Stampex A look at this year's displays, by the Editor

SPRING STAMPEX at the Business Design Centre in London (26 February - 2 March) was one of the better shows of recent years. It marked the 50th anniversary of the first National Stamp Exhibition held at the Central Hall, Westminster in January 1953; the exhibition has been called Stampex since 1956.

There were three well-presented displays: by Royal Mail Heritage, the British Aerophilatelic Federation, and the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society which this year marks its own 50th anniversary. The Heritage display, entitled 'Royal Mail – the Real Network' covered the carriage of mail through the centuries using covers, photographs, maps and other material. Of particular interest to philatelists were some of the unadopted designs for stamps showing mail planes, uniforms, etc. Some of these were for the 1969 Post Office Technology and 1985 350 years of postal services issues. For postal historians items of interest included a cover carried on *Sirius* the first steamer to carry mail across the Atlantic (1838), a cover posted at the Mobile PO at the South of England Show (1931), and mail and a despatch bill for the first UK aerial post (1911). A section was devoted to Oral History, a joint Royal Mail/British Library project recording the recollections of people involved in the posts: postmen, telegram boys, postmasters, TPO workers, etc. I listened to the recordings of Seamus McSporan, the former Postmaster on the Isle of Gigha and to Dr Jean Alexander, a member of the Stamp Advisory Committee. Jean's comments about stamp books were interesting as was her view that 'philately is not a subject you can market'.

The display included many three-dimensional items – letter boxes, postal vehicles and dies for the second of the 1980 Exhibition sheets. The stamps in this unissued sheet would have depicted postal transport and made a more interesting sheet than that issued, showing Rowland Hill and postal uniforms. Also on show were the dies for the 1984 Mail Coaches stamps. A Heritage postcard was available free, showing Gustav Hamel, pilot of the first aerial mail flight in 1911.

Members of the British Aerophilatelic Federation provided a fine display on the 'Village Green' area, a follow-on from the Apex exhibitions of 1973, 1983 and 1993. The displays included a number of particular interest to collectors of GB, such as J Marriner's on the 1934 London Airport Exhibition, M Smith's Croydon Airport, M Turnbull's Aviation in Scotland, and Brian Asquith's 'Faster than a Bullet – the Concorde Story'. Brian's display included some of David Gentleman's original sketches for the 1969 stamps, also some impressive printing errors on the issued stamps. We hope to feature some of the pages from Brian's display in the *Bulletin* later in the year. This Aero display marked the 80th anniversary of the formation of the Aerophilatelic Club, now part of the British Aerophilatelic Federation. For details of the Federation contact Martin Smith, Catalina, Howell Hill Grove, East Ewell KT17 3ER.

Another society also marked an anniversary with a superb display, this time the 50th birthday of the Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of Great Britain. The display included many of the fine designs for Slovakian stamps by engraver Martin Cinovsky who is also an accomplished musician and composer of music for films. *Bulletin* contributor Richard Beith (Vice Chairman of the Society) displayed Free Czechoslovak Forces in GB, 1940-45. The Society is staging an exhibition at the Czech Embassy, 26 Kensington Gardens, London W8 on 22-24 May. For details of the Society contact Mrs Y Gren, 01273 455766.

The 50th anniversary of the Coronation was not forgotten, it being the theme of the display on the stand of the Manchester Postal Museum run by David Harrop. For further information contact David on 079 79 337325, or see article in the *Bulletin*, February 2001.

Visitors to Stampex were given a useful catalogue which contained a Hello Smilers stamp with Stampex label, Stampex cover and a postcard reproducing the design of the cover for the first aerial post of 1911. I now look forward to Autumn Stampex, 17-21 September ●

Philately on-line Ron Negus describes a new UPU website



www.wnsstamps.ch The UPU Philatelic Code of Ethics can also be found on this site by clicking the button labelled 'About WNS'. This is the recognised code of practice for postal administrations that gives guidelines that they should follow when issuing postage stamps and philatelic products.

ALMOST 100 years ago, the philatelic world was becoming increasingly concerned about the large number of stamps issued each year. A group of leading philatelists in Great Britain, both professional and amateur, felt that many were postally unnecessary. They formed an association called the Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps in 1895 to try to get collectors to boycott certain issues. They did this through the publication of lists of stamps they considered undesirable. The Society was only partially successful in its efforts and it finally disappeared in 1898.

In the intervening century, the production of new stamps has increased year on year. There are an even greater number of dubious issues printed now than there were in the 1890s. Over the years there have been other attempts to address this problem, but these have normally been tried by philatelic groups at a national level. A recent international initiative, led by the Universal Postal Union, aims to identify legitimate stamps from postal authorities around the world. This scheme is being sponsored by a new organisation called the World Association for the Development of Philately (WADP). Its members, in addition to the UPU, are the Fédération Internationale de Philatélie (FIP), the International Federation of Stamp Dealers Associations (IFSDA), the International Publishers of Postage Stamp Catalogues, Stamp Albums and Philatelic Publications Association (ASCAT) and the International Federation of Philatelic Journalists (AIPJ).

On 1 January 2002 this new organisation introduced the WADP Numbering System – to be

known as WNS. This is a series of unique identification numbers that will be allocated to all postage stamps issued by UPU member countries and territories on or after that date. The details of each stamp will be recorded on a database, held by the WADP, and accessible via the internet.

The website for this new project can be found at www.wnsstamps.ch (note the double 's' in this site address when typing it in). Its purpose, as well as giving details of the WADP and WNS, is to become the central point of reference against which stamp issues can be verified. This will support philatelic marketing by only publicising stamps that are genuine issues. In time, the WNS website will identify – by omission – labels that have been produced and claimed as stamps.

Only those postage stamps that have been received by the International Bureau of the UPU and whose authenticity has been confirmed will be assigned a unique WNS number and added to the WNS website. The site is published in both English and French versions.

If you know the WNS number of a registered stamp, the opening page on the WNS site has provision for typing this in. Where the number is unknown, the search facility can be used to select the country concerned and the month and year of issue to find the required item. Finally, a thematic search can be made across individual countries or years. These built-in search routines then display a small picture of the stamp, or stamps, in question with brief production details. Each illustration can also be viewed on a larger scale at higher resolution, if required ●

Mainly Machins Specialist collectors report by D G A Myall

Microcosmos Under this title, the companion to the *Across the Universe* prestige book was issued on 25 February. While the former looked outward into space, the new book looks inward and is subtitled 'A Guide to Inner Space'. It is beautifully printed by Enschedé and is full of astonishing facts assembled by Susan Aldridge. Just as the boundaries of outer space (if, indeed, there are any) are beyond normal human comprehension, so is the basic nature of matter. Did you know, for instance, that some sub-atomic particles are so small compared to an atom that they are the same as one atom compared to the entire solar system? And it takes a mind infinitely greater than mine to comprehend that they vibrate in 10 or more dimensions. Taken together, these two books provide some understanding of the world we live in and the worlds that future generations may live in.

Three of the four panes in the new book were printed by lithography, including the one with Northern Ireland 1st and 2nd class pictorial definitives. The exception is the pane of 4×1 st class and $4 \times$ European NVIs with a label depicting human DNA, which was printed in gravure. The earlier prestige book, which was printed in gravure by Questa, also contained a pane with this makeup but with a label showing the radio telescope at Jodrell Bank. These two panes are well matched with, in my opinion, the Enschedé version producing the cleaner printing, especially with the difficult gold colour.

Apart from the slight shades (which may have been caused, at least partly, by the thicker and creamier paper used by Questa) there are some specialist differences that will enable you to identify single stamps from these sources. Examined from the back the perforation swarf is at the right of the holes on the Questa pane but underneath them on the Enschedé pane. This shows that the directions of printing (corresponding to the directions of watermark had the paper carried one) are different. Within the stamp frames both service indicators on both panes are placed, or set, the same. However, there are two types of the

gold NVI. These are best distinguished by the letters ST. On the Questa pane, these are set close to the numeral. On the Enschedé pane they are well separated and slightly taller. In this respect, they are the same as the stamps on Enschedé's sheets of 100 but these can be distinguished not only by their darker shade but also by the fact that they are self-adhesives with die-cut ('pastry cutter') perforations.

Finally, under long-wave ultraviolet irradiation Questa's phosphor bands, although the same width as Enschedé's, fluoresce much brighter, probably indicating a different source. Each printer is free to source his own inks, including phosphor inks, so long as they comply with Royal Mail's specification. The fluorescence (not to be confused with the phosphorescence which is seen only after the lamp is switched off and is often called the afterglow) has to be blue in order not to interfere with the mail sorting machines but, otherwise its function is to ensure the presence of the ink on the stamps. Its precise shade often varies, even with the same printer, so keep a lookout in case more than one type has been used.

The two Northern Ireland stamps were first issued on 6 March 2001 in sheets printed by Walsall in lithography. The principle difference between the singles is that the phosphor bands on the sheet stamps are wider than those on the booklet stamps. On the 1st class stamps they are 12mm and 10mm respectively, while on the 2nd class stamps they are 4.5mm and 5mm respectively.

Hello book Books of self-adhesive stamps containing a block of four 1st class Machin NVIs flanked by two 1st class special stamps are designed to create greater awareness of specials by the general public. In this they have been remarkably successful. The first issue was on 17 April 2001 and had four flame Machins plus two Submarines stamps. This was popular with collectors and the public and soon sold out. Dealers are advertising to buy it for £8. Subsequent issues were: Punch and Judy, 4 September 2001; Flags and Ensigns, 22 October 2001; Concorde Airlin-



The latest in the series of self-adhesive books containing a block of four 1st class Machin NVIs flanked by two 1st class special stamps. These books are designed to increase public awareness of specials, and in this they have been remarkably successful.

er, 2 May 2002; World Cup, 21 May 2002; and London Bridges, 10 September 2002. The Machins were flame coloured in all but the last of these where they are gold. The latest offering also contains gold Machins and has a Hello Occasions special stamp at each side.

The special stamp is featured on the front covers of all of these books. Those with flame stamps show part of the special underneath a diagonal block of Machins. The change to gold stamps coincided with the introduction of the books designed to assist visually impaired and arthritic customers. These have a single notch cut into the cover at the right to indicate that the contents (both Machins and specials) are 1st class. They have other features such as the removal of the unprinted matrix surrounding the stamps so that one can not only feel where the stamps are but also find out how many are left so that a new book can be bought in good time. Another welcome change, although not part of those made in response to the Disability Discrimination Act, was to show a small framed picture of the featured special on the front cover. So following the Bridges book we now have one saying Hello, and very nice it looks.

The book was produced by Questa and printed in gravure on their ATN press at Byfleet. The cylinder numbers are Q1 gold, Q1 magenta, Q1 yellow, Q1 blue, Q1 black and Q1 phosphor. It is, I think, well known that De La Rue acquired The House of Questa last September. It is interesting, therefore, to see that the Q balloon logo used with the cylinder numbers has been retained. It is quite possible that the gold cylinder is the same as the one which was used for the Bridges book and that it will be used again in future.

The Hello stamp has now been issued in three forms, all printed by Questa. First, there were the

sheets of 100 issued on 5 March 2002. These were followed by the Smilers Occasions sheet issued on 23 April 2002. Singles of all three Hello stamps can be distinguished by their perforations. The original sheets were perforated 15×14 ; each stamp has 30 teeth on its long side. The Smilers sheets are perforated $14\frac{1}{2} \times 14$; each Hello stamp has 29 teeth. The booklet version is self-adhesive and has the typical kiss die-cut perforations used for these. The self-adhesive stamp is printed in gravure, the earlier versions in litho.

The new Wildings In my previous article in this series I mentioned that the De La Rue Wilding decimal NVIs from the miniature sheet could not easily be distinguished from those printed by Enschedé and issued in the *A Gracious Accession* prestige book. Further study has shown that singles can, in fact, be distinguished very easily. Although the stamps themselves are the same size, the printed image areas are not. If you place one on top of the other you will see what I mean. All nine stamps on the miniature sheet are smaller than their previous counterparts.

Undersized decimal stamps have occurred twice before, each time from a different printer. The first occurrence was on the the Machin 1st and 2nd class NV1 self-adhesive coil stamps in horizontal format printed by Enschedé and issued on 18 March 1997. These were .5mm smaller all round than the 1st class booklet stamps from Walsall and issued in 1993. It was believed that the whole Enschedé printing was affected until some used full-sized 2nd class stamps were discovered last year. It is not known whether any mint examples exist nor whether any full size horizontal 1st class coil stamps exist, used or mint. Have a look at yours and keep a good lookout if you are sorting kiloware.



Singles from De La Rue's Wildings miniature sheet can be very easily distinguished from those printed by Enschedé and issued in the *Gracious Accession* prestige book. The image area of stamps from the miniature sheet (as the two shown at far left) is smaller than their previous counterparts.

The next were the Machin 19p and 38p stamps printed by Walsall in a pane of six in the *Special by Design* prestige book of 15 February 2000. The cause there was a computer glitch which altered the overall size of the printed images by .5mm in each direction.

Now we have undersized images printed by De La Rue. Again, the affected area is .5mm on both sides. This leads me to think, since the affected stamps were all printed from computer engraved cylinders, that the cause was the same each time. What size will the stamps be on the Wilding miniature sheet to be issued in May?

Bulletin binders How do you keep your *Bulletins*?

I used to use the binders where you hung each issue on a wire which slotted into grooves. I have recently transferred all my *Bulletins* to the new-style boxes. I find these enable me to store and access individual *Bulletins* more easily and to keep the occasional single sheet with them. As a result of my change I have 14 empty *Bulletin* binders of various types, including some unused ones with the current curved spine. They are free to the first person to e-mail me (deegam@dial.pipex.com) and who is willing either to collect them or pay the postage ●

Take the plunge Join a society, recommends Richard West

NOT EVERYONE is a 'society person'. The thought of coming together with a number of like-minded souls on a regular basis is enough to frighten many. However, they would be denying themselves the many benefits that can derive from membership of a society.

The United Kingdom is blessed with many stamp clubs or philatelic societies. There are the national societies, such as The Royal Philatelic Society London and National Philatelic Society, plus a vast number of specialist societies that cater for specific collecting interests. (Such societies in fact cover a very wide range of interests, and many will be gathered at the Midlands Sports Centre for the Disabled at Tile Hill, Coventry on Saturday, 28 June.)

This article is concerned with the network of local clubs. No matter where you live, you are probably fairly close to a stamp club which meets on a regular basis. To see where these are to be found, visit the website at www.ukphilately.org.uk or ask at your local library. Traditionally most

societies meet in the evening, usually twice a month, although the frequency does vary. Often societies do not meet during the summer, so there is a pause in June, July or August. Meeting rooms vary, but community centres, church halls and libraries are popular venues.

Displays and talks The basis of most meetings is a display or talk by one or more collectors, showing and describing material they have collected. Understandably, such displays may not always include material you collect: nevertheless, there is much to enjoy from seeing the collections of others – and much that can be learnt as well. It is amazing how interests in our hobby overlap.

The speaker will often be a visitor to the society, asked to come along because the particular collection is so well known and fascinating. It is not unusual for speakers to travel many miles to give such displays. Also common is for a team of speakers to be invited from a neighbouring society. Finally, most society programmes include a

few evenings when the members themselves are invited to display: there is no compulsion to show, which can be a little daunting at first, but once over the initial hurdle it becomes much easier. Societies invariably have frames on which the album pages to be displayed can be placed, making it easy for all to view the material.

The format of each meeting can vary from society to society, but it is usual for the 'formal' side to include some preliminary society business before the principal displays. The displays are normally shown in two 'halves', with a break for refreshments between. The 'business' side of each meeting will possibly comprise reading the minutes of the previous meeting, and any notices.

Chat and trade Many societies 'open their doors' some time before the main meeting is to begin. This can allow members to meet and chat, but also provides for some informal trading between members. Some societies use this time for a separate meeting of their younger members, although the reality is that very few societies can these days boast a junior membership.

Not all meetings are devoted to displays. Auctions are always popular, enabling members to disperse of surplus, or acquire new material. The society will take a small commission. Competitions and quizzes also feature on many programmes, while Christmas is often the time for a social evening, perhaps even an annual dinner.

Another popular way of buying and selling is the Exchange Packet. Members are invited to mount and price surplus items in special books, these books then being circulated among those members of the society who indicate an interest. Browsing through the books of stamps at their leisure in their own homes, members remove and pay for those stamps which they wish to acquire. Again the society will take a small commission.

Some societies maintain their own library, ensuring in particular that the latest or recent editions of the stamp catalogues are available. Many auction houses send societies their latest catalogues, and again these are available for members to browse through, ideally before the sale takes place, in case something catches the eye.

Even more ambitious, a few societies arrange trips to events such as the national exhibitions in London, or even to overseas exhibitions.

One very major change has occurred in recent years. For many reasons, some are now more reluctant to go out in the evenings. Consequently, more societies are meeting in the afternoon (some even in the morning), and such meetings are becoming increasingly popular. Some societies offer a choice (that is, both afternoon and evening meetings), while others have opted for just one or the other. So if you are a little loathe to commit yourself to evenings, perhaps a society meeting in the afternoon is the answer.

Good value for money And what does all this cost?

Very little indeed. Most local societies charge between £5 and £10 a year for membership. Many societies appreciate the benefits from being affiliated to the Association of British Philatelic Societies, for which they pay 60p per member (that is usually already included within the society's annual subscription). For what is often 20 meetings a year, such subscriptions are incredibly good value: many adjourn to a nearby bar after each meeting and gladly spend much more on a few drinks.

So, even if you have never thought about joining a local society, why not give it a try? Find out the details of your local society, and go along for a meeting or two. Most societies will happily welcome you as a 'guest' at first, but you will soon come to appreciate the advantages of meeting and talking with other collectors, seeing fine displays, plus the opportunities to buy and sell. It will not be long before you will be glad you took the plunge and joined •



You're never too young Richard West talks to Jade Needs

IT'S ALWAYS GOOD to have a go, so Jade Needs from Lincoln decided to enter the international youth stamp exhibition in Salamanca last year. 12 years old in March this year, she was too young to enter the competition, for which the minimum age was 13, but she had a go, and came away with a Large Silver medal at this her first international attempt.



Back in 1999, Jade visited what was to be the last of the stamp exhibitions sponsored by Stanley Gibbons at Wembley. Here she was enthused to start yet another collection, this time on the theme of Animated Literature. Again this was to be shown publicly, receiving a silver at the East Midlands Federation youth competition the following year.

Behind every enthusiastic young collector there is usually an equally keen adult, only too willing to give advice and support. To encourage her, Jade has her grandfather Brian, himself a collector. It was grandpa's collection, coupled with her own love of animals, that prompted Jade to start collecting animals and birds on stamps at the age of four. This first collection gradually developed, and in 1997 was shown at the first of the Stamp Lincs events. (Stamp Lincs is held annually during April at the Museum of Lincolnshire Life in Lincoln: the dates in 2003 are 6 April - 2 May.) From this, a junior stamp club developed, with Jade as one of its founder members, and it is still going strong, meeting monthly at the museum.

From animals, Jade turned her attention to space, creating a new display called 'Space - The Final Frontier', spending many hours in the library researching satellites and space travel. This new collection was displayed at Stamp Lincs in 1999, and has subsequently been shown to philatelic societies at Lincoln, Grimsby and Nottingham. In addition it was awarded a bronze medal at the British National Stamp Championships in 2000, and a silver medal at Glasgow 2000.

Towards the end of 1999 the members of the Junior Stamp Club in Lincoln decided to develop a joint display, 'Found in the Wilds of Lincolnshire'. This display, which examines the flora and fauna, saw Jade embark on bird spotting and tree walks, fungi and bat trails, and moth nights, building up background knowledge, plus, of course, visits to many stamp fairs to acquire the material itself. This joint exhibit was awarded a bronze medal at Glasgow 2000.

As might already be gathered, Jade is somewhat unusual in her dedication and determination with the hobby. Many her age are content to remain with thematics, but not Jade. She wanted a country to collect, and with the Olympic Games held in Melbourne in 2000, she was inspired to turn to Australia. Receiving advice and encouragement at the Youth Days held by The Royal Philatelic Society London, Jade has developed collections of the 'Kangaroos' and later the King George V Head issues. These have been entered into competitions; as Jade has worked on her collections, adding and improving, so she has gained ever-higher awards. From a silver-bronze medal at the British National Stamp Championships in 2001, plus a silver-gilt and the Junior Trophy at the East Midlands Federation the same year, to a small silver at the British Championships in 2002, the large silver at Salamanca in 2002, and culminating in a vermeil at Chester 2002, at which she was also awarded the Cavendish Philatelic Auctions trophy for the best youth exhibit as voted by visitors. The Australian collection has been shown to the members of RAF Waddington, Lincoln and Market Rasen philatelic societies.

Having still not reached the official 'starting age' for international stamp exhibitions, it is certain that Jade Needs is going far. Not that all her time is spent with her stamps. She enjoys swimming, judo (she has an orange belt with two green tabs), and plays badminton. She hopes to be a marine biologist. But stamps clearly play an important part in her life, and no small thanks to all the encouragement she has received over the years, particularly in her home of Lincoln •

Postbag Letters to the Editor

Friends of Postal Heritage I must apologise to all who did not find the Friends of Postal Heritage at Stampex, mentioned in February (p164). The volunteers and myself were unable to give full coverage of the stand, and The Council reluctantly withdrew. However we did have a Councillor on duty at the information stand. We do have an interesting, postal-related programme arranged for 2003, and hope to be at Autumn Stampex (17-21 September). For details of the Friends and its activities contact Mrs A Harms, 13 Amethyst Avenue, Davis Estate, Chatham ME5 9TX. C G MACEY, VICE CHAIRMAN & EVENTS COUNCILLOR, LONDON W2 ●

Queen's head on stamps I am surprised no one has commented on Mrs Ridley's letter (September) about The Queen's head on special stamps. I agree that Her Majesty's portrait should feature more prominently. If we cannot have a proper portrait (as the Wilding), can we not at least have The Queen's silhouette and value in a side panel as on the Landscapes, 6d and 153d World Cup, and Birds stamps of 1966, or the Ulster Paintings, Anniversaries or Christmas sets of 1971? An alternative might be to set the head within an oval frame as on the 1s and 156d Rural Architecture stamps of 1970. Do any other readers have a view on this matter? JAMES ARNOLD, DONCASTER ●

February Bulletin I feel that the February issue is the most interesting for some years; it is always packed with interest, but these days my own interests are becoming more and more concentrated. The article on Michael Furnell took me back to the days of *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly*. It is absolutely correct that *SCF* had fallen on hard times; in fact, its best period was the 1920s, when it published pretty good articles (each over a matter of several issues), often by Harry Huber, but also other knowledgeable writers. Unusually for me, the article on Royal Mail promotions was compulsive reading; one forgets these ventures of fairly recent (for a veteran collector) years. It's good to read of them as a historical study.

Congratulations to Bookham Stamp Club on its 10th anniversary. The Salvation Army Philatelic Circle marked its 10th last September. We, too, can claim to be 'fast-growing' and would gently query Bookham's 'fastest' distinction. By 31 August, the last day of the 10 years, we had 123 paid-up members, spread through 16 countries. We hold an annual convention, when members gather to enjoy displays and to sort through perhaps 600 Salvation Army covers, stamps and postcards for additions to our own collections. After six hours of fellowship, we take afternoon tea in style! This year's will be a joint convention at Westonbirt School. Details of the Salvation Army Philatelic Circle are available from me (please enclose SAE): HARRY HAYES, 11 Chatsworth Drive, Haxby, York YO32 3QS ●

Postmarks In December you mentioned the new edition of *Collecting First Day Covers* which gives information of special postmarks used on the day of issue of new stamps. Is there a book dealing with all special postmarks, not just those used on first days? P G CADE, LONDON SW11

Special postmarks used since Victorian times are listed in Special Event Postmarks of the UK published by the British Postmark Society. Vol 1 covers the years 1851-1962, Vol 2 1963-83, and Vol 3 1984-93. They are available price £6 each (1 & 2), £9.50 (3) from: C Peachey, 19 Moorland Road, Hemel Hempstead HP1 1NH. (Postage £1 UK/£1.50 overseas on each volume). The listings are kept up to date in the BPS's Quarterly Bulletin. Details of forthcoming special postmarks can be found in the British Postmark Bulletin, a companion publication to this magazine. An article 'Sources of Information for Collectors of Modern Postmarks' was published in the Postmark Bulletin of 8 November 2002. ED ●

Captions on stamps I think most people would agree that January's special stamps featuring the barn owl and kestrel are very attractive. However, why could not the caption beneath the kestrel have been printed in black – thus making it legible? DONALD FROMOW, WIMBORNE, DORSET ●

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 13 April Postman's Roots exhibition (2000 years of postal history in Brecknockshire) at Brecknock Museum & Art Gallery, Brecon. Open Mon-Sat 10.00-17.00, Sun 7 April 12.00-17.00.

Until 26 April 'From Pillar to Post' exhibition of local postal history at Dartford Borough Museum, Market Street, Dartford. Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 12.30-17.30, Sat 09.00-13.00, 14.00-17.00. Admission free.

3 April Display 'Selected aspects of British Postal Stationery' by Dr Alan Huggins to Kingston upon Thames PS, at Surbiton Library, New Hall, Ewell Rd, Surbiton, 20.00. **Enquiries** B Sole, 01372 467652.

5 April North of Ireland PS exhibition and fair at St Nicholas' Church Hall, Cadogan Park, Lisburn Road, Belfast. 10.00-16.30. Stamps, postal history, philatelic accessories, books, postcards, etc. **Enquiries** N Scott, 49 Kingsdale Park, Belfast BT5 7BZ.

6 April - 2 May Stamp Lincs 2003 at the Museum of Lincolnshire Life, Lincoln. 10.00-17.30, Sun 14.00-17.30. Displays, competitions, children's activities. Stamp Fair & Family Fun Day on 26 April. **Enquiries** P Wain, 66 Chaucer Drive, Lincoln LN2 4LS.

12 April North of England Philatelic Association Convention at Holiday Building, University Boulevard, Thornaby, Stockton-on-Tees, opens 10.00. Displays, competition entries, dealers' hall, prestigious display. **Enquiries** NEPA, 3 Welland Close, Brookfield, Middlesbrough TS5 8JG.

12 April Maidstone & Mid Kent PS Stamp Fair at Grove Green Community Centre, Maidstone. Close to Junction 7, M20. Open 10.00-16.00. **Enquiries** B Stonestreet, 01622 675784.

19 April Federation of South Wales Philatelic Societies Annual Convention at Princess Royal Theatre, Civic Centre, Port Talbot, 10.00-16.30. Admission 50p. Dealers, competition entries, society display, 'kids korner', souvenir card. **Enquiries** G Prior, 20 Heol y Sheet, North Cornelly, Bridgend CF33 4EY.

25 - 26 April Scottish Philatelic Congress at Dewar's Centre, Perth. See p229.

26 April East Midlands & East Anglian Philatelic Federation Convention at Bailgate Methodist Church, Lincoln, 10.00-17.00.

26 April Displays of British Revenues. Joint meeting of GB Philatelic Society and Revenue Society of GB at International Students House, 229 Great Portland Street, London W1, 11.00-16.30. **Enquiries** A Claridge, 01376 584412.

26 April StampEssex 2003, hosted by Brentwood & District PS, at Shenfield High School, Chelmsford Road, Shenfield, 10.00-16.30. Dealers, displays, county competitions, free parking, refreshments, admission free. **Enquiries** R Jackson, 01277 811119.

1 May Display 'GB King George V Bits and Pieces' by Michael Sefi to Kingston upon Thames PS, at Surbiton Library, New Hall, Ewell Rd, Surbiton, 20.00. **Enquiries** B Sole, 01372 467652.

3 May Exeter & District PS annual stamp exhibition and fair at Priory High School, off Topsham Road, Exeter, 10.30-16.30. Competition entries, displays, children's corner, dealers, refreshments. Draw at 16.15. **Enquiries** A Pavey, 01392 445194.

10 - 12 May Railway Philatelic Group Convention at Windermere Hydro. **Enquiries** Dr A Goodbody, 01200 427 545.

16 - 18 May North East Philatelic Weekend, Swallow Hotel, Gateshead. Displays, social events, etc. **Enquiries** Miss V Beeken, 0191 386 1931 ●

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



January identify The detail is from a 7p Christmas stamp of 1977 (Seven Swans a-Swimming). The winner was G Giles of Essex.

January knowledge Answers: 1) 1976; 2) 1991; 3) Sage. The winner was D Young, London.

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 1963 Red Cross stamps?
- 2 Christopher and Robin Ironside designed which stamp?
- 3 Where was the London 1980 International Stamp Exhibition held?

Send your answer (addressed to either the April *Identify* competition or April *Knowledge* competition), name and address on a postcard or back of a sealed envelope to: British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ. The senders of the first cards drawn in each competition on 16 May will each receive £100. Ten runner-up prizes of presentation packs or FDCs will be awarded in each competition.

The competitions are not open to Royal Mail employees •

Special draw Win presentation packs of the Wilding sheets

WE HAVE 10 of each of the presentation packs of the two Wilding miniature sheets (5 December 2002 and 20 May 2003) as this month's draw prize.

Write your name and address on the back of a postcard and send it to Wildings Draw, British Philatelic Bulletin, Royal Mail, 148 Old Street, London EC1V 9HQ to arrive by 30 April •



Late news

Thematica This popular exhibition will be held at the Carisbrooke Hall, Seymour Street, London W2 (near Marble Arch), 28-29 June. In addition to UK and overseas dealers' stands, there will be displays and competitive exhibits. All thematic collectors are urged to submit entries for the competitions, for the John Fosbery and British Thematic Association trophies. Judged to the same rules as Stampex, medals are awarded. The entry fee is £15. For entry forms send a stamped addressed envelope to: Brian Sole, 3 Stockfield Road, Claygate, Esher KT10 0QG. Completed entry forms should be returned by 16 May •

Friends of Postal Heritage The February Newsletter of the Friends includes a statement from Martin Rush, Head of Heritage, Royal Mail, concerning the announcement made last November about the setting up of a Trust to own and manage the Heritage collections. He writes: 'During the next year, we will be setting up the new company, registering it as a charity, developing governing documents and all the administrative arrangements necessary for a smooth transfer. For the trust to have a successful future, it is essential that it is both financially and operationally viable and time spent getting the detail right now will be well spent. This work will be the springboard for resuming the search for a new site to house the museum collections.' The next Newsletter will outline the Friends' plans, developed in conjunction with Heritage, Royal Mail, for supporting the new project. Annual subscription to the Friends is £15 UK, £20 overseas. Enquiries: Mrs A Harms, 13 Amethyst Avenue, Davis Estate, Chatham ME5 9TX •

Auction news Bonham's auction on 12-13 February included some fine GB material. A marginal block of George V 1d photogravure top row imperf at base, next two rows totally imperf and bottom row imperf on three sides went for £6000 (est £5000-6000). An intriguing cylinder block of nine Elizabeth II 2½d St Edward's Crown showing imperf sections due to a paper fold made

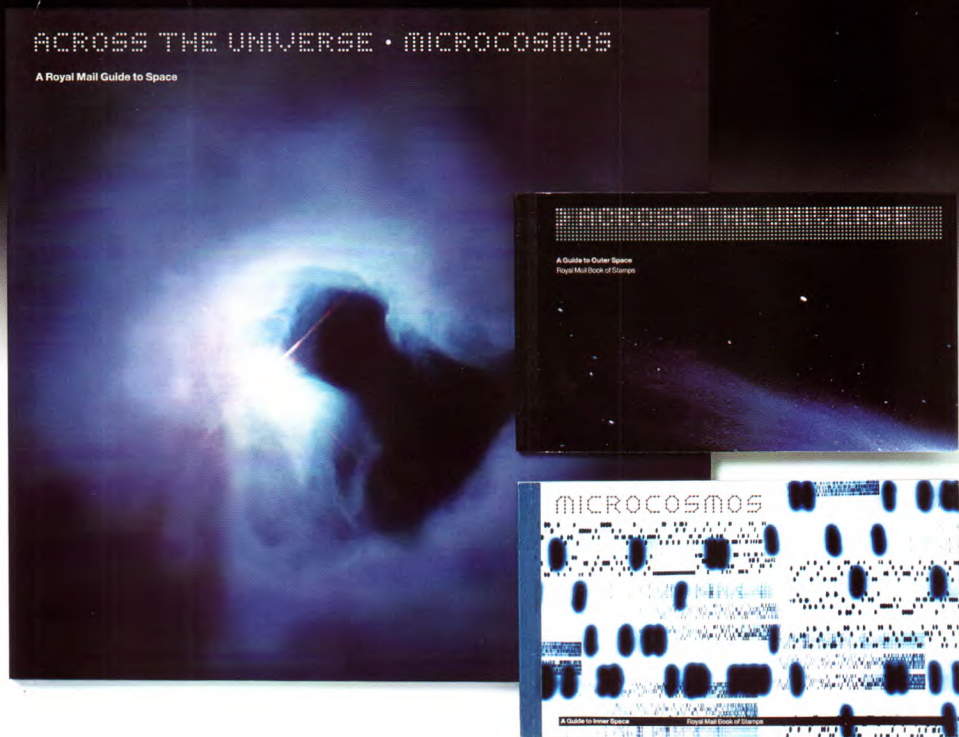
£220 (est £150-180). A large accumulation of Wilding coil leaders mostly written up on leaves achieved £700 (£400-500), and a 1966 FDC of the World Cup Winners stamp signed by Alf Ramsey and the England team made £880 (£300-400). For details of future auctions contact Bonhams, 101 New Bond Street, London W1S 1SR. Telephone 020 7468 8345.

At the Harmsers sale on 24 February a superb Victoria 1½d plate 3, imprimatur lettered AA, plate number 3 and 'PRICE 1½ Per Lab' in top margin made £11,175 (estimate £1000) as did a superb 1½d rosy mauve on blue paper, prepared for use but not issued, imprimatur lettered AA, plate 1 also with inscription in top margin (est £1500). A spectacular single lot consisting of 240 Penny Blacks made £37,640, and a rare watermarked Crowns £1 I.R. OFFICIAL in fresh brown-lilac handstamped SPECIMEN went for £2588 (£850). The auction included the Windsor collection (see February *Bulletin*) of over 1000 Penny Blacks including VRS and Mulready envelopes. A horizontal strip of three Blacks, used on 7 May 1840, achieved £8822 (£4000). A 'Rainbow Trials' sheet of 12 Penny stamps printed in deep red-brown smashed its estimate of £5000 to go for £30,584! Another Rainbow trial item made £2470 (£100). An 1839 Treasury Competition essay with a design embodying the Royal arms with POST OFFICE STAMP below, possibly by John F Davies or Myers & Co, achieved £2705 (£200) and two Robert Siever essays sold for £1647 and £1882 respectively (both est £250). The Windsor collection realised some £217,390. Enquiries 020 8747 6100.

Cavendish's sale on 11 April includes a fine collection of 1911 London-Windsor airmails with many unusual destinations, plus fine ranges of GB stamps. Enquiries 01332 250970 •

Bulletin back issues Richard Ambridge has for disposal a run of the *Bulletin* from September 1976 to December 2002 in return for a donation to charity. Contact him on 020 8594 3158 •

Prestige stamp books introductory offer



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

The extraordinary new stamp book *Microcosmos* is inspired by the Secret of Life stamps and is the sister publication to the 2002 *Across the Universe* book. Order both books and they will be delivered in a striking presentation folder at no additional charge.* Price £13.82 (order code YB021).

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